

Provincial Approaches to Food Security, 2011



Acknowledgements:

The first edition of *Provincial Approaches to Food Security* was published by Food Matters Manitoba in 2009. This edition is co-published by Food Matters Manitoba and the Manitoba Alternative Food Research Alliance.

The author of both reports is Stefan Epp.



Executive Summary

Across Canada, people are growing increasingly interested in creating healthy, sustainable food systems. As this momentum has grown, provincial and territorial governments across Canada have worked to address food security issues ranging from healthy eating to sustainable agriculture. Two years ago, the first edition of *Provincial Approaches to Food Security* (2009) compiled a diverse catalogue of food security related policies for the first time. This edition re-examines the state of policies and programs from coast to coast and updates the findings of 2009. In doing so it identifies what has changed over the past two years to see if further work has been done, and what types of food security programs governments are investing in.

What has changed over the past two years? One of the marked challenges that Canada faced over the past two years was an economic downturn. While less severe than in other countries, Canada's recession has led to a rise in hunger and food bank use. Meanwhile, the economic outlook for many farmers has not improved significantly despite rising retail food prices. Governments, too, have been cutting budgets and there has been less funding available for new programming in most parts of the country. Nevertheless, several provincial and territorial governments have continued to invest in solutions that address food security. Many new items have been added to this document as governments work with partners across the country to develop and implement policies and programs that promote food security.

Food is also part of the public agenda in a way never seen before. In the federal election of 2011, for example, all major political parties had food platforms. Major media outlets have focused significant attention on food and food policy. There have been calls from a variety of groups in civil society and the agricultural industry for a national food policy. Food, it seems, is a growing part of Canada's political consciousness. This report demonstrates how this has played out at the provincial or territorial level from coast to coast.

This annotated compilation builds off the 2009 edition to reanalyze the state of food policy in Canada. While some programs have been undoubtedly omitted, this is an attempt to develop a comprehensive guide to food security related policies, programs, and reports from across Canada. It enables us to see areas of strength and weakness, and provides examples of innovative policies that could provide options for other provinces. This report will therefore be valuable to anyone interested in comparing policies across provincial and territorial jurisdictions, seeking precedents from other jurisdictions, or promoting policy change.



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Introduction

Two years ago, the first edition of *Provincial Approaches to Food Security* was published, collecting in one place for the first time, provincial and territorial government food security policies and programs from across Canada. The list demonstrated the diversity of approaches that Canadian provincial governments are taking to address the issue of food security. Indeed, it highlighted the significant possibilities of government action to support food security programs. Conversely, the report also showed that some provinces had developed significantly fewer policies and programs on food security than others.

Over the last two years, Canadian provinces and territories have been forced to grapple with a very different economic reality than what was experienced in the years preceding the first edition in 2008-2009. Recessionary budget woes have likely put a damper on some of the enthusiasm that existed for new food security policies. Still, at the time of our first report, many of the policies we outlined had been created over the previous three to five years. Did this interest last? Have provincial and territorial initiatives on food security continued? Or did the economic downturn and consequent budget trimming bring an end to this policy and program development?

Before answering those questions, it is important to outline a few disclaimers about this publication. First, food security is a field of immense scope – including issues such as health, agriculture, education, the economy, and the environment. While I have tried to be as comprehensive as possible, it is beyond the scope of this project to provide an entirely exhaustive list of all food security related policies and programs. Undoubtedly, something will have been missed. Nevertheless, this document outlines over 125 policies, programs, and reports from across the country, making it an exciting collection of innovative ideas demonstrating the potential for government action on food security.

Information for the entries in this report has been gathered primarily from government websites and links to these sources have been provided where possible. Websites can provide lots of information, but have limitations as a source. Consequently, efforts were made to contact officials and people working on food security in each province and territory to confirm the details and seek additional information. These responses have helped inform the entries throughout the report.



Second, it is important to define what food security is. According to a commonly accepted definition by Michael Hamm and Anne Bellows, community food security is “a situation in which all community residents obtain a safe, culturally acceptable, nutritiously adequate diet through a sustainable food system that maximizes community self-reliance and social justice.” Food security, therefore involves many government priorities: the economy, agriculture, health, social equity, healthy living, and the environment. A food secure society is one in which all people are able to access healthy, nutritious foods and in which farmers, fishers, and harvesters are economically and environmentally sustainable.

As indicated in the first edition of *Provincial Approaches to Food Security* most of the policies, reports, and programs are very recent. While it is hard to say what might have happened without the budgetary restrictions of tight economic times, there has continued to be a steady development of new policies and programs on food security in many regions of the country. Nevertheless, development of food security strategies and policies has been uneven across the country. Entries from British Columbia, for example, fill many pages of this publication. Ontario continues to develop new policies, particularly in regards to supporting local food procurement. Quebec also is a Canadian leader, particularly in addressing poverty and food insecurity.

Several provinces have developed programs to support local food. Manitoba, for example, has recently launched a new buy local campaign. Ontario is building on previous programs with an effort to get Ontarian produce into institutions. Meanwhile, in the west, British Columbia is working to get provincially grown produce into northern communities and Alberta continues to support many programs and initiatives that encourage the development of local markets. Perhaps, in times of economic crisis, programs with a tangible economic benefit are particularly appealing to governments.

Conversely, while there have been some programs developed to address poverty and food security, this has arguably slowed over the past few years. Programs that existed pre-recession largely remain. But while a flurry of new programs had been created from approximately 2005 to 2008, very few have been created since.

I do not want to leave the impression that provincial governments alone are responsible for addressing food security. Indeed, food policy includes issues that involve municipal, First Nations, and federal governments, along with the private sector and non-profit organizations. Government, at any level, will not solve food insecurity on its own. Nevertheless, it holds



powerful levers that can mobilize resources and create opportunities to address food security. Given their important role in issues such as health services and agriculture, the provinces are uniquely positioned to develop policies that address the food security needs of their citizens. Provincial and territorial governments have an important role to play in creating food security in their jurisdictions, and the programs and policies that they introduce can play a vital role in building food security.

That sets the scene for the 2011 edition of *Provincial Approaches to Food Security*. A few notes, though on differences between 2008 and 2011.

- New programs, policies, and reports have been added for each province and territory.
- Web links have been updated throughout.
- If no evidence could be found that a program was continued, I have removed it. In some circumstances, expired programs have remained listed but I indicate that they no longer are in operation.
- Entries are colour coded into three categories: Policies, Programs, and Reports. While these categories are broad, and sometimes there is overlap, this was intended to make the different types of work presented by this publication more clear. There is, after all, a big difference between a report suggesting that food security is an issue to address and actual action through a program. Reports are in blue, policies in green, and programs in orange.

The incremental change presented in this publication is a reason for cautious optimism. Provincial and territorial governments are now interested enough in food security that, even in a time of economic crisis, food security programming does not appear to have been substantially cut back. Indeed, more programs and policies exist now than two years ago. Hopefully, as government revenues rise post-recession, there will be opportunities to build on these minor successes and continue to develop policies that develop healthy food systems across Canada.



British Columbia

The 2009 edition of *Provincial Approaches to Food Security* highlighted the strides that British Columbia had taken in addressing food security through government programs. In 2011, BC is still a leader in Canada when it comes to



developing policies and resources at the provincial level. It's Community Food Action Initiative (CFAI), for example, is one of relatively few Canadian programs providing significant funding to food security work. The grassroots initiatives that the CFAI has supported have fundamentally altered the food security community in British Columbia, and enabled a diversity of community based work seen in few other regions of the country.

Several documents written in British Columbia by provincial departments and agencies have helped demonstrate the reasoning and evidence for government investment in food security, outlined potential approaches to take, and provided other policy and program implementation advice. These reports, summarized in this guide, have been primarily prepared by the Provincial Health Services Authority, although the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands and the Ministry of Community, Sport, and Cultural Development have also developed useful resources on food security issues. These documents can be a useful tool for governments and non-governmental organizations across Canada.

By making food security a core program for health authorities, providing funding for community level food security action, supporting the purchase of BC-grown products, developing programming to support and encourage healthy eating, and providing resources for individuals, institutions, and other levels of government, the Government of British Columbia has established itself as a Canadian leader in developing innovative solutions to food security.

ActNow BC

Learn More: <http://www.actnowbc.ca>

Much food security programming in British Columbia has come under the umbrella of ActNow BC, a healthy living initiative launched in 2005. ActNow's goal was to make British Columbia the healthiest jurisdiction ever to host an Olympic Winter Games. Through their website (www.actnowbc.ca), British Columbians can access information on healthy living, including healthy eating.

One resource offered by ActNow BC with particular relevance to food security is www.healthyeatingatschool.ca, which provides nutritional information for popular foods, ideas for healthy fundraising activities, and guidelines for food and beverage sales within British Columbia schools. By targeting children through the education system, ActNow hopes to establish life patterns that encourage healthy eating and living.

Agricultural Land Reserve

Learn More: <http://www.alc.gov.bc.ca>

Since some of the finest agricultural lands in British Columbia are threatened by urban sprawl, the provincial government established an Agricultural Land Reserve. This area is managed by the Agricultural Land Commission and protects an agricultural land base in the Fraser Valley and across the province. Consequently, while the City of Vancouver has grown in population, it has done so by increasing urban density rather than by consuming productive agricultural land. Through the retention of agricultural land, facilitating the possibility of producing significant amounts of food near British Columbia's largest urban centres, and by supporting environmental practices, the Agricultural Land Reserve is an example of a food security initiative in British Columbia.

A Review of Policy Options for Increasing Food Security and Income Security in British Columbia

Learn More: <http://www.phsa.ca/NR/rdonlyres/486FC96B-76B6-409C-A3C7-55E1686C4761/0/AReviewofPolicyOptionsforIncreasingFoodSecurityandIncomeSecurityinBC2007.pdf>

In 2007, *A Review of Policy Options for Increasing Food Security and Income Security in British Columbia* was published by the Provincial Health Services Authority. It suggests that alleviating poverty would go a long way towards mitigating food insecurity. Measures such as a \$10 minimum wage, affordable child care, an Earned Income Benefit (for people underpaid but in the work force), improving federal child benefits, and increasing Income Assistance rates by 50% were proposed as methods by which both poverty and food insecurity could be addressed. Statistics were used to demonstrate the relationship between the affordability of food, low income rates, and the benefits of increasing incomes. The paper proposes that an increase in income would almost certainly result in better nutrition for low income families.



A Seat at the Table: Resource Guide for Local Governments to Promote Food Secure Communities

Learn More: <http://www.phsa.ca/NR/rdonlyres/D49BA34E-B326-4302-8DOC-CC8E5A23A64F/0/ASeatattheTableResourceGuideforlocalgovernmentstopromotefoodsecurecommunities.pdf>

In 2008, the Provincial Health Services Authority provided guidance for local governments interested in promoting food security. Local governments, it proposed, can act as a catalyst within their communities and serve an important function in promoting and educating their citizenry. The paper is divided into several themes, each of which identifies the rationale for developing policy on particular topics and what local governments could do to address them. Community gardens, farmers' markets, neighbourhood planning, local food production, healthy food in public buildings, food assessments, and food charters were highlighted as ways by which municipalities could address food security in their communities.

British Columbia Agriculture Plan: Growing a Healthy Future for BC Families

Learn More: http://www.al.gov.bc.ca/Agriculture_Plan/

The *British Columbia Agriculture Plan* was written by a committee of Members of the Legislative Assembly to establish a focus for the future of agriculture in BC. It consistently emphasizes the importance of local food and community food systems. It proposes that "all British Columbians should have access to safe, locally produced food." The report includes sections on local food and health, community food systems, and promoting local food. It also highlights the importance of meeting environmental and climate challenges through agricultural activity, supporting family farm businesses, and increasing First Nations agricultural capacity.

