

# Kamloops Food Policy Council

## Strategic Plan 2015 - 2020

*The Strategic Plan is designed to*

- *guide the board of the Kamloops Food Policy Council when considering the undertaking of potential projects; and*
- *inform the public, stakeholders, and potential partners of the purpose of the Council.*

*The Strategic Plan is not meant to be used rigidly by the board, but rather to provide guidance when considering the scope and priority of potential projects and the allocation of time and resources. Underlined terms are defined in the glossary.*

### **Vision**

The Kamloops region has a just and [sustainable community food system](#) where [food security](#) for all is achieved through the principles of [food sovereignty](#).

### **Mission**

The mission of the Kamloops Food Policy Council (KFPC) is to be an open, welcoming network that fosters and strengthens the Kamloops region community food system by working collaboratively to influence policy, share knowledge, educate residents, stimulate dialogue, catalyze action, and initiate projects and partnerships.

### **Strategic Goals**

- A. To be an effective network model that welcomes individual volunteers, community groups, governments and government agencies, non-profits, businesses, academia, and new ideas
- B. To share experiences and outcomes with other food policy councils and similar organizations and to liaise with regional and national initiatives
- C. To inform and educate Kamloops region individuals, community organizations, and policy makers about local food system challenges, opportunities, history, and potential partnerships
- D. To increase the number of individuals, community organizations, and businesses, academia and policy makers that have the capacity for effective food production, distribution, processing, preparation, and food waste management.
- E. To support strategies that increase resilience to climate change impacts on the community food system and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the community food system
- F. To foster and document the development of [food action projects](#) within the Kamloops region that strengthen the local food system and further equitable

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access to nutritious local food by all residents regardless of race, ethnicity, social-economic status, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical and mental ability, etc.

- G. To strengthen the development of local food policies by contributing knowledge and sharing [KFPC interests](#) through engagement in community forums and planning processes and by participating in partnerships with governments and government agencies, non-government organizations, academia, and businesses
- H. To honour, support, and celebrate the producers, distributors, processors, retailers, and consumers of local food
- I. To support strategies which minimize food waste at every stage of the food system
- J. To be an effective, respected community organization that capably manages priorities and workloads and is seen as a valued partner by food system policy makers
- K. To encourage local food system participants to adopt [certified organic](#) standards of food production, processing, distribution, and consumption

## Strategies

### 1. Network Strategies

- 1.1. Host meetings to foster networking, partnership development, and information sharing regarding the Kamloops region community food system.
- 1.2. Use electronic media and other communication to increase awareness of the work of the Kamloops Food Policy Council.
- 1.3. Encourage membership in an inclusive KFPC by all demographic groups including First Nations, visible minorities, new immigrants, and marginalized residents
- 1.4. Encourage membership by provincial and federal agencies, food producers, retailers, and restaurateurs.
- 1.5. Develop and maintain strong partnerships with local charities, non-government organizations, governments, and provincial and federal food system organizations.
- 1.6. Liaise with and support food policy councils and similar organizations in other communities where there are common interests.
- 1.7. Engage with provincial and national food policy organizations.

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- 1.8. Document best practices and share them with other food policy organizations.

### **2. Public Education Strategies**

- 2.1. Deliver public education opportunities including workshops, speakers, and programs.
- 2.2. Act as a catalyst to foster skill development partnerships associated with food production, food preparation, food processing, food distribution, and food waste management.
- 2.3. Encourage research and information partnerships that build capacity to support development of community food system.

### **3. Food Action Project Strategies**

- 3.1. Act as a catalyst to foster food action projects by providing resources to help initiate new food action project partnerships.
- 3.2. Continue to "incubate" the Community Food Action Program that includes Gleaning, Public Produce, Backyard Sharing, and Good Food Box among other possibilities.

### **4. Engagement Strategies**

- 4.1. Engage in election processes in a non-partisan manner through raising awareness of local food system issues and opportunities and soliciting and distributing viewpoints of electoral candidates.
- 4.2. Engage effectively in policy development processes of the City of Kamloops, the Agricultural Land Commission, Interior Health, and other agencies that may directly affect the local food system.

### **5. Local Success Recognition Strategy**

- 5.1. Develop and implement a recognition program for outstanding local food system participants.

### **6. Governance Strategies**

- 6.1. Hold regular meetings of the board.
- 6.2. Develop, implement and maintain a high standard of board procedures associated with bylaws, financial management, records management, advocacy, strategic and operational planning, fund raising, board orientation, board development, and human resource management.
- 6.3. Secure and maintain paid staff with a focus on extending and serving network functions and initiating food action projects.
- 6.4. Develop policy expertise of board members in particular areas through board development initiatives.
- 6.5. Manage activities regularly to balance project workload with volunteer and staff capacity, partner capacity, and the Strategic Plan direction.

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- 6.6. Undertake an annual high-level review of the Strategic Plan by the board, focusing on emerging issues and opportunities.
- 6.7. Undertake a full review of the Strategic Plan at five-year intervals or as required.

