

Canadian Association for Food



Winter 2010/2011, Issue 10

President's Message

As we enter our seventh year, we can look back and appreciate the collective vision and accomplishments of our founding members. At the same time, we have many recent and on-going initiatives to celebrate. In this newsletter we focus on more recent accomplishments. First, we owe huge thanks to Steffanie Scott, Ellen Desjardins and their Conference 2010 team for an extremely successful event in Montreal. We had our largest number of papers presented (so far!), fantastic food and lots of networking. A great success by any measure! We owe the Conference Committee a huge debt of gratitude!

Since the spring we have turned our attention to the 2011 conference in Fredericton. Claire Askew, Charles Sule, Jane Jenkins and Charles Levkoe have been very active shaping our next gathering. We are pleased to announce that our keynote speaker will be Amy Trubek from the University of Vermont, and former Executive Director of the Vermont Fresh Network. Our opening panel will include Tim Lang via videoconference from the UK. **The Call for Papers deadline is December 15 for session proposals and January 15 for papers and appears later in the newsletter.** Other items included in this newsletter are an update about the web site member survey and notices about the Toronto Food Strategy, food security courses, exciting upcoming events and on-going research. It also includes a summary from Hunger Counts pointing out the scale of one of the many challenges we continue to face and reinforcing the need for CAFS.

I would like to take this chance to share some of the recent executive decisions. First, as we move to more streamlined membership payment options, we have merged our membership and annual conference fees. Accordingly, the cost for your conference registration includes a one-year membership in CAFS. While this has meant a very slight cost increase to faculty and professionals participating in the conference, we have been able to maintain reasonable rates for students, retirees and non-waged participants. Second, members on the executive have been involved in a visioning exercise for CAFS. In particular we are exploring the benefits of membership, the possibility of a CAFS publication, and the role of the web site in our future. The web survey is a very important step in gathering input from you. We appreciate the time you took to complete the survey. A big thank you to Cameron Stiff, Robyn Rees, Paul Fieldhouse and Charles Levkoe for keeping this ball moving forward.

Finally, the Executive is very excited to announce the initiation of two CAFS sponsored awards that will be given out for the first time at our upcoming conference in Fredericton. First, in recognition of Dr. Koc's leading role in Food Studies research, the Mustafa Koc Student Paper Award in Food Studies. As well, we will be sponsoring the Award for Distinguished Lifetime Achievement in Food Studies. Nomination details can be found in the newsletter.

Thanks, and have a peaceful, happy holiday season.

Alison (Blay-Palmer), CAFS President

CAFS Strategic Planning Part I: Website Survey

Charles Z Levkoe and Robyn Reese

In 2004 individuals and civil society organizations from a diversity of food-related fields gathered in Winnipeg, Manitoba and identified “zero hunger, sustainable food systems, and healthy and safe food” as key priorities for collaborative action. A year later in Waterloo, Ontario, Food Secure Canada- Sécurité Alimentaire Canada was established as a member-based organization with the aim to advance dialogue and cooperation for policies and programs that improve food security in Canada and globally. Through a parallel process in April of that same year a group of academic and community based researchers, led by Mustafa Koc committed to organizing an association to promote critical, interdisciplinary scholarship in the broad areas of food policy, production, distribution, and consumption. Established in 2005 as the Canadian Association for Food Studies (CAFS), it continues to recognize the need for coordinated interdisciplinary research efforts in response to societal needs for informing policy makers, assessing the outcomes of community-based work, and demonstrating the environmental and social impacts of changes affecting food systems and food policies.

As CAFS enters its sixth year and continues to grow in numbers and diversity, it is time to reflect on the past and plan for the future. As a first step, the executive decided to assess the website, CAFS public face, through the distribution of a survey with the aim of collecting feedback on how best to meet the needs of the membership. With the support of the Concordia Food Systems Project, the survey was distributed to the CAFS e-mail list-serve and ran for two weeks in late-October 2010. Forty-five individuals responded to the survey representing just under 20% of list-serve recipients. The responses to the survey will provide the CAFS executive with initial direction as they enter into the longer-term process of strategic planning. A sample of the findings revealed the following:

- Almost half of the survey respondents were based in *Ontario* (49%), while the majority of the rest were in *British Columbia* (18%), *Quebec* (16%) and *Alberta* (9%). Few respondents were based in *Saskatchewan* (4%), *Manitoba* (2%), or *Atlantic Canada* (2% in *Newfoundland*); None

were based in Northern Canada (*Yukon, NWT, Nunavut*).

