ANNUAL REPORT

WINNIPEG
FOOD COUNCIL
2023

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

CHAIRPERSON



It is my pleasure to serve as Chair of the Winnipeg Food Council, entering its sixth 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.

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. 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.

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 2023 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 Jason Schreyer (Chairperson)

Councillor Russ Wyatt

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

In 2023, for the second year, the Winnipeg Food Council offered a small grants program to support community gardens and urban agriculture initiatives. This year marked an increase in funding for the program, with $10,000 in total grant money awarded.

Applications were accepted for up to $2,000 for new projects, garden renovations or operating costs. Priority was given to projects which :

- are led by and/or serve equity seeking population,
- are in an area of higher need, food desert or other area lacking community- based food assets,
- increase the amount of food grown in Winnipeg,
- demonstrate project need via support of residents, participants, or agencies through various means including letters of support.







The grant program was well received, drawing 39 applications, with a total ask of over $57,000.

The Food Council provided grants to the following organizations:

- West End Biz
- NorWest Co-op Community Food Centre
- 285 Pembina Highway Inc
- Willow Place
- Seeds of Life Alliance
- Luxton Community Centre
- Indigenous Achievement Canada
- Elwick Community School
- Northwood Community Centre
- Filipino Seniors Group of Winnipeg Inc.
- William Whyte Neighbourhood Association
- Maples Community Centre

The WFC has requested Winnipeg City Council to increase its funding to expand the 2024 small grants program.



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 2023. 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 2023 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 assess 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



The Green infrastructure Armstrong Project was selected to incorporate urban agriculture. At the December 2023 meeting of the Winnipeg Food Council Patrick Coote a Senior Project Engineer in the Water and Waste Department (WWD), gave an update on the project. To incorporate urban agriculture into green infrastructure projects, there were two locations selected: 1. Leila Avenue 2. Mc Gregor.

The engineer from WWD shared images of the status of the locations and highlighted areas that needed agricultural infrastructure embedded. He also spoke on some of the benefits of adding tree canopy and bioretention cells to the project area. An increase in tree canopy will also comply with Our Winnipeg 2045 and complete communities' strategy to plant 1000 trees in Winnipeg.

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 2023 the City of Winnipeg concurred with the recommendation of the Winnipeg Food Council and adopted an Urban Agriculture on City Lands policy. The policy set out the parameters for organizations who wanted to sell food grown on City lands. The research deliverables will focus on Public Legal Education, and will include:

1. A communications plan, including infographics, for aspiring and current urban farmers, community garden organizers, and food related non-profits to understand the obligations and opportunities of the new Urban Agriculture on City Lands policy
2. A 2-page white paper for City of Winnipeg staff to communicate how the policy could be operationalized in various departments.

First year Law PBSC are working on the Development of Public legal Education brochure/infographic on Understanding the Urban Agriculture on City Lands Policy. The final document would be shared to the public through a wide variety of sources. The document should be ready by Spring 2024.



HOUSEHOLD FOOD WASTE REDUCTION OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

In 2023 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.

1. The Food Waste Action Week

The Food Waste Action Week ran from March 6 to March 10, 2023. The theme for the year was focused on reusing leftovers which help to reduce food waste from home, make most of the food you buy, save money and reduce trips to the grocery store.
The Winnipeg Food Council in partnership with the LFHW Canada hosted a contest on “how to make use of leftovers”. Participants would share tips or recipes to get a chance to win an exciting prize pack. They would also use the hashtag #WPG Loves Food!!! on any of the social media handles of the Winnipeg Food Council.

2. Trip to Brandon

In April 2023, the Winnipeg Food Council was invited by Brandon's Food Rescue Grocery Store and Brandon Food Council to see the Food Rescue store in action. This initiative diverts good food from

landfills at different points along the food supply chain, to people who need it. They work with community serving organizations, and their own retail store, to provide food at low to no cost.

The coordinator of the WFC and staff from City of Winnipeg Solid Waste Services, went on the tour which started at the Bimbo Canada bread warehouse in Winnipeg where there were discussions with Second Harvest and Bimbo Canada staff who coordinate community organizations that sort and pick-up bread several days each week.