## Glossary

### Sustainable:

The Kamloops Food Policy Council is a sustainability organization. To the KFPC, the sustainability model articulated by Dr. Bill Rees, Professor Emeritus, UBC, and represented in the diagram below best represents the KFPC vision of a sustainable community.



This model shows how the five components of community capital need to be balanced through community engagement to ensure long-term sustainable community development. Each community has a unique mix of physical, human, social, cultural, and economic capital, and these capital assets constitute a fully contained, totally dependent subsystem within the unique natural capital, or ecosphere. The fundamental challenge for the Kamloops Food Policy Council is to balance the five cultural assets through community engagement without depleting our natural capital.

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### Food Security:

Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.<sup>1</sup>

### Food Sovereignty:

All citizens have access to sufficient, culturally appropriate, affordable, and nutritious food and the means to produce their own food. (Food Secure Canada, 2015)

#### **Seven Pillars of Food Sovereignty**<sup>2</sup>

##### **1. Focuses on Food for People**

- Puts people's need for food at the centre of policies
- Insists that food is more than just a commodity

##### **2. Builds Knowledge and Skills**

- Builds on traditional knowledge
- Uses research to support and pass this knowledge to future generations
- Rejects technologies that undermine or contaminate local food systems

##### **3. Works with Nature**

- Optimizes the contributions of ecosystems
- Improves resilience

##### **4. Values Food Providers**

- Supports sustainable livelihoods
- Respects the work of all food providers

##### **5. Localizes Food Systems**

- Reduces distance between food providers and consumers
- Rejects dumping and inappropriate food aid
- Resists dependency on remote and unaccountable corporations

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<sup>1</sup> - 1996 World Food Summit - See [An Introduction to the Basic Concepts of Food Security](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Food Secure Canada](#) - The first six pillars were developed at the International Forum for Food Sovereignty in Nyéléni, Mali, in 2007. The seventh pillar – Food Is Sacred – was added by members of the Indigenous Circle during the People's Food Policy process.

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### 6. Puts Control Locally

- Places control in the hands of local food providers
- Recognizes the need to inhabit and to share territories

### 7. Food Is Sacred

- Recognizes that food is a gift of life and is not to be squandered
- Asserts that food cannot be commoditized

### Capacity:

The outcome of capacity development, which is "the process through which individuals, organizations, and societies obtain, strengthen, and maintain the capabilities to set and achieve their own development objectives over time."<sup>3</sup>

### Food Action Projects:

Food Action Projects are community development projects, often undertaken by partnerships, that strengthen the local community food system. Examples include community kitchens, gleaning initiatives, and composting programs. The current KFPC Food Action Program includes the Gleaning Awareness Project (GAP), Public Produce, Backyard Sharing and Good Food Box.

### KFPC Interests:

The primary interests of the KFPC in policy development processes are to foster and strengthen the Kamloops region community food system in a collaborative manner. The KFPC will also provide input via provincial and national organizations to ensure that policies and practices of government and the private sector foster and strengthen the food system as a whole.

### Certified Organic:

Organic production is defined as "a holistic system designed to optimize the productivity and fitness of diverse communities within the agro-ecosystem, including soil organisms, plants, livestock, and people. The principal goal of organic production is to develop enterprises that are sustainable and harmonious with the environment."<sup>4</sup> Information on certification bodies in British Columbia can be found on the Certified Organic Association of British Columbia website.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> The United National Development Programme, 2008 [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capacity\\_development](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capacity_development)

<sup>4</sup> General Principles and Management Standards, Certified Organic Association of British Columbia

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/toolkits/grow-organic-food.php>

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### Community Food System:

The following diagram represents a community food system as envisioned by the Kamloops Food Policy Council. It is based on a diagram by Janine de la Salle and Mark Holland in their book *Agricultural Urbanism: Handbook for Building Sustainable Food Systems in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cities*. The original diagram showed the framework of community food systems comprising the linked elements of Food Production; Processing and Preparing; Distribution, Retail, and Access; Cooking, Eating, and Celebrating; and Water and Resource Management. Central to the system is the element of Education, Governance, and Capacity Building that intersects with all elements. The framework also includes the social and economic context within which the community food system is embedded.

While preparing resource material to support the development of the Food and Agriculture Plan, City of Kamloops staff modified the original diagram to provide additional context and explanation through the addition of key issues associated with each element.

From the perspective of the Kamloops Food Policy Council, two additional components needed to be added to the diagram to reflect the KFPC perspective on our community food system. The KFPC sees the community food system operating within the ecosphere, or the local ecosystems (see KFPC vision of [sustainable](#)). The ecosphere, in turn, is undergoing change due to climate-change impacts. To the KFPC, the community food system, as well as the social and economic context, is nested within the ecosphere.

Because of the regional and inclusive perspective of the KFPC, “country foods” have been added to the food system framework. Country foods are the traditional diet of First Nations (e.g., fish, game, and gathered fruits and vegetables). These foods are also a component of the diet of some non-First Nations people.

# Framework Diagram of Food System Component Areas