- Most respondents were associated with a *university* (89% - mostly *professors*, 50%, and *graduate students*, 40%), a few with *government* (9%), and one respondent from the private sector. Although none of the respondents identified as working for a non-governmental organization, there were distinct connections to *community-based organizations* identified.
- Feedback was collected about the usefulness of current website features, including *newsletters, conference schedules, resource lists, three directories* (member, civil society organizations, and public institutions), and *study groups*. In general, responses indicated that the *newsletters* and *conference schedules* are very useful, and that the *resource lists* and *directories* are at least somewhat useful. More detailed responses expressed strong interest in the directories and provide useful suggestions for their improvement – adding links and research areas to the member directory, for example. All respondents would like to be included on the website’s member directory.
- In terms of the possible features to be added to the website, responses indicated the most interest in *calls for papers* (81%) and *presentations from CAFS conferences* (72%). There was also significant interest in a *searchable member directory* (67%). Although most respondents (76%) indicated they would share their work on the website, there was only moderate interest in having an *upload and resource sharing form* (44%). Some interest was expressed in a *newsfeed* (40%); the least interest in *photos* (28%) and a *sign in feature* (21%). An additional suggestion was to add, “job postings that might interest food studies professionals.”

Beginning with ideas about how to create a more useful and relevant website, this survey opens the door to a larger strategic planning process that will involve some significant changes to CAFS such as enhanced publication opportunities and improved resources exclusive to CAFS members.

The Canadian Association for Food Studies (CAFS) promotes critical, interdisciplinary scholarship in the broad area of food systems: food policy, production, distribution and consumption. Membership is open to academics, students, professionals and others interested in food studies research.

Save the Date: Sixth Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Association for Food Studies - **May 28 – 30, 2011** - **"Exploring Change Through Food"** at University of New Brunswick and St. Thomas University, Fredericton in conjunction with the 2011 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences.

Details available at:
www.foodstudies.ca; cafsadmin@foodstudies.ca



L'Association canadienne des études sur l'alimentation (ACEA) fait la promotion d'un savoir interdisciplinaire de première importance auprès du vaste réseau des systèmes alimentaires : les politiques alimentaires, la production, la distribution et la consommation des aliments. Les universitaires, les étudiants, les professionnels et autres personnes intéressées à la recherche sur l'alimentation peuvent devenir membres de l'ACEA.

Date: L'Association canadienne des études sur l'alimentation accueillera sa sixième assemblée générale annuelle - **"Explorer le changement à travers l'alimentation"** à l'Université du Nouveau-Brunswick et à l'Université St. Thomas, à Fredericton, **du 28 au 30 Mai 2011**, conjointement avec le Congrès des sciences humaines 2010.

Pour de plus amples renseignements:
www.foodstudies.ca; cafsadmin@foodstudies.ca



CAFS 2011 CONFERENCE

Session proposal submission deadline: December 15

La date butoir de réception des colloques scientifiques: 15 décembre

Demande de communications

6^e assemblée générale annuelle

L'Association canadienne des études sur l'alimentation

Du 28 au 30 mai 2011

« Explorer le changement à travers l'alimentation »

L'Association canadienne des études sur l'alimentation (ACEA) accueillera sa sixième assemblée générale annuelle à **l'Université du Nouveau-Brunswick et à l'Université St Thomas, à Fredericton** conjointement avec le Congrès des sciences humaines 2010. Afin d'encourager l'interdisciplinarité et rendre compte de la grande variété de travaux d'importance réalisés dans le domaine, nous encourageons les membres du milieu universitaire et communautaire à soumettre leurs propositions soit de 1) colloques scientifiques soit 2) de communications individuelles 3) de propositions pour la Salle d'exposition.

Nous faisons appel aux propositions de colloques scientifiques ou de communications individuelles traitant des liens entre la production alimentaire et la consommation et les notions exploration et découverte. Les propositions qui explorent les différences dans le paysage alimentaire régional et local; qui étudient les relations entre les changements dans les habitudes de consommation urbaine et les goûts et leurs conséquences sur la topographie rurale littérale et métaphorique; ainsi que les recherches en développement communautaire relatives à l'alimentation sont particulièrement bienvenues.

Propositions de colloques scientifiques :

Veillez nous faire parvenir le titre du colloque scientifique, le nom de la personne responsable, ainsi que l'organisation qu'elle représente. Veuillez également ajouter les noms des auteurs, leur affiliation, leur adresse courriel ainsi que le résumé (150 mots) de chacune des communications qui seront présentées au colloque. Si vous voulez proposer une personne à la présidence du colloque, veuillez aussi l'indiquer. Les propositions seront acceptées soit en anglais, soit en français. Leur présentation dans les deux langues sera la bienvenue. Le comité du programme travaillera de concert avec les personnes responsables de l'organisation des colloques afin d'assurer la diversité des disciplines et la compatibilité des contenus.

