



FSC

Food Secure Canada

Annual Report 2013-2014



The New FSCC

Food
Secure
Canada
Réseau
pour une
durable

Building Organizational Strength to Galvanize the Food Movement

This year (September 1, 2013 — August 31, 2014) was a crucial one for Food Secure Canada. We are proud of the work that is summarized in this report, as we continue to build momentum towards a national food policy at the federal level, and build national awareness of community-based solutions being implemented right across the country.

Over the course of the year, we focused on building our organization to better serve the needs and opportunities created by the burgeoning food movement. To ensure greater accountability we completely revamped our governance, moving from a 25-person steering committee to an 11-person Board of Directors, elected by our members. We clarified the roles and responsibilities of membership and rewrote our bylaws ([more details on our website](#)). Our new bylaws were adopted unanimously at a crowded [AGM](#) held in Montreal in November 2013. While Food Secure Canada has always had an implicit theory of change, Board and staff worked, in consultation with our members and with the assistance of Eco-Ethnomics, to better articulate how we intend to achieve our goals and to define ways to track our progress on achieving them. Food systems are notoriously huge and complex, and identifying the means to influence them requires careful strategic thought, particularly when one sees health, justice and sustainability goals as interrelated.

Food Secure Canada is here for the long haul—policy change will not come overnight. In this phase of our work as a relatively young organization, building a united and participatory movement, where a diversity of voices can be heard, is critical. Over the year, we thus spent a good deal of effort reaching out to new audiences, fundraising, developing new partnerships, and collaborating with member organizations in developing the program for our 8th National Assembly in Halifax. We also updated our “look” with a new logo, a new website, and a new name in French. All of these changes were focused on helping Food Secure Canada become better known, more accessible and more emblematic of the food movement.

Enjoy the overview as we are very proud of the work we accomplished in 2013-14!



Eric Chaurette — Chair of the Board



Diana Bronson — Executive Director

FSC's New Board of Directors and Staff Met for a Weekend in Montreal in April 2014.



BACK ROW: Eric Chaurette, Jordan Nikoloyuk, Diana Bronson, Aart Schuurman Hess, Amanda Sheedy, Utcha Sawyers, David Askew, Nydia Dauphin **FRONT ROW:** Kathleen Gibson, Abra Brynne, Sarah Archibald, Jennifer Reynolds, Lauren Baker and Mandy Melnyk **MISSING:** Norma Kassi, Julie Croizille and Amelie Lévesque

New Board of Directors

Steering Committee Vice-Chair Lauren Baker reported to the AGM on behalf of the Nominations Committee, which had the very difficult task of proposing 11 people who collectively met all the criteria set out by the Steering Committee for the first FSC Board of Directors. Welcome to all our new Board members!

New Bylaws

The most important change was the unanimous adoption of our [new bylaws](#)! This document, painstakingly drafted, debated, put out for consultation and redrafted by our hardworking [Governance Committee](#) over 18 months brings us into compliance with the new Canadian [Not for Profits Corporations Act](#). The changes also reflect our evolution, since 2001, from a volunteer network into a staffed and funded nonprofit organization with a mandate for national-level advocacy.

New Website

On World Food Day 2013, Food Secure Canada launched its new website. An incredible amount of work went into building this platform and continues to be invested to improve and popularize its capacities.

Many thanks also to our outgoing steering committee:

Andrea Peart (ON), Barton Cutten (NS), Brynne SinclairWaters (ON), Colleen Ross (ON), Dayna Chapman (BC), Eric Chaurette (ON), Faris Ahmed (ON), Gaëlle Javier (QC), Holly Solomon (ON), Joe Munroe (SK), Jordan Nikoloyuk (Atlantic), Joyce Rock (QC), Katelyn Friendship (YK), Kathleen Charpentier (AB), Kathleen Gibson (BC), Lauren Baker (ON), Mustafa Koç (ON), Rebecca Schiff (NL), Rick Sawa (SK), Shawn Pegg (ON), Shirley Thompson (Prairies), Stuart Clark (NWT), Tatiana Fraser (QC), Vincent Prince (BC), Wendy Armstrong (Prairies).

Thanks to our Interns

Zunhra Sheikh, MarieJosée Lemay, Sharon Freedman and Jade Owen.

