

# Working Together to Advance Regional Food Policy

Advancing the Basin-Boundary Regional Food System  
Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>

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Director, BC Food Systems Network



**BC Food Systems Network**  
*a project on Tides Canada's Shared  
Platform*

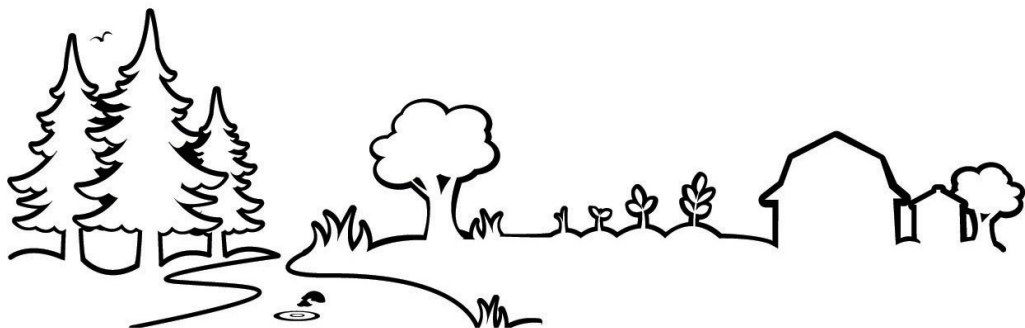
# BC Food Systems Network

The BC Food Systems Network BCFSN works to create healthy, just and sustainable food systems in British Columbia by building connections, nurturing capacity and advancing policy



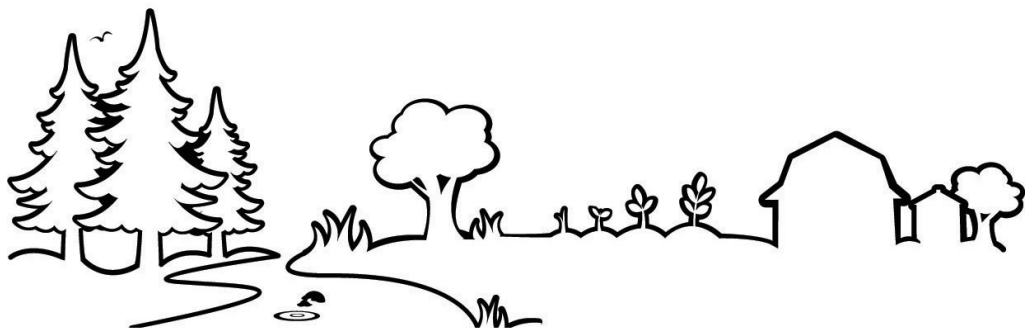
# Advancing Municipal and Regional Food Policy

- Food is 'hidden in plain sight'
- Food systems are seemingly no one's jurisdiction... but everyone's responsibility



# Advancing Municipal and Regional Food Policy

- Food policy is one strategy, a very critical one, to create more healthy, just and sustainable food systems in our communities
- Convening and catalyzing for action across the policy process from ideas to implementation



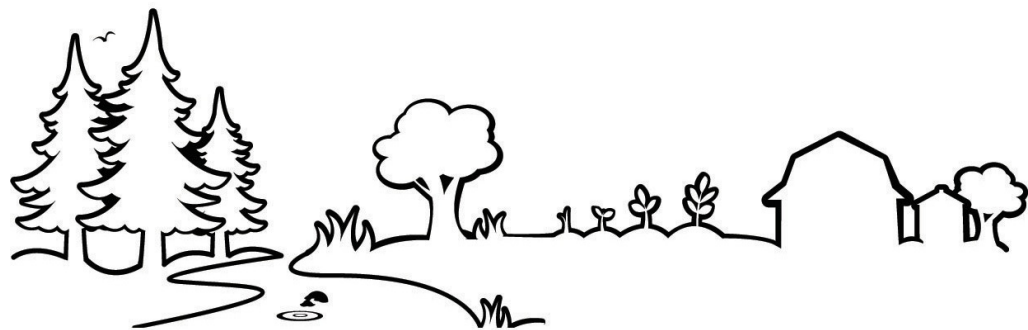
# Advancing Municipal and Regional Food Policy

