

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister  
Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

December 6th, 2018

Dear Prime Minister,

Re: Leadership on Food Policies is Urgent

We are calling for your personal leadership to ensure that the new food policy for Canada builds a more just, healthy and sustainable food system. We are concerned about the delays in the announcement of the new food policy, the adoption and implementation of the *Healthy Eating Strategy* and the failure of *Nutrition North* reform.

Food is many things to many people. It is a source of nourishment, an expression of identity and a bridge between cultures, a vital economic sector and a critical contributor to the health of our people, our environment and the stewardship of our natural resources. Food is not simply a commodity but a central aspect of our social, cultural, historical and environmental realities. As such, food policy in the public interest must carefully consider all these aspects, tackling unacceptable levels of poverty and food insecurity (especially among Indigenous peoples, racialized communities and in the North), disastrous diet-related health outcomes and environmental degradation from unsustainable practices.

We are concerned by the influence food industry and advertising companies are seeking to have on the *Healthy Eating Strategy*, which appears to be wavering on critical public health policies. We urge you to ensure that front of package labeling, restricting marketing of unhealthy food and beverages to kids, and the new *Canada Food Guide* are swiftly approved, and in the public interest. This will place us in a much better position to finally tackle the deep connection between poor diet and poor health, a policy realm no government can afford to ignore.

In 2015, we celebrated when your mandate letters to the Ministers of Agriculture and Health included the development of a national food policy and several items related to healthy eating. Since then, Food Secure Canada along with thousands of other organizations and citizens participated actively in [public consultations](#), developing and sharing detailed policy analysis and [recommendations](#) towards ensuring a more sovereign, equitable, healthy and

sustainable food system. The recent [What We Heard Report](#) on food policy reflects many of these concerns and approaches.

Just over a month ago, in your hometown of Montreal, hundreds of us gathered for Food Secure Canada's 10th Assembly, [Resetting the Table](#). We are energised and inspired. Across Canada, the food movement is building a more healthy, just and sustainable food system from the bottom up. Now, we call on you to exercise your leadership, from the top, to deliver *A Food Policy for Canada* and a *Healthy Eating Strategy* that champion the interests of all Canadians.

Yours sincerely,

Diana Bronson

Executive Director, Food Secure Canada

[director@foodsecurecanada.org](mailto:director@foodsecurecanada.org)

Co-signatories:

Alberta Food Matters  
Alberta Policy Coalition for Chronic Disease  
Prevention  
Association végétarienne de Montréal  
BC Association of Farmers' Markets  
BC Food Systems Network  
Bow Valley Food Alliance  
Canada Organic Trade Association  
Canadian Association of Physicians for the  
Environment (CAPE)  
Canadian Council of Cardiovascular Nurses  
Canadian Feed the Children  
Chantier de l'économie sociale  
Weight Coalition  
Community Food Centre Hamilton  
Community Food Centres Canada  
Community Share Food Bank  
Concertation Ville-Émard/Côte St-Paul  
Council of Canadians  
Daily Bread Food Bank  
Dietitians of Canada  
Eco-Ethonomics Inc.  
Ecology Action Centre  
Équiterre  
ETC Group

FarmFolk CityFolk Society  
Food Banks Canada  
Food Matters Manitoba  
Food Secure Saskatchewan Network  
FoodShare Toronto  
Greater Sudbury Food Policy Council  
Greater Vancouver Food Bank  
Green Thumbs Growing Kids  
Halifax Mobile Food Market  
Heart & Stroke  
Hypertension Canada  
Incredible Edible Okanagan  
Inter Pares  
Justicia for migrant workers  
La Corbeille Bordeaux-Cartierville  
Laboratoire sur l'agriculture urbaine  
Le Filon  
Loving Spoonful  
Moisson Rive-Sud  
NFU - National Farmers Union  
Native Women's Association of Canada  
Northern Farm Training Institute  
OCASI - Ontario Council of Agencies Serving  
Immigrants  
On sème

Ontario Dietitians in Public Health (ODPH)  
Organic Food Council of Manitoba  
Ottawa Food Policy Council  
Pilot Project for Universal Lunches in Schools  
Inc  
Qajuqturvik Food Centre  
Quantum Leaps Ltd  
Regroupement des cuisines collectives du  
Québec (RCCQ)  
Roots to Harvest  
Rusé comme un canard  
Show Kids You Care  
South Niagara Chapter, Council of Canadians  
Sprouting World  
Surrey/White Rock Food Action Coalition and  
Seeds of Change Surrey  
Susan Muir Design  
Sustain Ontario  
TBuck Suzuki Foundation

The Depot community food centre  
The Nourish and Develop Foundation  
The Stop Community Food Centre  
Toronto Food Policy Council  
Toronto Public Health  
Toronto Youth Food Policy Council  
University of New Brunswick Student Union  
Food Team  
USC Canada  
Veterinarians without Borders  
Vigilance OGM  
Vivre en Ville  
World Accord – International Development  
Agency  
Yellowknife Farmers Market  
York Region Food Network  
YQQ  
Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition

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Cc The Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Minister of Health  
The Honourable Lawrence A. MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food  
The Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs  
The Honourable Jane Philpott, Minister of Indigenous Services  
Natan Obed, President, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami