

# PROPOSAL FOR MUNICIPAL ADOPTION OF PRINCE GEORGE FOOD CHARTER

City of Prince George Council Meeting  
January 12/26



# SUPPORTING AGENCIES & TEAM MEMBERS

## Co-Presenters:

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**Alex Rowan:** EAT | PG Regional Food Hub



# WHY A FOOD CHARTER?

**In 1976**, Canada signed the United Nations Covenant on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights, which includes “the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger”

**The City of Prince George** recognizes that by creating a just, sustainable local food system, we are supporting the very foundation of a healthy, viable community

A food charter is recommended in the **Official Community Plan & Select Committee on Poverty Reduction**



# PG FOOD CHARTER VISION

## *To Foster:*

- a healthy, fair, and sustainable food system
- improved access to nutritious food
- social/economic/environmental civic benefits





# Prince George Food Charter

## Our Vision

A **healthy**, fair, and sustainable food system where everyone has access to nutritious food and our city thrives socially, economically, and environmentally

### 1. HEALTHY FOOD FOR EVERYONE


**Affordable**, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food for all  
**Supported** Local farmers and food producers  
**Accessible** school and community food programs  
**System** design for people with mobility or income barriers

### 2. FAIR & INCLUSIVE FOOD SYSTEM

**Indigenous food systems** and local markets that support small-scale producers and diverse food cultures  
**Food security** and dignified food access centered within food programs and organizations  
**Living wages** advocated for all with additional support for vulnerable and marginalized populations  
**Food programs** prioritized for seniors, people experiencing poverty, and others with limited access

### 3. SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION & CONSUMPTION

**Food waste** reduced in households, schools, and businesses through education, prevention, recovery, and composting.  
**Urban agriculture**, community gardens and local growers are supported to strengthen local-regional food supply.  
**Responsible procurement** of climate-friendly, local-regionally sourced food choices is supported.



# PROPOSED PRINCE GEORGE FOOD CHARTER SUMMARY

**Affordable**, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food

**Indigenous** Food Sovereignty

**Supported** Local food producers

**Accessible** school/community food programs

**Dignified** food systems

**Reduction** of waste

**Strengthened** local-regional food supply



# THE FOOD CHARTER CAN FOSTER INDIGENOUS FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

**The Dakelh people, the Lheidli T'enneh,** have an over 9,000-year history of food self-sufficiency through hunting, gathering and agricultural practices.

**The Community of Prince George** can work to promote the preservation and revival of traditional and contemporary Indigenous and cultural food practices.



# A CHARTER CAN GUIDE:

**Fostering** dignified food access

**Improving** food systems infrastructure

**Supporting** Indigenous Food Sovereignty

**Encouraging** local food growing/processing

**Prioritizing** purchase of local foods

**Partnering** with RDFFG in agriculture and composting



# IMPACT & OUTCOMES

## **Social & Health Benefits**

Sharing food promotes culture and community;  
Growing and eating local foods promotes mental and  
physical well-being

## **Improved food security and food sovereignty**

Resilient locally-operated food system; food  
production/harvest knowledge sharing; growing  
northern seeds, perennial food plants, and animals



# IMPACT & OUTCOMES



## **Can Boost Our Economy**

If we produced even 10% of our food locally, this would represent a \$27 to \$36 million market

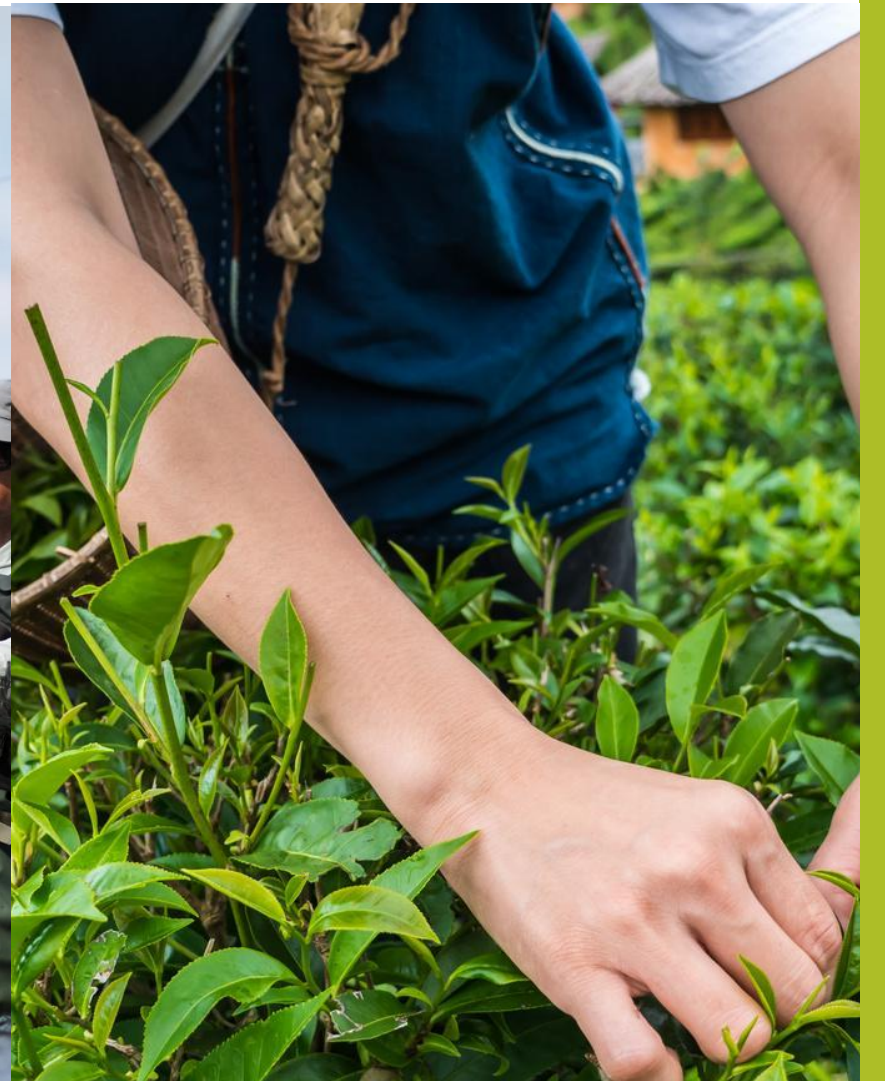
## **Can Rebuild Robust Local Food Systems**

