ANNUAL REPORT

WINNIPEG
FOOD COUNCIL
2022

WINNIPEG
FOOD
COUNCIL





LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Winnipeg Food Council conducts its work in Treaty No. 1 Territory and the National Homeland of the Red River Mètis. The Red River Mètis are Canada's Negotiating Partner in Confederation and the Founders of the Province of Manitoba. Treaty No. 1 Territory is the traditional lands of the Anishinabe (Ojibway), Ininew (Cree), Oji-Cree, Dene and Dakota.

We respect the Treaties that were made on these territories and acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past and present. We acknowledge that our water is sourced from Shoal Lake 40 First Nation. In the spirit of reconciliation, we value the ways these communities nurtured the land and honour the legacy and wisdom of the ancestors who made this place home.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

COUNCILLOR JASON SCHREYER

INCOMING CHAIRPERSON



It is my pleasure to serve as Chair of the Winnipeg Food Council, entering its fifth year. As a member of the Council since its establishment, I look forward to working both with long-term and new members as the committee continues to evolve. The skill and expertise of Food Council members has been an inspiration to me over my years of working with the Council, and one of my highlights in my role as City Councillor for Elmwood East-Kildonan. I also look forward to working with the capable members of the administration who support Food Council initiatives every day.



COUNCILLOR BRIAN MAYES

OUTGOING CHAIRPERSON

It has been an honor to serve as Chair of the Food Council since its inception. As 2023 begins I am pleased to see Councillor Jason Schreyer – an enthusiastic supporter of this committee – take over as Chair. I have been particularly blessed to have Jeanette Sivilay as Food Council Coordinator and Rebecca Ford as Committee Clerk in recent years. It's been wonderful to work as part of this team. I want to thank Food Council members for their support, as well City Planner Karin Kliewer for her policy wisdom and unfailing good humor.

MISSION | VISION | FUNCTION

The Winnipeg Food Council is a committee of volunteer citizen experts advising on a range of municipal food systems issues through research and community consultation.

VISION

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

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

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 and initiatives.
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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.

FUNCTION

The function of the Winnipeg Food Council, as outlined in the Terms of Reference, is to:

- Advise the Mayor and Council on food systems 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; and
- Initiate the development of and support the implementation, maintenance and evaluation of a City of Winnipeg Agriculture and Food Strategy to address municipal food security and food system issues.

SUBCOMMITTEES

The Winnipeg Food Council operates through the work and guidance of its two subcommittees:

- The research and policy subcommittee undertakes projects and research activities on food systems related issues and policy.
- The development and communication subcommittee advises and aids in committee longevity, communications and public engagement.



WINNIPEG FOOD COUNCIL 2022 MEMBERSHIP

Our members bring skills and experience in areas such as community food security, research and communications, and strategic planning which allows us to contribute to policy development and influence change.

Councillor Brian Mayes (Chairperson)
Councillor Jason Schreyer
Abby Legaspi – Community Group
Asha Nelson – Citizen Member
Dustin Hoft – Food Business
James Battershill – Food Production
Kelly Janz – Research
Manas Banerjee – Food Production
Martina Gornik-Marion – Health (Nominated by the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority)
Michaela Calderwood – Citizen Member
Nita Sharda – Citizen Member



URBAN AGRICULTURE AND COMMUNITY GARDEN SMALL GRANTS

For the first time in 2022, the Winnipeg Food Council offered a $7,000 small grants program to support community gardens and urban agriculture initiatives.

The program was established in recognition of the Council-declared “Year of the Garden”, and came from the Food Council’s first ever operating budget. Applications were accepted for up to $2,000 for new projects, garden renovations or operating costs. Organizations that are BIPOC led or represent equity-seeking groups were encouraged to apply.











The grant program was well received, drawing 56 applications, with a total ask of over $97,000.