PRENEZ NOTE : les communications doivent avoir une durée correspondant au temps alloué. On accordera 15 minutes aux colloques individuels, et 5 minutes supplémentaires pour une période de questions (pour un total de 20 minutes).

Salle d'exposition:

Cette année, l'ACEA aimerait favoriser la participation massive en invitant les étudiants de deuxième cycle, les professionnels, les membres de la communauté des ONG, les chercheurs hors université, les artistes et les membres érudits de la communauté à présenter leurs travaux à notre Salle d'exposition. Tous les supports sont acceptés; notamment les affiches, les livres, les diaporamas, les vidéos ou les œuvres d'art.

La date butoir de réception des propositions des **colloques scientifiques** est fixée au **mardi 15 décembre 2010**.

La date butoir de réception des propositions de **communications** est fixée au **vendredi 15 janvier 2011**.

La date butoir de réception des propositions pour la **salle d'exposition** est le vendredi **1^{er} avril 2011**.

Cette année, nous aimerions ajouter les adresses courriel des auteur(e)s au programme du congrès dans le but de faciliter le contact entre les membres de l'auditoire et les conférenciers. Si vous **ne désirez pas** que votre adresse courriel soit ajoutée au programme, **veuillez l'indiquer dans votre proposition**.

Toutes les propositions doivent être soumises par courriel sur document de format Word (.doc) : cafs2011@gmail.com

Pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez visiter les sites Web suivants :
L'Association canadienne des études sur l'alimentation : www.foodstudies.ca
La Fédération canadienne des sciences sociales : www.fedcan.ca

CALL FOR PAPERS

Sixth Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Association for Food Studies May 28 – 30, 2011 “Exploring change through food”

The Canadian Association for Food Studies (CAFS) will host its sixth annual general meeting at **University of New Brunswick and St. Thomas University, Fredericton** in conjunction with the 2011 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences. CAFS members are drawn from an array of disciplines including adult education, agriculture, anthropology, economics, environmental studies, health studies, home economics, human nutrition, geography, literature, psychology, philosophy, policy studies, public health, rural studies, sociology, social work and urban planning. CAFS membership is open to academics, students, policy makers, community workers, professionals, practitioners and others interested in food studies research.

CAFS recognizes the need for interdisciplinary research on food issues both within and outside of academia in response to societal needs such as informing policy makers, assessing the outcomes of community-based work, and demonstrating the health, social, cultural, spiritual and environmental impacts of food systems.

To encourage interdisciplinarity, and to reflect the broad range of important work happening in this field, we encourage academics and community members to submit proposals for either 1) sessions or 2) individual papers or 3) submissions for the Exploration Gallery.

We invite session proposals or individual paper proposals dealing with the connections of food production and consumption to notions of exploration and discovery. Submissions exploring differences in regional and local foodscapes; examining the relationship between changes in urban consumption patterns and tastes and their effects on literal and metaphorical rural topography; and investigations of community development through food are particularly welcome.

Session proposals:

Please send the session title and the name and organizational affiliation of the session organizer. Please also include the authors' names, affiliations, email addresses and abstracts (150 words) of each paper to be included in the session. If you suggest a chair for the sessions, please include this as well. Submissions will be accepted in either French or English. If possible, please submit in both French and English. The program committee will work with session organizers to ensure disciplinary diversity and content compatibility.

NOTE: Sessions should be an appropriate length for the time allocated. Individual papers are typically 15 minutes with 5 additional minutes for questions (for a total of 20 minutes). Sessions will be 1 ½ hours in length.

Therefore, a session will typically have 4 presenters.

Paper proposals:

Please send a brief abstract (150 words), along with your paper title, and the name(s), affiliation(s) and email address(es) of the author(s). Submissions will be accepted in either French or English. If possible, please submit in both French and English. The program committee will work to ensure disciplinary diversity and content compatibility when placing individual papers within sessions.

NOTE: Papers should be an appropriate length for the time allocated. Individual sessions will be 15 minutes with 5 additional minutes for questions (for a total of 20 minutes).

Exploration gallery:

This year, CAFS would like to encourage broad participation by inviting graduate students, practitioners, members of the NGO community, researchers outside the Academy, artists, and learned members of the community to contribute works for our Exploration Gallery. All media are invited; examples include posters, books, slide shows, video, or works of art.

The deadline for **session** proposals is: **Tuesday, December 15, 2010**

The deadline for **paper** proposals is: **Friday, January 15, 2011**

The deadline for **exploration gallery** proposals is Friday **April 1, 2011**.

