



HALIFAX FOOD POLICY ALLIANCE

Presenters:

Aimee Gasparetto: Ecology Action Centre

Ali Shaver: Nova Scotia Health Authority,
Public Health

Community Food Security in HRM

- ❖ Over 15% of Nova Scotians experience food insecurity and one in five children live in food insecure households. (Sriram, U and Tarasuk, V, 2015)
- ❖ In 2014, Halifax had one of the highest levels (1 in 7) of household food insecurity of 33 Census Metropolitan Areas across Canada. (Tarasuk et al, 2015)
- ❖ Since 2015, there has been a 49% increase in food bank use across the region. (Food Banks Canada, 2016)
- ❖ Only 35% of Halifax residents 12 years of age and older report adequate fruit and vegetable intake. (Statistics Canada, 2014)

The Municipality and Food

- ❖ Healthy, Liveable Communities as Council's Core Priority Area
- ❖ Regional Plan (2014)
- ❖ Community Garden Program
- ❖ Mayor's Conversation on Healthy & Livable Communities
- ❖ Urban Forest Master Plan
- ❖ Mobile Food Market
- ❖ Proposed Anti-Poverty Strategy



Halifax Food Policy Alliance

- ❖ Formed in 2013 as a partnership of individuals and organizations representing different sectors related to the food system.
- ❖ Together we are working to support program and policy initiatives that have potential to achieve our vision.

Halifax: where no one is hungry and everyone has nutritious food that they enjoy, for generations to come, sustained by local producers.



Halifax Food Policy Alliance

- 1) **Building awareness** of existing and emerging food system opportunities
- 1) **Connecting and fostering dialogue** with diverse people and organizations to strengthen collaboration and advance action across the food system
- 1) **Informing and supporting** food related policies and initiatives that benefit Haligonians

Work to Date

A food system is influenced by political, social, economic, and environmental systems.

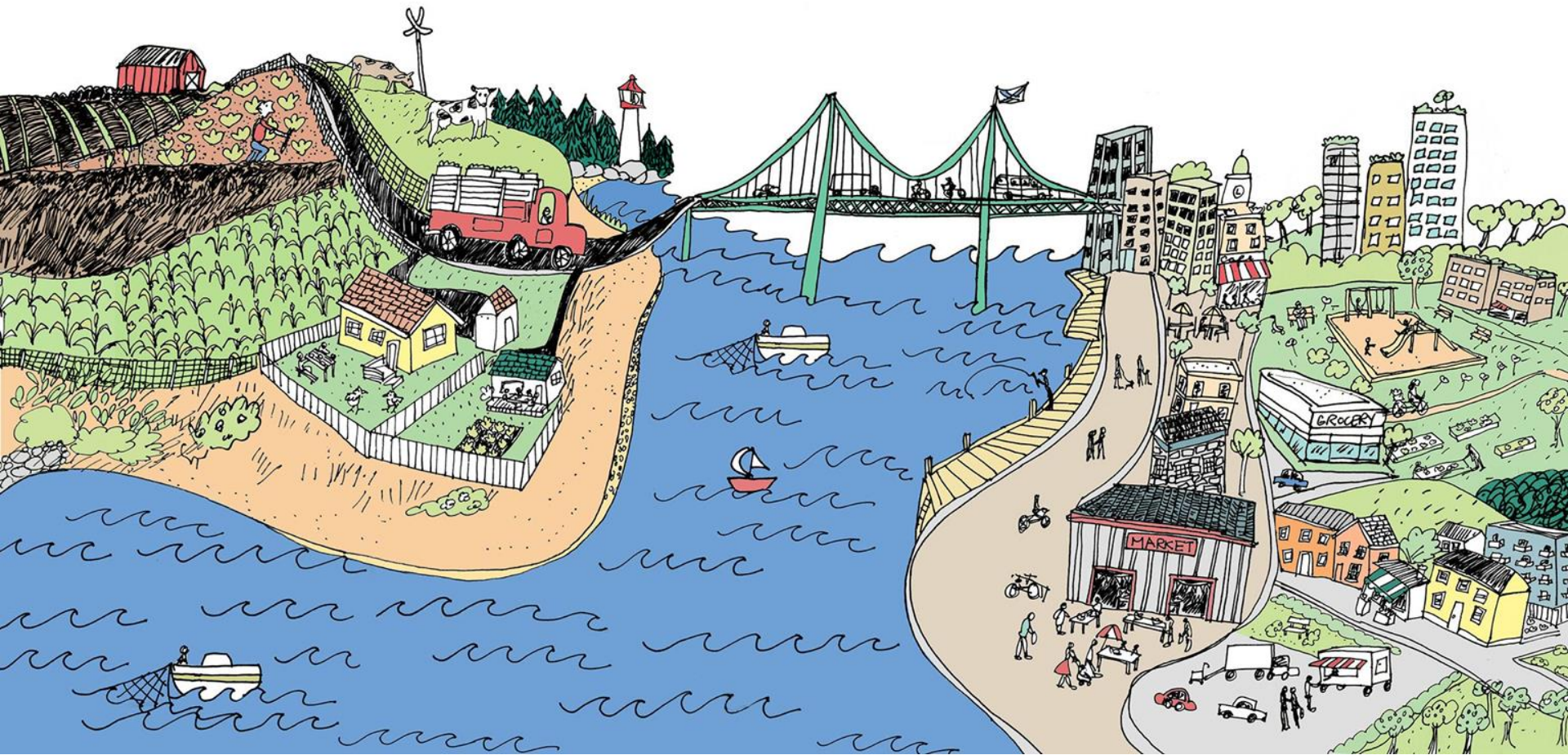


A healthy, just, and sustainable food system is supported by public investments, supports, and policies along with individual and collective knowledge and agency.

- ❖ Development of *Food Counts: Halifax Food Assessment*
- ❖ Fostering civic engagement around food
- ❖ Incubation of community food initiatives
- ❖ Coordination of actions to address community food security
- ❖ Informing municipal policies and plans

Food Counts: Halifax Food Assessment

Our Food Picture



Fostering Dialogue



Informing Municipal Policies & Initiatives

- ❖ Halifax Green Network Plan
- ❖ Regional Centre Plan
- ❖ Community Food Assessment toolkit and Interactive Food Map (pending Web Transformation)
- ❖ Mobile Food Market





Next Steps

- ❖ Consider ways to work more closely together including:
 - ongoing participation in HFPA
 - further collaboration on food initiatives
 - seeking HFPA's expertise on food matters

- ❖ Engage in future work to create a Food Charter and Food Strategy for HRM

Thank-You!

Aimee Gasparetto: aimee@ecologyaction.ca

Ali Shaver: ali.shaver@nshealth.ca

halifaxfoodpolicy.wordpress.com