British Columbia's Food Self-Reliance: Can BC's Farmers Feed Our Growing Population

Learn

More: http://www.al.gov.bc.ca/resmgmt/Food_Self_Reliance/BCFoodSelfReliance_Report.pdf

This report was prepared for the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands in 2006. It was developed as an information piece, not as a direct guide to policy development. It does, however, indicate an understanding of the importance of the ability to be food self-reliant as it aimed to get a perspective on the total food production and self-reliance of BC. Interestingly, it found that BC farmers produced 48% of all foods consumed in BC, and 56% of all foods consumed that could

be economically grown within BC. One challenge raised by the report was the difficulty of keeping pace with a rapidly growing population.

British Columbia School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Program

Learn More: <http://www.aitc.ca/bc/snacks>

The School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Program is part of ActNow BC and is funded by the Ministries of Health Services, Education, and Agriculture and Lands. Through the program, students and staff at participating schools receive a fresh fruit or vegetable snack once a week, every other week for fourteen weeks of the school year. The produce used in the program is BC-grown as often as possible. There are over 1,090 participating schools.

Buy BC

Learn More: <http://www.bcac.bc.ca/buybc>

The Buy BC program was launched in 1993 as a joint initiative between the Province of British Columbia and the private sector to promote the consumption of locally grown produce. It is currently managed by the British Columbia Agricultural Council, a farm organization in the province, and is used by over 1,200 companies and associations to market food that is grown or produced in British Columbia. The initiative has been quite successful, and consumer recognition of the Buy BC logo has reached 75%. Through marketing efforts such as Buy BC, consumers have become increasingly aware of locally grown and produced foods.

Community Food Action Initiative

Learn

More: <http://bcfoodsecuritygateway.ca/modules.php?name=Content&pa=viewdoc&cid=20>

The goal of the Community Food Action Initiative (CFAI) is to “increase food security for all British Columbians, particularly those living with limited incomes.” This includes:

- increasing awareness about food security,
- access to healthy local foods,
- food knowledge and skills,
- community capacity to address food security in local contexts,
- the development and use of policies to facilitate community food security.

The program is a collaboration of the Ministry of Health Services and BC’s six health authorities. Annual funding of \$1.5 million is provided to the regional health authorities to fund CFAI programming. Plans are then implemented by local community groups, agencies, and

individuals who apply for funding from their local health authority. Decisions regarding program funding are made regionally, which promotes grassroots decision making. Projects funded through the CFAI have included: community gardens, farmers' markets, community planning, local food production, healthy food for public buildings, community food assessments, and the development of local food charters and/or policies. Several resources have been prepared and published, which can be found summarized below in this guide.

Community Food Assessment Guide

Learn More: <http://www.phsa.ca/NR/rdonlyres/10ADB2B7-DD0F-49FA-AC58-E40D642E412B/0/CommunityFoodAssessmentGuide.pdf>

The *Community Food Assessment Guide* was published by the Provincial Health Services Authority in 2008 to provide a planning tool to assist health authorities and community organizations wishing to undertake a community food assessment in their region. It was specifically developed within the context of the Community Food Action Initiative. The guide's goals were to clarify the purpose of a community food assessment, identify key elements and processes of a community food assessment, and provide tools to assist those who are conducting community food assessments.

Community LINK

Learn More: <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/communitylink/>

Community LINK provides a wide range of community based school programming that aims to support vulnerable students in academic achievement and social functioning. This includes funding for breakfast and lunch programs, school support workers, community school programs, and counseling for at-risk children. In 2009, the funding for meal programs was estimated at \$14 million of the total budget of \$45.4 million.

Farmers' Market Nutrition and Coupon Project

Learn More: <http://www.bcfarmersmarket.org/ind/fmncp.htm>

In 2007, a grant from the BC Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance to the BC Association of Farmers' Markets helped to pilot this project. The grant has continued, and by 2009 the program had expanded from five communities to 16. Farmers' markets are partnered with one or more community agencies to run a cooking and skill building program. Families that participate in these workshops receive coupons for use at the local farmers' market, enabling low income families to access quality, local foods.



Farm to School Salad Bar

Learn More: <http://www.phabc.org/modules.php?name=Farmtoschool&pa=showpage&pid=13>

This program was initiated by the BC Healthy Living Alliance. With ActNow funding, hosted by the Public Health Association of BC, a member of the alliance, the program connects schools with local farms to serve healthy meals in school cafeterias. Its goal is to “improve the health of school children by increasing access to locally grown, nutritious, safe, and culturally appropriate foods in at least 12 schools within the northern and interior regions.” Funding from the CFAI helped establish the value of the program with pilot projects in northern and interior health regions.

Food for Thought: The Issues and Challenges of Food Security

Learn More: <http://www.phsa.ca/HealthProfessionals/Population-Public-Health/Food-Security/default.htm>

This document prepared by the Provincial Health Services Authority in August 2010 is an analysis of peer reviewed research on food security intended to inform the development of programs and policies in BC. It includes several sections, documenting the relationship between affordability and nutritious food (also taking into consideration external factors such as income and housing costs), climate change and food security, and the built environment and city planning.

Food, Health, and Well-Being in British Columbia

Learn More: <http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pho/pdf/phoannual2005.pdf>

British Columbia has made some of the most publicized efforts to address the problem of food insecurity in Canada. In 2005, the Provincial Health Officer’s Report, *Food, Health, and Well-Being in British Columbia*, focused entirely on food security and nutrition. The recommendations ranged from linking the food allowance for people on Income Assistance to the cost of the nutritious food basket, to supporting local farmers’ markets, to working with Aboriginal communities interested in re-introducing traditional diets. This served as a clear recognition by the province’s health establishment that food security was an important issue for the province to address.

Food Security as a Core Program

Learn More: <http://www.phabc.org/modules.php?name=Contentcore&pa=showpage&pid=150>



British Columbia recognizes food security as one of the 21 core programs that all health authorities must provide. The Food Security Core Program operates as a partnership between the Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport and BC's six health authorities.

Guidelines for Food and Beverage Sales in BC Schools

Learn More: http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/health/guidelines_sales.pdf;
<http://www.bchealthyliving.ca/node/101>; <http://www.bchealthyliving.ca/node/104>

These guidelines were developed by the Ministries of Education and Health Services in 2007. The guidelines removed artificially sweetened products (such as soft drinks and candy) from BC schools by 2008. They also include regulations regarding the consumption of calories, fat, sugar, and salt. Foods with a 'not recommended' or 'choose least' label were to be eliminated from schools by 2008 while at least 50 percent of foods and beverages sold in schools were to be from the 'Choose Most' category. The goal was to enable students to make healthy food choices on a routine basis.

Implementing Community Food Action in British Columbia: Criteria for Success and the Role of the Health Sector

Learn More: <http://www.phsa.ca/NR/rdonlyres/76D687CF-6596-46FE-AA9A-A536D61FB038/18906/PHSAreportCFAICFSreport.pdf>

In 2006, *Implementing Community Food Action in British Columbia* was published. This paper described the origins of food security policy in British Columbia and the role that the health sector can play in promoting food security. Given the ongoing need for evaluation to encourage government funding and to provide examples of best practices, the health sector can provide valuable assistance in the way of health evaluation. The health sector, it proposed, can also facilitate community partnerships, provide funding and infrastructural support, and act as a capacity builder. Nevertheless, it was proposed that successful community food security programming should be driven by community members, run by the communities, and their success should be evaluated by community-generated "success indicators." The report concludes that while health authorities should provide practical support and funding they should not actually run projects.

Implementing Food Security Indicators

Learn More: http://www.phsa.ca/NR/rdonlyres/97773454-AEC6-4BAE-9680-0DEF4D7B66F1/0/ImplementingFoodSecurityIndicatorsReport_20May2010FINALweb.pdf



Since food security is a mandatory core program for regional health authorities in BC, efforts have been taken to develop cross-regional performance indicators. This report, published in May 2010, provides a list of six indicators that are meant to be easily communicated, consistent, and regionally and provincially relevant. The indicators are: the presence of a food policy that supports food security within health authorities, the proportion of communities that have ongoing food actions supported through the Community Food Action Initiative, the annual cost of the nutritious food basket as a proportion of family income, the prevalence of nutrition-related health conditions, the proportion of the population that eats fruit and vegetables five or more times a day, and the proportion of the population that always had enough of the foods they wanted to eat in the past 12 months.

Perspectives on Community-Based Food Security Projects: A Discussion Paper

Learn More: <http://www.phsa.ca/NR/rdonlyres/C72FCE36-9DCD-4A9C-B001-8635509D26C0/0/PerspectivesonCommunityBasedFoodSecurityProjectsDiscussionPaper.pdf>

This discussion paper published by the Provincial Health Services Authority and ActNow BC describes the goals of the Community Food Action Initiative and the challenges associated with it. Several types of projects are outlined as recipients of CFAI funds including: Charitable Food Activities (such as food banks), Community Development Activities (Good Food Box programs, community gardens, and community kitchens), Nutrition Activities (improving people's ability to make healthy food choices), School Based Activities (supported through ActNow), Community Economic Development Activities, and Healthy Policy Development. Food security programs, it proposes, should alleviate hunger, offer nutritious foods, promote human dignity, utilize local resources, be community-based, support social capital development, be sustainable, and offer an education component.

Produce Availability in Remote Communities Initiative

Learn More: <http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/healthyeating/foodsecurity.html>

The goal of the Produce Availability in Remote Communities Initiative is to make BC-grown produce available year round in remote BC communities. The program was launched as a pilot on a one-year basis in 2009 through a partnership between the Government of British Columbia, the Heart and Stroke Foundation, BC Agriculture in the Classroom, the Aboriginal Agriculture Education Society of BC, and the BC Paediatric Society. It includes three components: increasing transportation efficiency, increasing efficiency of purchasing (group buying), and

grants for community gardens in remote First Nations communities. The provincial government provided \$915,000 in funding for year one of this initiative.

Strengthening Farming Program

Learn More: <http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/resmgmt/sf/about.htm>

The Strengthening Farming program's goal is to secure farming and ranching's place in BC communities. To do this, it promotes sustainable and economically viable agriculture and farm practices. Objectives include developing partnerships with local governments and the farm and ranching community, encouraging a prominent role for agriculture in local government planning, processing, and fostering local government policy and regulation development, improving land use compatibility between farm and non-farm uses, and improving agricultural awareness.

The Food Security Gateway

Learn More: <http://www.bcfoodsecuritygateway.ca>

In partnership with the Public Health Association of BC, the Ministry of Health Services and the five regional health authorities, the Provincial Health Services Authority has developed a web portal as a one-stop information resource for policy makers and community members working to promote healthy eating and food security in British Columbia. This comprehensive resource was invaluable while compiling items for this guide and provides links to policies, programs, and publications from several provincial government departments.

We Need a Strong Local Food Supply

Learn

More: http://www.cd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/intergov_relations/library/BCMCD_AGuideToGreenChoices_Issue7.pdf

This publication from the Ministry of Community, Sport, and Cultural Development is part of a series directed towards municipal governments. It argues that local food is an attractive contribution to local character, reduces carbon emissions, increases community resilience and self-reliance, and supports the important role of agriculture in the ecosystem. It calls on local governments to consider preparing agricultural plans, look for new local farming opportunities, and to review bylaws that affect agriculture in consultation with the farming community. It includes several ideas for municipalities to consider incorporating, including creating agricultural zones, agricultural area plans, encouraging innovation, and celebrating local food as part of local identity.



