

February 6, 2024

# **Part B of the JustFOOD Halifax Action Plan**

Implementation Strategies

Item # 15.1.3

Leticia Smillie, Community Safety

# Origins

March 7th, 2023 Regional Council:

- Approved **Part A: JustFOOD Halifax Action Plan** & the priority recommendations and workplan for **Part B**
- Made HRM a signatory to the **Milan Urban Food Policy Pact**



*and a decade+ of collaboration with the Halifax Food Policy Alliance towards a healthy, just, & resilient food system* <sup>1</sup>

# Collaboration & Collective Impact

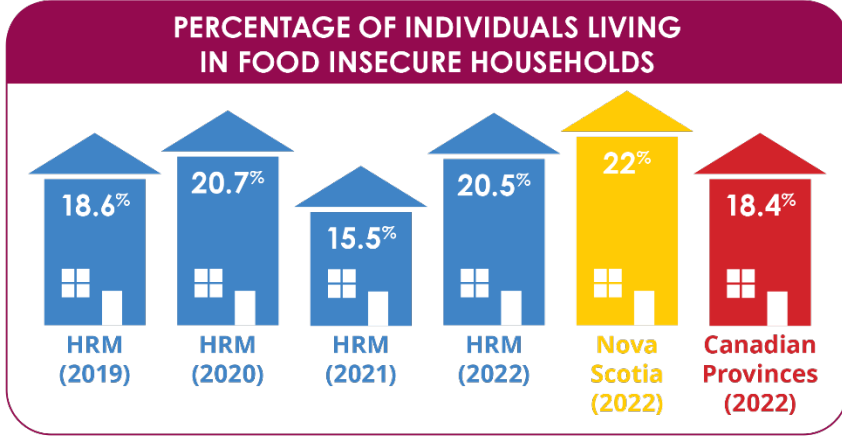


**Baxter Research Group**  
research/action/design



# Greater Need for Collective Action

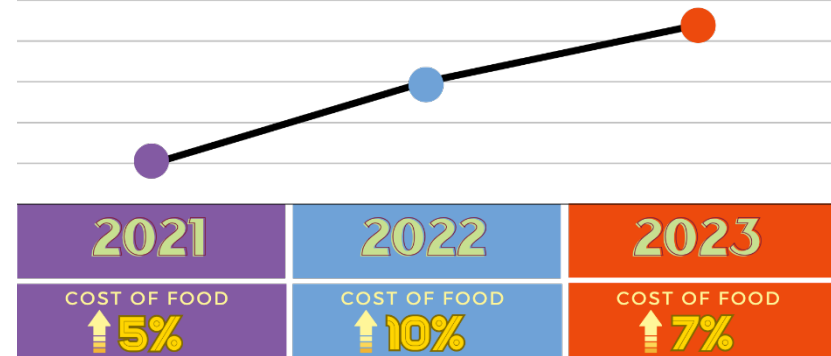
## ↑ HOUSEHOLD FOOD INSECURITY



- > 1:5 HRM households
- ↑ in racialized & households with children

## COST OF LIVING CRISIS

### FOOD INFLATION IN NOVA SCOTIA



Source: Statistics Canada Consumer Price Index

HALIFAX

# Growing Capacity for Change

- **Regionally Focused** with advocacy for income supports, universal school food, resiliency across food system
- **Community Based** with shift from “charity” to a localized food system with choice, dignity, and sovereignty over food
- **Municipally Championed** with continued investment as “municipal food entrepreneur” & Milan Pact signatory
- **Collectively Advanced** with ongoing efforts to bring in missing actors including Province: NS Food & Beverage Strategy and major food businesses

# Part A → Part B (Year 1)



## PART A

- origins, context, community engagement, & 56 recommendations + Year 1 priority recommendations

## PART B

- Implementation Strategies for Year 1 (2024/25) Priorities including roles, resources, outcomes, next steps & KPIs

