

Minister
of Agriculture and
Agri-Food



Ministre
de l'Agriculture et de
l'Agroalimentaire

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0C5

Quote: 235699

NOV 16 2017

Ms. Kathleen Llewellyn-Thomas
General Manager, Community Services
City of Vancouver
501-111 West Hastings Street
Vancouver BC V6B 1H4

Dear Ms. Llewellyn-Thomas:

Thank you for your correspondence and for providing me with the City of Vancouver's submission supporting the development of *A Food Policy for Canada*. I greatly appreciate the effort that has gone into your correspondence and attached recommendations, which will be considered in the development of the food policy.

I agree with the City of Vancouver that coordination between the different government departments and agencies working on food-related issues is important. As you may know, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) has been working with key federal departments and agencies to develop the food policy toward setting a long-term vision for the health, environment, social, and economic goals related to food in Canada. A key outcome is expected to be the introduction of a federal framework to enable a more horizontal, collaborative, and coordinated approach to food in Canada.

I have taken note of the key gaps and vulnerabilities you have highlighted for Vancouver and other urban centres, including the issues of relying on food from outside your city limits, food affordability and access, and the need to build resilience to mitigate climate change.

The points you have highlighted in your report, including the relationship between income security and food security, support for local food systems, and the value of reducing food waste throughout the value chains, were recurring priorities brought up during consultations on *A Food Policy for Canada*, which took place from May to September.

AAFC has received feedback from more than 40,000 Canadians through an online survey. Close to 300 stakeholders participated in the National Food Summit this past June. Hundreds more stakeholders across Canada have provided feedback during regional sessions, including one in

.../2

Vancouver, or sent submissions as you have done. As well, many individuals were engaged at the community level through events organized by Food Secure Canada and town halls held by members of Parliament. AAFC is also working directly with national Indigenous organizations to better understand their priorities and views. AAFC is carefully reviewing all input received as the Government takes the next step toward launching *A Food Policy for Canada*.

Again, thank you for writing and sharing your detailed submission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lawrence MacAulay". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L" and "M".

Lawrence MacAulay, PC, MP