Yukon Territory

When one thinks of Canada's northern territories, agricultural production for local markets is not likely what comes to mind. Yukon, however, has developed several policies and initiatives to promote food security, particularly by emphasizing food production for local markets. There is considerable incentive for the Yukon to do this as other agricultural regions are far away and, consequently, importing food is expensive. Yukon's agricultural sector has been fostered through a variety of supports, including funding to bring new products to market, a mobile abattoir to enable the sale of government inspected local meat, and government supported internship and mentorship programs for new farmers.



Agriculture Development Initiative

Learn More: http://www.emr.gov.yk.ca/agriculture/ag_development_initiative.html

The Agriculture Development Initiative is a program that seeks to develop agricultural projects that enhance regional economic development and contribute to the sustainability of rural communities. This has included community gardens, farmers' markets, agricultural infrastructure, and activities to encourage the commercialization of agri-based or native country foods. Individuals, farm groups, cooperatives, non-profit organizations, and governments can apply for the funding, which ranges from a maximum of \$20,000 for individuals to a maximum of \$50,000 for non-profit organizations or governments.

Agriculture Internship and Mentorship Program

Learn More: http://www.emr.gov.yk.ca/agriculture/ag_internship_mentorship_program.html

This program provides opportunities for new farmers to learn by working with more experienced farmers. Funding supports internships or mentorships that lasts from eight to 25 weeks. The cost of intern wages or mentor honorariums are reimbursed up to \$5,000 per year to a maximum of \$10,000.

Diversification and Value-Added Initiative

Learn More: http://www.emr.gov.yk.ca/agriculture/diversification_value_added_initiative.html

This program provides assistance to producers to diversify their operations to take advantage of market opportunities and increase their farm profitability. It supports activities to diversify agri-business and introduce new local agri-food products and activities that add value to local agricultural products through processing. A maximum of \$20,000 is available for individuals, cooperatives, farm groups, non-profit organizations, and governments.

Market Development Initiative

The Market Development Initiative provides resources to investigate and capture new market opportunities and enhance the competitive capability of the agricultural industry. This includes marketing and agri-food promotion, farmers' markets, agri-tourism, and market development strategies. Individuals, farm groups, cooperatives, non-profit organizations, and governments can receive funding.

Mobile Abattoir

Learn More: <http://www.gov.yk.ca/news/2006/files/06-206.pdf>

The mobile abattoir was made available by the Yukon government in 2006 with an initial investment of \$175,000. The goal of the project is to make locally grown, government-inspected meat available to Yukon residents. Each year \$30,000 is budgeted towards the operation of the abattoir.

School Meal Programs

According to Breakfast for Learning, the Ministry of Health and Social Services provides an annual nutrition grant for school meal programs of \$42,000 to Yukon Food for Learning.

Vision for Agriculture

Learn More: http://www.gov.yk.ca/agriculture/pdf/ag_policy_2006.pdf

In 2006, Yukon's *Vision for Agriculture* was published by the Department of Energy, Mines, and Resources. This policy document outlines ways for Yukon's agricultural industry to grow food for local consumption in an economically viable and environmentally sustainable way. Yukon's agricultural sector produces food primarily for local consumption because of its long distance from larger markets. The government committed itself to assisting Yukon producers with marketing their products. It will also maintain the Business Incentive Policy for Goods and Services. This policy provides rebates to Yukon-based providers of goods and services, which makes them more competitive with imports and helps Yukon agricultural producers access government procurement contracts.

Yukon Nutrition Framework

Learn More: http://www.hss.gov.yk.ca/pdf/nutrition_framework.pdf

The Yukon Nutrition Framework was published in March 2010. It has four broad goals: promoting healthy eating, improving food security, supporting special populations and their nutrition needs, and addressing nutrition-related health issues. The document declares that



“access to food is a human right for all.” It proposes projects such as supporting community kitchen development, promoting traditional foods, supporting the creation and maintenance of sustainable harvesting activities, interagency collaboration, and nutritious food basket cost monitoring. It was prepared by the Ministry of Health and Social Services.



Northwest Territories

It appears that food security work in the Northwest Territories has been largely confined to support for traditional harvesting activities such as fishing, hunting, and trapping. Yet, while data is not complete for the Northwest Territories, studies of communities throughout northern Canada have indicated high rates of food insecurity. Nevertheless, there do not appear to be any programs in the NWT funded by the territorial government that are addressing this problem, with the exception of support for small scale food production (community gardening). Food security remains an important policy issue for the Government of the Northwest Territories to address.



Commercial Fisheries Industry Support Program

Learn More: <http://www.iti.gov.nt.ca/fursagriculturefisheries/fisheries.shtml>

The Commercial Fisheries Industry Support Program assists fishers in Northwest Territories by offsetting a portion of their operations and maintenance costs and capital replacement required to participate in the fishery. It recognizes that fisheries are an important component of a healthy diet in remote communities and that they also provide income for these remote communities.

Community Harvesters Assistance Program

Learn

More: <http://www.iti.gov.nt.ca/fursagriculturefisheries/communityharvestersassistance.shtml>

This program provides funding to Local Wildlife Committees to distribute to their memberships. The funding is intended to assist in a portion of capital and operating costs associated with harvesting wildlife.

Healthy Foods North

The Healthy Foods North program was a non-profit largely funded by the territorial governments of Northwest Territories and Nunavut. It was closed in the fall of 2010. It attempted to make nutritious food more affordable for people in northern communities by working with stores, workplaces, and community partners. As part of the program, labels and posters in stores promoted healthier options, recipes were available, and cooking demonstrations were provided.



Small Scale Food Program

Learn

More: http://www.iti.gov.nt.ca/publications/2010/FursFishingAgriculture/ITI_2290_Growing_Forward_Annual_Report_P4.pdf

The Small Scale Food Program is funded via the Northwest Territories Growing Forward funding. By the end of 2010, the goal was to establish gardens in 29 communities across the territory. The program was established in the mid-1990s to provide assistance and support towards establishing food production systems in NWT communities. After a brief hiatus, it was reintroduced in 2006, when six communities participated.

Take a Kid Trapping

Learn More: <http://www.iti.gov.nt.ca/fursagriculturefisheries/kidtrapping.shtml>

This program is designed to introduce youth to traditional harvesting techniques including hunting, trapping, fishing, and outdoor survival. The program is delivered through schools in a collaboration between the Departments of Municipal and Community Affairs and Environment and Natural Resources. It is intended to provide hands on experience in traditional harvesting skills.

Western Harvesters Assistance Program

Learn

More: <http://www.iti.gov.nt.ca/fursagriculturefisheries/westernharvestersassistance.shtml>

This program provides one-time contributions to local and regional Aboriginal organizations to assist and promote renewable resource harvesting.



Alberta

Alberta's most impressive work on food security has come through its promotion of local markets for agriculture.

Extensive research (for example, *Alternative Agricultural Markets in Alberta: An Overview*) has been accompanied by easy-to-use web resources on topics such as direct marketing, agricultural tourism, and farmers' markets. In addition, the Explore Local Initiative brings partners together to work on policy and regulations, and helps to create links between local producers and an appropriate marketing channel for their products. While export oriented agriculture remains central to Alberta's agricultural economy, Alberta has invested in exploring the potential for local food markets.



Alberta Food for Health Awards – a Premier's Award

Learn More: <http://www.albertafoodforhealthawards.com/>

The Alberta Food for Health Awards – a Premier's Award are presented by the Government of Alberta to recognize food producers, processors and researchers for creating healthy food for Albertans. The awards are sponsored by the Ministries of Health and Wellness, Agriculture and Rural Development, and Advanced Education and Technology. Categories include: Healthy Alberta food sold at a farmers' market, Healthy Alberta food sold through a retail outlet, Healthy Alberta food sold through food service, Healthy Alberta food sold through vending machines, Healthy Alberta foods for specialty diets, and Healthy Alberta food and nutrition researcher. The winner from each category receives a prize of \$10,000 to be used on eligible business expenses.

Alberta Nutrition Guidelines for Children and Youth

Learn

More: http://www.healthyalberta.com/Documents/AB_Nutri_Guidelines_2008%281%29.pdf

The *Alberta Nutrition Guidelines for Children and Youth* were developed in 2008 and are intended to provide guidelines for childcare facilities, schools, recreational facilities, and other centres where children consume meals outside the home. The guidelines encourage and support the provision of healthy foods and include practical implementation steps for facilities to follow. Recommendations include topics such as providing healthy food (from the Choose Most Often category), providing a safe eating environment, and having a positive influence on food provided by parents and guardians.

Alternative Agricultural Markets in Alberta: An Overview

Learn

More: [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/apa12421/\\$FILE/ReportAlternativeAgMarkets2008FinalRevised.pdf](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/apa12421/$FILE/ReportAlternativeAgMarkets2008FinalRevised.pdf) (2008); [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/apa12421/\\$FILE/alternative_agriculture_markets2004.pdf](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/apa12421/$FILE/alternative_agriculture_markets2004.pdf) (2004)

To assess the success of its efforts to promote local food and to gather baseline data with which to develop further programs, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development published studies called *Alternative Agricultural Markets in Alberta* in 2004 and 2008. These reports recognize the economic significance of local food as a segment of Alberta's agricultural industry. Interestingly, the second study indicated that 90% of Alberta households indicated that they had purchased local food in the past twelve months. It also demonstrated an increased awareness since 2004 of farmers' markets, farm retail, and farm activities although the change in incidence in purchase of alternative agricultural markets was within the margin of error for the survey. This report is among the most detailed regarding consumer preferences, demographics and local food in Canada.

Creating Market Access for Local, Healthy, Green, Convenient Food Products and Services

Learn

More: [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/apa12421/\\$FILE/market-access.pdf](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/apa12421/$FILE/market-access.pdf)

This backgrounder document from Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development states that "consuming local food for health ensures the food grown, produced, processed, and consumed in Alberta enhances the overall health of Albertans, environmental sustainability, and profit at the farm gate. The experience associated with buying and consuming local food ties it all together – shop, eat, experience." It recognizes that the demand for local food is greater than the supply, and calls on partners to work across industries and departments to increase the consumption of local food products. It outlines several reasons why local food is important, providing background evidence for health and environmental benefits. The document also connects local food to Agriculture and Rural Development's goals and themes.

Earthbox Kids

Learn More: [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$Department/deptdocs.nsf/all/cbd13179](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$Department/deptdocs.nsf/all/cbd13179)

This program works with schools and provides wheeled growing boxes to grow vegetables, herbs, and flowers if it is not possible to till the soil. This enables school students to experience

a full growing cycle without investing in complete horticultural infrastructure. The hope is that schools will be interested in beginning conventional gardens after growing their own produce. Another goal is that the project will increase the consumption of fresh produce.

Explore Local Initiative

Learn More: <http://www.explorelocal.ca>

The Explore Local Initiative is creating a framework required to grow the local market system.

The work of this Initiative includes:

- assembling the partnerships needed to create the policy, legislative, and regulatory framework required to grow Alberta's local market system,
- developing and delivering educational resources that local market producers need to succeed,
- acting as a catalyst for creating linkages between local market producers and appropriate marketing channels,
- and working with various partners to develop the collaborative culture that will yield a robust local market system.

Food and Health Unit

Learn More: [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/All/cbd13061](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/All/cbd13061)

The Food and Health Unit is a part of Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development that works to connect food and agriculture to health. This is in response to increasing consumer demand for healthier food products and locally grown and produced foods. Their website argues that health costs will be reduced and overall health increased if people have access to healthy foods. Work in 2010-2011 includes market development with the vending industry, developing a pilot project for a Fruit, Vegetable, and Fibre Innovation Network, launching Food and Health pages online, developing a Healthy Food Formulation team, and expanding the Earthbox Kids program.

