



City of Port Moody

Report/Recommendation to Council

Date: June 24, 2021
Submitted by: Community Development Department – Policy Planning Division
Subject: Tri-Cities Region Food Security Action Plan

Purpose

To present the Tri-Cities Region Food Security Action Plan for Council's endorsement.

Recommended Resolutions

THAT the Tri-Cities Region Food Security Action Plan be endorsed as recommended in the report dated June 24, 2021 from the Community Development Department – Policy Planning Division regarding the Tri-Cities Region Food Security Action Plan;

AND THAT the Tri-Cities Food Charter be endorsed as recommended in the report dated June 24, 2021, from the Community Development Department – Policy Planning Division regarding the Tri-Cities Region Food Security Action Plan.

Background

On November 22, 2016, Council passed the following resolution:

RC16/417

THAT a Food Security Task Force be endorsed in principle;

AND THAT staff report back on the resources required to support the Task Force, as well as a Terms of Reference.

At the May 21, 2019 Committee of the Whole meeting, staff brought forward a memo dated May 7, 2019, recommending that the City participate in a Tri-Cities Food Security Workshop rather than forming a Port Moody-specific taskforce. In response, Council passed the following resolution:

CW19/105

THAT the City of Port Moody work on the issue of Food Security through the Tri-Cities Food Security Work Group rather than by establishing its own Food Security Task Force as recommended in the memo dated May 7, 2019 from the Planning and Development Department - Policy Planning Division regarding Food Security Task Force.

In 2020, in support of the Tri-Cities Food Council (TCFC), Council passed the following resolutions:

RC20/139

THAT staff be directed to apply for funding for a Poverty Reduction Planning and Action Program grant Stream 1 for regional assessments (Stream 1: Poverty Reduction Plans and Assessments) as recommended in the report dated February 8, 2020 from Cllr. Amy Lubik regarding Application for a Food Security Action Plan through UBCM Poverty Reduction Strategy Grants;

AND THAT the City of Port Moody agree to be the primary applicant to the UBCM Poverty Reduction Planning and Action Grant program for a food security regional project that also includes the City of Coquitlam, the City of Port Coquitlam, and the Village of Anmore;

AND THAT the City of Port Moody receive and manage the grant funds on behalf of the other regional partners in support of the grant proposal.

UBCM provided \$85,000 in funding to the TCFC to undertake the Tri-Cities Food Security Action Plan, and Uplands Agricultural Consulting and Urban Food Strategies were subsequently selected to create the Plan.

This report presents the Tri-Cities Region Food Security Action Plan for Council's endorsement (**Attachment 1**).

Discussion

Data Collection

In February 2021, the process to create the Tri-Cities Region Food Security Action Plan was initiated. To develop a better understanding of what food security looked like for the region, the consultants created the Tri-Cities Region Community Profiles and Food Security Assessment Report (**Attachment 2**). The report provides a food security overview for each of the five municipalities by examining local demographic and food system assets. A policy analysis for each municipality was completed which identified any gaps or problem areas within the statutory and non-statutory plans and strategies regarding food security and local government policy.

The [Tri-Cities Region Food Asset Map](#) was also created to provide a visual representation of the locations of food assets within the region.¹ Food assets included in the Tri-Cities region map are:

- Farms, farmland and farmgate stands;
- Emergency food providers (food banks);
- Community meal programs;
- Farmers markets;
- Community gardens;
- Local food retailers (small to large grocery stores);
- Community organizations (faith groups, community centres, non-profit groups); and,

¹ <https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1NY6gbgDuGzDOrFBa-RNHfzVd4PkRbHM0&ll=49.273934982609646%2C-122.7769743&z=12>

- Food waste and recovery programs.

Engagement

Engagement activities were undertaken by the consultants to collect feedback from municipal governments, health authorities, service providers, non-profits, and the public. The results from these engagement activities were used to inform the vision, goals, objectives, and actions within the Tri-Cities Region Food Security Action Plan. Engagement activities included:

- Steering Committee: A steering committee of the members of the Tri-Cities Food Council (TCFC) was formed to guide the project's process and to ensure the Plan is rooted in community. The steering committee included members from non-profit organizations, community groups, City Councillors, municipal staff, and interested community members representing areas of the food system such as farmers markets, community gardens, public health, and food rescue and relief.

The objective of the meetings between the consulting team and the Steering Committee was to ensure that input into the project's direction and progress was included throughout the project timeline. The meetings were collaborative, action-oriented and identified specific next steps that supported the project's successful completion.

- Key Player Interviews: 20 formal interviews were conducted with key players involved in the Tri-Cities Region food system. Those interviewed included representatives from food rescue and food relief non-profit organizations, farmers' market managers, community garden managers, municipal planning departments and parks department staff, municipal councillors, provincial health organization staff, school district staff, and food business owners.
- Survey: The survey was developed by the consultants with input from the City of Coquitlam and City of Port Moody planning staff. The survey targeted the general public throughout the Tri-Cities Region municipalities. The survey introduced the public to the Food Security Action Plan project and provided context to explain the concept of food security. The survey asked respondents questions related to household and community food security and to identify needs, gaps, and opportunities within their communities to support food security on the local level. The survey was translated into four languages, Simplified Chinese, Korean, Farsi, and Arabic. 151 residents of the Tri-Cities filled out the survey, of which 66 (44%) were from Port Moody.
- Townhalls: Two online townhall meetings were organized and facilitated by the consultants. The first event introduced the public to the concept of food security, discussed work done so far in Tri-Cities related to food security, reviewed the project objectives and timeline, and had an open discussion regarding food security in the Tri-Cities region. Forty-one attendees participated in the first townhall. The second townhall presented the draft Tri-Cities Region Food Security Action Plan to the public. Each of the Plan's goal, objectives, and recommended shared actions were presented and an opportunity for discussion of the actions took place throughout the presentation. Twenty-one attendees participated in the second townhall.