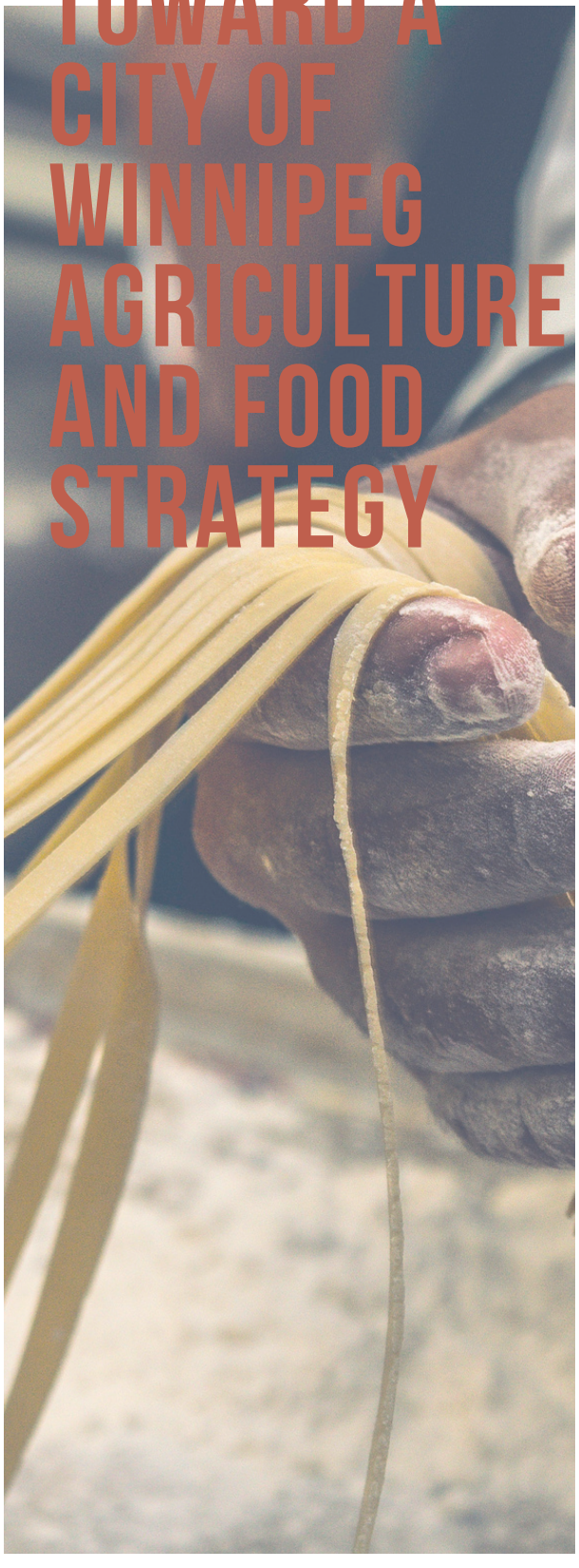
The Food Council provided grants to the following organizations:

- William Whyte Neighbourhood Association
- Bruce Oake Recovery Centre
- Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba
- Merchants Corner
- NorWest Community Food Centre
- Children of the Earth High School
- Sunshine House
- Winakwa Community Garden

Plans are now under way for an expanded 2023 small grants program.

The Winnipeg Food Council would like to thank Councillor Vivian Santos and Councillor Ross Eadie for attending garden tours of grant recipients in their respective wards.

TOWARD A CITY OF WINNIPEG AGRICULTURE AND FOOD STRATEGY



The Winnipeg Food Council made significant progress in laying the groundwork for a Winnipeg Agriculture and Food Strategy in 2022. As per the committee's Terms of Reference, the Winnipeg Food Council is to "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 systems issues."

In 2022 the Winnipeg Food Council published a municipal food policy scan, a food strategy jurisdictional scan, and a Winnipeg Food System Snapshot Report. The municipal food policy scan identifies City of Winnipeg policies that influence or directly relate to the urban food system. It includes as policy various City strategies, by-laws, programs, best practices, pilot projects, and standard operating procedures. The food strategy jurisdictional scan summarized components of similar strategy documents from cities across Canada.