This year we would like to include authors' email addresses in the conference program to facilitate contact between audience members and paper presenters. *If you would **not** like your email address to be included in the program, please indicate this in your proposal.*

All proposals should be sent as Word (.doc) documents to:
cafs2011@gmail.com

Further information is available at:

Canadian Association for Food Studies: www.foodstudies.ca

Canadian Federation of the Humanities and Social Sciences: www.fedcan.ca

Call for nominations for CAFS AWARDS

Mustafa S. Koc Student Paper Award in Food Studies

CAFS is proud to introduce the Mustafa S. Koc Student Paper Award in Food Studies competition, to be launched in 2011. The Award bears the name of founder of the Canadian Association for Food Studies (CAFS), and was created to encourage participation by undergraduate and graduate students and to recognize scholarly excellence.

Submission Guidelines and Conditions of Award: CAFS welcomes student-authored papers from diverse disciplinary and transdisciplinary fields on a wide variety of issues related to food. (See the [CAFS website](#) for the full description of the award.) The application deadline is **March 1, 2011**.

Value of the award: Each award includes a \$200 stipend, a one year CAFS membership, complimentary conference registration, and a banquet ticket for the CAFS conference. Notification of awards will be made by April 30th.

Eligibility: Applicants must submit an abstract for the CAFS conference by the abstract deadline. The paper may have been written for a course, a major research project, or a thesis or comprehensive exam. A submission that is co-authored by two students is also permitted, if both students agree that they made comparable contributions to the paper.

Paper format guidelines: The length for papers is 4500 to 6000 words (excluding bibliography). Alternatively, videos and other non-print formats can also be considered.

Award for Distinguished Lifetime Achievement in Food Studies has been created to honor persons who in their careers have made outstanding contributions in the field of food studies through research, teaching, public service, or public policy. (See the [CAFS website](#) for the full description of the award.) Nominations must be submitted by **Feb 15, 2011** to CafsAdmin@foodstudies.ca.

To nominate someone, please submit the following elements:

- A cover letter from the principal nominator(s) that details the nominee's contributions and makes the case for why the candidate deserves the award.
- The nominee's current CV.
- Two or three letters of support (at least one from a CAFS member).
- Selected publications, student or peer evaluations, and/or other professionally relevant materials (optional).



Updates from Ryerson's Centre for Studies in Food Security (CSFS)

Submitted by Jasmine Kwong, Research Assistant

Food for Talk Series

Many exciting events are taking place at the Centre for Studies in Food Security! This year, the Food for Talk (FFT) series- a tri-university initiative between the Faculty of Environmental Studies at York University, the Department of Geography at the University of Toronto and the Centre for Studies in Food Security at Ryerson University- is hosting facilitated discussions on the Metcalf Food Solutions Papers. In October, FFT hosted the first discussion with the Toronto Urban Growers on the paper entitled, "Scaling up Urban Agriculture in Toronto". The remaining papers will be presented in early 2011.

The next Graduate Student Food Colloquium will be in April 2011. As part of the Food for Talk series, this biennial event is a place for conversations between people who explore and work with the emerging and challenging issues around food security. The Colloquium serves as a platform to share and to learn about other students' current research and interest in food-related study; to network; and to present current work in a highly collegial environment.

To find out more about the Graduate Student Colloquium or how to be involved, please contact gradfood09@gmail.com or visit <http://www.ryerson.ca/foodsecurity/graddiscussions/>

Certificate in Food Security

This year, we welcome two new course instructors in the Certificate in Food Security program: Irena Knezevic, who is teaching *Food Policy and Programs in Food Security*, and Meredith Kushnir, who is teaching *Gender and Food Security*.

Also new this Fall, the Chang School of Continuing Education is now offering students who do the four urban agriculture courses in the Food Security program, official documentary recognition by the university of having completed a course series in *Urban Agriculture*. This offer is open to both new and past students.

Courses offered in Winter 2011 (January-April) include:

[CFNY 403](#) Introduction to Food Security

[CFNY 405](#) Applied Research Methods and Evaluation

[CFNY 408](#) Urban Food Security

[CFNY 412](#) Urban Agriculture Types

For more information on the Certificate in Food Security, contact the Academic Coordinator, Reg Noble: food@ryerson.ca

For more information on the Centre, its work, and Associates, please visit: www.ryerson.ca/foodsecurity

Activating Change Together (ACT) for Community Food Security in Nova Scotia and Beyond

Many long-standing and well-respected community, university, and government partnerships have been working together for many years to understand and address the root causes of food insecurity in Nova Scotia. A new project, started in February 2010, builds on this collaborative work. Activating Change Together (ACT) for Community Food Security is a 5-year participatory action research (PAR) project that enhances Community Food Security for all Nova Scotians. Rooted in lived experiences, real community needs and innovative solutions, it amplifies and broadens conversation, research, and action to strengthen capacity for policy change.

