



9 October 2013

The Right Honourable Steven Harper, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Langevin Block
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A2

RE: Food in the Speech from the Throne

Dear Prime Minister Harper,

I am writing to you today on behalf of Food Secure Canada, a national network of organizations and individuals concerned with hunger, health and sustainable food systems. Our membership spans from coast to coast to coast, and includes farmers' organizations, food banks, international non-profits, Indigenous groups, community food centers, health, nutrition, youth organizations and many others.

As I am sure you are aware, October 16th is World Food Day. The theme this year, as decided by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, is "Sustainable food systems for nutrition and food security". We are writing today to ask you to recognize the importance of food issues in our country by including this key issue in the Speech from the Throne.

Throughout the country, community, provincial and national food organizations are underlining that our food system is broken. Over three million people in Canada are food insecure, more than three in five Canadian adults are overweight or obese, we are losing thousands of family farms every year, and our food system is a leading contributor to climate change. At the same time, Canada does not yet have a national food policy. By raising these issues and proposing clear steps forward in one of our nation's most important collective moments, Canadians will be assured that their political leaders are aware of the stark realities taking place in First Nations and northern communities, not to mention in kitchens, schools, food banks, fishing boats and farms across the country.

The good news is Canadians are working hard to re-build this broken system from the ground up. Student nutrition programs, local food policy councils, community-supported fisheries and agriculture programs, community food centers, small businesses – all these form part of the dynamic and rapidly growing food movement whose policy proposals are outlined in "[*Resetting the Table: A People's Food Policy for Canada*](#)". Based on this innovative work, and

with your support, we can build healthier, more fair and sustainable food systems.

Thousands of Canadians and organizations across the country are looking forward to a clear message that demonstrates the Canadian government's understanding that food is not a commodity like any other, but rather an essential ingredient in building a healthier and more sustainable Canada where no one ever goes hungry. We need a national food policy. We look forward to hearing this message on October 16, showing that the FAO's focus for World Food Day, linking sustainable food systems to nutrition and food security, is just as relevant here in Canada as it is elsewhere.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Diana Bronson', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Diana Bronson
Executive Director
Food Secure Canada

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Eric Chaurette', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Eric Chaurette
Chair of the Steering Committee
Food Secure Canada