

Vancouver Food Policy Council



Mandate

VFPC works to help improve food sustainability in Vancouver, where food is:

- Safe, nutritious, and culturally appropriate
- Affordable, available, and accessible to all
- Produced, processed, marketed, consumed, and waste products reused or managed in a manner that is:
 - Financially viable
 - Protects the health and dignity of people
 - Minimally impacting the environment

Accomplishments

Passed numerous motions to raise the profile of important food policy issues, by calling upon the City to:

- Recognize the link between poverty and income insecurity
- Work with other levels of government to develop a Universal Healthy School Food Program. Motion was then brought to Union of BC Municipalities by Councillor liaisons, where it passed unanimously.

Provided ongoing feedback to City staff developing or updating City policies affecting the food system, including the Zero Waste 2040 Strategy, Food System Action Plan 2020, and the Pilot Urban Farming Policy.

Contributed to Federal Government consultations on the development of a Food Policy for Canada as invited attendees at a National Food Summit in Ottawa and through submission of a letter to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada outlining VCPF's prioritized recommendations for Food Policy for Canada.

Improved our new member onboarding process to ensure a quick start to the 2017-2018 term, by developing a new member resource manual, a member resources section on the website resources section, and holding a new member training session.

Worked towards supporting Indigenous Food Sovereignty by hosting a discussion with the City's Manager of Aboriginal Relations, partnering on the Wild Salmon Caravan's Vancouver feast at Trout Lake, and seeking funding for member training in Indigenous Cultural Competency.

Future Goals

Conduct a critical review of our membership structure: Current membership structure largely privileges education and professional experience in the food system. We propose restructuring the VFPC membership framework that more privileges diverse lived experiences and other ways of interpreting the food system beyond supply chain sectors.

Support affordable, healthy, culturally diverse, and independently owned food retail assets from a food justice and equity lens.

Provide advice to ongoing policies in development and being updated, including the Zero Waste 2040 Strategy, Food System Action Plan 2020, and the Pilot Urban Farming Policy.

Advocate to the senior governments to create a National Universal School Food Program. This will be accomplished by working with the City of Vancouver and other stakeholders, as a member of the National Coalition for Healthy School Food.