

Vancouver Food Policy Council  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, July 10th, 2013  
6:00-8:30pm  
UBC Farm - Tu'wusht Garden Project



**Chairs:** Brent Mansfield and Trish Kelly

**Facilitator:** Dawn Morrison

**Council Members:** Maria Burtlehaus, Robyn Carlson, Zsuzsi Fodor, Ilana Labow, Peter Ladner, Emme Lee, Tara Moreau, Ross Moster, Helen Spiegelman, Shelby Tay, Chris Thoreau, David Wilson

**Liaisons:** Kim Sutherland (BC Ministry of Agriculture)

**Regrets:** Jason Apple, Joanne Bays, Claudia Chan, Kimberly Hodgson, Pat McCarthy, Nicholas Scapillati, Paul Taylor, James O'Neill (Social Planning, City of Vancouver), Heather Deal (City Council), Theresa Duynstee (MetroVan), Claire Gram (Vancouver Coastal Health), Aaron Jasper (Park Board), Rob Wynen (Vancouver School Board)

Agenda:

1. Traditional welcome and opening prayer - Dawn Morrison  
Dawn introduced herself and explained the purpose of the meeting, and thanked the Musqueam and Coast Salish communities.  
Gerry and Alana (Musqueam representatives) provided a brief history of Musqueam lands and gave a traditional prayer and welcome to open the meeting.
2. Introductions (VFPC, WGIFS, Coast Salish representatives and other honoured guests)  
Curtis Clearsky, Suzanne Doucet, and Hanna Lewis were introduced.
3. Overview and purpose of the gathering  
Dawn spoke from the perspective of decolonizing agriculture and bringing in spiritual teachings, emphasizing contemplative traditions, and that it is not only about the food.  
Brent explained that the purpose of the meeting is to share food together, build relationships, and strengthen awareness of food-related issues, concerns and strategies of Indigenous peoples living in Vancouver and the bioregion. Also, to explore the potential for collaboration between the Vancouver Food Policy Council (VFPC) and the Working Group on Indigenous Food Sovereignty (WGIFS), and begin to identify pathways whereby the Vancouver Food Strategy can support Indigenous food-related action happening within the City of Vancouver and the bioregion.
4. Blessing of the food
5. Potluck dinner and Tu'wusht Garden Project tour
6. Year of Reconciliation with Aboriginal Peoples in the City of Vancouver - Coun. Andrea Reimer  
Proclamation started on June 21, 2013-June 20, 2014. It is the first time that a whole year has been proclaimed, and has been in process since 2008. The goal is to engage non-aboriginal people in discussions, working with the Urban Aboriginal Advisory Committee. The power of the proclamation is in words they carry and how they live in the community ((proclamation read - can be found here - <http://vancouver.ca/files/cov/year-of-reconciliation-proclamation.pdf>)
7. Presentation on Indigenous Food Strategies in Vancouver and the Bioregion (Dawn Morrison and Cease Wyss)  
Slides to be posted on FPC website [www.vancouverfoodpolicycouncil.ca](http://www.vancouverfoodpolicycouncil.ca)  
Context - boundaries are political and do not reflect indigenous native boundaries or natural boundaries. Working with Kent Mullinix, has worked with indigenous land and food systems.

Hunting/fishing/gathering have existed for over 90% of the time humans have been on earth → most sustainable. Fishing is the primary food source for the 27 indigenous nations in BC. Indigenous identities are linked to the land (e.g. sto'lo - people of the river). Indigenous, in an ecological context, denotes original habitants adapted to a place. It was noted that most territory in BC has not been ceded, and also that the aboriginal community in Vancouver is diverse, from many different nations. Examples of food-related projects: Sto'lo- food security study - atlas of spawning and rearing salmon habitat, FNHA - allocates funding to bands for health authority to explore strategies, salmon feedlot boycott in Chilliwack, Salaeittooth - aboriginal youth cooks training, Capilano gardens, restoration of Capilano estuary, and the Tsawwassen community agriculture plan. It was also noted that aboriginal people are overrepresented in food insecure population, with Vancouver having the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest population of urban aboriginals in Canada.

Four main elements of food sovereignty:

- sacredness of food - it is a gift
- participatory nature of food sovereignty - to keep knowledge alive
- self-determination
- policy - to address underlying issues

Questions to guide work in next year (will be posted on website):

- What are some ways the Vancouver Food Policy Council and others can work to support Indigenous peoples through the development of food policy and food-related action in Vancouver and the bioregion?
- How can the VFPC and WGIFS, along with other allies, work together in solidarity towards supporting Indigenous food sovereignty in Vancouver and the bioregion?

10. Closing

Meeting adjourned at 8:44pm