



Winnipeg Food Council

A City of Winnipeg Citizen Committee

2019 Annual Report

The Winnipeg Food Council conducts its work in Treaty No. 1 Territory, the traditional lands of the Anishinabe (Ojibway), Ininew (Cree), Oji-Cree, Dene, and Dakota.

Treaty 1 land is the Birthplace of the Métis Nation and the Heart of the Métis Nation Homeland.

Message From the Chair



It continues to be my honour to serve as Chair of the Food Council. I am delighted with the progress we have made in recent months, as outlined in this report.

We took a huge step forward this year, by hiring our first Coordinator, Jeanette Sivilay. Jeanette has been a wonderful addition and I appreciate the energy she brings to the position.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Rob Moquin, who served as Vice-Chair of the Food Council for the past two years. Rob and the group at Food Matters Manitoba really put the issue of food security on the map at Winnipeg City Hall. We would not have a Food Council without his knowledge, efforts and patience.

Moving forward, I am eager to continue making progress with the continued support and guidance of Food Matters Manitoba.

Thank-you,

Councillor Brian Mayes
Winnipeg Food Council Chair

The People Behind the Work

The Winnipeg Food Council Coordination

In July 2019, the Food Council hired a Coordinator for a 6 month contract to assist with reporting requirements, the initiation of several projects, and day-to-day Food Council activities. The contract was awarded to Food Matters Manitoba, who hired Jeanette Sivilay for the Coordinator role.

Jeanette earned a BA (Hons.) from the University of Winnipeg in International Development Studies, sparking an interest in learning about food sovereignty and urban agriculture. From that experience, in 2011 she began directing a worker co-operative that ran a Community Supported Agriculture farm in Winnipeg. As an urban farmer, she also coordinated a provincial network of small scale food providers and local food enthusiasts.

These activities led her to return to university, grounding her community organizing in academic scholarship, where she studied under Dr. Annette Desmarais, the Canadian Research Chair in Human Rights, Social Justice, and Food Sovereignty. In October 2019 Jeanette graduated from the University of Manitoba with a Master of Arts in Environment and Geography, focusing on food sovereignty and the local food movement in Manitoba.



Jeanette Sivilay
Winnipeg Food Council
Coordinator

Our 2019 Members

Winnipeg Food Council members bring skills and experience in specific areas such as community food security, project evaluation and strategic planning, that allows them to contribute to policy development, and influence change.

Councillor Brian Mayes, Chairperson
Councillor Jason Schreyer
James Battershill – Food Production
Bruce Berry – Food Production
Nancy Cooke – Citizen Member

Lavonne Harms – Winnipeg Regional Health Authority
Kelly Janz – Food Business
Mandela Madit Kuet – Citizen Member
Rob Moquin – Community Group
Andi Sharma – Citizen Member
Jasmine Tara – Citizen Member

Winnipeg Food Council in the Community

In 2019 the Winnipeg Food Council participated in several community activities to expand awareness of the Food Council and promote community engagement in Food Council activities:

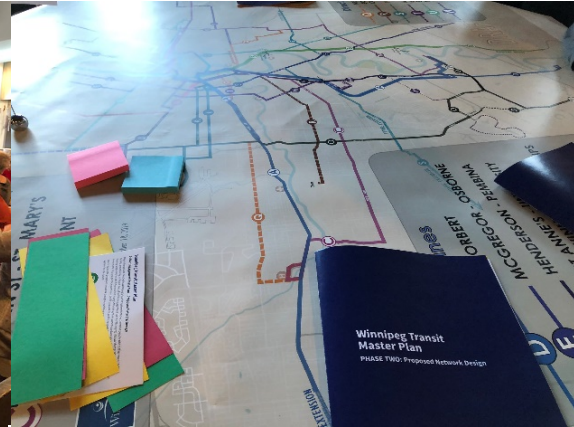
- September 27: Meet Me at the Bell Tower 'Food as Fun' night
- October 3: Eat Think Vote! federal election event at NorWest Community Food Centre
- October 16: Presentation to the U of M Food Systems Research Group
- October 23: Presentation to U of M Health Policy students
- November 6: City of Winnipeg transit consultations
- November 12: Connecting with Wolseley Residents Association on community gardens
- November 19: Exploring collaboration with the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg
- November 24: Book launch at the National Farmers Union 50th Anniversary Convention in Winnipeg
- November 25: Exploring collaboration with the Winnipeg Metro Region
- November 28: Keystone Agricultural Producers Farmer Appreciation event at the Manitoba Legislature
- December 8: From Seed to Seed Film Screening and Q&A at the Millennium Library



Attending Meet Me at the Bell Tower on September 27



Eat Think Vote! event at NorWest Community Food Centre on October 3



Winnipeg Transit Master Plan Consultations on November 6

Celebrating World Food Day with the Food Systems Research Group

The Winnipeg Food Council was invited to present at the University of Manitoba Food Systems Research Group World Food Day event on October 16.

