

# JustFOOD

## Action Plan for the Halifax Region

**VISION** A Halifax region where no one is hungry, where food & people are celebrated, where the local economy is strong, and the environment is protected for generations to come.

### Why JustFOOD Matters

Halifax has one of the highest rates of food insecurity<sup>1</sup> among Canadian municipalities. There is a need to build on our strengths through strategic investments, coordination of efforts, and creative collaborations to address inequities and strengthen our food system. JustFOOD will work with community and other stakeholders to identify the actions needed to achieve our VISION and develop the resources and commitments required to make these actions a reality.

### Who is Behind JustFOOD?

JustFOOD is co-led by Halifax Regional Municipality and the Halifax Food Policy Alliance, as the backbone for the collaborations and collective effort needed for positive change.

**HALIFAX**



JustFOOD is guided by the principles, goals and strategies for success shown here:

**Food Justice** is at the core of JustFOOD. Food justice is about making sure that the benefits and risks of our food system are shared fairly amongst us all.

Our **Food System** is the activities and relationships that influence how we grow, catch, process, distribute, buy & sell, prepare & eat, and dispose of food.



<sup>1</sup> 1 in 7 people experience household food insecurity. Tarasuk, V., Mitchell, A., Dachner, N. (2016). Household food insecurity in Canada, 2014. Toronto: Research to identify policy options to reduce food insecurity (PROOF). Retrieved from: <http://proof.utoronto.ca>.

**JustFOOD**

Please get in touch at [justfood@ecologyaction.ca](mailto:justfood@ecologyaction.ca) to join the conversation and help JustFOOD grow.

# JustFOOD Principles

The following principles have been adopted from the Halifax Food Charter and serve as foundations for our work:

# JustFOOD Goals

The following draft goals have been developed to progress the principles and inform actions:

## SOCIAL JUSTICE

We all need to eat. Everyone deserves good food that they need and enjoy. We should be able to produce, prepare and access food safely and with dignity.

## Define Food as a Human Right

Access to food is a basic and foundational human right which we work to make a living reality through systemic change.

➔ *Sample strategy: Promote living wages to meet basic needs like food and housing.*

## LOCAL ECONOMY

Supporting local farmers, fishers, and producers is an essential part of the food system. Local food strengthens our communities and helps us adapt to changes in our world.

## Strengthen Regional Economies

A robust local food system is supported by our regional food assets and expertise.

➔ *Sample strategy: Expand and connect local food infrastructure for food processing, storage and distribution.*

## CELEBRATION

Food brings people together. It helps us celebrate our culture and traditions, and learn more about each other.

## Share Our Diversity

Through the establishment of food as a human right, communities are strengthened and brought together through growing, accessing, preparing and sharing food across cultures.

➔ *Sample strategy: Encouraging school food and garden initiatives to grow and share different food cultures, and involve many generations.*

## HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Food is crucial for health and wellbeing, it nourishes and connects us. Communities must be supported and empowered to make it easy to grow, get, eat, and share good food.

## Grow Knowledge and Skills

People have the ability and tools to access and share knowledge and resources to grow, access, and prepare food.

➔ *Sample strategies: Expand food literacy programming in public education; use public spaces for food initiatives.*

## ENVIRONMENT

Food and the earth are precious. We need to produce, share, and eat food in ways that protect the environment and our future.

## Enhance Ecological Resilience

Lands and waters are honoured, protected and restored so they can sustain us to grow, share, and consume food for generations to come.

➔ *Sample strategy: Coordinate with HRM's Climate Action Plan and Provincial climate and agricultural initiatives.*

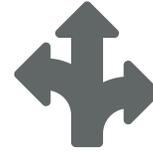
# Strategies for Success

The following are guiding principles for how we can all work together to bring JustFOOD to life:



## Work Together

We will work across sectors, learn from each other, and build on our strengths. We will prioritize and coordinate measurable goals and actions that focus and enhance our collective impact.



## Respond to Changing Needs

While the guiding principles remain constant, the goals, strategies, and how we measure success will adapt to shifting needs and contexts and be regularly reviewed.



## Measure Progress

Through the adoption of common goals and tools to measure success, we will work together to collect relevant data and assess progress on an on-going basis.



## Engage Local Leadership

Local leadership and regional collaborative governance will link experience and influence across sectors and inform relevant action.



## Be Bold

Working together toward a just food system requires creativity and imagination. This is an opportunity to test new ideas, innovate, and challenge the status quo.



## Plan for Future Generations

Our work needs to be rooted in principles of Indigenous food sovereignty, environmental justice and social justice so that our actions nourish our land, water, and communities for generations to come.

**Food Sovereignty** is the right to healthy and culturally appropriate food that is produced sustainably as well as the right of people to define their own food system.