Nutritious Food Basket Costing

Learn More: [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/sdd5225](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/sdd5225)

Similar to several other provinces, the price of a Nutritious Food Basket is monitored in Alberta. It is the responsibility of Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development's Statistics and Data Development Branch. The survey is taken on an annual basis and studies the cost of food in Edmonton. It has been completed since 1995.



Other Online Resources

Learn More: <http://www.exploredirect.ca>; <http://www.agtourism.ca>;
<http://www.dinealberta.ca>; <http://www.sunnygirl.ca>

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development provides several online resources to producers looking to diversify their operations and partake in direct marketing or farmers' markets. For example, the website www.exploredirect.ca provides advice for farmers interested in direct marketing or community supported agriculture operations. Similarly, www.agtourism.ca promotes agricultural tourism and provides resources to people interested in starting up an agricultural tourism venture. The website www.dinealberta.ca provides information about experiencing local food in Alberta restaurants. Information about farmers' markets can be found at www.sunnygirl.ca.

Wellness Fund for Healthy Schools

Learn More: <http://healthyalberta.com/AboutHealthyU/543.htm>

The Wellness Fund for Healthy Schools provides grants of up to \$25,000 for large projects or grants of up to \$5,000 for small projects to schools engaged in one of the priority areas of the Wellness Fund: healthy eating, active living, or positive social environments. Since 2007 there have been 105 successful applicants from across Alberta. A second program for schools is the Healthy School Community Awards, which are awarded to individuals and groups that promote healthy schools.



Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan does provide some support for food security programs, particularly through the Child Nutrition and Development Program. Outside of this funding, however, the Government of Saskatchewan has done very little at the provincial level to address food security issues. There does not appear to have been any significant investment in food security related work since the first edition of this report.



Child Nutrition and Development Program

Learn More: <http://www.education.gov.sk.ca/Regional-Integrated-Services/Human-Services/CNDP>

The Child Nutrition and Development Program (CNDP) was established in 1990. It was originally the responsibility of the Ministry of Social Services but was transferred to the Ministry of Education in 2009. In 2010-2011, CNDP received \$2.3 million in funding. It includes promoting good nutrition and providing opportunities for communities to take ownership of local food security initiatives. An explanation for the shift from Social Services to Education states that: “the move to Education supports stronger alignment with existing food security initiatives for children and strengthens opportunities for families, schools, and communities to enhance good nutrition for children.”

Going Organic: A Report on the Opportunities for Organic Agriculture in Saskatchewan

Learn More: <http://www.gov.sk.ca/adx/asp/adxGetMedia.aspx?mediaId=299&PN=Shared>

In 2007, Lon Borgerson, the Legislative Secretary for Organic Farming wrote *Growing Organic: A Report on the Opportunities for Organic Agriculture in Saskatchewan*. This report recommended ways that the province could expand organic agriculture. Borgerson suggested that the province’s goal should be that 10% of farms should be organic by 2015. To do this, a wide variety of methods were proposed including funding for conventional farmers transitioning to organic agriculture, increased information and personnel available from Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food to assist organic farmers, funding for research, marketing, and the development of organic foods, increased educational opportunities for those interested in studying organic farming, and an effort by the Government of Saskatchewan to promote local food. The report calls for significant financial and human resources to be used to aid the development of Saskatchewan’s organic industry.

Nutrition Funding for Community Schools

Learn More: <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=eb54f7af-61a5-4054-a248-1f297bc38c3f>

In May 2008, the Government of Saskatchewan announced \$2 million in funding over four years for community schools to build healthy nutrition programs and operate school lunch and anti-hunger programs.

Population Health Promotion Strategy

Learn More: <http://www.health.gov.sk.ca/population-health-strategy>

Access to nutritious food is one of four priority areas outlined in Saskatchewan's *Population Health Promotion Strategy*. Health regions were charged with the responsibility of carrying out work on priority areas by partnering with other organizations, coordinating efforts, advocating for policy change, and supporting those involved in food security work. Several goals were established to help the province prioritize nutritious food. These included increasing opportunities for people to enjoy more nutritious food in homes and community settings, reducing economic, geographic, social, and cultural barriers that limit healthy eating habits, and advocating for policies that promote and protect the health of Saskatchewan residents. The *Population Health Promotion Strategy* suggested that it is important to think of community rather than individual food security and that the community food security model is one through which community development can be achieved.



Manitoba

Manitoba's most innovative policies and programs that promote food security have been focused on northern Manitoba. In recognition of the significant food security challenges facing isolated and remote northern regions of the province, the Northern Healthy Foods Initiative demonstrates the potential for interdepartmental cooperation and collaboration with community partners to advance food security. While food insecurity remains a significant challenge for communities in northern Manitoba, Manitoba has become one of the leading provinces in Canada at supporting food security work in northern regions.



In recent years, Manitoba has also focused on promoting healthier food options in the province's schools. This has included the development of written nutrition policies in all Manitoba schools and provincial legislation limiting the use of trans fats in schools. Programs have been developed to encourage the consumption of healthy foods, including a fundraising campaign selling vegetables and a fruit and vegetable snack pilot project. This school-focused work is part of the Government of Manitoba's broader focus on children and youth, which has been a major policy priority for the provincial government.

Buy Manitoba Program

Learn More: <http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2010-10-01&item=9970>

In October 2010, the Government of Manitoba announced a buy local campaign which will be run in partnership with all members of the food value chain. The provincial government will provide \$742,100 over two years to raise the profile of Manitoba products to help consumers identify and purchase local foods. Marketing campaigns will be matched with funds provided by participating industry members.

Additionally, Manitoba Agriculture Food and Rural Initiatives has a Local Produce Guide on its website that people can use to find sources for fresh, local produce, including farmers' markets, U-pick vegetable and fruit, and access to local crops.

Chronic Disease Prevention Initiative

Learn More: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/chronicdisease/cdpi/index.html>

The Chronic Disease Prevention Initiative was a five year demonstration project (which ended in 2010) funded by Manitoba Healthy Living, Youth, and Seniors and the Public Health Agency of Canada. Funding was provided to Regional Health Authorities to promote healthy eating,

physical activity, and tobacco cessation. Health authorities then distributed funds to community organizations wishing to work on any of the three core CDPI components. The program ran in 83 Manitoban communities.

Environmental Programs

Learn

More: http://www.gov.mb.ca/beyond_kyoto/index.html; http://www.gov.mb.ca/stem/climate/mb_doing/action_fund.html; <http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/pollutionprevention/sdif>

According to Manitoba's action plan on climate change, *Beyond Kyoto*, the province should become more food self-sufficient to benefit the environment. The Climate Change Action Fund can be used to support and expand local food programs. Additionally, the Sustainable Development Innovations Fund provides grants to projects that focus on innovation, conservation, community development, northern development, sustainable agriculture, eco-tourism, climate change, water quality, youth involvement, and natural resource conservation. In 2006-2007, \$3.2 million was distributed to institutions and organizations across Manitoba. Several of these projects had a food component, including support for community gardening, school gardening programs, university research, organic food for child care facilities, compost education, and greenhouse development.

Farm to School Healthy Choice Fundraiser

Learn More: <http://www.farm2schoolmanitoba.ca>

Farm to School Healthy Choice Fundraiser is a partnership between the Province of Manitoba, the Manitoba Association of Home Economists, and Peak of the Market (a marketing board for vegetable crops in Manitoba). The provincial government provides funding as well as other resources to support the development and distribution of the project. Peak of the Market provides Manitoba-grown vegetables and delivery logistics at cost while also providing donations to Manitoba's food banks. The Manitoba Association of Home Economists provides overall development and coordination. The goal is to enable schools to use healthy, local produce as fundraising campaigns rather than the standard unhealthy options. Schools are able to keep half of the value of the sales, while still selling the produce for at or below supermarket prices.

Fruit and Vegetable Pilot Project

Learn More: http://www.gov.mb.ca/healthyschools/foodinschools/resources/sn_cs2.html



This pilot project was done in partnership with the Child Nutrition Council of Manitoba. Thirteen schools from across the province were selected to participate in the program. The goals were to increase nutritional awareness, build the capacity of schools and communities, and test different methods of providing fruit and vegetable snacks in schools. The snacks were served over two 12-week periods – the spring and fall of 2009. Just over 2,000 students participated in the program.

Healthy Child Manitoba

Learn More: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/healthychild>

Healthy Child Manitoba provides a range of services for parents and children. While food security is not recognized explicitly, several programs help promote the consumption of healthy foods. For example, Prenatal Benefits are provided to low income pregnant mothers to help them obtain adequate nutrition during pregnancy. After the child is born, community programs funded by Healthy Baby include information about nutrition and health, cooking skills development, and nutritious snacks.

Healthy Schools

Learn More: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/healthychild/healthyschools/index.html>;
<http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/statutes/ccsm/p250e.php#47.2>;
<http://www.gov.mb.ca/healthyschools/foodinschools/documents/handbook.pdf>

Healthy Schools stresses the importance of nutrition in schools. The provincial government has developed resources such as a *Manitoba School Nutrition Handbook* for use by schools to help develop nutrition policies that promote healthier eating options. Indeed, all schools in Manitoba are now responsible for developing a school nutrition policy. Furthermore, legislation has been passed to ban the preparation, sale, or distribution of foods containing high levels of artificial trans fats in Manitoba schools. School boards are now responsible for ensuring that trans fat content does not exceed set limits. To assist schools in the implementation of these policies, a School Nutrition Support Team has been established.

According to Breakfast for Learning, Manitoba also provides \$100,000 annually to school breakfast programs.

Manitoba Consumer Monitor Food Panel

Learn More: <http://www.mcmfoodpanel.ca/about/history>

The Manitoba Consumer Monitor Food Panel is a joint initiative of Manitoba Agriculture, Food, and Rural Initiatives and the Faculty of Human Ecology at the University of Manitoba. This panel

will conduct a longitudinal study of Manitoba consumers between 2010 and 2013 to gather and disseminate information about consumer attitudes and perceptions of food and health. The implications of these attitudes will be analyzed, and trends identified for stakeholders to support business, policy decision making, and program development.

Manitoba Organic Transition Program

Learn More: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/programs/aaa01s22.html>

The province provides a variety of supports for farmers who want to engage in sustainable practices. For example, the Manitoba Organic Transition Program reimbursed up to two-thirds of the cost of certification fees paid by Manitoba farmers or processors to obtain full organic status to a maximum of \$800 per year for two years. This assisted farmers during transition years when yields may be lower and they are not yet able to benefit from organic premiums for their products. The program was started in 2008 and ended in 2010, and helped increase the number of organic producers and processors in the province.

Northern Agriculture Program

Learn More: http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/growingforward/gf_programs/aaa19s05.html

Manitoba Agriculture, Food, and Rural Initiatives' Northern Agriculture Program funds innovative projects that develop solutions to challenges associated with producing healthy foods in northern Manitoba. It supports sustainable northern agricultural development that increases local food production and processing in Manitoba. This can include: food production systems, processing and food preservation methods, new options in crop and livestock production, new production systems to extend the growing season, and new marketing systems to increase regional accessibility.

The Northern GO (Growing Opportunities) Centre is an office of Manitoba Agriculture, Food, and Rural Initiatives in northern Manitoba. This office was opened in May 2009 and provides access to agriculture related information and education programs as well as resources such as a staff of agri-business specialists.

