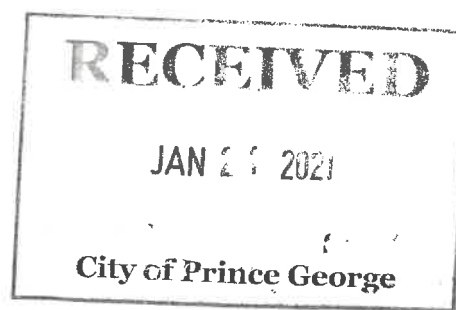


Local Food PG Society  
21845 Hwy. 97S  
Prince George, BC, V2N 6A#  
15 January 2021



Mayor and Councillors  
City of Prince George  
1100 Patricia Boulevard  
Prince George, BC., V2L 3V9

**An open letter to**  
**Your Worship Mayor Lyn Hall and Honorable Members of Council,**  
**Regional District Fraser Fort George Directors, and**  
**Lheidli T'enneh Chief and Councilors**

Civilizations are held together by many factors that effect us all. **Healthy food is the “glue” that holds our physical and mental health together.** When food is no longer available, societies descend into chaos. COVID-19 is a wake-up call to problems within our corporate, global, food system.

The increased likelihood of future disasters related to climate change, such as larger wildfires, floods, pandemics, and wars, leading to global trade disruption, make it wise for us to shorten our supply chains, especially for food.

The impacts of such upheavals can be lessened with adequate local food. This brings to mind the historic example of the Victory Gardens during World War II, which helped sustain civilians in those difficult times. **Local Food PG Society (LFPGS)** was formed in 2017, as an advocacy group, to catalyze the (re)emergence of a self-reliant, local food system. We believe that our local food system should provide at least 50% of what we eat, in order to optimize both our health and our security.

Currently very little of our food is locally grown. The LFPGS recognizes the inadequacy of our current local food system, but also how unsustainable the multinational, monopolized, global food system has become.

We see our local governments, the City of Prince George and the Regional District of FFG, along with the Lheidli T'enneh, as essential partners in growing our local food system.

Local Food PG Society encourages broad involvement in the evolution of that local food system. We see the development of our food security and sovereignty as a long process of many small steps, encouraged by incentives and freed from unnecessary or inappropriate regulation.

Having food, every day, in our homes, in our markets or at the grocers, and in reserve is a necessity. We see the need for individuals to have basic food skills: the ability to grow food, cook, save, and store it. This requires planning and education. Encouraging backyard gardening, teaching food preparation, and food saving are important and inexpensive ways of increasing local food security.

While the Local Food PG Society is primarily an advocacy group, members are undertaking a variety of projects to support local food security. Much more work is needed. Such work would be encouraged by recognition of the central importance of food in our society, by all local levels of governance.

1. Regarding the importance of food and agriculture, the **Prince George Official Community Plan (2012)** (OCP) (7.3 Health and Wellness: Food Security, p.71) states:

*'Food and agriculture play an important role in a sustainable community by improving the environment, the economy, the health of our population and our community's well being. Access to quality, local food is increasing in demand throughout much of North America due to high cost of food, limited availability and a growing awareness in sustainable agriculture. The increasing costs associated with the production and shipping of food can result in limitations for community access to quality food. The production and supply of local food can help provide food security but requires support to establish systems for community food production at all levels.'*

2. Furthermore, the OCP includes the following policies to align future work required of the City to progress the growth management strategy and land use direction of the OCP in relation to the importance of food and agriculture (p.211):

*13.5.14 The City should adopt a community generated food charter that sets out a vision for food and agriculture in Prince George.*

*13.5.15 The City should facilitate private-sector community gardens by developing voluntary siting and design guidelines.*

*13.5.19 The City should assist in developing a regional marketing brand for local products and farmers.*

To build a healthier, more resilient community in a post-pandemic world, we ask the City of Prince George to not only review its stated OCP goals for supporting local food systems, but to act on this crucial, community need. A stronger local food system not only improves food security, but contributes to our economic development and sufficiency, essential to our City's future.

As a critical first step, we ask the City to strongly support the community development of a Food Charter.

We, the undersigned, look forward to working with the City, the Regional District, and the Lheidli T'enneh to generate a vision and action plan for local food and agriculture in Prince George.

Respectfully from,

**The directors of LOCAL FOOD PG SOCIETY**

  
**Jo Graber**

  
**Catharine Kendall**

  
**Del Myers**

**Eileen Myers**  


  
**April Ottesen**