



People's Food  
Policy Project

Pour une politique  
alimentaire populaire

## Background

### Who are we?

The People's Food Policy (PFP) reflects a wave of concern about our food system among people across Canada. There are fundamental problems with the current food system related to hunger, health and the environment. We believe Canada needs a food policy that reflects people's values, and citizens need to be a part of the process.

This project has the overwhelming support and participation of thousands of people across the country. Urban or rural, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, people want to serve their families healthy, affordable food that is produced and processed closer to home.

The People's Food Policy is an attempt to bring some balance into food policy development. The PFP recognizes that Canada needs a food policy that reflects the values of the average Canadian - not just industry. Direct input from citizens and widespread participation is the cornerstone of this work.

### How was the PFP created?

Two years ago, with support from Food Secure Canada, the national voice of the food movement in Canada, along with other organizations, the PFP began to gather feedback from Canadians about the type of food system they would like to see. It was a coast-to-coast-to-coast effort that sought input from people from all walks of life in order to come up with a comprehensive food policy for all Canadians. It covers broad and complex territory such as environmental sustainability, access to healthy and safe food, sustainable fisheries, food trade and international aid, among others.

Over the past two years, 3500 people have participated in the creation of the PFP. This includes people who live in our most populated cities as well as our most remote communities. It includes farmers, fishers and consumers. It includes middle class mothers as well as families struggling to put food on the table. These people contributed their ideas for food policy through 350 individual policy submissions, 250 'Kitchen Table Talk' gatherings, and three national meetings. Input was compiled into 10 thematic discussion papers. These discussion papers form the basis of the People's Food Policy document.

[www.peoplesfoodpolicy.ca](http://www.peoplesfoodpolicy.ca)

[info@peoplesfoodpolicy.ca](mailto:info@peoplesfoodpolicy.ca) / (514) 654-3529

The PFP is a movement to give regular people a voice in policy development regarding food. It is driven by Canadians who have been working hard and taking things into their own hands in order to help build a healthy food system. The compiling of the People's Food Policy represents the first time there have been Canada-wide conversations on the kind of food system Canadians want. Our goal is to have the government institute a national food policy driven by the people.

## **The Food Movement: Then and Now**

### **THEN (1978 – 1980)**

- Thirty years ago, the People's Food Commission took the pulse of Canadians on food policy issues. It undertook coast-to-coast consultations with Canadians.
- Public meetings were held in 72 communities from Nain, Labrador, to Victoria, BC.
- At the time, farmers were saying they could not earn enough to stay on the land, while consumers voiced their concern with the growing price of food.
- Then, as now, people were concerned about food safety and environmental pollution.

### **NOW**

- Lack of a comprehensive food policy has compounded the issues that were identified three decades ago.
- There is a rapidly growing local food movement (including community supported agriculture, development of domestic food infrastructure, institutional procurement policies, etc.).
- Quebec alone loses more than 15 farms/week.
- The cost of food is on the rise.
- Farmers can't make ends meet.
- Food bank use grows and families go hungry while an increasing amount of grain is earmarked for agro-fuel use.

The People's Food Policy embodies a wave of concern, interest and action by citizens who are working towards healthy, fair, and ecological food systems.