# Council Approved Year 1 Priorities

## PRINCIPLES



Governance



Social and Economic Equity



Food Production



Food Supply, Processing, and Distribution



Health, Wellness, and Resilience

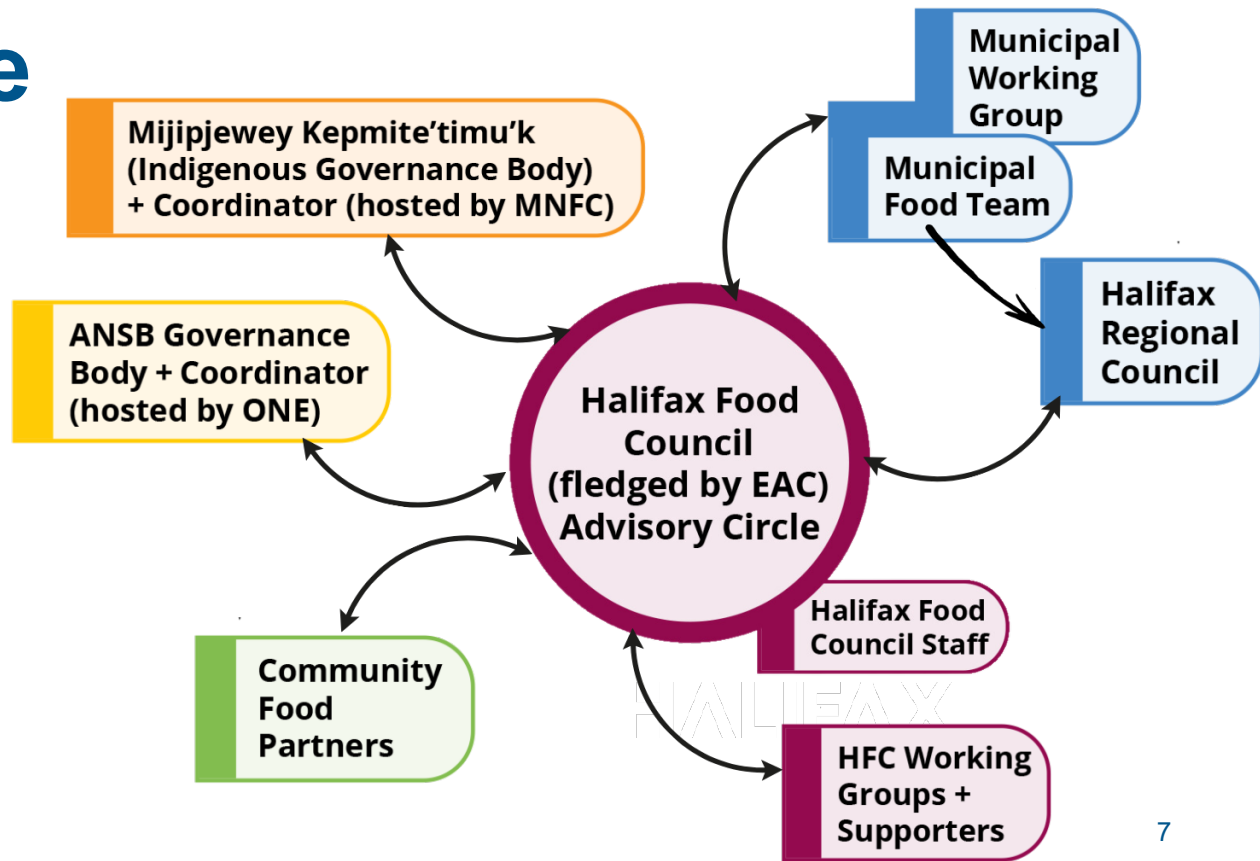


Food Waste

## YR1 PRIORITIES

- ✓ Food Council & KPIs
- ✓ Indigenous Food Advisory
- ✓ ANSB Food Council
- ✓ Virtual Hub & Food Map
- ✓ Community Food Grant
- ✓ HRM assets for food
- ✓ Community Plots & Gardens
- ✓ Emergency Food Planning
- ✓ Municipal Food Lens

# Collaborative Governance





# Part B 2024/25 Initiatives & Objectives



FORMALIZING  
GOVERNANCE &  
ESTABLISHING  
COMMUNITY GRANT



GROWING MUNICIPAL  
CAPACITY FOR ACTION



MAXIMIZING MUNICIPAL  
ASSETS FOR FOOD ACCESS,  
PRODUCTION,  
& LITERACY



UNDERSTANDING FOOD  
RESOURCES & COMMUNITY  
VULNERABILITIES



STRENGTHENING  
EMERGENCY FOOD  
PLANNING



COLLABORATING  
TOWARDS FOOD SYSTEM  
CHANGE

- 15 Strategies = roles, budgets, outcomes, & KPIs
- HRM to continue to provide core funding, to be leveraged for other funding and support to expand scope & impact
- delivers priority recommendations while increasing food literacy and community capacity for action beyond the initiatives, leveraging social return on municipal investment <sup>8</sup>

# Municipally Led Initiatives



- Investing in municipal capacity for action, required for:
  - municipal food lens,
  - municipal recommendations,
  - broader priorities i.e. emergency response, homelessness, climate, etc.

Urban Ag Specialist- \$103,000  
Food & Climate Specialist- \$00,000

## GROWING MUNICIPAL CAPACITY FOR ACTION

- Grow municipal food team to 4 FTE (+ urban ag specialist, emergency food, & food specialist)
- Build capacity & food lens through municipal working group(s)
- Collaborate with Parks & Rec, Planning, Solid Waste, Environment & Climate Change, EMO, Horticulture, IT, Corp Comms, & other departments.