- Food systems approach
- Multisector collaboration (local and regional governments, health, community groups, funders, industry, academia, citizens)
- Solutions orientation
- Leveraging multiple food systems / sustainability outcomes



# Advancing Municipal and Regional Food Policy

- Over 200 food (policy) council of differing forms now in existence across North America
- First formed in Knoxville, Tennessee in 1982
- Toronto Food Policy Council was formed in 1990



[www.foodfirst.org/en/foodpolicycouncils-lessons](http://www.foodfirst.org/en/foodpolicycouncils-lessons)

# Advancing Municipal and Regional Food Policy

Six forms of municipal food activity (from MacRae & Donahue, 2013, *Municipal Food Policy Entrepreneurs*)

1. Municipality-driven food policy initiatives
2. Hybrid model with direct links to government
3. Hybrid model with indirect links to government
4. Food policy organization linked to government through a secondary organization
5. Civil society organization with limited government funding and participation
6. Civil society organization with no direct government involvement





# Advancing Municipal and Regional Food Policy

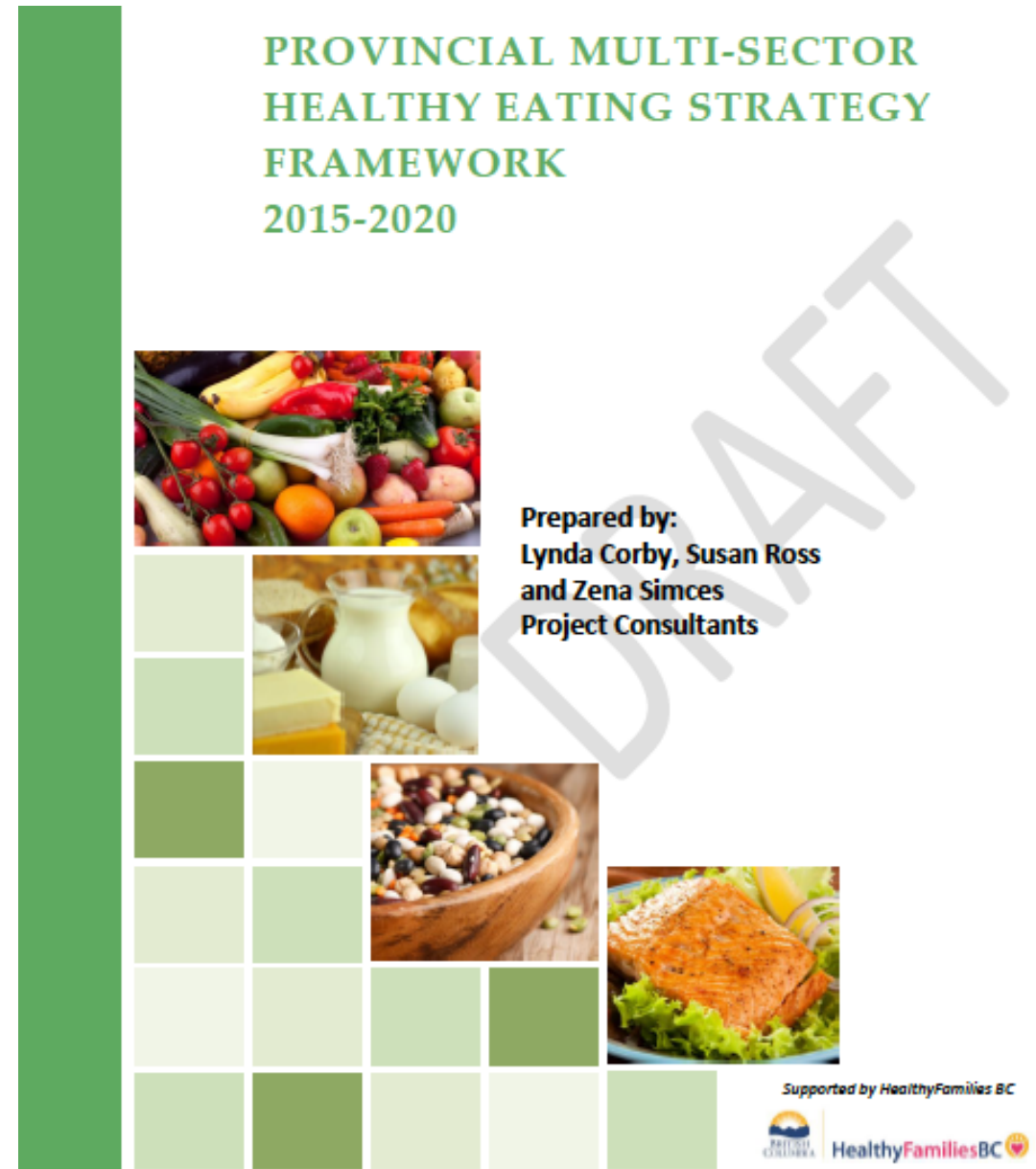
Key considerations: How does a potential structure serve where your community / region is at?