Components of the Tri-Cities Region Food Security Action Plan

The Tri-Cities Region Food Security Action Plan is comprised of the following key components:

- Vision statement: The vision statement describes a clear, comprehensive future state and intention for food security in the Tri-Cities region, while anticipating possible future events and developments with imagination and wisdom.
- Goals: The five goals reflect the vision statement and overall aims articulated and amalgamated through feedback received during engagement. These goals provide direction to identify specific actions to strengthen the community and household food security.
- Objectives: The associated objectives describe the statement of intent, or the means to achieve the goal. The objectives break down each goal into issues that can be tackled through specific actions. The objectives refer specifically to an expected or desired outcome.
- Actions: There are 60 proposed actions for how the Tri-Cities region and stakeholders should work to achieve the vision, goals, and objectives of the plan. Shared recommendations are actions for each Tri-Cities Region municipal government to implement within their own jurisdictions and to implement collaboratively across jurisdictions, when applicable.
- Implementation strategy: The implementation strategy identifies big ideas and catalyst actions and sorts the recommendations into prioritized categories while indicating roles and responsibilities.
- Food Security Charter: The Food Security Charter sets out the shared vision and required commitments to implementing this plan (Appendix C). As part of the Charter, the City will commit to a just and sustainable food system and will embed community and household food security in its decisions.
- Food Security Plan Report Card: This sets out a plan monitoring and evaluation framework to track the implementation of recommended actions.

Next Steps

To ensure the implementation of the 60 proposed actions contained within the Tri-Cities Region Food Security Action Plan continues, the consultants have provided four governance models that have proved successful elsewhere in British Columbia, and the positives and negatives to each of the models:

- Local Governments Fund Internal Lead: the five Tri-Cities municipal governments dedicate staff time, either by realigning an existing staff members priorities or creating a new food coordinator position, to support the implementation of the Plan. Within each local government, existing staff are allocated time and resources to work on the recommended actions and to work together across governments.

- Local Governments Fund External Lead: the five local governments within the Tri-Cities contribute funding to hire an external 'Food Security Coordinator' to oversee Plan implementation. A similar model is already used to fund the co-ordinator of the Tri-Cities Homelessness and Housing Task Group.
- Non-Profit Organization as Lead: A non-profit organization could be established (or a pre-existing organization could be identified) to implement the Plan. To comply with the BC Societies Act, the non-profit organization must have a recognized structure that consists of a Board of Directors, a management hierarchy, clear bylaws and a constitution, and regular meetings. Incorporated non-profits must also have a clearly defined mission and purpose which must benefit the greater good of the community, society, or the world. The Tri-Cities Food Council (TCFC) could choose to incorporate as a non-profit organization and take the lead role to oversee Plan implementation.
- Collaboration Between Governments and a Non-Profit Organization: a committee consisting of committed stakeholders from both local governments and a non-profit organization could be formed for the purpose of overseeing implementation of the Plan. The group would consist of local government representatives, local community organizations, and community members interested in advancing and advocating for the actions of the Plan. The TCFC or a subcommittee of the TCFC could become the 'leaders' of the Plan, receive commitment from the local governments that they will dedicate staff time and/or provide funding for a coordinator position to implement Plan actions. The coordinator could be a staff position of the TCFC.

As a collaborative group with representation from local governments, the health authority, non-profit organizations, and service providers, the TCFC is well positioned to evaluate potential governance models and recommend the best model to implement the Plan for the Tri-Cities region. Once determined, a TCFC delegation will come before Council to present the preferred approach and request support from the City.

Other Option(s)

1. THAT the City of Port Moody's Tri-Cities Region Food Security Action Plan be amended as directed by Council.
2. THAT the City of Port Moody's Tri-Cities Region Food Security Action Plan be received for information.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report. Costs associated with the Tri-Cities Region Food Security Action Plan were covered by the \$85,000 grant received from UBCM.

Communications and Civic Engagement Initiatives

There are no communications or civic engagement initiatives associated with the recommendations of this report at this time.

Council Strategic Plan Objectives

Enhancing food security is consistent with the Healthy Community priority in the 2019-2022 Council Strategic Plan.

Attachment(s)

1. Tri-Cities Region Food Security Action Plan.
2. Tri-Cities Region Community Profiles and Food Security Assessments Report.

Report Author

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Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Tri-Cities Region Food Security Action Plan.docx
Attachments:	- Attachment 1 - Tri-Cities Region Food Security Action Plan.pdf - Attachment 2 - Tri-Cities Region Community Profiles and Food Security Assessments Report.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Sep 21, 2021

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Mary De Paoli, Manager of Policy Planning - Sep 14, 2021 - 2:19 PM

Kate Zanon, General Manager of Community Development - Sep 15, 2021 - 8:46 AM

Dorothy Shermer, Corporate Officer - Sep 15, 2021 - 3:28 PM

Natasha Vander Wal for Rosemary Lodge, Manager of Communications and Engagement -
Sep 16, 2021 - 1:45 PM

Paul Rockwood, General Manager of Finance and Technology - Sep 17, 2021 - 11:26 AM

Tim Savoie, City Manager - Sep 21, 2021 - 11:40 AM