Annual General Meeting

On November 27, 2013, for the first time ever, Food Secure Canada hosted an in-person AGM that did not coincide with an Assembly, and had an [ambitious agenda](#) with some pretty big changes proposed for Food Secure Canada. During this AGM, members voted in our first Board of Directors and adopted new bylaws. This was the culmination of an organizational building process directed by our volunteer governance committee, which worked over a period of 18 months to steer FSC into a new direction suitable to a membership-based organization with a grassroots history and mode of operation, while having staff, funding and other characteristics that require sound management and accountability.

In order to draw people to Montreal for this important AGM, FSC's two most vibrant networks, the Local Sustainable Food Systems and the Children and Food networks, hosted meetings and trainings, drawing almost 100 people from across the country. [These events](#) were timed to coincide with the National Farmers Union's Annual Convention in Ottawa, drawing a number of farmers to our events. We took advantage of this national convergence to launch ourselves anew to our Montreal community, introducing our new logo and new French name through a colourful public event: A Festival of Good Food Ideas.

Our Assembly Waves of Change: Sustainable Food For All

Great progress was made in preparation for our National Assembly, November 13-16 2014 in Halifax, Nova Scotia. It was the first Assembly to be held in Atlantic Canada, and our Nova Scotia based partners were in full swing to make this a reality, including FoodARC at Mt. St. Vincent University, the Nova Scotia Food Security Network, and the Atlantic Canadian Organic Regional Network (ACORN). We were particularly excited about this Assembly's special focus on sustainable fisheries, food justice, and student engagement as part of the conversations needed to create effective and longlasting change.



A Festival of Good Food Ideas (Montreal, November 2013)

On November 26, 2013, Food Secure Canada hosted A Festival of Good Food Ideas. Well over 300 community food activists and organizations gathered around good food to share challenges, successes and outstanding accomplishments in building an equitable, local and healthy food system. [This event](#) took place at Espace La Fontaine, the nonprofit bistro and gallery in the heart of Parc La Fontaine. Acclaimed Quebec writer and social activist Laure Waridel (author of *l'Envers de l'assiette*) delivered a keynote address and award-winning Abenaki filmmaker Alanis Obomsawin closed the evening with a song.

The diversity of those present allowed for the creation of new ties between key actors of the movement working towards a healthy, just, accessible and sustainable food system for all across the country.



Photo credit: Kendra Besanger

A big thank you to
all our sponsors and
volunteers who made
this event such an
amazing success!

[SEE THE DETAILED PROGRAM HERE](#)

Networks and Programs News

FSC continued to convene networks focused on specific themes.

THE SECOND MEETING OF LOCAL SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS NETWORK



In November 2013, more than 60 members of the Network converged in Montreal from across Canada to participate in 4 days of events, focused on learning and networking amongst the participants. From farm tours to social finance, from new markets for “trash fish” to enhanced business skills, from policy training and plotting, Network members were exposed to and engaged in a broad range of presentations and discussions. The first day and a half focused on the [Food Business Bootcamp](#), and then the meeting shifted into policy, information exchange and networking. Among the highlights was an inspiring session by Nancy Neamtan of the [Chantier de l'économie sociale](#), and Paul Lecomte of [FIRA](#) on creative solutions to financing sustainable food systems. New connections were made, priorities were identified for the next year, both collectively and individually, and many left feeling energized and hopeful for the tasks ahead. Find out more about this meeting on [our website](#).

RAISING THE BAR ON SCHOOL FOOD PROGRAMS : MOVING FORWARD



26 people from 22 organizations from across Canada met in November 2013 for the first face-to-face meeting of FSC's initiative, Raising the Bar on School Food Programs. Those around the table believe that it's time for all levels of government to step up and help all students across Canada get the nourishment they need to learn and the education they need to make good food choices to ensure long, healthy lives. Together, we succeeded in weaving together a common vision with a broad diversity of actors. Over the coming years we will be working together to ensure that every student in Canada will have access to a school food program that:

- is universal;
- is cost-shared;
- supports existing programs and diverse approaches to student food;
- serves food that is healthy and culturally appropriate, as well as locally and sustainably sourced as much as possible; and
- includes food skills/food literacy where possible.