- Relationship to government:
  - direct / indirect
  - individual / multiple
- Membership:
  - hybrid (staff, elected and CSOs) vs. citizen advisory (with liaisons)
  - formal vs. individual
- Staffing and Resources





# Links to provincial food policy efforts



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Sustainable Food Systems Working Group – Finding Common Ground: Forum, Webinars and Summit, including webinar on April 21 with Erica Campbell from Vermont Farm to Plate

[www.refbc.com/news/identifying-priority-actions-local-and-sustainable-food-systems-webinar-recap](http://www.refbc.com/news/identifying-priority-actions-local-and-sustainable-food-systems-webinar-recap)







[www.bcfnsn.org/  
annualgathering](http://www.bcfnsn.org/annualgathering)

**The 18th annual BC Food Systems Network Gathering will be July 15 – 17, 2016 in Syilx Territory at the En'owkin Centre near Penticton, BC**

Each year since 1999 the Network has gathered somewhere in BC to share knowledge, experience, and wisdom from the grassroots. This annual Gathering is a celebration of our food systems and a coming-together of traditional and indigenous food skills with research and new developments on the ground. It is an empowering and fun way to meet some of the amazing people around BC working in the front lines of food security and food sovereignty.

This year the theme of the Gathering is ***Reconciling Cultures and Re-connecting Foodscapes*** . The Gathering will be an opportunity for various cultures to come together with the Syilx and other Indigenous people to explore together what it means to truly reconcile with the first peoples of the land and water. We will also dive into what it means to reconnect with and honour the foodscape: the lands and waters that are so vital to our food systems and community well-being.

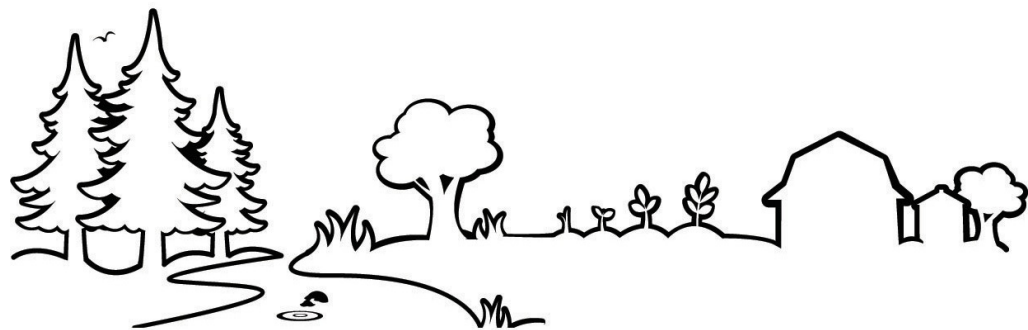
# Advancing Local, Sustainable Food Systems in BC

- The importance of convening and catalyzing for actions across the policy process
- Make food and food policy other people's job, and then support them in doing it
- Be the table that seeks to address issues in a holistic, systems way (if not there, where else will it happen?)
- The need for a diversity and breadth of stakeholder perspective and expertise to food system issues



# Advancing Local, Sustainable Food Systems in BC

How can we more effectively align and integrate the activities of governments (all levels and ministries and agencies), industry, NGOs, funders, academics and citizens towards local, sustainable food systems that ensure thriving local economies and the security of the food supply in the face of climate change?



*Thank you for your time and attention!*

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