The Brandon Food Rescue Store U-Haul was loaded and then the team followed the U-Haul to their retail storefront where they met with City of Brandon Ward 1 Councillor Heather Karrouze and other members of the Brandon Poverty Committee, the City of Brandon Environmental Initiatives Coordinator, and The John Howard Society of Brandon.

3.Farmer's markets

The Winnipeg Food Council, in partnership with the City of Winnipeg and Love Food Hate Waste Canada visited farmers' markets this summer to raise awareness about food waste. The visit to the farmers' market/ community markets across the city was aimed at interacting with citizens and providing education and awareness around the food waste problem in Winnipeg. Some of the farmer's market visited below include:

- Wolseley Farmer's Market
- South Osborne Farmer's Market
- River Heights Farmer's Market
- The Wellness Institute Farmer's Market
- St Norbert Farmer's Market
- Transcona Biz Community Market
- Bronx Park Farmer's Market
- West Broadway Farmer's Market
- Tyndall Community Market

4. City-wide residential food waste collection program

The City's solid waste masterplan noted that a 50% Waste Diversion plan was necessary to reduce carbon emissions in the landfills. In 2019, the Solid Waste Division of the City of Winnipeg proposed a pilot project on city-wide residential food waste collection and composting. The project ran from 2020-2023 and one of the project's aims was to showcase public engagement and participation for the residential food waste program.
In 2023, the Winnipeg Food Council sent a letter of support for the program. This was to emphasize the need to meet the ambitious sustainability targets as outlined in the Winnipeg Climate Action Plan, including a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from city operations.

In October 2023, Council concurred in the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee and adopted that the concept and development of a city-wide green cart program for single-family residential dwelling units, where residential food waste is processed at a merchant facility be approved.

In the community

In 2023 the Winnipeg Food Council participated in several community activities to expand awareness of the Food Council and promote community engagement in Food Council activities.

Engagement Sessions

- March 3: Food Waste among Newcomers and Underserved Communities in Winnipeg event hosted by Green Action Centre and IRCOM. Asha Nelson attended on behalf of the Winnipeg Food Council
- March 13: Guest lecture to Community Nutrition Intervention class, Department of Food and Human Nutritional Sciences, Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences – University of Manitoba on policy development, municipal food policy councils, and the Winnipeg Food Council
- March 21: Food Connections forum on food waste, hosted by Climate Change Connection
- March 24: Chochinov Park community gardens organizing meeting with Abby Legaspi, Monique Peel, and Gerry Alejo
- March 29: Site visit – NorWest Community Food Centre, invited by Roberta Pronteau, Director of the Community Food Centre
- April 5: Guest lecture to Food System Sustainability class, School of Agriculture, Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences – University of Manitoba on the Winnipeg Food Council, the landscape of Manitoba's food and agriculture system, local food, and direct market farming
- April 14: Meeting with Jennifer MacRae of Climate Change Connection re: food waste
- April 28: Site visit with Winnipeg Public Service – Brandon Food Rescue Store & Brandon Food Council, invited by Ted Dzogan and Olivia Boyce
- May 17: Meeting with Dawn Snook, Head of Operations MB with Second Harvest & Winnipeg Public Service re: food loss and waste, and food rescue
- May 30: Meeting with Chinweoke Asagwara, Seven Oaks/Inkster Public Health Dietitian re: Seven Oaks and Inkster Food Security Network
- June 1: Meeting with Michael Mikulak, Executive Director of Food and Beverage Manitoba re: Manitoba Food Ecosystem Project presentation
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FINANCIAL REPORT

The Winnipeg Food Council would like to Mayor Scott Gillingham, Chairperson Councillor Jason Schreyer, and all of 2023 City Council for their support.

2023 BUDGET

REVENUE

Council Funding	$16,880.00

EXPENSES

Urban agriculture and community gardens small grants program	$10,000.00
Update to Food and Nutrition Security Knowledge Portal of the Manitoba Collaborative Data Portal	$5,000.00
Outreach and community engagement	$600.00
Education and training	$550.00
Meeting expenses	$430.00
Memberships and subscriptions	$300.00
Total: City of Winnipeg 2023 Budget	**$16,880.00**

contact us

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