Policy Landscape Mapping

This collection of cards is a snapshot of food policies we gathered in January 2025. It was not intended to be comprehensive, but to support conversation and input about what regulations, guidelines and policies influence the food system for participants in the lab.

Circular Food Innovation Lab

FEDERAL

National Food Waste Reduction Challenge

C

CATEGORY

C Challenge

An issue or obstacle identified within a policy that requires resolution or action.

DESCRIPTION

A challenge which tasks (and sponsors) Canadian commerical organizations to prototype innovative solutions to reduce food waste, encourage food donations, and minimize food loss across the food chain in Canada.

FEDERAL

Food Waste Prevention and Diversion Research and Capacity Building Fund

P

CATEGORY

P Program

A structured set of activities or services designed to achieve specific outcomes, often within a policy or plan.

DESCRIPTION

Provides funding for research projects and capacity-building initiatives to reduce food waste and divert food and other organic waste from landfills.

FEDERAL

Environment and Climate Change Canada

PO

CATEGORY

PO **Policy**

A set of principles or rules designed to guide decisions and actions within a specific area.

DESCRIPTION

Protecting and conserving our natural heritage, predicting weather and environmental conditions, preventing and managing pollution, promoting clean growth and a sustainable environment for present and future generations.

FEDERAL

Canada's Poverty Reduction Strategy

S

CATEGORY

S Strategy

A long-term plan or approach designed to achieve overarching goals, typically through coordinated actions.

DESCRIPTION

A federal initiative aimed at reducing poverty by improving food security, increasing income supports, and promoting access to healthy food.

FEDERAL

Food and Drug Regulations (FDR)

R

CATEGORY

R **Regulation**

A rule or directive made and maintained by an authority to control or govern conduct within specific areas.

DESCRIPTION

Regulates food labeling, including expiry dates, "best before" dates, and ingredient information to ensure food safety and inform consumers.

FEDERAL

Safe Food for Canadians Regulations (SFCR)

R

CATEGORY

R **Regulation**

A rule or directive made and maintained by an authority to control or govern conduct within specific areas.

DESCRIPTION

Requires food businesses to implement food safety systems, ensuring that food is safe to consume, including proper handling of expiry dates. The Regulation refers to related Acts

FEDERAL

Indian Act

A

CATEGORY

A Act

A law passed by a legislative body that mandates specific actions or policies.

DESCRIPTION

Any solutions must respect the sovereignty, traditions, and specific needs of Indigenous communities, while addressing the unique challenges they face in food security and sustainability, specifically as a direct result or legacy of the Indian Act.

FEDERAL

General Food Safety Tips

G

CATEGORY

G Guideline

Recommended practices or principles to guide actions, but not legally binding.

DESCRIPTION

Federal health guidelines for residents on how to ensure food safety through proper storage, handling, and labeling to prevent contamination and address expired products.

FEDERAL

Food Safety for Industry

G

CATEGORY

G Guideline

Recommended practices or principles to guide actions, but not legally binding.

DESCRIPTION

An online resource comprising standards and guidelines, regulatory requirements, traceability, packaging, investigation and response, testing bulletins, and reporting of concerns.

INDIGENOUS

Indigenous Food Sovereignty Program

P

CATEGORY

P Program

A structured set of activities or services designed to achieve specific outcomes, often within a policy or plan.

DESCRIPTION

Supports more sustainable food production, community food security, traditional food practices and enhances participation in the agriculture and food sectors for Indigenous communities and businesses. Also includes the Indigenous Food Security and Sovereignty (IFS) Grant, which provides non-repayable funding to communities, organizations, businesses, and entrepreneurs to develop and strengthen a sovereign food system inline with traditional practices.

INDIGENOUS

Musqueam Land Code (2017)

B

CATEGORY

B Brief

A concise summary or overview of an issue, often used to inform decision-makers or stakeholders.

DESCRIPTION

Recognizes Musqueam's self-governance over land management, affirming Indigenous rights to use and manage land, waters, and resources within their territory.

INDIGENOUS

Squamish Climate Legacy Strategy

S

CATEGORY

S **Strategy**

A long-term plan or approach designed to achieve overarching goals, typically through coordinated actions.

DESCRIPTION

Focuses on sustainable climate action practices within the Squamish Nation to address the climate emergency, including food waste reduction and environmental responsibility.

INDIGENOUS

Musqueam Comprehensive Community Plan

PL

CATEGORY

PL Plan

A detailed proposal or strategy outlining steps to achieve specific objectives over a defined period.

DESCRIPTION

Key initiatives include improving access to traditional foods through resource harvesting, habitat restoration, and territorial management, as well as organizing food donations and exploring sustainable solutions like community gardens. Additionally, ongoing education on nutrition and traditional food preparation is essential for promoting better health and cultural connections.

