



GUELPH-WELLINGTON

CHARTER FOR FOOD JUSTICE

We honour and acknowledge the lands between the lakes and all our relations.



food system
resiliency table

INTRODUCTION

Food justice aims to equitably share the benefits and risks of where, what and how food is grown, produced, transported, distributed, accessed and eaten. Food justice represents a transformation of the current food system by eliminating disparities and inequities¹.

The Guelph-Wellington Charter for Food Justice describes our community's vision and values for a just and sustainable food system. This Charter aims to connect communities, businesses and governments to invest in a food system where the right to food is upheld and where all people, relationships, economic and ecological systems can flourish.

The Guelph-Wellington Charter for Food Justice was made possible with the support of many passionate community members who shared their time, knowledge, and expertise towards making a better food system for all. We sincerely thank the residents, businesses, public servants, schools, and community organizations who contributed to this Charter and have committed to bringing this transformative vision to life.

OUR VALUES

We are building a food movement that:

- Is lead by community members with lived experience of food insecurity including Black, Indigenous, people of colour, low-income, LGBTQ2S+, and disabled communities and enables their stewardship over the food system to meet their needs.
- Advances policies and programs that end systemic oppression and promote fair outcomes for health and wellbeing.
- Understands food insecurity as a symptom of poverty and calls for adequate income and access to resources.

We commit to food justice by supporting actions that align with the following themes:

1. The Land and all our relations
2. Health and wellbeing
3. Shared prosperity
4. Culture
5. Education

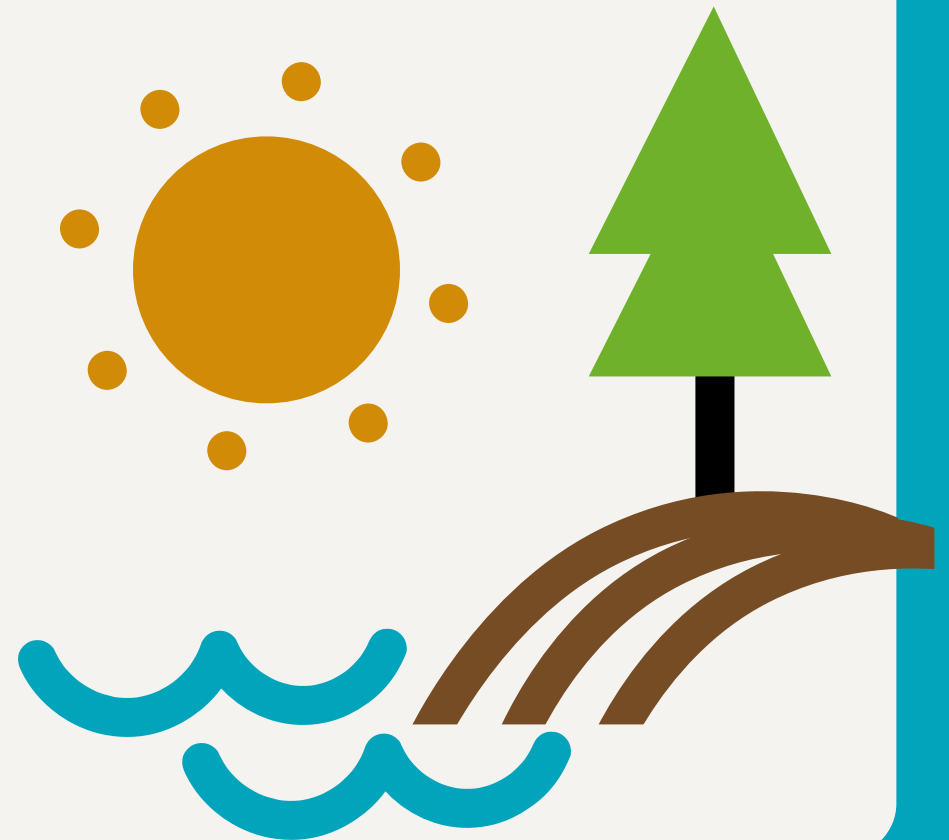


OUR VALUES

We value Land and all our relations.

We support:

- Self-determination and equitable access to land and resources for Indigenous peoples and marginalised communities.
- Initiatives that address the unbalanced impacts of the climate crisis.
- Learning from and restoring the land and water.
- Rural and urban land use that prioritises the health of the land and biodiversity.



OUR VALUES

We value Health and Wellbeing.

We support:

- Recognizing the role of food and nutrition in preventing and managing diseases.
- Advancing policies and programs that make affordable food available where we live, learn, heal, work and play.
- Community design that makes food accessible by walking, biking or public transit.
- Facilitating opportunities that promote food skills and knowledge.



OUR VALUES

We value Shared Prosperity.

We support:

- Advancing policies and programs for income security and decent work.
- Equitable opportunities to produce, process and distribute local food.
- Promoting our region as a place to visit and invest in local food and agricultural practices.
- Championing economic models that benefit communities, and prioritize social and environmental outcomes.

