

Thunder Bay Food Charter

Given that the Government of Canada has formally endorsed the right of every individual to have food security, which means that everyone has access to enough safe and nutritious food to stay healthy and have energy for daily life;

And that governments at all levels have recognized the need for food systems planning, and the need to establish principles to govern decisions regarding food production, distribution, access, consumption and waste management;

And that Community Food Security is a comprehensive approach that integrates all components of the food system, from producers to consumers, which emphasizes the health of both the environment and local economies and promotes regional food self-reliance;

And that a sustainable local food system promotes social justice, population health, and reflects and sustains local culture and environment;

Therefore, the City of Thunder Bay endorses the following principles as the foundation of a comprehensive food security framework for research, planning and policy and program development:

Build Community Economic Development

- Prioritize production, preparation, storage, distribution and consumption of local food as an integral part of the Thunder Bay economy.
- Develop collaborative urban and rural food security initiatives to sustain local agriculture and rural communities.
- Support a regionally-based food system to enhance food security and self-reliance.

Ensure Social Justice

- Recognize that food is a basic right, not a commodity.
- Design or amend income, education, employment, housing and transportation policies to facilitate access to nutritious, affordable and safe food in a healthy and dignified way.

Foster Population Health

- Recognize in public policy that a healthy diet contributes to the physical, mental, spiritual and emotional well-being of all residents.
- Provide access to information and skills development regarding nutrition in order to improve individual food security.
- Incorporate basic elements of food security into strategies to reduce and treat chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease and cancer.
- Incorporate food security, the provision and the distribution of food, into local emergency planning.

Celebrate Culture and Collaboration

- Acknowledge that food represents our diverse cultures and sharing traditions is a key strategy for community connection and collaboration.
- Protect and encourage access to wild foods obtained by fishing, hunting and gathering as they are an important part of northern culture.
- Support efforts to raise awareness and promote respect for traditional and cultural food history and diversity.

Preserve Environmental Integrity

- Encourage regional and local food self-reliance in order to reduce the use of fossil fuels and build sustainable communities.
- Encourage food production methods that sustain or enhance natural environments and biological diversity, and that make effective and sustainable use of local resources.
- Preserve and maintain local waters and agricultural lands and designate land and support for urban and community-based agriculture.
- Preserve and sustain Boreal forests and watersheds in order to maintain local traditions of hunting, fishing and gathering.
- Introduce environmentally sound methods of food waste management such as composting and reclamation programs.
- Recognize that access to a safe and sustainable water supply is an integral part of the food system.



Lynn Peterson

Mayor Lynn Peterson
City of Thunder Bay
In accordance with City Council Resolution

