

A. Case Study

Municipal Food Policy Entrepreneurs

A cooperative project by the [Toronto Food Policy Council](#), [Vancouver Food Policy Council](#), and the [Canadian Agri-Food Policy Institute](#) produced a preliminary analysis (2013) of how different Canadian municipal governments are approaching the food system to incite food system change. The document provides a number of case studies from cities around Canada to shed light on different approaches to promoting food. The document identifies six types of initiatives, and the cities that support them:



1. Municipality-driven food policy initiatives
2. Hybrid model with direct links to government
3. Hybrid model with indirect links to government
4. Food policy organization linked to government through a secondary agency
5. Civil society organization with limited government funding and participation
6. Civil society organization with no direct government involvement

The analysis provides detailed explanation of the results found across Canada. 64 food policy projects were captured in the analysis, recognizing that food initiatives have been gaining momentum across Canada since the early 1990s. Some key findings of the food systems they studied are as follows:

- Many food initiatives are driven by one pressing issue such as reliance on food banks, health issues, or loss of farmland and food production
- Municipalities are not solely trying to feed themselves, rather they are also trying to improve environmental sustainability, health promotion, and economic development
- Municipal food systems may be similar to provincial, but the proportions of actors and activities differ
- Restaurants, work places, health care facilities, schools, and higher learning institutes are a large part of the food system
- Given the shift of populations to urban and suburban communities, municipalities need to provide more diverse food system functions such as planning, social development, economic development, parks and recreation and health services that all focus on food and the food system
- Successful initiatives utilize individual or institutional champions, who provide tactical advice and the skills needed to get the work done.

http://capi-icpa.ca/pdfs/2013/Municipal_Food_Policy_Entrepreneurs_Final_Report.pdf