NORTHERN AND REMOTE FOOD NETWORK



FSC, in collaboration with numerous academic and community partners, received \$99 000 from Industry Canada's Office of Consumer Affairs. The funding will be used over the next two years to support a research project of the Northern and Remote Food Network. We will compare the cost of food (relative to the cost of living) in Northern communities and a 'Southern' community via participatory food costing. Dr. Patty Williams and her team at [FoodARC](#), Mt. St. Vincent University, developed this method and will be supporting the project.

INSTITUTIONAL FOOD PROGRAM

The Institutional Food Program is run in partnership with the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation's Sustainable Food System initiative. The [program](#) goal is to increase the supply of fresh, local and sustainable food in institutions across Canada, thereby prompting supply chain shifts towards more sustainable food production and systems.

In addition to supporting a number of institutions and organizations to make these changes, the program works to engage both private sector actors and policy makers in sustainable procurement initiatives.

OTHER NETWORKS

Food Secure Canada continued to facilitate a number of other informal gatherings, including a network of provincial and territorial food organizations, the Indigenous Circle, and emerging networks on food justice, new farmers, collaborative processes with community groups and academics, and a dynamic youth caucus. Further information on all of these can be obtained by contacting the FSC office.

Advocacy—On Parliament Hill



Lasting food policy change requires working with our elected representatives, as well as with public agencies involved in one way or another with food. We work to bring forward the ideas in *Resetting the Table: A People's Food Policy for Canada*, to policy-makers whenever we can. Over the course of the year, we intervened on several important files, despite the charity chill that descended upon our sector, making many organizations more hesitant about policy advocacy. In fact, as our membership survey showed, advocacy was one of the activities that our membership found the most valuable.

Here are the highlights:

DEFINITION OF LOCAL IN CFIA

In a [letter](#) to the President of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Food Secure Canada urged the agency to adopt a thoughtful definition of “local” which would not undermine the small-to medium-sized producers who have been building more direct relationships with consumers, in favour of large-scale actors who are eager to capitalize on the public’s enthusiasm for local food. See the CFIA [response](#) on our website.

THRONE SPEECH ON WORLD FOOD DAY

The Speech from the Throne by Governor General David Johnston was delivered on World Food Day, October 16, so we asked Food Secure Canada members to post what they would say in the Throne Speech if it were up to them! [We called upon political leaders of all parties](#) to support our call for a national food policy, while sharing the excellent ideas Canadians submitted on our [YouTube](#) channel. The full correspondence is available on our [website](#).

CONFERENCE BOARD OF CANADA

Food Secure Canada was once again [active around the 3rd “Food Summit”](#) of the Conference Board of Canada, although only on the margins, since the event seems to be losing steam as initial industry backers appear to lose interest. More information on our [website](#).

WORKING CLOSELY WITH NFU ON C-18

Food Secure Canada worked in collaboration with the National Farmers Union which was in the forefront of the [fight against Bill C-18](#), the Agricultural Growth Act. This Act, now passed, will undermine farmers’ ability to save their own seed and strengthen the hand of the small number of large corporations that control the commercial seed market.

NORTHERN FOOD INSECURITY

We also [wrote to the Minister of Health](#), the Honourable Rona Ambrose, to ask what actions the Government intended to take following the report it commissioned from the Council of Canadian Academies on the question of food insecurity in Northern communities. [Read the response](#) on our website.

TRAINING ON ADVOCACY

Taking advantage of the presence of two of our networks in Montreal and our AGM, FSC organized a training on advocacy with York University professor and food policy expert Rod MacRae, as well as NDP Deputy Leader and Health Critic, Libby Davies. Read about the highlights on our [website](#).

TEDx TALK

Diana Bronson was invited to give a TEDx talk at Concordia University on a national food policy, which can be viewed on our [YouTube channel](#).

