



October 9th, 2013

The Honorable Thomas Mulcair, M.P.
Leader of the Official Opposition
Leader of the New Democratic Party
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A9

Dear Mr. Mulcair,

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 community groups, community food centers, health, nutrition, youth and education organizations and many others.

As I am sure you are aware, October 16th is World Food Day. We have called on Prime Minister Harper to recognize the importance of food and food issues in our country by including this key topic in his Speech from the Throne. We hope that in your comments on this important day, you will also take the opportunity to highlight this critical national issue and our call for a national food policy.

Throughout the country, community, provincial and national food organizations are underlining that our food system is broken. Over 3 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 on a day Canadians will be listening, we will be assured that our political leaders are aware of the stark realities taking place in First Nations and northern communities, not to mention in kitchens, schools, farms and fishing boats 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 – all these form part of the dynamic and rapidly growing food movement outlined in "[Resetting the Table: A People's Food Policy for Canada](#)".

Many of these voices will be featured on Food Secure Canada's new inter-active web site, which will be launched on World Food Day. Canadians from across the

country will be sharing [30-second video clips](#) of what they would like to see in the speech from the throne. Wayne Roberts, author of The No Nonsense Guide to Food, will also be offering his own three-minute address to Canadians. We would be very appreciative if you might consider sending a message on food yourself, and using your social media networks to share our campaign with your followers and friends.

Based on the innovative work of people in the food movement across the country, and with your support, together we can build healthier, more fair, and sustainable food systems where no one ever goes hungry. We look forward to hearing your voice on this issue on October 16th!

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diana Bronson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Diana Bronson
Executive Director
Food Secure Canada

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Chaurette', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Eric Chaurette
Chair of the Steering Committee
Food Secure Canada