Northern Food Prices Report

Learn More: http://www.gov.mb.ca/ana/food_prices/2003_northern_food_prices_report.pdf

Policy work done by the provincial government in Manitoba on the relationship between public health and food security has often focused on northern Manitoba. In 2003, the *Northern Food Prices Report* investigated the high cost of food in northern Manitoba. Several policy



recommendations came out of the report, including a Northern Foods Self-Sufficiency Initiative to increase food production in the North, efforts to encourage gardening and greenhouses in northern communities, encouraging the development of agri-food businesses in the North, a review of milk prices (to result in caps on the maximum fair market price of milk), and an ongoing Food Price Survey Program in the North to assist with policy making.

Northern Healthy Foods Initiative

Learn More: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/ana/nhfi.html>

To address the issues raised by the *Northern Food Prices Report* an interdepartmental program called the Northern Healthy Foods Initiative was developed. It includes the governmental participation of the Ministries of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs, Agriculture, Food, and Rural Initiatives, Health, Healthy Living, Youth and Seniors, and Healthy Child Manitoba. In addition, work is carried out by non-governmental regional partners: the Bayline Regional Roundtable, Northern Association of Community Councils, Four Arrows Regional Health Authority, and Food Matters Manitoba, along with Frontier School Division. The initiative seeks to support local food self-sufficiency activities in northern Manitoba, assist northern Manitobans to make healthier food choices, stimulate economic development, and demonstrate new approaches to improving food accessibility in northern Manitoba. As of 2008-2009 annual funding reached \$600,000. Across northern Manitoba, hundreds of garden plots have been developed, greenhouses built, freezer purchase programs developed and attempts have been made to incorporate small scale livestock rearing projects.

Succeeding Generations and Bridging Generations Initiative

Learn More: http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/growingforward/gf_programs/aaa36s01.html

This program supports a new generation of farmers by assisting young and beginning farmers to develop and manage viable farm operations. Manitoba Agriculture, Food, and Rural Initiatives' Succeeding Generations farm mentorship program allows young farmers to network and received additional training to help them succeed in the agricultural industry. Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation's Bridging Generations Initiative assists in the transfer of farm assets between young farmers and retiring producers.



Nunavut

Nunavut's work on food security is based on the territory's unique cultural heritage. The importance of Inuit lifestyles has been recognized by the government through its support of a variety of hunting, trapping, and fishing programs. In no other province or territory is the Aboriginal perspective of food security the central feature of the food security strategy. This is borne out in Nunavut through traditional Aboriginal approaches to healthy eating as well as an emphasis on assisting hunting, trapping, and fishing, as a solution to food concerns.



Community Harvesters Assistance Program

Learn More: <http://www.gov.nu.ca/Files/policies/ENV%20-%20Grants%20and%20Contributions%20in%20Support%20to%20Harvesters%20Policy%20%28English%29.pdf>

The Community Harvesters Assistance Program provides assistance to Hunters and Trappers Organizations to assist their members with the costs associated with wildlife harvesting. These include the cost of fuel and supplies as well as capital items.

Community Organized Hunts

Learn More: <http://www.gov.nu.ca/Files/policies/ENV%20-%20Grants%20and%20Contributions%20in%20Support%20to%20Harvesters%20Policy%20%28English%29.pdf>

Community Organized Hunts are assisted by the territorial government to ensure that people who are incapable of gaining access to big game without financial assistance for transportation because of distances to herds and/or adverse travel conditions are able to hunt.

Developing Healthy Communities: A Public Health Strategy for Nunavut

Learn More: http://www.gov.nu.ca/health/Public_Health_Strategy_English.pdf

Nunavut's public health strategy for 2008 to 2013 sets out eight goals related to public health for the territorial government. Food security is one of these goals. Under the category of food security, there are several objectives including: improving the understanding of determinants of food insecurity in Nunavut, reducing the number of pregnant women experiencing food insecurity, increasing access to nutritious and acceptable food (both commercial and traditional), and increasing knowledge and skills regarding healthy foods, menu options, and budgeting.

Nunavut Fisheries Strategy

Learn More: http://env.gov.nu.ca/sites/default/files/Nunavut_Fisheries_Strategy_Eng.pdf

The *Nunavut Fisheries Strategy* promotes the sustainable use of marine resources for both local, community-based consumption and large scale, export-oriented fishing. To develop the local fishing sector, improved infrastructure (such as harbours, processing facilities, and cold storage equipment) was highlighted as the most pressing concern. The growth of fishing in Nunavut is cited as a potential source of economic growth that would provide jobs and utilize an abundant natural resource.

Nutrition in Nunavut: A Framework for Action

Learn More: <http://www.gov.nu.ca/healthylivinginnunavut/nfe.pdf>

In response to the challenge of food insecurity, the Government of Nunavut's Department of Nutrition and Social Services prepared a report entitled, *Nutrition in Nunavut: A Framework for Action*. The vision outlined in this report is that all Nunavummiut will enjoy *niqittiavakniknirinasuaqniq* (healthy eating), defined as being that people will have "food that is safe, nutritious, and culturally valued and will not experience hunger or worry about hunger." Some of the main recommendations in the framework include: increasing professional nutrition services and nutrition education, improving school food programs, increasing the food skills of Nunavummiut, improving access to healthy foods, and determining sustainable ways of reducing the cost of nutritious foods.



Ontario

Ontario is one of the leading provinces in promoting local food products. The longstanding Foodland Ontario label has successfully promoted Ontario-grown produce and products.



In recent years, several new innovative local food projects have been introduced. For example, the Broader Public Sector Investment Fund: Promoting Ontario Food funds projects to make local foods available in Ontario institutions. Additionally, the Ontario Market Investment Fund promotes Ontario-produced foods and encourages Ontarians to buy locally. Funding was also announced in 2008 to invest in farmers' markets. These programs represent a diverse and detailed approach to promoting Ontario food products for local markets.

Ontario's work on encouraging healthy eating should also be mentioned. Similar to several other provinces, schools have been a particular focus in Ontario through a variety of programs that support healthy eating, including linking healthy eating to local purchasing. Other programs make healthy eating information, including access to dietitians, easily accessible. Finally, similar to British Columbia, the provincial government has declared food security to be a core service for all health boards to provide, ensuring that food security work happens across the province.

Broader Public Sector Investment Fund: Promoting Ontario Food

Learn More: <http://www.ontariofresh.ca>

The Broader Public Sector Investment Fund: Promoting Ontario Food aims to increase the amount of Ontarian foods purchased through municipal, university, school and hospital food services. Funding is available to institutions, producers, and other value chain partners to promote these connections. The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) provides funding that is administered by the Greenbelt Fund. The total funding for the program is \$4 million. Grants cover up to 75% of the costs for approved projects. The program concludes on March 31, 2012.

Eat Right Ontario

Learn More: <http://www.eatrightontario.ca>

Eat Right Ontario is a resource for Ontarians to provide advice on making healthy daily food choices. It connects people with a Registered Dietitian at no cost who can provide easy to use nutrition information. Resources are available online and by calling 1-877-510-5102.

Eat Smart!

Learn More: <http://www.eatsmartontario.ca>

Eat Smart! is a voluntary program established by the Ontario government and implemented locally by Ontario public health units and community partners. Qualifying restaurants can display an Eat Smart! logo and are promoted on the program's website. For a restaurant to qualify, it must offer healthy food choices, have an excellent food safety record, and be entirely smoke free. The program has been expanded to include schools, workplaces, and recreation centres. It is hoped that facilities will provide healthier options in order to gain Eat Smart! certification and that consumers can use this certification to find healthy alternatives in their communities.

Foodland Ontario

Learn More: <http://www.foodlandontario.ca>

The Foodland Ontario program has been in existence for over 34 years. It's goal is to encourage consumers to choose Ontario foods first, while increasing domestic marketing opportunities for Ontario's agri-food sector. With 96% consumer recognition, the Foodland Ontario logo helps consumers search for Ontario foods in grocery stores, farmers' markets, and on-farm markets. Currently there are over 340 Foodland Ontario logo users.

Healthy Communities Fund

Learn More: <http://www.mhp.gov.on.ca/en/healthy-communities/hcf/default.asp>

The Healthy Communities Fund (HCF) provides funding to community partnerships to plan and deliver integrated programs that improve the health of Ontarians. The HCF plays a key role in helping the Ministry of Health Promotion achieve its vision of healthy communities working together and Ontarians leading healthy and active lives. Support is provided through project grants, partnerships, and other resources.

Healthy Food for Healthy Schools Act

Learn More: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/healthyschools/lifestyle.html>

On September 1, 2008 the *Healthy Food for Healthy Schools Act* and Trans Fat Regulation came into effect. The regulation requires schools to eliminate trans fat from food and beverages sold on their premises. This includes some baked goods, packaged snack foods, and deep fried food, among others.



Healthy Schools Recognition Program

Learn More: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/healthyschools/challenge.html>

The Healthy Schools Recognition Program promotes and celebrates healthy behaviours and practices in Ontario schools. Schools pledge to take on a healthy activity in their school and receive recognition for it. Schools can start new activities or build on existing ones. Through this program, schools have identified activities such as planting local gardens and purchasing food locally.

Mandatory Health Programs and Services Guidelines

Learn More: <http://www.ontla.on.ca/library/repository/mon/6000/10270964.pdf>

Ontario considers food security to be one of the core services that health boards must address. According to the Ministry of Health's *Mandatory Health Programs and Services Guidelines*, boards of health in the province are required to: monitor the cost of the nutritious food basket, develop and distribute a list of local programs and services providing access to healthy foods, work with community agencies to improve access to healthy foods, and provide consultation and training to community groups that want to increase access to healthy foods. Additionally, boards are instructed to work with school boards in their regions to provide information on healthy eating and work with local retailers to promote healthy choices in local restaurants, grocery stores, and workplaces.

Northern Fruit and Vegetable Program

Learn More: <http://www.mhp.gov.on.ca/en/healthy-eating/nfvp.asp>

The Northern Fruit and Vegetable Program was initially developed as a pilot program in 2006-2007 and has since continued. The goal of this program is to increase the consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables by children and youth in northern Ontario. It includes governmental and non-governmental partners such as the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs, the Porcupine and Algoma Public Health Units, schools and local school boards, and the Ministry of Health Promotion and Sport. From 2006 to 2010, approximately 12,000 students from 60 schools received two servings a week of fresh fruits and vegetables over 28 weeks. On average, approximately 83 percent of the product served is Ontario grown. Funding for 2011 will support the existing 60 schools, while also allowing for the expansion in up to 57 new schools by offering the necessary resources for program start-up, delivery and support.



Ontario Action Plan for Healthy Eating and Active Living

Learn More: <http://www.mhp.gov.on.ca/english/health/heal/actionplan-en.pdf>

The *Ontario Action Plan for Healthy Eating and Active Living* targets four priority areas: growing healthy children and youth, building healthy communities, championing healthy public policy, and promoting public awareness. It was recommended that the government work to improve access to healthy foods for people and support the promotion of healthy eating in schools. To build healthy communities, the report proposes that the government should work with Aboriginal communities to develop Healthy Eating strategies and that the Eat Smart! program should be expanded.

Ontario Farmers' Market Strategy

Learn More: <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/about/farmersmarket/strategy.htm>

The Ontario Farmers' Market Strategy was established in 2008 and will provide \$4 million over four years to Farmers' Markets Ontario and the Ontario Farm Fresh Marketing Association to work with farmers to sell more local food. Particular initiatives include: expanding the "MyMarket" brand, developing information for new farmers' market vendors, consumer research, consumer awareness and marketing, expanding the number of farmers selling directly to the public, and expanding the number of products available at on-farm markets.