On the road (A Selection)

FSC Staff participated in many different conferences and learning events, sometimes as panelists or convenors, sometimes as keynotes. These events provide us with important opportunities to meet with others, share views and build relationships with other changemakers. They include:

- **Justice Alimentaire Montreal Convergence day** (October 2013)
- **AGM of the Montreal Urban Aboriginal Community Strategy Network** (October 2013)
- **Vers l'interdépendance conference at the University of Regina** (October 2013)
- **Bring Food Home conference hosted by Sustain Ontario** (November 2013)
- **Student Nutrition Program breakfast event hosted by Victorian Order of Nurses** (November 2013)
- **National Farmers Union annual convention** (November 2013)
- **Carleton Initiative for Parliamentary and Diplomatic Engagement : Does Canada Need a National Food Policy** (December 2013)
- **Building Public Support in Local Healthy Eating and Nutrition Policies event of Ontario Public Health Association** (December 2013)
- **Powershift Atlantic** (March 2014)
- **Canadian Association of Food Studies** (May 2014)
- **4th Annual Tar Sand Healing Walk in Fort McMurray** (June 2014)
- **BC Food Systems Network annual gathering** (July 2014)
- **Growing Food Justice for All training in Toronto: Dismantling Racism in the Food System** (August 2014)
- **Meal Exchange's annual student conference** (August 2014)
- **People's Social Forum** (August 2014)

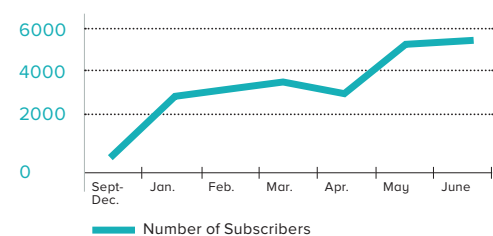
Communications

We continued to issue our monthly newsletter *Bits and Bytes* and also began a monthly newsletter that advises our subscribers of upcoming webinars of interest to the food movement. Food Secure Canada members can promote their events, campaigns, and webinars through these tools that each reach close to 5000 subscribers. Increasingly people are staying up to date with FSC through social media, and we experienced steady growth of our Facebook and Twitter followers throughout this period.

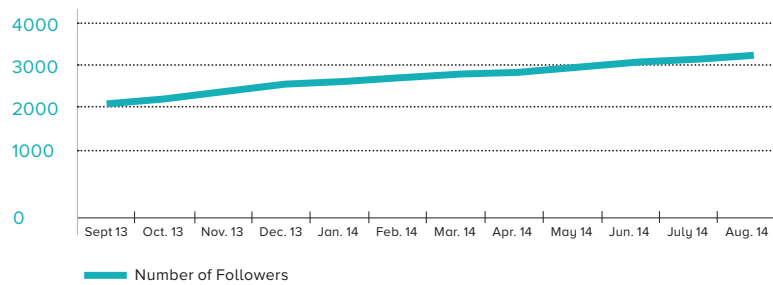
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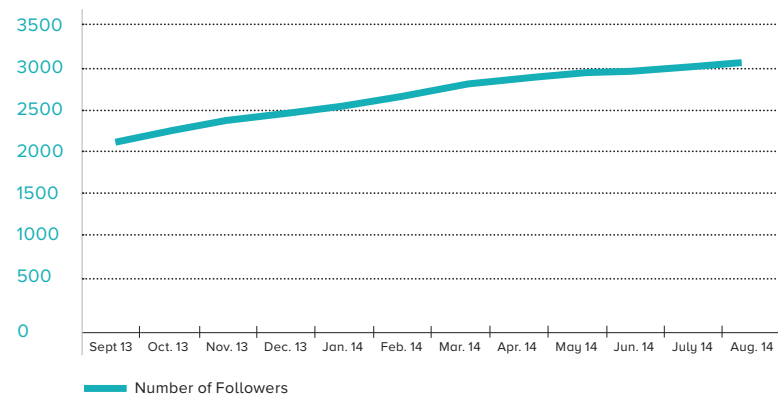
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 Table de concertation sur la faim et le développement social du Montréal Métropolitain
 Taking Root
 The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation
 TW Agencies Inc.
 Unifor Social Justice Fund
 United Church of Canada
 USC Canada
 Yellow Bird
 Yelp
 Zenith Cleaners

INDIVIDUALS

Jason Baronette
 Tyson Dodge
 Laura Grootveld
 Mustafa Koç
 Marie Larose
 Glenna McGuire
 John O’Gorman
 Julie Price

