



Local & Sustainable Food Systems Network 2nd Annual Meeting 24 – 27th November 2013

Session Details

The Local & Sustainable Food Systems Network is a pan-Canadian community of practice working on strengthening local and sustainable food systems with an interest in structural change. The diversity of organizations working on sustainable food systems is recognized and welcomed as a benefit to this Network. A guiding document for understanding the components and action necessary for sustainable food systems and communities is the [People's Food Policy](#).

The first meeting of the Network took place in Edmonton in November 2012. Our second meeting provides Network members with an opportunity to reconvene with our peers, to review successes and barriers in our individual and collective work on building sustainable food systems, to identify and acquire additional knowledge to catalyze our work, and determine priorities for the year ahead. The Network will benefit from the participation of some of Canada's leading academics on food systems, helping to strengthen the link between practice, theory and research.

Nov 24th, 2013 (OPTIONAL)

Join us on a tour of two innovative and thriving farm enterprises rooted in cooperation and diversity, both in their approach to ecological agriculture, farm activities and income streams. Participants will travel 60km outside of Montreal to Les Cedres to learn from Daniel Brisebois of [Tourne-Sol Co-operative Farm](#), and Loïc Dewavrin of [Ferme Longpré](#). Daniel and his four fellow co-op farmers produce certified organic vegetables, flowers, seeds, seedlings and herbal teas on 12 acres rented from Ferme Longpré. Tourne-Sol's products are distributed through a 250-share CSA, farmers' market, and on-line seed catalogue. Loïc has run Ferme Longpré since 1993 with his brothers, producing organic cereals and pulses. The farm also produces sunflowers, which are pressed for organic oil. Loïc has been involved in participatory plant breeding and is the vice-president of Co-op Agrobio du Québec.

THE LOGISTICS

- The Tour is limited to 14 participants and is available on a first come first served basis.
- The cost is \$20.
- Tour will depart from and return to the Holiday Inn Montreal Midtown, located at 420 Sherbrooke West, Montreal.
- Departure 1:30PM promptly
- Return approximately 6PM.

Nov 25th, 2013 (OPTIONAL)

Nov 25th will be devoted to continuing the delivery of the Food [Business Bootcamp](#), launched in Oct 2013 with a series of webinars. [link to more info]. The Business Bootcamp curriculum has been designed so that each session builds on the preceding ones. Therefore, all attending the Business Bootcamp portion of the Network meeting (Monday all day and Tuesday morning) are urged to view the webinars that are archived on the Food Secure Canada website (Oct 9th, 11th, 30th sessions) or pending (Nov 13th in English / 15th in French) – click here to access archives and information on the upcoming webinars.

The Nov 25th session will begin with a recap of the preceding webinars and include an exercise on Positioning Statements. The afternoon will focus on the finer points of financing. Paul Richardson from Renewal Partners will guide participants through developing a financing strategy and forming effective strategies to find funding sources. He will also provide insight into why investors say no – and yes! The day will wrap up with a “friendly dragon’s den” where participants will be able to access the wisdom in the room to help untangle business conundrums.

Bootcamp participants will benefit from the presence and participation of experienced business owners and advisors in the sessions throughout this interactive day.

THE LOGISTICS

- The day will run from **9am to 5pm** with lunch and refreshments provided.
- Open to all but limited to 40 participants, with preference given to Network members and those either currently involved in or planning a food enterprise.
- Held at the Food Secure Canada offices at 3720 Parc Avenue, Montreal.
- Translation will be provided for English and French content.
- There is no cost to participate.

Nov 26th, 2013

The **morning** of Nov 26th will be devoted to the Business Bootcamp. The first portion will include a session on Managing Operations and Growth, delivered by Kathy Nyquist of New Venture Advisors. Kathy will walk participants through the finer points of financial controls, identifying key performance indicators and financial reporting, as well as evaluating growth opportunities. This will be followed by “Drive-by Consulting” during which participants will be able to access one-on-one advice for up to three 20 minutes sessions with seasoned business advisors. Bootcamp participants who do not wish to participate in the Network meeting can leave at lunch on the 26th.

The **afternoon** session will focus on the Network as a whole and shift into plotting policy. Key areas in policy and program work will be elaborated by some of Canada's food systems thought and action leaders. Topic areas include municipalities influencing policy, the role of food banks in recreating local infrastructure, local meat systems and sovereignty, seeds, and co-ops scaling up. Breakout groups formed around these and other topic areas will then dive into elaborating key issues and opportunities and then identify timelines, information needs and allies to move the issues forward.

THE LOGISTICS

- The day will run from **9am to 5pm** with lunch and refreshments provided. Bootcamp participants are welcome to stay but can leave if they wish at lunch; Network members not interested in the Bootcamp can join the day at lunch.
- Open to all but limited to 40 participants, with preference given to Network members and those actively engaged in food systems work.
- Held at the Food Secure Canada offices at 3720 Parc Avenue, Montreal.
- Translation will be provided for English and French content.
- There is no cost to participate.

Nov 27th, 2013

Food Secure Canada's **Annual General Meeting**, to which all members are invited and welcome, will be held from 9AM until 10:30 Wednesday morning. This will be followed by a highly instructive session with two national policy experts on **Tackling Tough Policy Conundrums** – a “bootcamp” for those wishing to influence public policy.

After lunch, the Network will reconvene for an information session on a topic of intense interest for all those working on local food systems and seeing public procurement as a market and revenue stream for local food systems. Scott Sinclair from the [Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives](#) will provide an in-depth analysis of the impact of the Canada European Trade Agreement and others (past and pending) on our efforts to rebuild food systems across Canada. The Network meeting will wrap up with a quick review of the priorities and workplan for the year ahead.

THE LOGISTICS

- The day will run from **9am to 3:30pm** with lunch and refreshments provided.
- Open to all but limited to 40 participants, with preference given to Network members and those either currently involved in or planning a food enterprise.
- Held at the Food Secure Canada offices at 3720 Parc Avenue, Montreal.
- Translation will be provided for English and French content.
- There is no cost to participate.

Food Secure Canada events

Food Secure Canada has planned some great events to which all participants are invited. Visit [our website](#) to learn more about the Festival of Food Ideas and our Annual General Meeting.