



Brant
food
— CHARTER —

T O O L K I T





We acknowledge that we are on the land that is the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishnawbek, and Haudenosaunee Peoples.



What is a Food Charter?

A food charter is a statement that is made by a community. It talks about how a community wants their food system to work. A food charter helps people talk and learn about their food system: what's going well and what can be made better. It is not a law, but is a starting point for the local government and for people planning community activities. A food charter helps bring together voices from many different parts of a community.

How Can a Food Charter Be Used?

At Home

- Join a community garden or try growing a food garden
- Take time to eat together, wherever you are
- Learn about household [food insecurity](#)¹ and effective solutions to fix it
- Buy locally grown food from farmer's markets, grocery stores, and local farms
- Learn about [community supported agriculture](#)²
- Ask your local councilor about a green bin program or start your own composting system
- Freeze or preserve fresh food instead of throwing it away
- Learn about Indigenous food sovereignty and land based food knowledge
- Buy “imperfect” vegetables and fruit
- Work towards a [zero waste kitchen](#)³
- Join a community program to learn how to grow or prepare food
- Find out what foods are grown near you
- Teach your family or friends how to grow or prepare food from scratch
- Become familiar with other cultures and their food
- Ask for less plastic packaging in grocery stores
- Volunteer with a community food or nutrition program
- Find ways to get, grow, or learn about local food with [Feed Brant](#)⁴



¹ <https://proof.utoronto.ca/food-insecurity>

² <http://csafarms.ca/wp>

³ <https://lovefoodhatewaste.ca>

⁴ <https://feedbrant.ca>



At Work

- Develop workplace policies that support healthy eating
- Pay employees a [living wage](#)⁵, so that healthy food is affordable to everyone
- Establish locally grown food purchasing guidelines that emphasize healthy food
- Support a food garden or composting program at your workplace
- Provide reusable flatware and dishes at events to reduce waste
- Have healthy snacks and beverages available in vending machines
- Provide tap water instead of bottled water to drink
- Encourage staff to bring litterless lunches
- Include staff members of various cultural backgrounds by celebrating culturally appropriate foods
- Support staff members with their needs to honour cultural and ceremonial practices
- Learn about the [Nine Essential Elements of a Healthy Workplace Nutrition Environment](#)⁶

⁵ http://livingwagecanada.ca/files/2114/1518/9093/living_wage_final3.pdf

⁶ https://www.odph.ca/upload/membership/document/the-nine-essential-elements-of-a-healthy-workplace-nutrition-environment_1.pdf

At School

- Improve your school's nutrition environment using [Bright Bites](#)⁷ resources and support
- Celebrate your healthy school by participating in [OPHEA's Healthy Schools](#)⁸ recognition program
- Advocate to offer a [universal student nutrition program](#)⁹ to increase the availability of healthier foods
- Use [Fresh from the Farm](#)¹⁰ for fundraising with local foods
- Implement food composting programs in school
- Host “litterless lunch” events to reduce waste and promote homemade lunches and environmentally friendly practices
- Limit access to highly processed foods within the school setting
- Share information on diverse and culturally appropriate foods to include all students
- Implement cooking classes and food skills workshops for students
- Plant a school food garden so students can learn where food comes from and how food grows
- Restrict commercial marketing of unhealthy foods and beverages to children, including advertising through education materials, prizes, incentives and giveaways
- [Sign a petition](#)¹¹ calling for mandatory food literacy and nutrition courses in schools



⁷ <https://brightbites.ca>

⁸ <https://www.ophea.net/healthy-schools-certification>

⁹ <https://foodsecurecanada.org/community-networks/healthyschoolfood>

¹⁰ <http://www.freshfromfarm.ca/home.aspx>

¹¹ <https://www.thepetitionsite.com/133/783/509/urge-the-gouvernement-of-ontario-to-make-at-least-one-food-nutrition-course-compulsory>



By Growers

- Share extra garden produce with a neighbour or a local food program
- Learn about or support a [gleaning program](#)¹²
- Join a grassroots organization to help build a sustainable food system
- Continue acting as stewards of the land, using sustainable [farming methods](#)¹³ that protect air, water, and soil for future generations
- Join a [farm linking tool](#)¹⁴ that connects people to agricultural opportunities
- Support education initiatives (e.g. farm tours, garden crawls) that teach people where food comes from
- Learn food growing practices from those who hold local Indigenous [knowledge](#)¹⁵
- Advocate for protection and use of farmland, forests, waterways, and urban land for food production

¹² <http://canadianfoodstudies.uwaterloo.ca/index.php/cfs/article/view/264>

¹³ <https://regenerationcanada.org/en/about-us>

¹⁴ <https://farmlink.net>

¹⁵ <http://oursustenance.ca>

By Decision Makers

- Make locally grown, healthy, affordable food available at events in your organization and in [community facilities](#)¹⁶
- Be an example within your own organization regarding local food buying practices
- Support measures that [address poverty](#)¹⁷, the root cause of food insecurity
- Implement policies that protect air, water, soil and green space for future generations
- Support initiatives such as community gardens and edible forests
- Implement policies that protect food producing land, forests, waterways, and urban land for food production
- Support a green bin program and household composting
- Install water bottle filling stations in community facilities
- Support the economic availability and sustainable livelihoods of food growers, producers, and processors
- Strengthen Indigenous food sovereignty by enabling the local harvesting of game meat and other foods by creating supportive policies
- Support skill building across the food system workforce
- Protect the rights of Seasonal Agricultural Workers
- Fund community initiatives that teach skills related to all aspects of the [food system](#)¹⁸



¹⁶ <https://www.odph.ca/upload/membership/document/2017-05/getting-started-final.pdf>

¹⁷ https://fcm.ca/Documents/issues/Poverty_Reduction_EN.pdf

¹⁸ http://www.hclinkontario.ca/images/sustainable_food.pdf

Definitions

Community supported agriculture (CSA)

Consists of a group of people who support a farm operation. This way the farm belongs to the whole community. Farmers and consumers provide support for each other, and share the risks and rewards of food production.

Dignity

The concept that all people have an inner worth or value. The *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* includes this concept.

Food system

All processes involved in growing, harvesting, processing, packaging, transporting, marketing, consuming, and disposing of food and packaging. A sustainable food system works in a way that maintains and enhances the quality of land, air and water for future generations, and allows people involved to earn a living wage.



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Definitions

Household food insecurity

Inadequate or insecure access to food due to financial constraints. It ranges from worrying about running out of food, to eating less healthy food or smaller meals, to going whole days without eating, due to lack of money for food.

Living wage

The hourly wage that a person needs to earn to cover their basic expenses and participate in their community. A living wage is not the same as minimum wage. A living wage reflects the actual costs of living and participating in a specific community.

Sustainable

Does not compromise the environmental, economic, health, or social well-being of present and future generations.

References

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