Financial Statement summary

FOOD SECURE CANADA STATEMENT OF INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDING AUGUST 31, 2014

	2014	2013
Revenues		
Grants (Schedule A)	\$ 96 267	\$ 178 914
Partnership (Schedule B)	\$ 308 721	\$ 153 500
Donations	\$ 13 550	\$ 17 371
Memberships	\$ 44 299	\$ 43 535
Sponsorships	\$ 18 950	\$ 43 810
Assembly registration	\$ 8 935	\$ 57 945
Other revenues	\$ 1 531	\$ 3 719
Total	\$ 492 253	\$ 498 794
Expenses		
Assembly	\$ 58 160	\$ 181 382
Network activities	\$ 199 062	\$ 96 148
Campaigns and outreach	\$ 100 474	\$ 97 312
Organizational development and governance	\$ 24 044	\$ 26 709
Professional fees	\$ 19 898	\$ 9 691
Overhead	\$ 90 803	\$ 70 791
Amortization of longterm assets	\$ 4 013	\$ 568
Total	\$ 496 454	\$ 482 601
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	\$ (4 201)	\$ 16 193

Organizational members

1. Alberta Food Matters
2. Arctic Institute of Community-Based Research
3. Askew's Foods
4. Canadian Feed The Children
5. Canadian Foodgrains Bank (associate)
6. Canadian Organic Growers
7. Canadian Wheat Board Alliance
8. Carrefour alimentaire Centre-Sud
9. Centre for Science in the Public Interest
10. Chartwells – a division of Compass Group
11. CHEP Good Food, Inc.
12. Coalition québécoise sur la problématique du poids
13. Community Food Centres Canada
14. Confederation of Canadian Unions
15. Cooper Institute
16. Coopératives de Solidarité Hélios
17. Cuisines Collectives du Grand Plateau
18. Dietitians of Canada
19. Eatmore Sprouts & Greens Ltd.
20. Ecology Action Centre
21. Emmanuel United Church
22. Ermineskin Administration Food Bank
23. ETC Group
24. Evergreen
25. FarmStart
26. Food Forward
27. Fonds Québec en Forme (associate)
28. Food Banks Canada
29. Food Matters Manitoba
30. Food Security Network of Newfoundland and Labrador
31. Food Security Research Network
32. FoodARC
33. FoodShare Toronto
34. FoodWork.ca
35. Greater Sudbury Food Policy Council
36. Greater Vancouver Food Bank Society
37. Green Thumbs Growing Kids
38. Groupe Ressource du Plateau Mont-Royal
39. Huron Food Action Network
40. Institute for Bioregional Studies Ltd.
41. Inter Pares
42. Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami
43. J.W. McConnell Family Foundation (associate)
44. Jeunes pousses
45. Junction Farmers Market
46. Just Food
47. Justice Alimentaire Montréal
48. Kids Can Grow
49. Living Oceans Society
50. Local Food Plus
51. MAZON Canada
52. Meadow Creek Farms
53. Meal Exchange
54. National Farmers Union
55. NDG Food Depot
56. New Brunswick Food Security Action Network
57. Nishnawbe Aski Nation
58. North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society
59. Nunavut Food Security Coalition
60. ONEXONE
61. Organic Council of Ontario
62. Oxfam Canada
63. PEI Food Security Network
64. Poverty and Hunger Working Group
65. Pure Simple Nutrition
66. Regroupement des Cuisines Collectives du Québec
67. Santropol Roulant
68. SEEDS: Seniors Economic Environment Development Society
69. Sierra Club Canada Foundation
70. Slow Food Montréal
71. Stonegate Community Health Centre
72. Sustain Ontario
73. Sustainable Brant
74. Territorial Farmers Association
75. The Nourish and Develop Foundation
76. The Stop Community Food Centre
77. The Sweet Potato
78. Thunder Bay District Public Health Unit
79. Toronto Food Policy Council
80. Unifor
81. United Church of Canada
82. USC Canada
83. Victoria Foundation
84. Winnipeg Harvest
85. Women's Place Kenora
86. York Region Food Network
87. YWCA Peterborough Haliburton

For more information visit our website
foodsecurecanada.org



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Food Secure Canada 3720 Parc Avenue,
Suite 201, Montreal, QC H2X 2J1