



# Saskatoon Food Council Report



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# Mission and Objectives

The Saskatoon Food Council exists to advocate for Food System Policy change and policies that promote:

- Food sovereignty
- Increased food literacy
- Increased knowledge of regional food systems
- Access to local products
- Saskatchewan foods and food production as a healthy community-minded choice
- Expanded capacity in urban agriculture
- Increased collaboration among producers and other food organizations
- Reduced food waste and reduced energy input in food production
- Preservation of water and land for the future





# Message from the Executive Director

Saskatoon faces the challenge of increasing hunger. Each month, more than 20,000 people (over 45% of them children) use the services of the local food bank. The hunger challenge is closely tied to poverty and the Saskatoon Food Council has been active as co-chair of the Food Security Action Team of the Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Partnership – working with others to advocate for policy changes that will reduce poverty.



Gord Enns, Executive Director

In addition to addressing poverty, permanent reductions in the number of people who are hungry in our city requires a food systems approach. The Saskatoon Food Council continues to work towards implementation of a Food Strategy for Saskatoon that creates the space for players in the food system to engage: farmers meeting and collaborating with food distributors; health care professionals, educators researchers, and consumers– and focused on building a food secure Saskatoon where all have physical and economic access to enough healthy food.



## Message from the Executive Director (cont'd)

The Saskatoon Food Council was established in 2014 on the recommendation of a Community Food Assessment that asked citizens about their vision for a food secure Saskatoon. The vast majority of participants expressed concern about undue transportation of food over long distances. As a result, the Saskatoon Food Council is focused on supporting and building local food systems – on increasing supports for growing more food in Saskatoon and on promoting Saskatchewan food products and production as healthy, community minded food choices. During the last year we have continued to advocate for a City of Saskatoon Food Systems Committee that would include City representatives, farmers, consumers, and other important actors in the food system.

Among the educational highlights of the year was the second annual Urban Agriculture Holiday Celebration in partnership with the Saskatoon Food Bank and Learning Centre and CHEP Good Food Inc. featuring local food, celebrating local growing, and learning with presentations by a City councillor, City environmental initiatives staff, two university researchers, and 10 urban farmers and organizations.

Sincerely,

Gord Enns



# Formal Support

The work of the Saskatoon Food Council is made possible by the generous funding support of Mosaic and ongoing administrative, technical, legal and accounting support as well as office and meeting space from the Community-University Institute for Social Research (CUISR) and the Community Relations and Engagement office of the University of Saskatchewan at Station 20 W.





## Our Work

Continued leadership in these areas:

- Municipal food policy development
- Food hub promotion
- Research, resource development and advocacy
- Building links to regional and national food policy and development organizations
- Saskatoon food security and food policy community



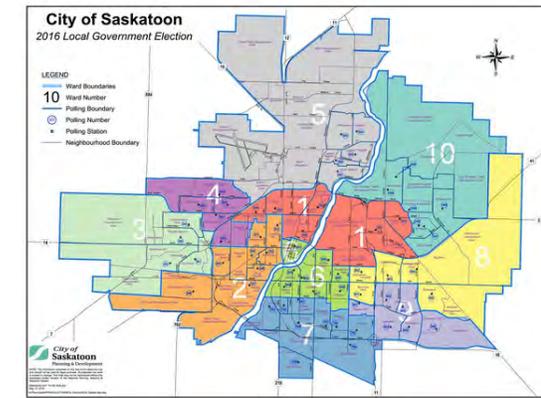


# Food Hub Promotion



- Continued to promote local food production through supporting the Local Food Trail at Osler. We hosted the annual Ride the Local Food Trail event – a day of building connections between urban and rural people as participants biked the local food trail and engaged with local food producers.
- We also hosted educational events and tours for Slow Food Canada and the Vegetable Growers of Saskatchewan.





## Research, Resource Development and Advocacy

- Continued to participate in Culinary Medicine workshops for Medical and Nutrition students at the University of Saskatchewan.
- Supported the Saskatoon Farmer's Market to enhance market building operation, animation and viability.
- Hosted Urban Agriculture tours.
- Convened Eat Think Vote events to engage political candidates in food issues and allow candidates to articulate their platforms and maintained an on-line Food by Ward resource.