# Municipally Led Initiatives

- Increasing opportunities for food production on municipal land & connecting land with gardeners,
- Increasing use of municipal assets for food production, access, and literacy

Community Orchard-	\$8,800
Community Plots-	\$41,400
Community Garden Grants-	\$40,000



## MAXIMIZING MUNICIPAL ASSETS FOR FOOD

- Fund & resource new Community Plots & existing Community Gardens Programs
- Launch Community Orchard & Vermicompost Pilots
- Create directory of municipal sites for food distribution
- Launch backyard sharing matchmaking program and land sharing resources

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# Municipally Led Initiatives



- Advancing partnerships with trusted community organizations to support emergency response,
- Maximizing emergency food truck to support bringing food into vulnerable communities for regular programs and during emergencies

Food Truck Coordinator- \$00,000

## STRENGTHENING EMERGENCY FOOD PLANNING

- Hire Food Truck Coordinator
- Work with Second Harvest to match supply with demand & maximize emergency food truck for Community Food Distribution Pilot
- Advance Community Food Partner agreements
- Advance Emergency Food Playbook
- Explore connection between Food & Climate

# Collaborative Initiatives

- Meeting commitment to support Halifax Food Council and Indigenous and ANSB sovereignty & governance,
- Funding low-barrier grants & support for community initiatives
- Sharing progress of JustFOOD & space for ongoing collaboration

Food Council-	\$251,500
Food Grants-	\$186,000
ANSB-	\$105,500
Indigenous-	\$52,600



## FORMALIZING GOVERNANCE & ESTABLISHING COMMUNITY GRANTS

- Stand-up Halifax Food Council (EAC fledge) to oversee JustFOOD
- Resource HFC: 2 FTE & funds for operating and community participation
- Establish Community Food Grants
- Fund ANSB FTE, Advisory, & Pilots
- Fund Indigenous FTE & Advisory
- Expand Virtual Food Hub
- Progress Monitoring Framework

# Collaborative Initiatives

- Working together to increase quality data and understanding of assets, opportunities, and vulnerabilities in our food system through asset mapping, equity indexes, and JustFOOD Monitoring Framework

Food Asset Map-

\$25, 300



## UNDERSTANDING FOOD RESOURCES & COMMUNITY VULNERABILITIES

- Advance the Halifax Food Asset Map
- Work with municipal & community partners (Public Safety, HalifACT, Planning, United Way, FeedNS, Province, Public Health, and others) to better understand community vulnerabilities & inequities

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# Collaborative Initiatives

- Exploring dignified access alternatives to charitable food
- Supporting inclusion for the most vulnerable food system workers
- Advocating & connecting to programs crucial for positive food system change

Migrant Worker Pilots-	\$42,000
FeedNS Pilots-	\$000,000



## COLLABORATING TOWARDS FOOD SYSTEM CHANGE

- Outreach to NS Food & Beverage Strategy leadership
- Tap into Milan Urban Food Policy Pact
- Support Regional Food Hub
- Partner with FeedNS for Social Supermarket & Rural Food Pilots
- Partner with NOII to support migrant workers
- Continue support for Mobile Food Market
- Advocate for income supports & universal school food

# Budget

Total Budget to deliver Part B: \$1,310,000

**Municipal Ask for 2024/25: \$856,000**

**Current Budget Allocation: \$334,000**

**Proposed for 2024/25 BAL: \$522,000\***

**\* delivery of Part B in 2024/25 contingent on this funding**

*Annual Municipal budget for continued implementation of JustFOOD for next three years estimated at \$900,000*



# Next Steps, if fully funded

Implement Part B,  
dependant on Regional  
Council approval

2024

## JANUARY 2024

- Present Part B to Regional Council

## FEBRUARY-MARCH 2024

- Advance Part B incl. HFC & Community Food Grants
- Consultants develop prelim TOR for HFC
- Advance Monitoring Framework

## APRIL 2024 - YR1 COMMENCES

- Budget for 2024/25
- Hire for Municipal & HFC Food Teams

## JULY 2024

- Stand up HFC

## NOVEMBER 2024

- Launch Community Food Grants

2025

## JANUARY 2025

- HFC Update to Regional Council + 2025/26 Priorities & Budget

## APRIL 2025

- Begin Year 2 Implementation

# Recommendation

1. Accept and approve Part B of JustFOOD Halifax Action Plan;
2. Approve in principle the proposed annual budget request and resources for the ongoing implementation of JustFOOD; and
3. Direct \$522,000 for the implementation of Part B as an option over budget on the 2024/25 BAL

# Clarification from Community Safety ED Bill Moore



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# Thank you & Questions



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