



ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Middlesex London Food Policy Council

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR _____	3
VISION AND MISSION _____	4
Vision _____	4
Mission _____	4
Goal _____	4
Looking Ahead _____	4
VALUES _____	5
Accountability _____	5
Community and Partnership _____	5
Diversity _____	5
Equity _____	5
Health and Well Being _____	5
Respect _____	5
Sustainability _____	5
Transparency _____	5
ACTIVITIES _____	6
Advocate _____	6
Communicate _____	6
Coordinate _____	6
Educate _____	6
Evaluate _____	6
Leverage _____	6
Research _____	6
Network _____	6
2018 YEAR IN REVIEW _____	7
Strategic Plan _____	7
New Council Members _____	7
Local Food Directory Project _____	8
Reach Out to Us! _____	8
MLFPC in the Community _____	9
FINANCIAL STATEMENT _____	10
COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP _____	11

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

This has been an exciting year for the Middlesex London Food Policy Council. We have had the pleasure of being active in Middlesex and London and we have worked on strengthening our relationships and developing partnerships in the community.

We are lucky in Middlesex and London to be surrounded by some of the best farmland in the world and we have an impressive depth of knowledge, expertise, and passion in our community. On top of that, we have several amazing groups already working towards stronger local food systems.

The MLFPC has felt the support of our community and we are energized and encouraged by everyone and every organization that we have had the pleasure of working with. Our appreciation is immense. In particular, the support of the Middlesex London Health Unit, the London Food Bank, Middlesex County, and the City of London have been integral to our continued survival.

We would also like to recognize the strong support that we have received through local institutions including Brescia University College, Western University and Fanshawe College.

As a new community group in London we have received support and mentorship from many already working in our community, in particular the London Community Foundation has provided significant support to us.

In 2018 the MLFPC built on its previous work, solidified a strategic plan and has identified a major priority project for the coming year. This is an exciting time for the MLFPC as we continue to grow and identify where we can have a meaningful and beneficial impact in our community.

As the chairperson, it is my pleasure to share this annual report on behalf of the council, which outlines where we have been and some plans for the future. We appreciate all of the support we continue to receive. I encourage everyone who is interested to join with us in this exciting work to strengthen our local food systems and improve our connections and relationships.

Sincerely,



Paul Shand
Chairperson
London, March 2019



VISION AND MISSION

Vision

The Middlesex London community sustains a healthy, safe, equitable and ecologically responsible local food system that nourishes all residents and is economically viable.

Mission

The Middlesex London Food Policy Council will:

- ✕ Be a forum for discussing local food issues
- ✕ Empower citizens to be involved in food system decisions
- ✕ Foster coordination between sectors in the food system
- ✕ Create, evaluate and influence policy
- ✕ Support programs and services that address local needs

Goal

To facilitate and support a safe, healthy and accessible local food system that is socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable

Working with local partners towards more connected and efficient local food systems

Looking Ahead

The MLFPC is working towards a local food directory to connect local food growers and producers with consumers. We are committed to supporting and optimizing local food production and consumption as an integral building block for healthy, safe, equitable and ecologically responsible food systems in Middlesex London.

VALUES

Members of the Middlesex London Food Policy Council are committed to achieving the following in our community:

Accountability

Accountable to citizens of Middlesex London

Community and Partnership

Inclusivity, sharing responsibility, and working together will improve the food system and benefit all

Diversity

Our communities celebrate the culture and diversity of food

Equity

All people have equitable access to healthy, local and culturally appropriate food

Health and Well Being

All citizens have opportunities for optimal physical and mental health

Respect

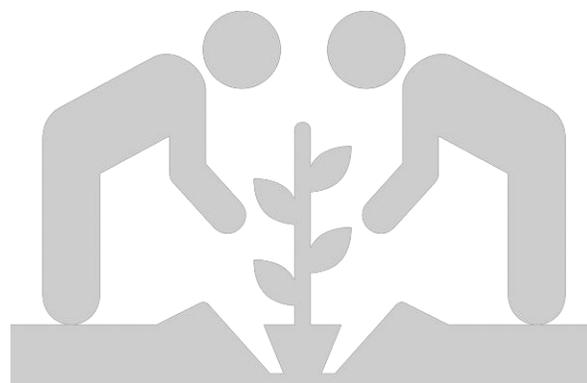
The perspectives and contributions of everyone in the food system, including those farming, processing, distributing, cooking, and eating food are respected and valued

Sustainability

There is a reliable, secure, economically viable, ecologically and socially responsible food system and a sustained commitment to a local Food Policy Council

Transparency

People have a right to know what's in their food, where and how it is produced and what is being discussed within the Food Policy Council



ACTIVITIES

Advocate

Identify policy changes, which support goals and advocate for their implementation.

