

# ***Community Focus Bulletin:*** ***Creating Community Conversations***



Prepared by Merriam & Associates

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## **A Food Policy for Canada**

The federal government is asking every Canadian for their input on what our country needs in *A Food Policy for Canada*.

To participate in the online survey ([www.canada.ca/en/campaign/food-policy.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/campaign/food-policy.html)) to help set a long-term vision for the health, environmental, social and economic goals related to our nation's food.

Locally we know that collaboration on a topic as important as food is critical to creating a policy. Canadians want to make healthy food choices. They depend on sufficient access to affordable, nutritious and safe food, and require information to make healthy food choices. We must protect Canada's natural resources to be able to deliver safe, affordable food that supports and grows our agriculture and food sector. As farmers, we're on board with a food policy that includes all of these elements. OFA will be at the table at every opportunity to provide input, feedback and advice on how farmers can play a role as this policy develops and to ensure the policy is fair to Canadian farmers.

### **Why does Canada need a food policy?**

The government understands that the decisions we make as individuals and as a country about food have a direct impact on our health, environment, economy, and communities.

**A Food Policy for Canada** will set a long-term vision for the health, environmental, social, and economic goals related to food, while identifying actions we can take in the short-term.

A food policy is a way to address issues related to the production, processing, distribution, and consumption of food.

### **Why this is important to us locally:**

The government needs our help to develop the key elements of a food policy:

- vision
- principles

- objectives
- short-term actions

### Who should get involved:

Drawing from a variety of experiences and perspectives through consultations with Canadians and organizations active on food issues will mean that there is truly a policy designed together.

You have the opportunity to provide input on: access to food, healthy and safe food, and the relationship between agriculture, the environment, and the economy.

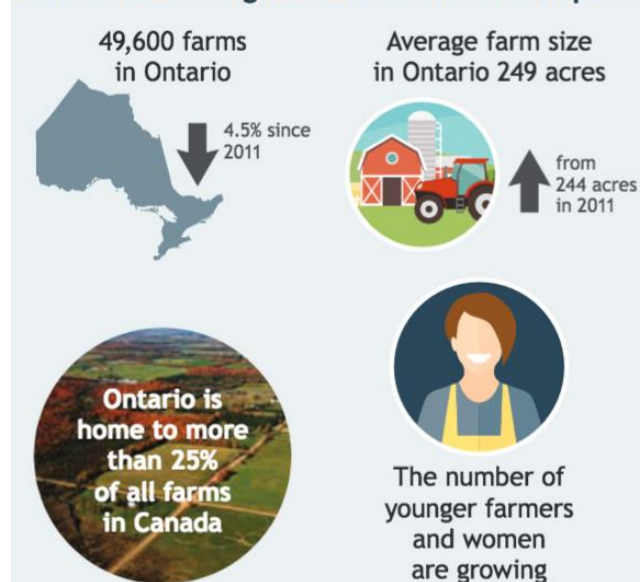
Comments received during the online consultation will be summarized will help inform the development of **A Food Policy for Canada**.

Why we are locally well positioned to comment:

1. Sustainable Peterborough's Future of Food & Farming Working Group recently released two research reports that stress the need to protect our food producing lands and support our agricultural sector if we are to meet the target of being more self-sufficient in feeding ourselves by 2026.
2. Over the past year work has been undertaken to prepare a local food charter that builds on extensive community consultation that has been completed by many different sectors. The Food Charter encompasses the voices from these community discussions and describes the components of a dynamic local food industry and documents the various members of the food chain, from farmers to municipal representatives needed to shape and support the local food system. (To view these reports go to <http://sustainablepeterborough.ca/>)

### Did you know:

#### 2016 Census of Agriculture – Ontario snapshot



Resources & sources;

<https://www.canada.ca/en/campaign/food-policy.html>

<http://sustainablepeterborough.ca>

[news@ofa.on.ca](mailto:news@ofa.on.ca)

<http://www.agr.gc.ca>

For more information about our upcoming Community Focus Bulletins go to

<http://www.merriam-associates.com/contact-us>

Or email Dawn Berry Merriam at [dawnbm@merriam-associates.com](mailto:dawnbm@merriam-associates.com)

or John Merriam at [john@merriam-associates.com](mailto:john@merriam-associates.com)

or call 705-743-8050.

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