Ontario Market Investment Fund

Learn More: <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/food/domestic/omif/omif.html>

The Ontario Market Investment Fund is a four-year program that was announced in the 2008 provincial budget. It aims to promote consumer awareness of Ontario-produced foods and encourage Ontarians to buy locally. Additionally, it aims to improve consumer access to locally produced foods by supporting industry and local food network marketing and coordination efforts.

Pick Ontario Freshness

Learn More: <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/about/pickontario/index.html>

Pick Ontario Freshness is a marketing strategy that focuses on building awareness and demand for fresh, high-quality foods grown and produced in Ontario. The program operates in grocery stores, farmers' markets, and restaurants. It builds on previously existing programs such as Foodland Ontario (by adding deli, fresh meats, dairy, and baked goods) and the Savour Ontario restaurant program. It is designed as an umbrella marketing campaign.



Real Food for Real Kids and Foodland Ontario Pilot Project

Learn More: <http://www.premier.gov.on.ca/news/product.asp?productid=2456&lang=EN>

A recent example of a Ministry of Education pilot project to improve nutrition in Ontario schools was launched in September 2008 and involved four high schools throughout the province. Students in Brampton, Kingston, North Bay, and Guelph were taught how to prepare nutritious meals from fresh, locally grown foods. The project was completed in partnership with Real Food for Real Kids and Foodland Ontario. The former provided cooking expertise while the latter worked to identify and provide local foods.

School Food and Beverage Policy

Learn More: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/healthyschools/policy.html>

In January 2010, the Ontario Ministry of Education introduced its School Food and Beverage Policy, which comes into effect on September 1, 2011. The policy outlines nutrition standards for food and beverages sold in all school venues, programs, and events. Depending on the nutritional content, food and beverages fall into three groups: sell most (80 percent), sell less (20 percent), and not permitted for sale. The policy was developed in conjunction with government, the agri-food industry, and health and education sectors through the Ministry of Education's Nutrition Standards for Schools Committee. The policy, under "practices for consideration," recommends boards and schools to offer, when available and where possible, food and beverages that are produced in Ontario.

Student Nutrition Program

Learn More: <http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/english/topics/schoolsnacks/index.aspx>

As part of the Poverty Reduction strategy, beginning in 2008, Ontario invested \$32 million over three years in the Student Nutrition Program to provide healthy breakfasts, snacks, and lunches at many of Ontario's schools. In support of the program, the Ministry of Children and Youth Services in partnership with a variety of ministries developed Nutrition Guidelines. The guidelines assist Student Nutrition Program providers, such as community agencies, parent volunteers, or teachers in selecting and serving nutritious foods and beverages that promote healthy eating habits in children and that foster improved learning. In turn, the Nutrition Guidelines also specify to offer Ontario grown and/or produced foods when available and practical, purchasing locally wherever possible, and looking for the Foodland Ontario logo when shopping.



The Greenbelt Act

Learn More: <http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page634.aspx>

The *Greenbelt Act* of 2005 protects prime agricultural land in southern Ontario from being consumed by urban sprawl. Land is protected so that it can provide “fresh produce, a secure food supply, and residual health benefits” to Ontario. Greenbelt protection is the responsibility of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and a non-profit organization called Friends of the Greenbelt works to support the region’s environmental and agricultural integrity.



Quebec

Quebec has addressed food security issues in many ways.

For example, it developed innovative legislation that led to funding for programs that support food security as an anti-poverty measure. Meanwhile, Quebec has also developed

policies to address food security as a public health issue, to promote local food, and reduce the high cost of food in northern communities. While awareness of policies from provinces like British Columbia and Ontario is relatively high in other regions of Canada, it seems that little is known about the innovative policies developed in Quebec, presumably because of the divide between English and French. While Quebec's actions may be less known, they outline a diverse commitment to addressing food security, particularly for people with low incomes.



Act to Combat Poverty and Social Exclusion

Learn More: http://www.mess.gouv.qc.ca/grands-dossiers/lutte-contre-la-pauvrete/plan_en.asp

In 2002, the Government of Quebec passed a landmark piece of legislation, an *Act to Combat Poverty and Social Exclusion*. This pioneering piece of anti-poverty legislation recognizes food security as one of the many components of poverty that the government should address. It stated that the province must “facilitate dignified access, for persons and families living in poverty, to a food supply that is both sufficient and nutritious, at reasonable costs, and to simple and reliable information enabling those persons and families to make enlightened dietary choices.”

The resulting Government Action Plan suggested that there are two complementary methods for tackling food insecurity: a short-term approach that addresses immediate needs along with medium and long-term interventions to empower people. The Action Plan calls on the government to “continue to support community food security projects in communities and underprivileged areas” and to “continue to support contingency food aid projects, particularly for children.”

Over three years, between 2002-2003 and 2004-2005, \$10 million was provided to fund projects such as cooking workshops, buyers' groups, provide workshops on thrifty cuisine and budgeting, publish a directory of food resources, community kitchens, and community gardens. Over those three years, over 250 projects were funded through the project.



Act to Preserve Agricultural Land

Learn More: <http://www.cptaq.gouv.qc.ca/index.php?id=27&MP=74-147>

Similar to British Columbia and Ontario, Quebec protects agricultural land from urban development. The Act to Preserve Agricultural Land (APALAA) identified and preserved a permanent agricultural zone in nearly all Quebec municipalities. These protected lands are monitored by the Commission for the Protection of Agricultural Land in Quebec (CPTAQ). This commission rules on applications for use of agricultural land within the protected areas and advises the provincial government on farmland protection. Through these protected “green zones” agricultural activities and farmland are protected from urban expansion, ensuring that much of Quebec’s most fertile agricultural land continues to be used for food production.

Cadre de référence en matière de sécurité alimentaire

Learn More: <http://publications.msss.gouv.qc.ca/acrobat/f/documentnation/2008/08-208-01.pdf>

This reference guide outlines the history of government action on food security in Quebec, analyses the current food security situation in the province, discusses possible actions, and outlines how these actions will improve food security. Additionally, it discusses the role of the Ministry of Health and Social Services and the importance of developing partnerships to address food security.

Club des petit déjeuners du Quebec

Learn More: <http://www.clubdejeuners.org>

According to Breakfast for Learning, the Government of Quebec provides approximately \$2 million annually to school breakfast programs through the Club des petit déjeuners du Quebec and has done so since 2005.

Commission sur l’avenir d’agriculture et de l’agroalimentaire québécois

Learn More: <http://caaaq.gouv.qc.ca/documentation/rapportfinal.fr.html>

In 2006, the Government of Quebec established the Commission sur l’avenir d’agriculture et de l’agroalimentaire québécois to examine the future of the agricultural and agrifood industries in the province. The commission’s report, *Agriculture and Agrifood: Securing and Building the Future* was released in 2008. It proposed that the industry’s primary mission should be feeding Quebecers, it should see itself as more than a source of food (agriculture is an occupation, lifestyle, and a business), grow a diverse number of crops, develop a highly professional farm workforce, and embrace sustainable development techniques. The report went on to make

recommendations to reform provincial financial support for farmers, the collective marketing system, food distribution channels, farmer training, agricultural land protection, research, and the environment. It concluded by arguing that “the agriculture and agrifood sector has a system of laws, regulations, structures and modes of operation that are so closed that they are in danger of literally suffocating it” and that a new openness, innovative spirit, concern for healthy foods and adoption of sustainable environmental standards was a necessity for farming’s long term survival.

Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Support Program

Learn More: <http://www.canlii.org/en/gc/laws/stat/rsg-c-o-2.1/latest/rsg-c-o-2.1.html>

The Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Support Program is administered by the Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Support Board. It provides a guaranteed income, benefits, and incentives to Cree hunters who engage in traditional activities for at least one-third of the year. In this way, those wishing to hunt, trap, and live a traditional lifestyle are able to do so, thus preserving local food cultures and skills and maintaining a valuable source of healthy, local food.

Inuit Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping Support Program

Learn More: <http://www.krg.ca/en/rrd/programs.htm>

Inuit Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping Support Program is administered by the Kativik Regional Government and supports Inuit hunting, trapping, and fishing. It provides financial support for the purchase, manufacture, and repair of community equipment and supplies. Additionally it provides funds to enable harvesters to travel to areas where they can hunt, fish or trap. Finally, funding also helps with the marketing of byproducts from hunting, fishing, and trapping.

Invest for the Future

Learn More: <http://publications.msss.gouv.qc.ca/acrobat/f/documentation/2006/06-289-01.pdf>

Invest for the Future, published by Quebec’s Ministry of Health and Social Services recommended that the government establish an integrated food security policy. To do this, the government was called upon to ensure that low income populations have increased accessibility to food and that healthy food is available to the entire population. By doing so it aimed to target individual behavior while also creating environments in which people could live healthy lifestyles. Initiatives such as growing local food, promoting food self-sufficiency, developing culinary skills, and monitoring the cost of the nutritious food basket were also seen as tools

whereby accessibility and availability could be improved. Interestingly it makes the link between agriculture for local markets and healthy food.

Kativik Regional Government Food Subsidy

Learn More: <http://www.krg.ca/en>

That Kativik Regional Government's food subsidy, paid for in part by the Government of Quebec, aims to reduce the cost of nutritious foods. Each year, \$1 million in funding will be provided to reduce the price of selected foods by 20%. The funding is part of a broader attempt to reduce the cost of living in northern Quebec and makes nutritious foods more accessible to Quebeckers.

Mettez le Quebec DansVotreAssiette!

Learn More: <http://www.assiette.gouv.qc.ca>

The main government program in Quebec to encourage the consumption of local foods is called *Mettez le Quebec dansvotreassiette!* (put Quebec in your plate). It was launched in 2007 and provided \$14 million over three years to promote Quebec products and support local farmers. The majority of this money (\$9.115 million) was to be spent on marketing Quebec produce within the province. Other funds were to be used for product labeling, and assisting entrepreneurs and farmers to get products to market. Its goal is to encourage more people to buy locally, enable farmers to meet the diversity of demand for local products, and help them find access to distribution markets.

Ongoing Food Security Funding

According to *Cadre de référence en matière de sécurité alimentaire*, the Ministry of Health and Social Services announced annual funding of \$3.4 million for food security related projects in 2005. In 2006, \$3.2 million was made available to regional agencies working on food security. Of this, 75% is for activities that promote food self-sufficiency while the remaining 25% is for emergency food needs.

Quebec Public Health Program, 2003-2012

Learn More: <http://publications.msss.gouv.qc.ca/acrobat/f/documentation/2003/03-216-02A.pdf>

Quebec's Public Health Program acknowledges food security as a challenge to a balanced diet. It contains several food security-related goals, including to reduce food insecurity rates to below 8% and to increase the proportion of the population who consume at least five servings of fruit

and vegetables per day to over 80%. It recommends “consolidating local and regional joint actions on food security that promote the accessibility and availability of healthy and nourishing food” and highlights food security interventions as a promising community development strategy.



New Brunswick

New Brunswick has developed several programs that have supported local food producers. While other provinces have developed government or industry led “buy local” marketing campaigns, New Brunswick’s programs have focused on



developing the infrastructure and marketing capacity of producers necessary to support the sale of local products. Of particular interest is the Agri-Food Market Development Program, which helps support the infrastructure necessary to sell food to local markets. Another program, Seizing Opportunities for Value Added and Niche Production, helps to develop niche markets or processing opportunities, although this program is not exclusively for local markets.

Food security in New Brunswick has also focused on schools. This has included setting new policies for food standards in school. Fruit and Vegetable Grants are provided to support school fruit and vegetable programs in junior high schools. Interestingly, this program highlights purchasing locally grown produce when possible.