Communicate

Engage with the community on relevant and timely issues through the sharing of information and involvement in action groups.

Coordinate

Identify and prioritize emerging issues, opportunities and needs in the Middlesex London food system and support the creation and implementation of initiatives.

Educate

Provide evidence-based research and the most current knowledge on local food systems issues.

Evaluate

Establish benchmarks and targets for achievement of mission/goals and monitor and report on progress of implementation.

Leverage

Align and seek community resources to support the mission and goals of the Food Policy Council.

Research

To facilitate or conduct research on emerging local food system priorities where information gaps exist.

Network

Build new partnerships and facilitate networking between existing and emerging food system stakeholders in Middlesex London.



2018 YEAR IN REVIEW

2018 was characterized by the continued work of the MLFPC working groups, attending and supporting community events and projects, completing the MLFPC Strategic Plan, welcoming new council members and designating the local food directory project as our primary project for 2019.

Strategic Plan

The full MLFPC Strategic Plan is found on our website at mlfpc.ca.

Highlights include the following four priorities:

- ✕ Building Council Strength
- ✕ Defining Shared Language and Metrics
- ✕ Developing Information Repository
- ✕ Building Pathways to Affect Food Policy Changes

New Council Members

The MLFPC is committed to maintain council strength with a vibrant, active and diverse council. We have recruited council members representing many sectors within our food systems and rely on our members' expertise and experience that they have developed through their lived experience. New in 2018 we added a youth council member position to our already diverse group.

In 2018 we welcomed the following new members:

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| ✕ Benjamin Hill | ✕ Paul Seale |
| ✕ Colleen Crunican | ✕ Peggy O'Neil |
| ✕ Jay Stanford | ✕ Shauna Kechego |
| ✕ Karen Eatwell | ✕ Shawn Lewis |
| ✕ Nancy Kerr | |

Local Food Directory Project

The MLFPC has embarked on a new and exciting project. Headed by our project manager Benjamin Hill, the MLFPC Food Directory (working title) will be an important networking tool for local participants in our food systems.

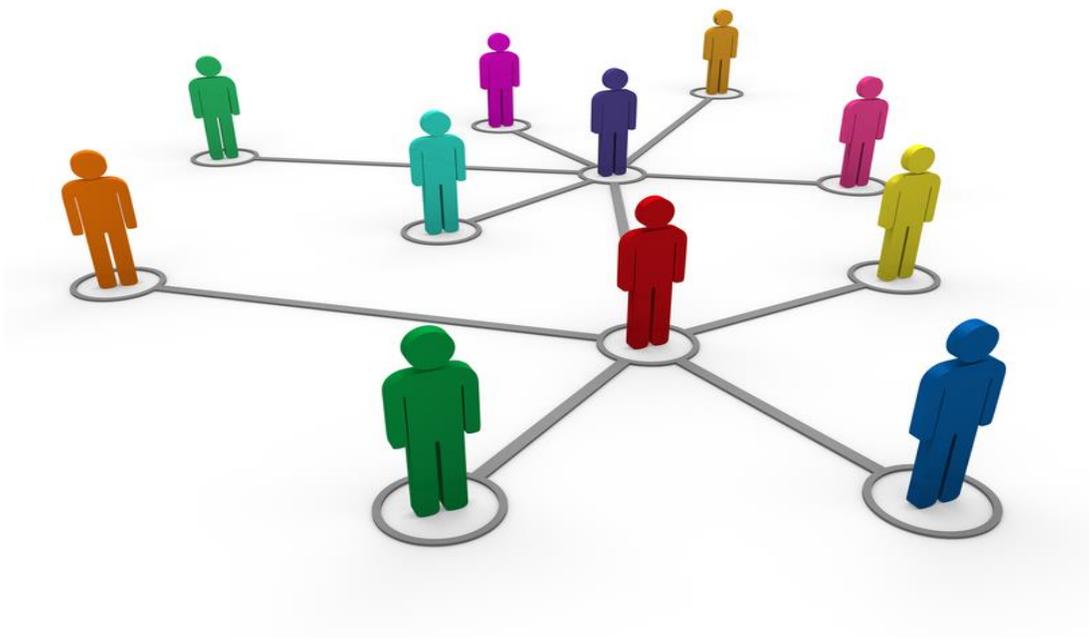
Local food is often healthier and fresher than food imported from far-away farms. We have an abundance of local farms and food producers. We would like to support locally grown and produced food and provide consumers with information about where their food comes from. Do you know how much of your food was made here?

