



# Civil Society Input to a Renewed Food Policy for Canada

## Brief Resilient Communities

### What is said in the [Food Policy for Canada \(2019\)](#)

#### Action Area

**“Help Canadian Communities Access Healthy Food.** Community-based initiatives will invest in projects that increase access to food, with the potential to provide social, health, environmental, and economic benefits in support of vibrant communities across Canada. The Government of Canada will also engage with provinces, territories, and key stakeholder groups to work toward the creation of a National School Food Program.”

#### Priority Outcome

**“Vibrant Communities: Improved Community Capacity And Resilience to food-related challenges.** Innovative community-led and community-based initiatives contribute to vibrant and resilient communities that support individuals and households facing immediate and long term food-related challenges by providing culturally diverse solutions in an inclusive manner.”

#### Principles: Guiding the Approach

**“Inclusion and Diversity:** All people living in Canada are able to be part of an ongoing dialogue on food issues. Decisions are made after gathering and considering diverse interests and perspectives.

- *Culture:* Culturally diverse approaches to food and nutrition are important in recognizing our distinct cultural preferences and norms.
- *Gender:* Consideration is given to promoting and measuring progress on gender equality.
- *Community:* The role of food in bringing people together in all communities across Canada is acknowledged and supported, as is the active involvement of community-based organizations in developing and putting in place food strategies and initiatives. Given the diversity within Canada, decision-makers recognize the importance of support for community-based and community-led initiatives, and local capacity building.

### Federal budget lines directly associated with the Food Policy (2019-2024)

What was included in [Federal budget, March 2019](#) and related agriculture initiatives.

- \$469.5 million over six years, starting in 2022-23, for the On-Farm Climate Action Fund.
- \$150 million for “a resilient agricultural landscape program to support carbon sequestration, adaptation, and address other environmental co-benefits,” to be discussed with provinces and territories.
- Local Food Infrastructure Fund, Originally a five-year, \$50-million program with top-ups including \$100 million for food banks and local food organizations, and Budget 2021 included an additional \$10 million for

LFIF, to support rapid-response grants that help prevent hunger through investments in infrastructure needs.

## FSC and/or food movement recommendations and analysis

Policy priorities outlined in Eat Think Vote policy backgrounder, [Build Resilient Local Food Systems \(2021\)](#)

- Re-balance agricultural incentives in all jurisdictions and in the new [Canadian Agricultural Policy Framework](#) due this year, to prioritize sustainable production of healthy food for Canadian consumption, rather than a policy excessively focused on commodity production for export;
- Use incentives, including stimulus packages, to support transition from high-input, high-emissions farming approaches to low-input, low-emissions agroecological farming approaches to strengthen biodiversity, meet climate goals, build resilient local food webs, reduce waste and support farmer livelihoods into the future; Support human-scale food production and processing (micro, small and medium farmers; fisherfolk; Indigenous food systems), including specific support for new and young producers and processors, and new Canadians;
- Strengthen local food webs through support for local and regional food infrastructure including food hubs, decentralized abattoirs, food processing and storage facilities, farmers markets, Community Supported Agricultures, direct delivery, urban agriculture, community gardens, change of use for public land, and sustainable, affordable greenhouses;
- Use public procurement (for institutions such as schools and hospitals) to model and drive the interlinked co-benefits of local food webs, sustainable sourcing and healthy dietary shifts.
- Ensure that food policies are measured against the objective of strengthening food webs and safeguarding against further concentration or overreliance on long-chain vulnerabilities.



**FSC  
RAD**

Food  
Secure  
Canada  
Réseau  
pour une alimentation  
durable