



Civil Society Input to a Renewed Food Policy for Canada

Brief Food Policy Governance

What is said in the [Food Policy for Canada](#)

"The Food Policy for Canada will be supported by the Canadian Food Policy Advisory Council. The Council brings together diverse perspectives to support the implementation of the policy. The membership of the Council includes individuals with experience and knowledge of food system issues, with backgrounds in the food and agriculture industry, members of academia and civil society, as well as members of Indigenous organizations and communities. The Council will incorporate diverse perspectives in its advice to contribute to building consensus on the nature of food challenges and solutions to address them, building greater trust among key food system stakeholders, and supporting the ability to collaborate across sectors. The Council will also help identify data gaps and opportunities."

Subsequent formation of [Canadian Food Policy Advisory Council](#), announced in February 2021, following an open call for nominations. In short:

- Currently, there are nineteen multistakeholder [members](#) (four have left). One Council member is Indigenous.
- [Terms of reference](#) and [record of proceedings](#) from 7 of the 8 Council meetings (2021-2023) online.
- Four Working Groups were formed and prepared reports for the Minister; Reducing food loss and waste; Supporting sustainable agriculture; School nutrition; and Reducing food insecurity. See records of proceeding for further information.

Federal financing of the Council

In 2017, Food Secure Canada (FSC) and other stakeholders advanced a [plan](#) for an ambitious, well-resourced Council. The current Council has no independent research budget or separate financing. Originally, no remuneration was offered but following proposals from some members, it is understood that a one-off payment of \$4,000 is now available on request.

Federal government policy progress since 2019

The [record](#) of the November 2022 Council meeting, attended by Minister Bibeau, indicates that:

- AAFC is developing a strategy for new member recruitment on the Council to fill current and future vacancies.
- A new approach for Council meetings, with a move away from working groups and now focussing on priority areas and receiving whole of Council advice.

FSC and/or food movement recommendations and analysis

4.1 Food Secure Canada

- “Adequately resource and empower the Canadian Food Policy Advisory Council (CFPAC) to engage in policy decisions and program design measured against fulfilling the right to food, other human rights obligations and the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as to actualize the broad vision of the Food Policy for Canada.” ([Growing Resilience and Equity](#), 2020)
- Prioritize a “nothing for us, without us” approach to food policy development, by developing and financing channels to ensure that civil society voices beyond the CFPAC, above all those most marginalized by the present food system, are included in policy conversations” ([Ensure Everyone is at the Table](#), Eat Think Vote, 2021)

4.2 Participatory Food Systems Governance project

- [Civil society engagement in food systems governance in Canada: Experiences, gaps, and possibilities](#)
- Levkoe, C. Z., Andrée, P., Ballamingie, P., Tasala, K., Wilson, A., & Korzun, M. (2023)
- [A People's Food Policy: Resetting the Table](#) by Food Secure Canada. (2018).
- [Special issue on Building an integrated Food Policy for Canada](#) (Vol. 5 No. 3) by Canadian Food Studies (2018).
- [A Food Policy for Canada](#), website by Rod MacRae



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