This directory will help to connect consumers with local growers and producers. People will be able to easily locate and procure locally grown and produced products.

We will also strive to collect accurate and relevant data about our local food systems in order to identify areas for future projects, improvements and enhancements.

Reach Out to Us!

We are keeping the scope of the MLFPC Food Directory wide. If you are connected in any way to the food system in Middlesex and London, for example: farmers, growers, processors, distributors, retailers, restaurants, catering services, or charitable organizations; we want to include you! Even if you are sourcing or preparing food that is not from Middlesex and London, we want you to be part of this exciting new project. Please contact us at info@mlfpc.ca



MLFPC IN THE COMMUNITY

Members of the MLFPC attended and supported several community events in 2018 including the following:

MLFPC Local Food Procurement Workshop March 8th at Growing Chefs

Strategic Planning Sessions March/April

Food Literacy Workshop Covent Garden Market March 2nd

Grow Wild Expo Booth April 6th

Launch of the London Cares Curb Hunger Food Drive on May 30, 2018

22nd Annual London Cares Curb Hunger Food Drive- Grocery Store Collection
June 1- 8th

Participation on Maple Leaf Community Fund -Grant Selection Committee

Urban Agriculture Steering Committee

City of London 2018 inaugural Council Meeting and Reception

Food Waste Forum at Western University, February 22, 2018



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

MLFPC Financial Statement		
January- December 2018		
Beginning Balance:		\$8,564.54
Revenue		
Middlesex County	Local Food Procurement Event 2018	\$ 450.00
Healthy Kids Community Challenge	Beyond Waste Forum & AGM 2018	\$ 10,000.00
Western	Community Engaged Learning	\$ 200.00
Brescia	Intern	\$ 800.00
Brescia	Intern	\$ 800.00
Total Income		\$ 20,814.54
Expenses		
Website related services	Website creation, hosting, domain	\$ 483.11
2018 Annual General Meeting, Beyond Waste 2018, and Food Champion Awards	Healthy Kids Community Challenge Funding	\$ 10,112.74
Local Food Procurement Event	Growing Chefs (food & venue)	\$ 450.00
Food Literacy Workshop	Food Expenses- Market Vendors	\$ 120.34
Go Wild Grow Wild	Seed Giveaways- Beautiful Edibles (Event Registration/Booth Donated)	\$ 100.00
Promotional Materials	County of Middlesex (2018)	\$ 218.64
Meetings	Coffee and Tea	\$ 24.00
Strategic Planning Facilitation	Sheila Simpson (2018)	\$ 1,503.00
Strategic Planning Meeting Expenses	Food (YOU & Plant Matter) (2018)	\$ 414.12
Total Expenses Operating		\$ 13,425.95
Ending Balance		\$ 7,388.59

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Members must live or work in London or Middlesex County. Membership reflects diverse interests from across the entire food system, ideally with representation from each of the key sectors in the food industry.

2019 Middlesex London Food Policy Council Members:

Executive

Chairperson
Paul Shand
Community Member Urban

Vice Chairperson
Jean Carson
Food Processing

Secretary
Colleen Crunican
Youth

Treasurer
Laura Husser
Economic Development /
Community Futures

Governance
Phil Moddle
Community Member, Rural

Ex-Officio Members

Coordinator
Ellen Lakusiak RD,
Middlesex London Health Unit

Trustee
Jane Roy
London Food Bank

Members

Agriculture Association
Karen Eatwell

**Energy, Environment, Water,
and Waste**
Jay Stanford

**Middlesex County
Council
Representative**

Agriculture, Rural
Tom Heeman

**Food Distribution and
Logistics**
TBA

**Middlesex-London Board
of Health
Representative**

Agriculture, Urban
Jana Keller

Food Access
Nancy Kerr

Middlesex County Staff
Cara Finn

City of London Council
Shawn Lewis

Food Service / Industry
Paul Seale

Research
Benjamin Hill

City of London Staff
Gregg Barrett

Education
Peggy O'Neil

Indigenous
Shauna Kechego

ML FOOD
POLICY COUNCIL

The logo for the ML Food Policy Council features the text 'ML FOOD' in a bold, sans-serif font. 'ML' is colored in a dark red/maroon, while 'FOOD' is in a dark green. The letter 'O' in 'FOOD' is replaced by a stylized, purple-outlined illustration of a vegetable, possibly an eggplant or a similar elongated vegetable with a stem. Below this, the words 'POLICY COUNCIL' are written in a bold, dark blue, sans-serif font.