



CALL FOR PAPERS

Building an Integrated National Food Policy for Canada

In 2012, Olivier De Schutter, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, visited Canada to examine the way the government was protecting the [human right to food](#). While praising the many achievements, he also noted a host of challenges, including: inadequate social assistance levels, health and chronic disease stemming from poor diets, the unacceptable conditions of Northern and Indigenous communities, and fragmented, short-sighted policy interventions. Echoing the call of many civil society organizations, De Schutter emphasized [the need for a comprehensive national food strategy](#), rooted in the right to food, that would take an integrated and democratic approach to governing Canada's food systems.

In late 2015, the Liberal government showed a renewed willingness to build a national food strategy for Canada. Specifically, the Minister of Agriculture was instructed "to develop a national food policy that promotes healthy living and safe food by putting more healthy, high quality food, produced by Canadian ranchers and farmers, on the tables of families." Still, important questions remain about how this policy will be developed and implemented, and what the priorities and mechanisms will look like. In spite of considerable literature on the complexities and possibilities of Canadian food policy, the conversation is only beginning on the specifics of a *national* food policy for Canada.

Food Secure Canada (FSC), among others, are calling for [a joined-up, systems-based approach to national food policy](#) that aims to connect sectors, departments and jurisdictions, and establish opportunities for meaningful civil society participation. An effective national food policy would be premised on the right to food, provide consistency and continuity in the management of Canada's food systems, and would identify cross-sector leverage points. More importantly, it would be rooted in the goals of healthy and safe food, social and ecological justice, a robust economy, the rights of Indigenous peoples, and democratizing governance.

Canadian Food Studies/La Revue canadienne des études sur l'alimentation in partnership with [Food Secure Canada](#) and [Community First: Impacts of Community Engagement \(CFICE\)](#) invites contributions from academics, researchers, and practitioners to publish their work in a themed issue on *Building an Integrated Food Policy for Canada*. Contributors are encouraged to submit original research papers, commentaries, perspectives, and field reports/narratives from any disciplinary perspective, in English or French. The journal also encourages submissions of digital (audio or video) and art/photography work. To meet the journal criteria, articles must contain Canadian content and/or have a Canadian first author. Please consult the "Submissions" menu at www.canadianfoodstudies.ca.

Themes and topics for this issue on Building an Integrated Food Policy for Canada might include, but are not limited to:

- Processes for moving from principles and priorities to concrete policy proposals;
- Creating a culture of citizen-based, deliberative democracy in national food policy building;
- Challenges in linking up jurisdictions and departments across policy silos;

- Engagement of remote and northern communities;
- Connecting income, food insecurity and food policy;
- Scaling or adapting existing policy proposals and processes from other contexts and jurisdictions (e.g., municipal, provincial, territorial and global);
- Community-academic partnership and collaboration in the context of national policy building;
- Food policy making as social movement building and/or prefiguration;
- Food policy as part of nation to nation dialogue with Indigenous Peoples;
- The impact of intersectionality (e.g., race, gender, class) within national food policy; and,
- The possibilities and contradictions between national food policy-making efforts towards food sovereignty, food justice, sustainable food systems, and community food security.

Deadline for a brief summary of your proposed paper: May 26st, 2017

Deadline for full paper submissions: October 1st, 2017

Please send your submission proposals or abstracts (300 words max) directly to guest co-editors Amanda Wilson (community@foodsecurecanada.org) and Charles Z. Levkoe (clevkoe@lakeheadu.ca). You can contact them for more information as well.

For accepted abstracts, manuscripts must be submitted directly to the journal at <http://canadianfoodstudies.uwaterloo.ca/index.php/cfs/about/submissions#onlineSubmissions>.

Guest Editors:

Charles Z. Levkoe is the Canada Research Chair in Sustainable Food Systems and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Sciences at Lakehead University. His research focuses on civil society organizations and the growth of regional food networks in Canada. He has been active in investigations at the intersections of food movements and community-campus engagement.

Amanda Wilson is a Postdoctoral Fellow at Lakehead University, working in partnership with Food Secure Canada. Her work is focused on community academic collaboration in the context of national food policy processes, as well as supporting knowledge mobilization and capacity building in the areas of new farmers and northern food.

Peter Andr e is Associate Professor and Associate Chair of the Department of Political Science at Carleton University. He teaches and undertakes research in the areas of food policy/politics and environmental policy/politics. As a community-engaged scholar, he is principal investigator of the Community First: Impacts of Community Engagement project that works in partnership with Food Secure Canada among many other community-based non-profit organizations in Canada.

Diana Bronson is the Executive Director of Food Secure Canada. Diana has a professional background in journalism (CBC radio) and international human rights (Rights & Democracy) as well as international climate and technology negotiations at the UN (ETC Group.). Diana's research, policy and advocacy work has centered on supporting social movements around the world, critically reviewing and educating around international trade and investment agreements, looking at the impacts of Canadian mining companies, and assessing the social and environmental impacts of emerging technologies.