



Burnaby Community Food Charter

A strong community includes a sustainable and just food system and food security for all people. This Burnaby Community Food Charter shares a vision of that future. It includes the values and commitment to get us there. We believe that food is a universal human right.

All community organizations, private businesses, educational institutions, or government can sign the Burnaby Community Food Charter. The people who sign this charter commit to creating sustainable food systems and food security in Burnaby.

Our Food Vision

What does food security look like? When a community is food secure, everybody has two things: 1) They have food choice, and 2) They have access to culturally appropriate food. Also, food is grown and made in ways that:

- ✓ Put local production first
- ✓ Are affordable to produce and purchase
- ✓ Are connected to businesses in Burnaby
- ✓ Are sustainable and resilient
- ✓ Are ethical and socially just

Our Food Values

Six values that guide our behaviour and decision-making around food systems and security are:

1. Food is culture and connection
2. Everybody has choice of food and access to food they want
3. Food places and people are important to the economy
4. The larger causes of inequity in food security and unsustainable food systems help to guide our work.
5. Respecting Indigenous values and knowledge is important
6. Connection and working together is key



1. Food is culture and connection

Food connects us all to one another. Food connects us all to the land. We want to protect different ways of growing and producing food, cooking, and celebrating with food. These all teach culture and belonging.



2. Everybody has choice of and access to food they want

Everybody's food choice is respected and treated fairly. People can get the food they want through businesses and in the community. People can also keep gardens and grow their own food.



3. Food places and people are important to the economy

People who grow, harvest, and distribute food are respected and paid fairly. The environments that support food production are preserved and protected.



4. The larger causes of inequity in food security and unsustainable food systems help to guide our work.

The broader factors that impact how, when, and where people can access food such as the high cost-of-living, poverty, racism, good jobs, experiences of marginalization, and climate change are acknowledged and addressed.



5. Respecting Indigenous values and knowledge is important

Indigenous food systems and knowledge of these lands and waters are vital. They are integral to Indigenous cultural practice, expression, and the well-being of Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. These ways of knowing are an important part of the sustainability of our food system and food security.



6. Connection and working together is key

Food unites us. By working together, and across sectors, we can find creative solutions to improve food system sustainability, resiliency, and security in Burnaby.

Our Commitment to Sustainable Food Systems and Food Security

THEREFORE, I/WE THE UNDERSIGNED are committed to promote and support these values in moving towards food security in Burnaby. We will demonstrate this commitment in ways that reflect the roles and scope of our respective organizations.

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Core Concepts of the Burnaby Community Food Charter

Food System

A food system is all the steps of growing, harvesting, processing, packaging, transporting, distributing, preparing, marketing, and consuming food.

Food Insecurity

The state of being without reliable access to sufficient, affordable, nutritious food.

Household Food Insecurity

Food insecurity is when a household does not have enough money to buy healthy, safe food that they want which affects physical health, mental health, and social well-being.¹

Community Food Security

When everyone in a community obtains safe, culturally acceptable, nutritious food to eat. Community food security comes from a sustainable food system that maximizes community self-reliance and social justice.²

Cultural Food Asset

Cultural food assets are businesses and services that provide spaces that support transmission of culture through food. They also provide access to food through production, sale, preparation, etc.

Equity Lens

Applying an equity lens to a food systems strategy includes

- Fair labour practices
- Connections with Indigenous food systems
- Examining the core role that poverty plays in access to food
- Connections of food systems to cultural well-being and learning
- Investigating gendered, gender-diverse, ability-diverse, and racialized experiences of accessing food and participating in the food economy

¹ Derived from: Li, N., Dachner, N., Tarasuk, V., Zhang, R., Kurrein, M., Harris, T., Gustin, S., & Rasali, D. (2016). *Priority Health Equity Indicators for British Columbia: Household Food Insecurity Report*. Vancouver, BC: Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA).

² Derived from: Hamm, M., & Bellows, A. (2003). Community Food Security and Nutrition Educators. *Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior*, 35(1), 37–43.