The Food Systems Research Group is a multi-disciplinary collaboration between 4 University of Manitoba faculties – Environment, Earth, and Resources; Agriculture and Food Sciences; Arts; and Science. The event was attended by approximately 50 people from across university departments, including academics, students, and some food service staff.

The event featured 5 short presentations giving snapshots of food related activities on campus followed by a 30 minute presentation by Dr. Hannah Wittman regarding food system related activities at the University of British Columbia and the Vancouver Food Policy Council. Our Coordinator Jeanette then presented on the Winnipeg Food Council, outlining our history, function and structure, and plans for the future.

Following these presentations there was a short question and answer period, followed by refreshments and break out sessions asking how food systems transformation can be facilitated on campus through curriculum, research, and action.

As a result of this event, Jeanette was able to network with students, academics, and researchers from several faculties who expressed interest in supporting the Winnipeg Food Council and our activities.



Promotional materials for the World Food Day event



Coordinator Jeanette Sivilay presenting on the Winnipeg Food Council

Training Opportunities

Food Council members and Coordinator took advantage of several training activities in 2019 to enhance the functioning of the Winnipeg Food Council

- Completed Strategic planning with coach Anna Weier
- Engaged with coordinators and members of other Canadian municipal food policy councils, including Toronto, Edmonton, Calgary, Montreal and Vancouver
- Participated in North American Food Policy Council Network webinar
- Participated in learning opportunities through presentations at Food Council meetings
- Talked to academics and practitioners working in municipal food policy across North America
- Completed the “Supporting Local Food Councils” professional development course for Coordinators

In future years, the Winnipeg Food Council seeks to continue to enhance Council function and impact through cyclical learning, benchmarking and evaluative measures, as outlined in the 2020 Work Plan.



Food Council members learn about new Winnipeg food and nutrition mapping tool from Dr. Joyce Slater and Dr. Chris Green during a Winnipeg Food Council meeting in November.



Anna Weier; consultant and Food Council Coach

Strategic Planning

In 2019 the Winnipeg Food Council completed Strategic planning with Coach Anna Weier.

Anna is a skilled facilitator who has worked in the areas of program coordination, planning, evaluation, community engagement and sustainability. Anna has 15 years of experience supporting community organizations and facilitating planning and evaluation.

Anna has worked as a Planning and Evaluation Facilitator independently and as part of the Health in Common team. All these characteristics, along with her work in the food sector, has made Anna a perfect fit to guide Food Council planning.

Anna worked with the Food Council to establish its vision, mission, and strategic directions.

Projects Report

The Food Council is a committee consisting of citizen volunteers, many of whom have experience building organizations, programs and/or businesses.

In addition to the community events (p. 5) and training opportunities (p. 7), the Food Council made progress on several initiatives through the work of its subcommittees.

- Built a framework for a municipal food policy scan, to be undertaken with the public service in 2020. A food policy scan is a common early activity of food policy councils because it offers a benchmark of food systems policy, helps food councils establish policy priorities, and increases their ability to engage in policy work. It is also a step towards developing a food strategy.
- Established a work plan for Food by Ward assessment project and identified existing data. This project will establish an initial gap and asset analysis of the City of Winnipeg food system through research and community consultation to enable the creation of a City of Winnipeg Agriculture and Food strategy – the creation of which is an established Food Council function, and listed under the Climate Change Action Plan.
- Supported the Direct Farm Manitoba Farmers Market Coupon Program which seeks to make local fresh foods more accessible to underserved communities.
- Supported Food Matters Manitoba Cultivating Leaders program that fosters food policy thinking among youth.
- Built a Communications Strategy, including social media and website channels, to increase the visibility of the Food Council and better engage the public.
- Attended the Winnipeg Foundation One-Time Community Grants info session, and met with Dr. Annette Desmarais, Canadian Research Chair in Human Rights, Social Justice, and Food Sovereignty, in an effort to explore external funding options.
- Continued exploring community gardens topics through meeting with public service and Residents Associations.
- Established policies to guide subcommittee decision-making and activities.
- Advanced the Community Centres Scan pilot project in conjunction with the WRHA, General Council of Community Centres, and City of Winnipeg Administrators.
- Explored options to invite the Province of Manitoba to nominate a Provincial representative to the Winnipeg Food Council.

Vision

All Winnipeggers have what they need to eat well, all of the time.

Mission

Work with the Mayor, Councillors and city staff to fix food systems issues by advising on policy, relaying research, and sharing lessons learned through continual consultation.

Strategic Directions

1. Continue seeking resources for coordination support
2. Ensure that current City of Winnipeg bylaws and programs are being used to their full advantage for food equity; and that the city prioritizes food in its planning/initiatives

Contact Information

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Committee Mandate

The Food Council's function is to:

- Advise the mayor and Council on food system related issues
- Support the work of the community on food issues, enhance public health and local food security, and increase food literacy and access to food by encouraging multi-sector and strategic approaches, fostering coordination and networking, and supporting ongoing consultation
- Initiate the development of and support the implementation, maintenance and evaluation of a City of Winnipeg Agricultural and Food Strategy to address municipal food security and food system issues.