The Winnipeg Food System Snapshot report used key performance indicators to asses the urban food system across six sectors, including governance, sustainable diets & nutrition, social & economic equity, food production, food supply & distribution, and food waste. Working with a team of researchers, the research and policy committee of the Winnipeg Food Council produced several recommended actions for the next five years to support a sustainable and equitable urban food system. The immediate actions for the City of Winnipeg are to fund the development and implementation of an Agriculture and Food Strategy, and to adopt a city-wide residential food waste collection program.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE



In 2022 the Winnipeg Food Council built on previous years of work on green infrastructure and urban agriculture by establishing a dedicated Green Infrastructure Working Group. The working group examines how urban agriculture can be used to manage stormwater while providing various ecosystem services to communities across Winnipeg.

In early 2022 the working group helped draft a motion requesting the Winnipeg Public Service incorporate urban agriculture into one green infrastructure pilot project. In December, the Winnipeg Food Council welcomed the first report back from the Public Service on efforts to accomplish this goal.

Additionally, the working group is providing oversight to the 2022-2023 project with ProBono Students Canada, examining productive green roof infrastructure, by-laws and incentives in Canadian jurisdictions.

URBAN AGRICULTURE ON PUBLIC LANDS



In 2022 the Winnipeg Food Council proposed new policy parameters to allow for urban agriculture on public lands, in alignment with recommendations from the 2018 report Supporting Commercial Agricultural Uses in Winnipeg.

A new policy would allow for food grown on city lands to be sold under certain criteria, including that 1) the urban agriculture project be operated by a non-profit, that 2) proceeds of sale be reinvested in the project, and 3) that sales of produce take place in alignment with City zoning by-laws, including other criteria. The policy recommendation was also supported by research conducted by ProBono Students Canada for the Winnipeg Food Council over 2021 and 2022.

The recommendation was passed at Executive Policy Committee on September 14 and the Winnipeg Food Council looks forward to supporting the Public Service in operationalizing the policy in 2023.



AVOIDABLE HOUSEHOLD FOOD WASTE REDUCTION OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

In 2022 the Winnipeg Food Council worked with summer staff from the Winnipeg Public Service, and Love Food Hate Waste Canada to host an outreach campaign aimed at promoting tips and tricks to reduce food waste at home. The Public Service hosted booths at 12 farmers markets across Winnipeg from July 13 to September 7, and promoted the events via social media. In addition to providing information and materials to encourage food waste reduction, the campaign also included a raffle where entrants were asked to share a food waste tip to win a prize pack from Love Food Hate Waste Canada. The campaign drew 336 booth visitors, and 146 raffle entries.

The Winnipeg Food Council also promoted food waste reduction through two additional social media campaigns. Food Waste Action Week ran from March 7 to 13 and encouraged change by sharing the impact of food waste on the environment. From December 12 to 24 the Food Council ran a “12 Days Of Food Waste Tips” social media campaign, showcasing one tip each day over the holiday season. Tips ranged from meal planning and recipes, to food storage and ideas for using up leftovers.

CHOCHINOV PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN

In 2022 the Winnipeg Food Council continued to support and promote urban food production. In partnership with Councillor Devi Sharma, Seven Oaks Immigrant Services, Immigrant Centre, Seven Oaks Garden Club, and the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, the Food Council hosted a community barbeque in Chochinov Park on October 1.

The event was designed to engage community members interested in garden plots or in coordinating gardeners in the future. Over 40 community members attended to learn about the community garden.

The gardens at Chochinov Park are unique for a city park, as they are surrounded by fruit and berry trees and shrubs, planted by residents and community organizations over 15 years ago. Thus far, the plantings and gardens have been maintained by the Seven Oaks Garden Club, however the garden club is seeking new active members to take over operations. The Winnipeg Food Council, along with area partners, helped support community outreach for the Seven Oaks Garden Club in 2022.