Agri-Food Market Development Program

Learn More: <http://www.gnb.ca/0027/marketguide.pdf>

The Agri-Food Market Development Program is intended to build domestic New Brunswick market channels to increase the sale and consumption of New Brunswick produced agri-food products within the province. Individuals, organizations, and businesses are eligible to apply for grants of up to \$10,000. Five different elements can be sponsored under the program: road signs to promote direct farm marketing or farmers’ markets, assistance for the development of promotional materials, facilitating the diversification of farms into agri-tourism destinations, new product development, and assisting marketing groups or associations develop their organizational capacity. This program will be ending in 2011.

Capturing Organic Development Opportunities Program

Learn More: www.gnb.ca/0027/OrganicGuide.pdf

The Capturing Organic Development Opportunities Program supports existing organic operations, those transitioning to organic production, and those considering establishing commercial-scale organic production or value-added processing activities. It provides funding to attend organic training sessions, soil improvement, minor on-farm infrastructure required to meet organic certification requirements or of strategic value, and reimbursement of portions of

the organic certification costs for organic and transitioning farmers. The program was introduced in 2010 and replaces the Organic Development Initiative.

Healthy Food in Schools

Learn More: <http://www.gnb.ca/0000/pol/e/711a.pdf>

In March 2008, the Department of Education revised its standards for food and nutrition in New Brunswick schools. The new policy set minimum standards for healthy foods in school settings. The policy requires that schools sell foods with a maximum or moderate nutritional value as close to cost as feasible to ensure that they are accessible to as many students as possible. When making contracts with outside food providers, it was suggested that providers should be evaluated based on their provision of nutritionally sound options. Only food containing moderate or maximum nutritional values can be sold in school vending machines or may be used for school fundraisers. According to Breakfast for Learning, the Government of New Brunswick also provides \$1.25 million annually for elementary schools nutrition programs.

Our Action Plan to be Self-Sufficient in New Brunswick

Learn More: <http://www.gnb.ca/cnb/news/pre/2007e1522pr.htm>

This report was published in 2007. It calls for strategies to transform the economy, workforce, relationships, and government within the province to increase the ability of New Brunswick to be self-sufficient. Since agricultural and agri-food strategies that promote local consumption help create a self-sufficient food system, they fit within the government's policy framework.

School Fruit and Vegetable Grants

New Brunswick provided School Fruit and Vegetable Grants to increase the consumption of fruits and vegetables by students in grades six to eight. Public schools could apply for grants to assist programs to raise awareness of the importance of fruit and vegetables and provide opportunities for students to eat them. Locally grown produce was highlighted. It was hoped that by creating opportunities for students to enjoy fruits and vegetables in school, their consumption of them would increase outside of school as well. When the *Wellness Strategy Action Plan* was launched in 2006, \$400,000 was committed to this initiative.

Seizing Opportunities for Value-Added and Niche Production

Learn More: <http://www.gnb.ca/0027/SeizingValueGuidelines.pdf>

This program is intended to assist small-scale agri-businesses and primary producers to expand or diversify into value added or niche production. It can provide financial support for: process

automation, process improvement, technology adaptation, and value chain development.

Maximum funding is \$20,000.

Transforming Agriculture Together

Learn More: <http://www.gnb.ca/0168/NB-Agriculture-Strategy.pdf>

Transforming Agriculture Together is New Brunswick's agriculture strategy, released in 2010.

While the scope of the report is much broader, local food and markets were brought up several times in the recommendations. This includes highlighting the importance of educating consumers about environmental costs of food that travels long distances, supporting branding and promotion at provincial and sub-provincial scale, working with schools (through Policy 711) to promote local food, and promoting locally grown food production as a tool to reducing carbon footprint. During consultation sessions held with producer groups, a common issue discussed was the importance of promoting locally grown and produced foods for consumption in New Brunswick. For example, one of the concerns shared by several producers, according to a discussion paper prepared as part of the *Transforming Agriculture Together* process, was that producers were frustrated by their limited access to local markets

(<http://www.gnb.ca/0027/discussione.pdf>).

Wellness Strategy Action Plan

Learn More: <http://www.gnb.ca/cnb/news/he/2006e0050hw.htm>

The Government of New Brunswick launched a *Wellness Strategy Action Plan* in January 2006.

Included in the Plan was a call for the government to develop a New Brunswick Nutritious Food Basket based on Health Canada's recommended dietary intakes. It was estimated that this would require an investment of \$25,000.



Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia's work on food security is particularly important because it is the province with the highest household food insecurity rate in Canada. The Government of Nova Scotia



has taken action on food security in several ways, including supporting NGOs such as the Nova Scotia Food Security Network, developing nutrition policies for schools, and the creating policies such as *Healthy Eating Nova Scotia*.

Of particular note is the Direct Marketing Community Development Trust. This fund provided \$2.3 million to support farmers and farmers' markets that sell food locally. This represented a significant investment in the local food economy. While other provinces have had larger support programs for local food sales, this was likely the largest per capita support for local food in Canada. This program facilitated the development of infrastructure for farmers' markets and spurred the creation of other local food initiatives, such as a community supported agriculture farm.

Agri-Food Industry Development Program

Learn More: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/agri/prm/programs/afidf.shtml>

The Agri-Food Market Development Program was intended to help grow Nova Scotia's agri-food industry through developing markets both locally and abroad, introducing new technologies or systems to the industry, enhancing management and leadership capacity, creating an awareness of the value of the agri-food industry to the Nova Scotia economy, and supporting innovation through agricultural organizations. While this was not aimed exclusively at the promotion of local products, it did help support the local agri-food industry. Applicants were eligible for up to \$20,000 per year in funding. The program ended in November 2010.

Direct Marketing Community Development Trust

Learn More: http://www.gov.ns.ca/agri/prm/programs/afid_catd.pdf

The Direct Marketing Community Development Trust is a three year program that commenced in 2008-2009 to facilitate investment in infrastructure and development initiatives that strategically enhance local food systems. Farms and farmers' markets are encouraged to develop creative ways to sell directly to consumers. A total of \$2.3 million in funding was provided. Objectives include: increasing profitability and sales, creating collaboration opportunities, providing low-risk points of entry into direct marketing, and facilitating new

investments. Funding has supported infrastructure development at farmers' markets, expanded value-added processing and improved the marketing of local products, and launched a community-shared agriculture venture. The Trust is part of the Agri-Food Industry Development Fund which is nearing completion.

Food Security

Learn More: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/hpp/cdip/healthy-eating-security.asp>

The Government of Nova Scotia has recognized food security as an important issue. Its website describes itself as “committed to building food security” in Nova Scotia. It does this through financial support of the Nova Scotia Food Security Network (formerly Nova Scotia Participatory Food Security Projects) and the development and implementation of Healthy Eating Nova Scotia.

Healthy Eating Nova Scotia (see below) states that the Department of Health and Wellness aims to increase the proportion of Nova Scotians with access to nutritious foods and to increase the availability of nutritious, locally produced foods throughout the province. The Ministry has four priority areas regarding food: breastfeeding, children and youth, fruit and vegetable consumption, and food security.

Food and Nutrition Policy for Nova Scotia Public Schools

Learn More: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/hpp/cdip/healthy-eating-schools.asp>

Nova Scotia's school food and nutrition policy was phased in beginning in 2006 and was fully implemented by 2009. The policy forbids schools from selling beverages other than milk, 100% fruit juice, and water. Additionally, school fund raising activities are not allowed to involve foods that do not have moderate or maximum nutritional value. Twelve directives and five guidelines are provided on a range of topics from food pricing in schools to food packaging and environmental consciousness to the use of Nova Scotia products and produce in schools. An emphasis is also placed on nutrition education. Additionally, according to Breakfast for Learning, Nova Scotia provides \$750,000 annually for breakfast programs in Nova Scotia schools.

Farm Investment Fund

Learn More: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/agri/prm/programs/fifguide.shtml>

The Farm Investment Fund aimed to sustainably develop Nova Scotia's agricultural industry by helping farmers increase their business skills, develop market or value-added opportunities, increase awareness and compliance in farm and public protection, and improve environmental



farm management. There were seven different funding categories, including: biodiversity, agro-environmental programming, water management, land protection, business management, and human resource development. Applicants were eligible for up to \$10,000 per year in funding. To be eligible to apply, a farm had to have an Environmental Farm Plan. The Farm Investment Fund ended in August 2010.

Healthy Eating Nova Scotia

Learn More: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/hpp/publications/HealthyEatingNovaScotia2005.pdf>

Several policies to address the issue of food security were addressed by Nova Scotia's *Healthy Eating Nova Scotia* strategy. Since poverty is a significant contributing factor to food insecurity, it proposes that an increase in wages and income assistance is necessary. Additionally, it recommended that the reliance on imported foods should be reduced and that local food production should be promoted. As part of this strategy, it was suggested that provincial and municipal lands be made available for community gardening and that public institutions source their food locally as much as possible.

Nutritious Food Basket Costing

Learn More: <http://nsfoodsecurity.org/resources/FoodCostingREport2008.pdf>

The Department of Health and Wellness in Nova Scotia committed itself to fund sustainable participatory food costing to help monitor income-related food insecurity. In partnership with the Nova Scotia Food Security Network and Mount Saint Vincent University, reports on food costs have been published. The reports have analyzed various regions of Nova Scotia and compared the cost of food to different levels of income, to identify the level of food affordability to a variety of groups across the province.

Preservation of Agricultural Land in Nova Scotia

Learn More: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/agri/elibrary/NSALRC-rpt.pdf>

This report by the Nova Scotia Agricultural Land Review Committee was completed in July 2010. It argues that the government should have a role in preserving and protecting agricultural lands in the province. In addition, it proposes that since all Nova Scotians benefit by preserving the capacity to grow food, the cost of preserving agricultural land should not be borne entirely by farmers. It goes on to make further recommendations that support the existing agricultural land base, creating profitability in agriculture, and preserving soil quality, among others.



Select Nova Scotia

Learn More: <http://www.selectnovascotia.ca>

Select Nova Scotia is a marketing endeavor that promotes buying locally, highlights local products, and lists markets and farmers where people can obtain local produce. Its website also outlines the reasons for buying locally, including economic, health, environmental and community benefits. Select Nova Scotia is funded by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture.



Prince Edward Island

The Commission on the Future of Agriculture and Agri-Food, formed in 2008, emphasized that PEI must become a centre of knowledge in sustainable agriculture. This pronouncement has been borne out through several policies that promote local and/or sustainable food production. The Agri-Food Market Development Program, Agri-Food Promotion Program, Organic Industry Development Program, and Organic Certification Assistance provide support to producers and processors for creating or developing the infrastructure for PEI products or shifting to organic production. These programs will also help re-shape PEI's agricultural sector around the Commission's vision for sustainable agriculture.



Prince Edward Island has developed policy and programs to address healthy eating, particularly in cooperation with the PEI Healthy Eating Alliance. The Alliance is interesting because it includes government representatives as well as health professionals, industry groups, and non-profit organizations. This cooperation, for example, has yielded strategies for healthy eating and for providing healthy foods in schools.

Agri-Food Market Development Program

Learn More: <http://www.gov.pe.ca/af/agweb/index.php3?number=1022347&lang=e>

The Agri-Food Market Development Program is one of the components of Prince Edward Island's Buy PEI Initiative. The program is intended to increase the market for PEI foods within the Island. Funds may be used for signage, promotion, training, or new product development. Depending on the type of project being undertaken, funding limits range between \$1,000 and \$6,000 and an applicant can receive no more than \$10,000 per year in total funding. Farmers, farmers' markets, agricultural organizations, and marketing boards are eligible for funding.

