

PUBLIC INVESTMENT & SUPPORTS

How we set priorities to influence and support the food system.

Public investment and the creation of supportive environments are influential in community food security. Governments, businesses, and community institutions set policies and spending priorities that can impact community food security. The Halifax Municipality is involved in supporting the food system through the leadership shown by naming community food security in their Regional Plan.

What do you mean by "supportive environments"?



Supportive environments allow us to be healthy where we live, learn, work, and play.

A local example are the healthy eating policies and standards in our schools and childcare settings. Such policies are in place to ensure the healthy choice is the easy choice.

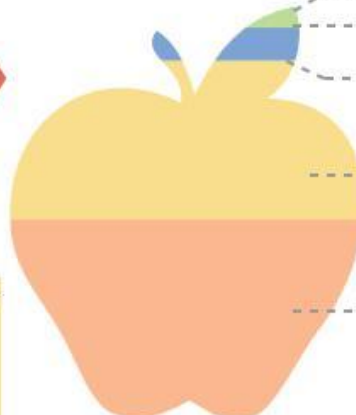
Nova Scotia has committed to building supportive environments around healthy eating and physical activity through the Thrive! Strategy.

Food Policy

Our shared role & responsibility for creating supportive environments.

Several institutions and organizations across the Halifax municipality were identified as having policies with community food security components.

For example, Dalhousie University devotes ~30% of its annual food budget (~\$ 960,000) to purchasing local food.



- Dalhousie University & Halifax Municipality
- ~20 Health care facilities
- 34 Long-term care facilities
- 143 Public Schools
- 208 Licensed daycare & childcare facilities

Breastfeeding

Protecting mother & child rights.

Nova Scotia's Human Rights Commission has a breastfeeding policy that states that women have the right to breastfeed in public anywhere, anytime and cannot be told or made to feel compelled to move to a more discrete area to breastfeed. Employers are to also accommodate women who need to breastfeed while working.

~50

breastfeeding friendly spaces have been created across the Halifax municipality through the support of the 'Make Breastfeeding Your Business' initiative and the Breastfeeding Community of Practice



Emergency Response

Preparing ourselves for the unexpected.

In the event of an emergency that disrupts food supply chains within and to the Province, it is unknown how long current food stocks would last. Moderate estimates have suggested there would be less than 1 week's worth of food for the entire province.

Halifax's emergency management organization encourages residents to have a household emergency kit prepared in case of an emergency, which includes food provisions for 3 days.



Research

A key to better understanding our current food system.

Research

Public support for research and knowledge transfer related to food, agriculture, and health enables innovation, adaptation, and change in the sector and supports community food security across the Halifax municipality and beyond.



Action

Research informs governments, organizations, institutions, and community led initiatives to contribute to and strengthen community food security through policies, practices, and processes.

Examples of food related research & knowledge transfer organizations across Nova Scotia include:



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For further information and sources download a copy of the Halifax Food Assessment at: www.cdha.nshealth.ca/public-health/halifax-food-assessment