This Community University Research Alliance (CURA) aims to help further understand the components, determinants and promising practices of Community Food Security (CFS) and strengthen capacity for policy change to achieve it. Our vision of Community Food Security in Nova Scotia includes access to enough affordable, healthy, and culturally-appropriate food, produced in socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable ways that promote self-reliance and social justice.

This work is timely and important because Nova Scotians report some of the highest rates of income-related food insecurity in Canada, and agriculture and fisheries in Nova Scotia are currently facing a crisis. “Food security is an issue that touches all Nova Scotians, affecting the social, cultural, and economic development and health of communities; it is an issue that is relevant to all levels of government, all sectors and all citizens in Canada, and globally,” says Patty Williams, Project Co-lead with Mount Saint Vincent University. “Although there has been progress in changing some policies that impact food security, there is still much work to do. That’s why we are committed to conducting research that truly makes a difference. We want to help make a lasting change.”

Led by the Nova Scotia Food Security Network, researchers from Mount Saint Vincent and Saint Francis Xavier Universities, along with 50 key community, government and university partners from across Nova Scotia and Canada, the CURA will use a diversity of tools to explore food systems and their impact on food access in Nova Scotia; examine the policy environments that impact CFS in Nova Scotia; provide opportunities for student and community education, training, and capacity-building, supported by knowledge mobilization and an outcome evaluation.

The project involves communities that directly feel the effects of food insecurity—and the organizations that represent them—at the very heart of its process to strengthen community food systems. Using participatory leadership approaches and participatory action research, we are committed to transforming our ways of working together, knowing that this will create better solutions. At its core, PAR is a process of inquiry, learning, critical analysis, community building, and social change. This approach incorporates multiple, diverse perspectives through an iterative process of planning, acting, observing, and reflecting.

Christine Johnson, Project Co-lead with the Nova Scotia Food Security Network, emphasizes the transformational aspect of this approach. “Through our on-going participatory food costing work, we witnessed how participatory action research created space and opportunity for project participants to strengthen their own capacity. Community members experiencing food insecurity collected, analyzed, and used food costing data to work toward innovative solutions that reflected their lived experiences.”

CURA Team members gathered at Windhorse Farm in New Germany in August 2010 to form new relationships, rekindle old ones, hold meaningful conversations, and explore the project’s initial stage in working collaboratively to create change. A photo and video documentation of the CURA Team Gathering is available at www.curagathering.org. To follow the project’s progress, please visit <http://www.foodsecurityresearchcentre.ca/cura/>.

FROM THE THINK AND EAT GREEN@SCHOOL BC CURA PROJECT NEWSLETTER....



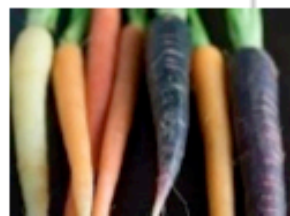
THINK & EAT GREEN @ SCHOOL

VOLUME 3

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2010

Back to School!

School is back in session and the first season of the Think&EatGreen@School has just begun. The task is complex and challenging. The three summer meetings, involving all team members in at least one of them, were hugely helpful in planning the activities of the project for this fall. Since the meetings in July the Coordinating Committee and Graduate Research Assistants have been working hard pulling together a comprehensive plan for this next year based on all the input and contributions from all team members and partners of Think&EatGreen@School. Building on your valuable input a number of over 300 UBC undergraduate and graduate student will carry out projects related to the three themes of our summer meetings - Food Consumption at School, Curriculum and Pedagogy, and Food Production and Composting at School - will be taking place this fall, as well as next spring. This includes such projects as developing garden management and maintenance plans, exploring the potential of farm-to-school salad bars, highlighting the curriculum connections related to food- and garden-based education, and completing an assessment of school food environments. All these activities are to take place with the support of the Coordinating Committee, Graduate Research Assistants, and you - our valued collaborators in this project, as well as the students and professors from all the UBC courses participating in our project from 3 different faculties. More details to come at the October meeting.



