



JustFOOD

Action Plan for the Halifax Region

More Vail -
Community Food
Coordinator,
Ecology Action
Centre

May 16, 2024

HALIFAX



Collaboration & Collective Impact



Baxter Research Group
research/action/design



What is a Food Action Plan?

Goal: Build food justice and sovereignty through increased access to good food and a stronger local food system

A Tool to:

- Engage community and partners on a common vision and build connections between actors in the food system
- Identify priorities, coordinate efforts, and gain commitments from key actors
- Align and resource budgets, set policy and programming, and establish ownership, partnerships, and governance
- Monitor progress and course correct

Origins



March 2023 approval of JustFOOD **Part A**, priorities for **Part B** (YR 1: 2024/25), & HRM signed on to the **Milan Urban Food Policy Pact**;



February 2024 approval of **Part B** & **annual funding** to implement



JustFOOD Action Plan: Part A to Part B

PART A

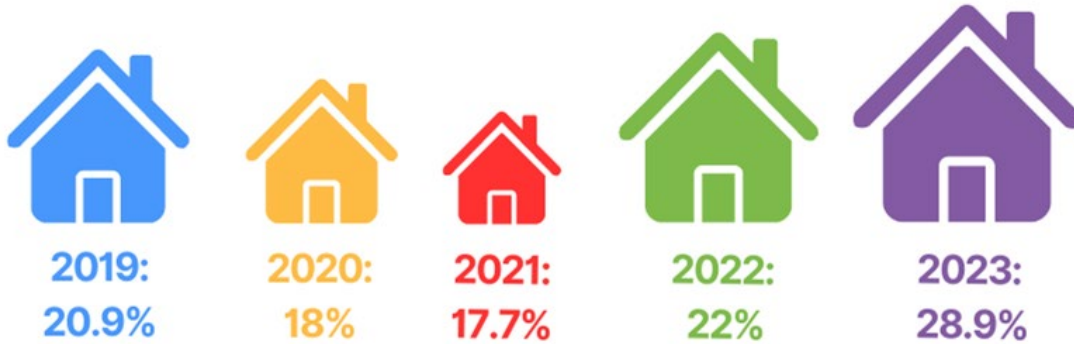
- **Origins, context, community engagement, & 56 recommendations**

PART B

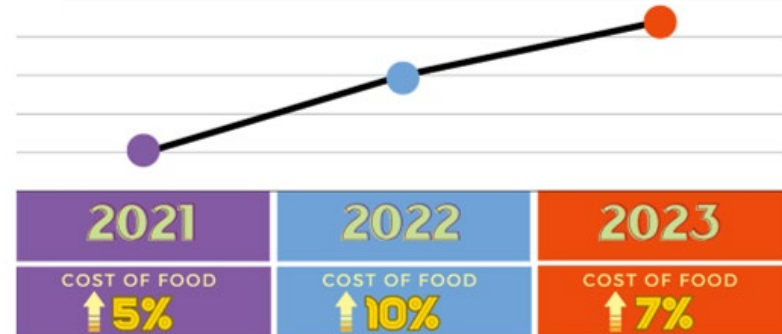
- **Implementation strategies (funding, programs, policies, people, etc.), commitments, & performance measures**

Essential Need for Collective Action

Percentage of Individuals Living in Food-insecure Households in 2023 in Nova Scotia



FOOD INFLATION IN NOVA SCOTIA



Source: Statistics Canada Consumer Price Index

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 key actors like the Province and major food businesses



Governance



Social and Economic Equity



Food Production



Food Supply, Processing, and Distribution



Health, Wellness, and Resilience



Food Waste

Social and Economic Equity

Increase community-level food sovereignty, recognizing that significant system-level change requires a shift away from charitable models.

Ensure that everyone is able to produce, prepare, and access food safely and with dignity, and that food system work directly addresses racial inequities and the root causes of food insecurity.



Food Supply, Processing, and Distribution

Ensure a sustainable, fair, reliable, and efficient supply and distribution of food into, out of, and within the Region



Food Waste

Support to sustainably manage and reduce food waste by recovering and redistributing food, raising awareness of food loss and waste, and enabling effective composting.