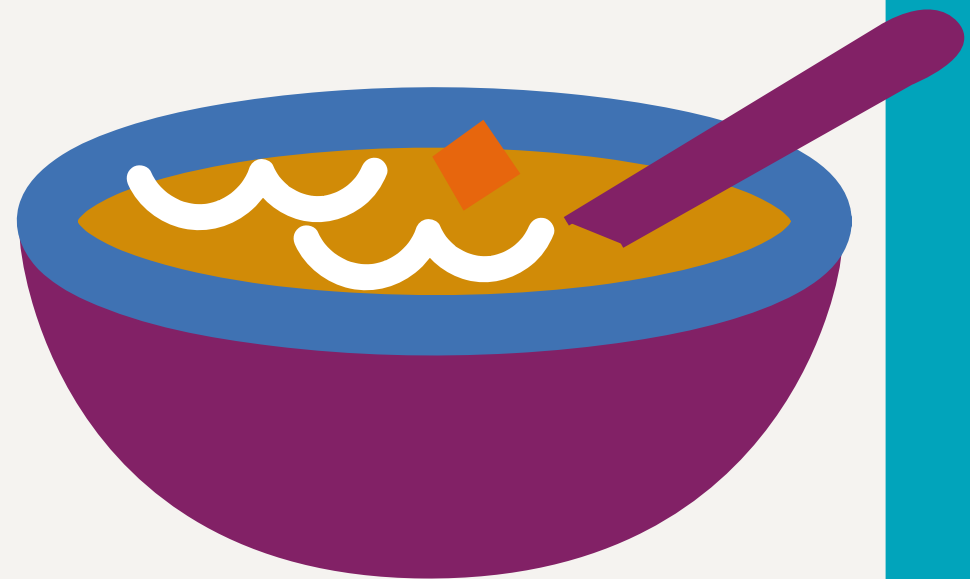


OUR VALUES

We value Culture.

We support:

- Centering the perspectives of people from diverse backgrounds to share their history and stories.
- Opportunities to learn about, grow and enjoy culturally-significant foods and practices.
- Building equitable and respectful relationships between food producers and consumers.
- Cultivating inclusive spaces for community gathering.



OUR VALUES

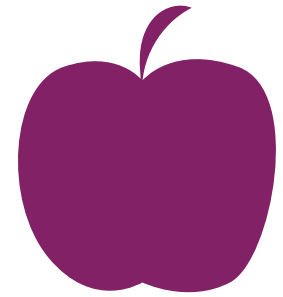
We value Education.

We support:

- Opportunities to honour and share traditional knowledge and practices.
- Public education about the whole food system.
- Initiatives that allow people to better understand farming and agricultural practices.
- Fostering positive relationships with food by learning about mindful eating practices, cooking skills and food safety.



DEFINITIONS



1. Land and all our relations:

For some First Nations Inuit and Metis, to say, “All my relations” means acknowledging deep interconnections, and knowing that everything is in relationship with the land and to other beings. Bonds with family, communities, and nations are valued alongside relationships to ancestors and future descendants, the land, water, and all of the plants, animals and other creatures.³

2. Systemic Oppression:

Systemic oppression helps us better identify inequity by calling attention to historical and organised patterns of mistreatment. In Canada, systems of oppression are woven into the foundation of Canadian culture, society, and laws. Governmental, educational, and cultural institutions make life more difficult for marginalised groups while making it easier for those seen as part of a dominant group. Examples of systemic oppression are racism, sexism, heterosexism, ableism, classism, ageism, and anti-Semitism.⁴

3. Shared Prosperity - We all do better when we all do better:

Our community has always been rich in social, ecological and economic assets but this tremendous wealth is not distributed equally. To shift the resources from the hands of a small group of people to benefit the whole of society will involve changing how we relate to possessions and each other. Our region cannot succeed if there are community members who do not have the resources needed to live in a decent home, have enough food to eat, support themselves and contribute to society through a job, or make a better life for themselves or their children.



DEFINITIONS



4. Decent work

Decent work sums up the aspirations of people in their working lives. It involves opportunities to work that is productive and delivers a fair income, security in the workplace and social protection for families, better prospects for personal development and social integration, freedom for people to express their concerns, organise and participate in the decisions that affect their lives and equality of opportunity and treatment for all.²

References:

1. <https://foodsecurecanada.org/community-networks/food-justice>
2. <https://www.gwpoverty.ca/decent-work/>
3. <https://firstnationspedagogy.com/interconnection.html>
4. <https://nmaahc.si.edu/learn/talking-about-race/topics/social-identities-and-systems-oppression>

The Food System Resiliency Table drafted the Charter with care over 2 years of community consultation. The Table is a network of community members and organizations working together to support just food policy and programming that builds regional resilience. We welcome new members and host regular opportunities to join us! Visit – to learn more.

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