

Food Secure Canada
Steering Committee Member
Position Description
Updated October 2010

Overview

- Food Secure Canada (FSC) steering committee members are elected by the FSC membership at the annual general meeting for two year terms.
- Approximately half the members' terms renew each year. The full steering committee consists of up to 22 members, representing sectors, or geographical regions, not organizations.
- Steering committee members can have more than one affiliation, in both issues and geography, and more than one person can represent a region or sector.
- The role of the Steering Committee is to advise and guide the organization, and to be accountable to the membership (fiduciary and fiscal responsibility).
- An executive committee is charged with the day-to-day management of the organization.
The executive committee consists of four sectoral directors
 - Zero Hunger
 - Healthy and Safe Food
 - Sustainable Food System
 - International Issues

Plus FSC's officers

- Chair
 - Vice-Chair
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
- The Steering Committee appoints the executive committee from within their number.

Representation

Steering Committee members represent **spheres of knowledge (issues, geographic issues) about food security (topics and regions) rather than their organization or region directly**. They must regularly canvass members within their issue areas and geography so that they are up to date on critical issues, but they are directly accountable to all Food Secure Canada members rather than to particular subsets of the membership.

Skills and Qualifications

Steering Committee members should have the following background:

- Knowledge of at least 2 of the main component pieces of food security, i.e.
 - Zero Hunger
 - A Sustainable Food System
 - Healthy and Safe Food
- Experience of food security work at the program or policy level

- Extensive knowledge of the food security network in at least one region of the country
- Understanding of how ethnicity, gender, class and culture impact on food security
- A strong ability to think outside one's component sector, yet also represent what is going on there
- Excellent discussion, dialogue and facilitation skills
- Good fundraising skills
- Capacity to find the commonality in regional and national agendas and weave them together into a national program
- The discipline of knowing the boundaries of the organization's work – where is the integrative, value added piece that FSC can do, and where are the component pieces that can be left to others

Steering Committee members are required to:

- Be members in good standing of Food Secure Canada.
- To uphold the mission and vision of the organization and act in its best interests
- To post brief reports in advance of the monthly meetings
- To attend monthly 1.5 hour teleconference meetings to the best of their ability. If they are unable to attend a majority of meetings, they must find another way of participating that is deemed acceptable to the steering committee.
- To consult with and keep their constituency informed of matters relating to FSC
- To participate in fundraising and membership development for FSC
- To volunteer for and fulfil tasks arising from steering committee meetings according to their interests and abilities

Term

Two years

Time Commitment

Varies, usually from 2- 10 hours per month

Accountable to:

FSC membership . If questions or conflicts arrive, steering committee members commit to address them first with the Chair or other members of the steering committee.

Orientation Provided:

- Steering committee package
- FSC website - please check regularly for updates
- past FSC publications, statements and ebulletins
- Past steering committee monthly reports and minutes
- Email and phone orientation and ongoing consultation with the Chair, Coordinator and other steering committee members

Benefits:

- Contributing to the goals of FSC - Making a Difference!
- Access to knowledge, resources and news from across the country and around the world
- Connections to the food security movement across Canada and globally
- Assistance and advice on food security matters
- Support and promotion (according to FSC's decision-making protocol) of food security projects and campaigns