# Leadership in the Saskatoon Food Security and Food Policy Community

- The ED of the SFC acted as Co-chair of the Food Security Action Team of the Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Partnership and convened Food Systems meetings.
- Students and researchers from the University of Saskatchewan engaged with the SFC through learning events and in food policy and food systems study with Indigenous Food Sovereignty students.
- In partnership with other agencies the Food Council hosted the annual Urban Agriculture Holiday Celebration featuring local food and presentations from urban farmers and agencies promoting local growing.



"At Chain Reaction Urban Farm we grow over 7000lbs a year of high quality food and have over 30 families as members of our farm. Annual events like the Urban Ag Celebration promote a sustainable way to grow food in the city and I really appreciate that the Food Council purchases our vegetables for these events and promotes the development of a sustainable food system." Jared Regier – Chain Reaction Urban Farm



“The Saskatoon Food Bank & Learning Centre Garden Patch and the Saskatoon Food Council have collaborated on numerous occasions to bring together producers and consumers to inspire a more vibrant, equitable, and sustainable local food system.”

Adrian Werner  
Food Security Senior Manager  
Saskatoon Food Bank and Learning Centre



**SASKATOON FOOD BANK  
& LEARNING CENTRE**

# Stories of Urban Agriculture

- Growing more food in Saskatoon is a key piece of building a sustainable food system. To promote urban growing the SFC organizes an annual Urban Agriculture Tour for participants to visit unique growing projects.
- In 2018/19 the tour included stops at 10 urban farms, community gardens and intensive backyard growing projects.
- Each year a consistent tour highlight is a stop at Chain Reaction Farm operated by Jared and Rachel Regier. The Regiers grow a wide variety of vegetables and provide weekly deliveries to families in core neighbourhoods of Saskatoon in partnership with other community agencies.



"I look forward to the Saskatoon Food Council's Urban Agriculture Tour every year because it is a great opportunity for us to show visitors the potential for food production in Saskatoon. When tour participants walk through our plots first-hand, they begin to understand how agriculture in the city can be more than just a backyard garden, and how it can intertwine seamlessly into the fabric of our city to help us create a more sustainable future." Jared Regier – Chain Reaction Urban Farm



## Petters' Farm

Rolf and Marjan Petter are enthusiastic vegetable growers. With a Dutch heritage and a strong work ethic, they are building a direct to market vegetable farm in the peri-urban area north of Saskatoon. Along with 5 other farm enterprises, Rolf and Marjan are members of the Local Food Trail, a project of the Saskatoon Food Council, in partnership with the Rural Municipality of Corman Park and the Town of Osler. The Local Food Trail promotes farms in the Osler area through the creation of an on-line searchable map that allows urban eater to make direct connections with food growers ([www.saskatoonfood.ca](http://www.saskatoonfood.ca)). Each year the SFC organizes tours that include a stop at Petters, where participants learn about their operation and how they are contributing to increased connections between those who grow food and those who eat – a vital connection!





# Partnership with Tourism Saskatoon and the Culinary Tourism Alliance

2020 agreement to develop a Social Enterprise to deliver culinary tours and food system education in Saskatoon and surrounding region.





# Leadership



Dr. Rachel Engler-Stringer – Chair – Associate Professor, Community Health and Epidemiology – University of Saskatchewan



Dr. Isobel Findlay – Secretary-Treasurer – Professor Emerita, Edwards School of Business and University Co-Director, Community University Institute for Social Research - University of Saskatchewan



Grant Wood - Assistant Professor in the Department of Plant Sciences at the University of Saskatchewan specializes in Urban Agriculture.



## Leadership - con't



Caitlin Olauson - MSc in Community Health and Epidemiology. Co-Founder of The Local Kitchen.



Adrian Werner - Food Security Senior Manager, Saskatoon Food Bank & Learning Centre



Dr. Jasmine Hasselback - Medical Health Officer – Saskatchewan Health Authority



# Leadership - con't



Dr. Patrick Chasse – SSHRC Post-Doctoral Fellow, University of Guelph



Jenni Lessard – Executive Chef – Wanuskewin Heritage Park



Gord Enns – Executive Director – Saskatoon Food Council