THE THINK & EAT GREEN @ SCHOOL PROJECT IS SUPPORTED BY A STRATEGIC RESEARCH GRANT ON THE ENVIRONMENT FROM THE SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES RESEARCH COUNCIL OF CANADA (SSHRC) COMMUNITY UNIVERSITY RESEARCH ALLIANCE (CURA) PROGRAM.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTION, COMMENTS OR WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE THINK AND GREEN @SCHOOL NEWSLETTER PLEASE CONTACT BRENT (BRENTMANSFIELD@GMAIL.COM)

Toronto Food Strategy Update



Toronto Food Strategy Update

November 2010

We are writing to update CAFS members on the progress of the Toronto Food Strategy. CAFS community members have provided valuable input into the Food Strategy process, including serving on our Steering Group; hosting events and participating in our stakeholder consultation and engagement process; and contributing ideas, expertise, and time on specific initiatives.

The Food Strategy, led by Toronto Public Health, is an ongoing process of building and strengthening positive connections across city government and with residents, community organizations, researchers, students, and the agricultural sector.

Our June 2010 report, *Cultivating Food Connections: Toward a Healthy and Sustainable Food System for Toronto*, sets out **six priority areas** for action and 29 examples of initiatives to achieve these priorities.

Food Strategy Priority Areas

- 1) **Support Food Friendly Neighbourhoods**
- 2) **Make Food a Centerpiece of Toronto's New Green Economy**
- 3) **Eliminate Hunger in Toronto**
- 4) **Connect City and Countryside through Food**
- 5) **Empower Residents with Food Skills and Information**
- 6) **Urge Federal and Provincial Governments to Establish Health Focused Food Policies**

Projects underway include:

- **Food Asset Mapping.** We are developing detailed maps to examine food access in Toronto, working with City Planning; Social Development, Finance and Administration; the Martin Prosperity Institute (University of Toronto); and the Centre for Research on Inner City Health (St. Michael's Hospital).
- **My Health, My Choice.** Extending our ongoing relationship with education partners, we hosted a successful student conference entitled, *My Health, My Choice*, on October 6, 2010 at the Royal Ontario Museum with TPH Chronic Disease Prevention and the Toronto District School Board.
- **Masters of Community Nutrition.** We are working with the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto to introduce a broad food system perspective into a management course for nutrition graduate students.
- **Soil Safety Protocol.** We are developing a resource guide to enable gardeners to grow food safely in the city, including options for soil testing.

The **Food Strategy team** has transitioned to TPH Healthy Communities under Director Jann Houston. Barbara Emanuel is now the interim manager of the Food Strategy as Peter Dorfman takes on new responsibilities with the TPH newcomer initiative. The Food Strategy team includes Caroline Wai, Marian Yusuf, Seodhna Keown, Brian Cook (TPH Healthy Public Policy), and Catherine Mah (School of Public Policy and Governance, University of Toronto). The **Toronto Food Policy Council (TFPC)** will also move to the Healthy Communities Directorate and the new TFPC staff person, Lauren Baker, will report to the Manager of the Food Strategy. Food Strategy senior advisors also include Dr. David McKeown, Medical Officer of Health, and Carol Timmings, Director, Chronic Disease Prevention – Healthy Living. We will report on progress to the new City Council in Spring 2011.

Contact Us!

We are always happy to hear about your food work, including ideas for new food connections. We invite you to visit us on the web at toronto.ca/foodconnections or email Barbara Emanuel at bemanuel@toronto.ca.

Hunger Counts 2010

Excerpts from the comprehensive report on hunger and food bank use in Canada

Food Banks Canada

Highlights	
867,948	individuals were assisted, March 2010
+9%	change since March 2009
38%	are children
11%	report employment income
6%	receive Employment Insurance
51%	receive social assistance
15%	receive disability-related income supports
71%	of food banks saw an increase

In March 2010, 867,948 people were assisted by food banks in Canada. This is a 9% increase over 2009 – and the highest level of food bank use on record.

Over the last two years, food bank use in Canada has risen by 28% – an unprecedented rate of growth. After four consecutive years of decline, demand for food banks has skyrocketed since the 2008-09 recession. This year, every province experienced an increase in the number of individuals requiring help, and nearly three-quarters of all Canadian food banks helped more people than in 2009.

HungerCount shows that the effects of the recession are still being felt across the country. In March of this year, 80,150 people accessed a food bank for the first time – approximately the same

level as twelve months earlier. March is a typical month for food bank usage, which means that more than 80,000 people walk through the door of a food bank for the first time every single month.

The need for food assistance increased almost across the spectrum this year: food banks saw more adults, children and youth; more families with children and more single people; more women and men; more Aboriginal people; more seniors; more people with disabilities.