IN THE COMMUNITY

In 2022 the Winnipeg Food Council participated in several community activities to expand awareness of the Food Council and promote community engagement in Food Council activities.

- January 17: Presentation to the Integrated Sustainable Agri-Food Systems class, School of Agriculture, Faculty of Agriculture – University of Manitoba
- February 1: Direct Farm Manitoba Annual Conference – Winnipeg Food Council Chair, Councillor Brian Mayes brought greetings
- February 22: Panel presentation at Mennonite Central Committee Ottawa Office post-secondary student seminar on climate change
- March 16: Presentation to the ZONE Settlement Meeting of Immigrant Centre Manitoba
- March 28: Peak of the Market Tour with CEO Pamela Kolochuk and Food Council Chair, Councillor Brian Mayes
- March 31: Site visit to Fort Whyte Farm with Acting Farm Program Manager Owen Campbell
- April 4: Guest lecture to Community Nutrition Intervention class, Department of Food and Human Nutritional Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences, University of Manitoba
- May 16: Winnipeg Food Asset Mapping sessions hosted by Food and Beverage Manitoba, and Community Futures
- May 31: Manitoba Planning Conference presentation on the Winnipeg Food Council and COVID-19 response
- June 18: Opening of the Wolseley community garden and orchard in Vimy Ridge Park
- June 22-23: Attended the Grey to Green Conference, a North American green infrastructure conference on research, policy, and design

IN THE COMMUNITY

CONTINUED

- June 28-29: Engagement sessions with the Provincial Department of Agriculture on the Next Policy Framework
- July 18: Tour of Red River College Polytech Prairie Research Kitchen with Winnipeg Food Council members
- September 7: Food and Beverage Manitoba inaugural CULTIVATE sustainability conference and trade show – Winnipeg Food Council Chair, Councillor Brian Mayes brought greetings
- September 15: Site visit to the CMU Farm with the Metanoia Farmers Worker Co-operative
- September 15: Site visit to the Fireweed Food Co-op veggie van at NorWest Community Food Centre
- September 17: Panel presentation at the Harvest Moon Festival on Food Security and Access in Winnipeg and Manitoba
- October 21: Canadian Community Economic Development Network Gathering
- November 16: Guest lecture, Human Nutritional Sciences, Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences, University of Manitoba
- November 29: Engagement session with the Federal Department of Employment and Social Development on a National School Food Policy
- December 6: Department of Agriculture Ministerial Industry Engagement – Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

FINANCIAL REPORT

In 2022 Winnipeg City Council allocated a first-ever operating budget for the Winnipeg Food Council.

The Winnipeg Food Council would like to thank former Mayor Brian Bowman, former Finance Chair and current Mayor Scott Gillingham, outgoing Winnipeg Food Council Chairperson Councillor Brian Mayes, and all of 2022 City Council for this support.

REVENUE		2022 BUDGET	2022 ACTUALS	BALANCE
Council Funding	$16,880.00			

EXPENSES

Support the development of an Agriculture and Food Strategy	$8,000.00	$8,393.20	($393.20)
Urban agriculture and community garden small grants	$7,000.00	$7,000.00	$ --
Education & training	$600.00	$315.51	$284.49
Graphic design & printing	$550.00	$550.00	$ --
Meeting expenses	$500.00	$293.67	$206.33
Memberships & subscriptions	$230.00	$224.00	$6.00
	$16,880.00	$16,776.38	$103.62

CONTACT US

Jeanette Sivilay

Coordinator of the Winnipeg Food Council

jsivilay@winnipeg.ca

Karin Kliewer

Public Service Liaison

kkliewer@winnipeg.ca

Rebecca Ford

Winnipeg Food Council Clerk

rford@winnipeg.ca