Historical food processing in PG that sustained a self-sufficient food economy

## **Can Create Jobs**

Food production, processing, distribution, sales, marketing, tourism, events, waste management, and research and agriculture services

# QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME**



# Proposal for Municipal Adoption of Prince George Food Charter

## Prince George Food Charter

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# What are Other Communities Doing?

Food charters have been adopted by numerous communities across Canada and the United States. For a list of some of the other communities in Canada, please follow this link:

[Food Charters in Canada.docx](#)

## What Are Potential Next Steps?

**Once the Food Charter is complete**, a potential next step is to create a community-led Food Policy Council. City Council may then decide at that time how the City could be involved.

**A Food Charter** is a foundational tool, which can be used to strengthen a community's shared understanding of priorities around food and work on common goals for future direction.

**A Food Policy Council or Food Governance Board** is an organization which enables citizens to influence food policy, generally on a local level. The concept originated in the United States, where the first council was founded in Knoxville in 1982 to battle the effects of an economic recession on the local food supply system.

**In Canada**, food policy councils have been formed in Toronto and Montreal, and in BC, Vancouver, Victoria, and Kamloops have joined in this movement.

**Food policy councils** allow all the small but mighty food advocates in a community to work together, to make dignified food access more likely for more community members.

In July 2021, **following the recommendations outlined by a City of Prince George Select Committee on Poverty Reduction**, the City accepted the recommendation to create a food policy council (Jahn, 2021).

**Since then**, groups like Local Food Prince George Society, Everyone at the Table Prince George Society, with funding support from the Public Health Association of BC, have worked to solidify these plans, and hope to be a part of their fruition.



# Food Security, Food Sovereignty, and Indigenous Food Sovereignty: What's the Difference?

**Food Security** is a term with broad and varied definitions, but at the community level it is about ensuring people have enough food.

**Food Sovereignty** is about ensuring people have the power to decide how their food system works.

**Indigenous Food Sovereignty** is the right of Indigenous peoples to their land and resources as they pertain to traditional and contemporary food sources.

**All three are important**, but food sovereignty/Indigenous food sovereignty go deeper by addressing the root causes of food insecurity.



## Fitting the Pieces Together

In this graphic from Jacob Beaton et al's discussion paper on the relationship between these three concepts, we can see that addressing food security is an important step in alleviating hunger in the here and now, but that (Indigenous) food sovereignty is significant and important as a long term, proactive planning priority.



# Can You Tell Me More About Food Charters?

**The Food Charter** sets out shared values and high-level goals.

**A Food Policy Council** is the group that would work on putting those goals into action through research, coordination, and recommendations.

**The Charter** usually comes first—it helps define the purpose and direction of the Food Policy Council.



## Why is this work important for Prince George?

**The City's role could include:**

- Encouraging grant applications
- Promoting workshops and events
- Potentially appointing a Council representative or staff liaison to a future Food Policy Council
- The level of involvement is up to Council after the Food Charter is finalized



## How does this work relate to food security services already happening in the community?

The Charter and Food Policy Council focus on big-picture, long-term food system planning, whereas organizations like the Food Hub, PGNFC Food Bank, and St. Vincent de Paul focus on direct food access and support. Both sides are important, but they serve different roles.

## Why is this work important for Prince George?

Food security and food sovereignty connect to health, economic resilience, emergency preparedness, environmental sustainability, and community well-being. Many northern communities are working on similar initiatives, and Prince George has strong grassroots momentum.