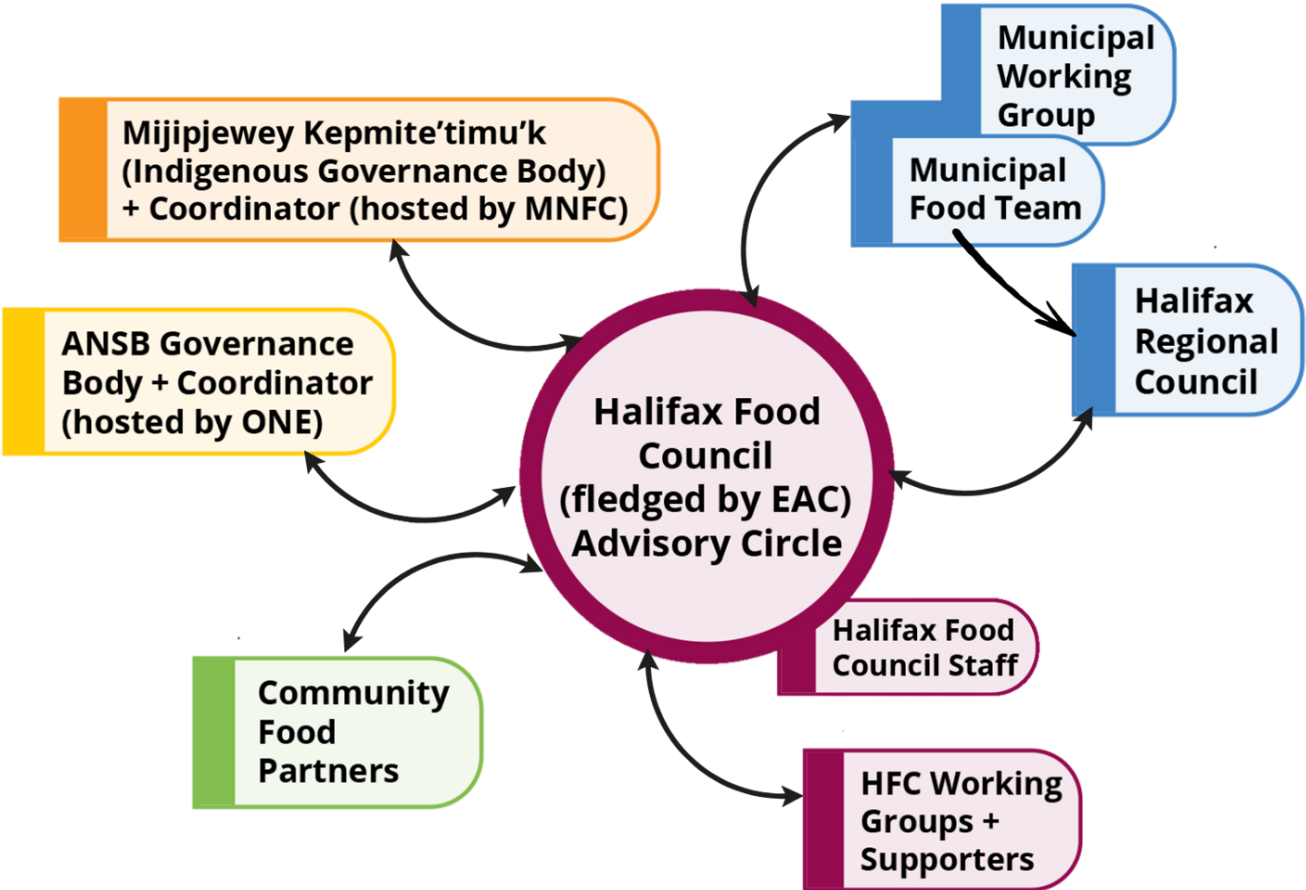


Priority Recommendations (2024/25)

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

Recommendation 1. Halifax Food Council	37
Recommendation 1b.i. Community Food Grants Program	48
Recommendation 5. Virtual Community Food Hub.....	55
Recommendation 6a. HRM Food Asset Map	60
Recommendation 9d. JustFOOD Monitoring Framework	65
Recommendation 12e. Migrant Worker Welcome Bags Pilot.....	70
Recommendation 12e.i. English for Migrant Workers (EMW) Pilot	76
Recommendation 17. Community Orchard Pilot	82
Recommendation 22 and 23e. Indigenous Food Justice and Sovereignty	86
Recommendation 29b. African Nova Scotian and Black Food Justice and Sovereignty	90
Recommendation 32a.i, 32a.ii, 32a.vi. Community Gardens & Urban Agriculture	98
Recommendation 39a. Halifax Regional Food Hub	106
Recommendation 45b. HRM Emergency Food Response Playbook.....	109
Recommendation 45b.ii. HRM Community Food Distribution Pilot.....	116
Recommendation 56b. Vermicomposting Pilot.....	124

PART B: Collaborative Governance



Food In Schools

- 2 in 5 youth (40.5%) under 18 in Nova Scotia live in food insecure households
- Federal government is investing \$1 billion into school food programs across Canada over the next five years
- Province of Nova Scotia committed to launching a **School Lunch Program** across the province starting October 2024
 - Focus will be on pre-primary and elementary schools for the first year with the intent to scale up in coming years
 - The program will be “affordable to all, free to those who need it”

What could an impactful and equitable school lunch program look like in Nova Scotia?

- Designed around unique and diverse food needs of each community, including cultural and equity-based considerations
- Prioritizes locally-grown and sourced foods, supporting local producers and processors

Food In Schools: Get Involved

Coalition For Healthy School Food - Nova Scotia

- Advisory group that brings together stakeholders across NS to engage, share resources, and collaborate on collective advocacy towards the development of a school food program that meets the diverse needs of Nova Scotia communities
 - Contact info@nourishns.ca to learn about opportunities to advocate for low-barrier access to healthy food in your school!

Nourish NS

- Registered charity that supports healthy food environments for youth and children by promoting and supporting food and nutrition programs with communities and schools
- Program Highlight: Grow Eat Learn
 - Supports school gardens and school food growing programs to teach essential skills for students' success and well-being
- Work with Nourish! Currently hiring a School Community Garden Assistant

Learn more and apply here!







Thank you!
Questions?