Agri-Food Promotion Program

Learn More: <http://www.gov.pe.ca/af/agweb/index.php3?number=1022346&lang=e>

The Agri-Food Promotion Program is the second component of the Buy PEI Initiative. Its goal is to increase awareness and demand for Prince Edward Island-grown and produced foods. Community groups, institutions, and municipalities can apply for funding to develop programs that increase knowledge about PEI foods, create an awareness of the importance of agri-food in

PEI, and encourage people to use PEI foods as part of a healthy diet. Each project can receive up to \$1,000 and an applicant can receive a maximum of \$2,000 per year.

Commission on the Future of Agriculture and Agri-Food

Learn

More: <http://www.gov.pe.ca/af/agweb/index.php3?number=1022111>; <http://peiafa.com/>

In May 2008, the Government of Prince Edward Island established a Commission on the Future of Agriculture and Agri-Food. It issued its final report in January 2009. The report, *Growing the Island Way: The Next Chapter in the Agriculture and Agri-Food Economy on Prince Edward Island*, emphasized the need for an agricultural system based on high-value supply chains rather than pursuing commodity prices. Since, the Commission argued, PEI cannot compete in price-driven commodity agriculture, it must seek niche markets and emphasize quality and safety. It also stressed the importance of sustainable agriculture, stating that the “PEI agri-food industry must become a centre of knowledge in sustainable agriculture, emphasizing soil health, nutrient cycling, systems thinking, and environmental protection.”

This report has resulted in the formation of the Prince Edward Island AgriFood Alliance, which was incorporated as a not for profit company in 2009. Its mandate is to monitor and report on progress related to implementation of the report and serve as a facilitator and catalyst for the development of multi-partner strategies and initiatives building on agriculture and agri-food economy of PEI.

Food in Schools

According to Breakfast for Learning, the Department of Education has fulfilled its largest school board’s request for \$25,000 annually to pay on-site breakfast program coordinators. In addition, the Department of Health provided \$200,000 over three years to the PEI Healthy Eating Alliance for the development and implementation of school nutrition policies along with another \$100,000 for breakfast programs and support.

Additionally, in 2006, all school boards in PEI had developed policies to promote healthy eating in schools (<http://www.gov.pe.ca/news/getrelease.php3?number=4588>). Nutrition policies were originally developed for elementary schools, and since then school boards have developed policies for all grades from kindergarten to grade 12. These included recommendations regarding which foods should be offered and how often. This work was conducted in collaboration with the Healthy Eating Alliance.

Healthy Eating Strategy for Island Children and Youth

Learn More: http://www.gov.pe.ca/photos/original/hss_he_a_2002.pdf

This report was prepared by the PEI Healthy Eating Alliance, a coalition of groups working on healthy eating in PEI. This report, which identified strategies for 2002 to 2005, highlighted three goals:

- increasing nutrition education and promoting healthy eating to students, parents, and teachers
- increase access to safe and healthy foods in all types of environments where children gather
- increase our understanding of what children and youth are eating and why.

The Healthy Eating Alliance has received support from the Government of PEI for their work on healthy eating in the province.

Organic Certification Assistance

Learn More: <http://www.gov.pe.ca/af/agweb/index.php3?number=71958&lang=e>

This program is intended to encourage new, and support existing, organic farmers and processors. It reimburses 75% of organic certification up to a maximum of \$500 for certified and transitioning organic farmers, processors, and handlers. Unless renewed, the program will end in March 2011.

Organic Industry Development Program

Learn More: <http://www.gov.pe.ca/af/agweb/index.php3?number=1015980&lang=e>

The Organic Industry Development Program aims to encourage more farmers to adopt certified organic practices, encourage growth and market development for organic products, and introduce competitive weed and pest management solutions for organic farmers. Projects are divided into three categories. Value Chain Development funding is provided to increase markets for organic products and to create linkages between farmers and the market. The Farm Advance Program is intended to improve farms' economic viability and environmental sustainability. Finally, the Agro-environmental Program helps organic farmers manage weeds and pests.

Prince Edward Island Strategy for Healthy Living

Learn More: http://www.gov.pe.ca/photos/original/hss_hl_strategy.pdf



Prince Edward Island's *Strategy for Healthy Living* identifies healthy eating as one of the important pillars of healthy living. PEI, the report says, has one of the highest rates of overweight people and obesity in Canada and three-quarters of Islanders consume more than the recommended daily intake of fat. It proposes working with the PEI Healthy Eating Alliance to expand its mandate to include young children and adults with such programs as grocery store nutrition programs, cooking classes, and peer education.



Newfoundland and Labrador

Newfoundland and Labrador has developed several plans and strategies that identify food security as a key issue for the provincial government to address. In particular, work on



food has been part of a broader agenda that promotes healthy living. This has included, interestingly, an interdepartmental committee looking at food and nutrition. Since food is an issue with implications for several departments, this approach brings together perspectives and resources from across the provincial government, providing an opportunity to address food security in new, collaborative ways.

Of most interest, perhaps, is the Air Foodlift Subsidy Program, which subsidizes the cost of transporting nutritious foods to isolated Labrador communities during the winter when ships cannot deliver goods. As found in this scan, Newfoundland and Labrador is the first province to have a subsidy program in place to reduce the cost of healthy foods, although one also now exists in the Kativik region of Quebec. While Canadians in the Far North often access federal programs to reduce food prices, perhaps Newfoundland and Labrador's model can provide an example for other provinces and territories to follow.

Air Foodlift Subsidy Program

Learn More: http://www.laa.gov.nl.ca/laa/programs_we_offer/air_foodlift_subsidy.html

A key component to Newfoundland and Labrador's food security programming is the Air Foodlift Subsidy program. This unique program has been operating since 1997, to ensure that nutritious, perishable items are available in communities along the coast of Labrador when they are inaccessible by boat during the winter. Retail stores voluntarily register to participate in the program and then receive a subsidy to offset the cost of flying goods into their communities. The program goes into effect five days after marine service ends and finishes five days after the marine service begins. The program will cover up to 80% of the air freight costs. Recently, the Air Foodlift Subsidy program has received significant funding increases. In 2008, \$600,000 was budgeted for the subsidy, double what it had been in 2005.

Central Labrador Dairy Economic Feasibility Study

Learn More: http://www.nr.gov.nl.ca/agric/pdf/labrador_dairy_feasibility_tor.pdf

This interesting study, albeit one that did not amount to actual program or policy development, was commissioned by the Department of Natural Resources in 2008. It explored the idea of

establishing a dairy in central Labrador to supply fresh milk and dairy products to the region, thus improving the food security of Labradorians and creating a profitable enterprise. It was determined that the cost of establishing and maintaining such an operation would be unfeasible. After thirteen years of operation it was estimated that there would be a negative return on investment of over 11%. Nevertheless, this research explored an innovative means of addressing the food security of people in isolated Labradorian communities.

Fruit and Vegetable Storage Assistance Program

Learn More: http://www.nr.gov.nl.ca/nr/funding/paap_2009_2010.pdf

The Fruit and Vegetable Storage Assistance Program is part of the broader Provincial Agrifoods Assistance Program. It has made a minimum of \$250,000 available to support horticultural producers construct or upgrade storage facilities, engage in secondary processing and diversification, environmental stewardship, technology adoption, farm infrastructure, and increasing Newfoundland's competitive capacity. Up to \$20,000 per project is provided to support these types of improvements. Whereas other provinces have developed programs focusing on market or product development, this program addresses infrastructural questions, an issue often raised as a barrier to local fruit and vegetable production.

Provincial Food and Nutrition Framework and Action Plan

Learn More: <http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/publications/provincialnutritionplan.pdf>

The *Provincial Food and Nutrition Framework and Action Plan* was developed as a result of the *Wellness Plan*. This report was created by an interdepartmental committee formed to examine food and nutrition, which is led by the Department of Health and Community Services. It calls on the government to promote the development and marketing of local foods that support healthy eating practices. At the community level, the Framework recommends that the government support initiatives such as community kitchens, which foster local knowledge and build capacity for healthy living. Finally, the framework proposes that poverty reduction strategies must be integrated with other food security approaches. To assist with this, the province will track the cost of a nutritious food basket to assess income adequacy.

Provincial Wellness Plan

Learn More: <http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2010/health/0305n05.htm>

Newfoundland and Labrador's work on food security-related issues began with a report entitled *Achieving Health and Wellness: Provincial Wellness Plan for Newfoundland and Labrador*, which

was developed in 2005. This \$2.4 million strategy targeted four priority areas for its first phase: healthy eating, physical activity, tobacco control, and injury prevention. In 2010, \$247,000 was distributed to community-based organizations to work on food security as part of this plan. The funded projects include public awareness campaigns, programs to teach children how to grow food, and community kitchens.

School Nutrition

Learn

More: <http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2006/edu/0615n03.htm>; <http://www.kidseatsmart.ca/about.php>

The Government of Newfoundland supports school nutrition in several ways. First, the School Food Guidelines established in 2006 outline regulations about the types of food that may be served in schools. Additionally, the government provides grants to the Kids Eat Smart Foundation, which operates school nutrition clubs throughout the province. According to Breakfast for Learning, the provincial government provides \$1.25 million annually for school breakfast programs.



Conclusion

Across Canada, provincial and territorial governments have developed unique approaches to create food secure communities. Whether they promote local food, develop anti-poverty programs, or launch healthy eating campaigns, provincial and territorial governments have the capacity to play a very positive role in improving Canada's food security. Initiatives require other governmental and non-governmental partners as well, of course, but provincial governments have the fiscal and human resources to be a major catalyst for healthier, more sustainable food systems.

Food security policies seem to extend across political divides. Programs and policies have been introduced by Liberals in British Columbia, Progressive Conservatives in Newfoundland and Labrador, and New Democrats in Manitoba. Food is something to which all Canadians can relate. We all eat. Many of us grow food, whether on a farm or a backyard garden. Consequently, food can be a "feel good" issue. It can span political divisions, creating opportunities for positive actions that interest governments of all stripes.

But beyond just feeling good, investment in food security policies can have many benefits for a province or territory. Local food markets keep money in local communities, create jobs, and support the economy. Investments in sustainable agricultural production support healthy environments and ecosystems. And work that promotes healthy eating saves money that would be spent on preventable diseases such as diabetes or heart disease. The policies in this collection demonstrate the diversity of ways that governments in Canada are working to achieve these objectives.

Provincial and territorial government's work on food security is still relatively new. While some programs date back to the 1990s or earlier, most have been created in the last five years. As local food and healthy eating have become increasingly popular issues for public discussion, governments have also acted to address these issues. Attention, however, can come and go. Potentially, a new issue will push food to the backburner in future years.

Is this surge in policies and programs merely a short-term fad, or a long term shift in how governments conceive of their relationship to the food system? Will interest and investment in food security wane in favour of some new issue? My hope, clearly, is that it will not. The case is being made in an increasingly effective way that food security is a core responsibility of government, and that the benefits of rather small investments can pay large, multifaceted



dividends. As long as this case continues to be made, as long as evaluations of the policies that appear in this document demonstrate their contributions to governmental objectives such as health promotion and economic development, food security programs will continue to be funded.

There are still opportunities to grow and expand upon the provincial and territorial policies outlined in this document. Jurisdictions outside Canada have instituted many remarkable programs that support local and sustainable production and enable all people to access healthy and affordable foods. We can learn much from the United States, Europe, and countries in the Global South. But we also have a lot to share. Some Canadian provinces have developed really innovative programs that build grassroots capacity to address food security, support local food infrastructure, assist remote communities, and support environmentally sustainable food production. People interested in food and food security must continue to push governments across Canada to continue to implement policies that create healthier economies, healthier environments, and healthier citizens.