The picture of those who access food banks has remained remarkably consistent over the years, and 2010 is no different: thirty-eight percent are children or youth under age 18; fifty-one percent of assisted households are families with children, and nearly half of these are two-parent families. A large percentage of those needing support (40%) are single-person households, many of them counting social assistance as their primary source of income. Though fewer people with jobs accessed food banks this year, households with income from current or recent employment are, at 17% of the total, still a significant proportion of those helped.

A longstanding problem made worse

Food banks have been providing food and other assistance to more than 700,000 people each month for the better part of a decade. Adding to this, hundreds of thousands of Canadians have suffered from the effects of the recession, forced to work whatever job they can find, or to apply for social assistance and access food banks as a last resort.

Though economic recovery has been slow to take hold, federal and provincial governments are already planning to end stimulus programs, cut spending, and shrink their accumulated debts. It is crucial that they consider their next moves carefully, in light of both the economic issues that have plagued Canadians since the advent of food banks in the 1980s, and the lasting damage faced by individuals and families in this uncertain time.

The number of people living with low income in Canada has not dropped below 2.7 million individuals in any year in the current era. Through decades of overall economic growth, the country's middle class earns no more now than it did in the 1980s, and those in the lowest income group are actually earning less than they did 30 years ago.² The manufacturing, forestry, mining, agriculture and fishing industries have all been weakened, and are able to provide a decent living for fewer and fewer Canadians.

Let's work together, toward long-term strategies

There is an emerging consensus that these issues, in addition to having personal, economic and social costs for those directly affected, have a financial cost for all of us. Recent reports from Canada,³ the United States⁴ and the United Kingdom⁵ show how much the health and social consequences of low income cost governments – and taxpayers – in the long run. In Canada, losses related to health care expenditures, the justice system, social assistance, and foregone tax revenue stemming from the effects of low income have been estimated at \$24.4 billion annually.⁶

Currently, too many Canadians do not have enough resources to make ends meet, and there are too few supports for low income and otherwise vulnerable people. Our recommendations suggest ways of preventing Canadians from falling into poverty, and of helping low income Canadians get back into the economic and social mainstream of their communities. We need our federal and provincial governments to create long-term strategies for preventing and reducing poverty, hunger and food bank use in Canada. These strategies must be integrated, and they must take account of the experiences of low income Canadians, and of the changing nature of the economy and labour market.

Food Banks Canada's recommendations for reducing hunger and food bank use

1. Implement a federal poverty prevention and reduction strategy, with measurable targets and timelines.
2. Maintain current levels of federal cash and tax transfers to provincial, territorial and First Nations governments.
3. At the provincial government level, continue to reform income support programs of last resort, based on consultations with those living on low incomes.
4. Create a federal housing strategy to increase and monitor investment in affordable housing programs in Canada's cities, towns and rural areas.
5. Make the Employment Insurance system more fair, inclusive and responsive to changing labour market conditions.
6. Increase federal investment in a system of quality, affordable, accessible child care.
7. Address the high rates of low income among our most vulnerable seniors.
8. Increase investment in the Canada Child Tax Benefit (CCTB), raising the maximum benefit to \$5,100 per child, per year.

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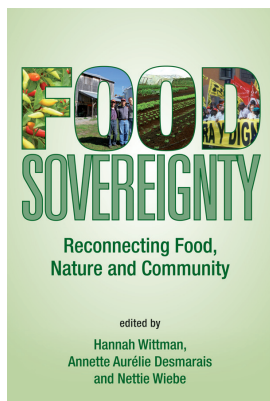
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FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

Reconnecting Food, Nature and Community

edited by **Hannah Wittman, Annette Aurélie Desmarais & Nettie Wiebe**

Advocating a practical, radical change to the way much of our food system currently operates, this book argues that food sovereignty is the means to achieving a system that will provide for the food needs of all people while respecting the principles of environmental sustainability, local empowerment and agrarian citizenship. The current high input, industrialized, market-driven food system fails on all these counts. The authors of this book describe the recent emergence and the parameters of an alternative system, food sovereignty, that puts the levers of food control in the hands of those who are both hungry and produce the world's food – peasants and family farmers, not corporate executives. As the authors show in both conceptual and case study terms, food sovereignty promises not only increased production of food, but also food that is safe, food that reaches those who are in the most need, and agricultural practices that respect the earth.

Contents: Seeing like a peasant: the origins of food sovereignty (Hannah Wittman, Annette Desmarais and Nettie Wiebe) • Capitalist Agriculture, the Food Price Crisis and Peasant Resistance (Walden Bello and Mara Baviera) • The Practice of Food Sovereignty: Voices from La Via Campesina (Itelvina Masioli and Paul Nicholson) • Section One: Roots of the Crisis • Drawing Forth the Force that Slumbered in Peasants' Arms: The Economist, High Agriculture and Selling Capitalism (Jim Handy and Carla Fehr) • Framing Resistance: International Food regimes and the roots of food sovereignty (Madeleine Fairbairn) • Agrofuels and Food Sovereignty: Another Agrarian Transition (Eric Holt-Giménez and Annie Shattuck) • Section Two: Agrarian Citizenship: Revaluing Land and the Environment • Reconnecting agriculture and the environment: food sovereignty and the agrarian basis of ecological citizenship (Hannah Wittman) • Food Sovereignty and Redistributive land policies: Exploring Linkages, Identifying Challenges (Saturnino M. Borras and Jennifer Franco) • Scaling up agroecological approaches for food sovereignty in Latin America (Miguel Altieri) • Section Three: Seeds: The Essential Means of Production • Seed Sovereignty: Unearthing the Cultural and Material Struggles over Seed in Malawi (Rachel Bezner Kerr) • Seed Sovereignty: The Promise of Open Source Biology (Jack Kloppenburg) • Section Four: Food Sovereignty: Concepts and Practice • Food Sovereignty in Movement: Addressing the Triple Crisis (Philip McMichael) • What does food sovereignty look like? (Rajeev Patel).

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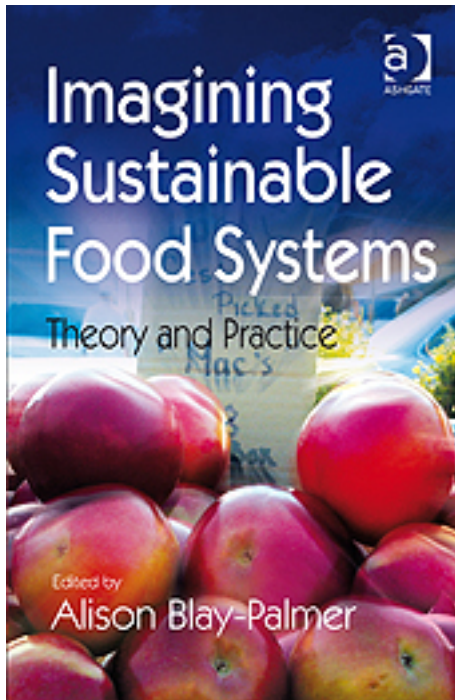
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Imagining sustainable food systems
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What defines a sustainable food system? How can it be more inclusive? How do local and global scales interact and how does power flow within food systems? How to encourage an interdisciplinary approach to realizing sustainable food systems? And how to activate change?

These questions are considered by EU and North American academics and practitioners in this book. Using a wide range of case studies, it provides a critical overview, showing how and where theory and practice can converge to produce more sustainable food systems.

- **Contents:** Part 1 Interrogating Sustainable Food Systems: Imagining sustainable food systems,

Alison Blay-Palmer; Conceptualizing and creating sustainable food systems: how interdisciplinarity can help, Clare Hinrichs; Sustainability: a tool for food system reform?, Mustafa Koc. Part 2 Inclusion and Exclusion in Sustainable Food Systems: Greening the realm: sustainable food chains and the public plate, Kevin Morgan; Thinking about labour in alternative food systems, Yael Levitte; The urban food desert: spatial inequality or opportunity for change?, Ellen Desjardins. Part 3 The Case for Sustainable Food Systems: Food systems planning and sustainable cities and regions: the role of the firm in sustainable food capitalism, Betsy Donald; The nexus between alternative food systems and entrepreneurship: three local stories, H el ene St. Jacques; Scaling up: bringing public institutions and food service corporations into the project for a local, sustainable food system in Ontario, Harriet Friedmann; Food policy encounters of a 3rd kind: how the Toronto Food Policy Council socializes for sustain-ability, Wayne Roberts; Food insecurity in the land of plenty: the Windermere valley paradox, Alison Bell; Imagining sustainable food systems: the path to regenerative food systems, Alison Blay-Palmer and Mustafa Koc; Index.

'This book makes an important contribution to the literature on alternative food systems. It moves beyond enumerating the problems with the current food system (including problems with "alternative" food strategies) and begins to build ideas of what a sustainable food system might include. In particular, the focus on particular strategies, policies, and business arrangements that could be part of a sustainable food system makes this book a "must-read" for those interested in developing a sustainable future.'

Sarah Wakefield, University of Toronto, Canada

From the newsletter desk...

We are happy to hear from you with questions or contributions for the next newsletter. If you would like to get in touch, please send an email to:

cafadmin@foodstudies.ca

This newsletter was produced by:
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