INDIGENOUS

Tsleil Waututh Nation Community Food Fish Program

P

CATEGORY

P Program

A structured set of activities or services designed to achieve specific outcomes, often within a policy or plan.

DESCRIPTION

Manages TWN food fish licenses, fishing, reporting, processing, and distributing food fish to the community. We try to provide a wide variety of species in addition to sockeye salmon and have a similar program in place for wild Indian River elk meat.

MUNICIPAL

Vancouver Park Board: Local Food System Action Plan

CATEGORY

PL Plan

A detailed proposal or strategy outlining steps to achieve specific objectives over a defined period.

DESCRIPTION

In 2021, Park Board commissioners approved the updated Local Food System Action Plan. The vision of this 5-year plan is to move toward a sustainable, just, and decolonized local food system.

MUNICIPAL

City of Vancouver: Vancouver Food Strategy

S

CATEGORY

S Strategy

A long-term plan or approach designed to achieve overarching goals, typically through coordinated actions.

DESCRIPTION

The Vancouver Food Strategy was first adopted by City Council in 2013 and is a plan to create a just and sustainable municipal food system that helps us meet our social, environmental, economic, and health objectives.

MUNICIPAL

City of Vancouver: Zero Waste 2040

S

CATEGORY

S Strategy

A long-term plan or approach designed to achieve overarching goals, typically through coordinated actions.

DESCRIPTION

Long-term waste reduction plan with goals of reducing food waste, promoting composting, food recovery, and food diversion programs within city limits.

MUNICIPAL

Vancouver: Framework for City of Reconciliation

PO

CATEGORY

PO Policy

A set of principles or rules designed to guide decisions and actions within a specific area.

DESCRIPTION

Adopted framework focusing on Cultural Competency, Strengthening Relations, and Effective Decision-Making within the City's service provision and ongoing relationships with Vancouver's host First Nations, the Musqueam, Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh and urban Aboriginal community.

MUNICIPAL

City of Vancouver: Food Systems Funding Motion

M

CATEGORY

M Motion

A set of principles or rules designed to guide decisions and actions within a specific area.

DESCRIPTION

This motion funds initiatives that aim to improve food security, accessibility, and sustainability in Vancouver's food system.

PROVINCIAL

Poverty Reduction Strategy

S

CATEGORY

S Strategy

A long-term plan or approach designed to achieve overarching goals, typically through coordinated actions.

DESCRIPTION

Opportunity for All" is Canada's first poverty reduction strategy, focusing on a $22 billion investment to address multiple dimensions of poverty through three pillars—dignity, opportunity and inclusion, and resilience and security—while establishing long-term commitments, targets, and measures to reduce poverty and support the well-being of all Canadians

PROVINCIAL

Food Waste Reduction Toolkits (BC)

CATEGORY

Toolkit

A collection of resources, tools, or guidelines to assist in implementing a policy or strategy.

DESCRIPTION

Provides businesses with strategies and tools to reduce food waste within their operations, promoting better food management practices.

PROVINCIAL

Feed BC

I

CATEGORY

I Initiative

A specific, often time-limited action or program designed to address a particular issue or goal within a broader policy or framework.

DESCRIPTION

Promotes B.C. food products in public institutions, supports B.C. food and beverage producers, and encourages innovation in food supply chains to grow local demand. Includes a "Feed BC Directory" to connect buyers with producers and processors.

PROVINCIAL

Surplus Food Rescue Program

P

CATEGORY

P Program

A structured set of activities or services designed to achieve specific outcomes, often within a policy or plan.

DESCRIPTION

Supports the redistribution of surplus food that is still safe for consumption, reducing food waste and addressing food insecurity by donating to food banks and community organizations.

PROVINCIAL

BC Provincial Government: Food Safety Legislation

L

CATEGORY

L Law

A formal rule established by a governing authority that mandates or prohibits specific behaviors.

DESCRIPTION

B.C. has a range of legislation regulating food safety on-farm and at food processing, food service and food retail levels.

PROVINCIAL

Food Donor Encouragement Act

A

CATEGORY

A Act

A law passed by a legislative body that mandates specific actions or policies.

DESCRIPTION

A legal framework encouraging food donations by protecting donors from liability if donated food causes harm, provided there was no recklessness involved.

NON-GOVERNMENT

Circular Economy Business Toolkit

CATEGORY

Toolkit

A collection of resources, tools, or guidelines to assist in implementing a policy or strategy.

DESCRIPTION

A strategic guide for businesses to transition to circular economy practices, focusing on reducing (food) waste and fostering sustainability.

NON-GOVERNMENT

B

Vancouver Food Networks: Food Justice Coalition Briefs

CATEGORY

B **Brief**

A concise summary or overview of an issue, often used to inform decision-makers or stakeholders.

DESCRIPTION

These briefs help guide the development of policies to address food insecurity and promote social equity in Vancouver's food systems.

NON-GOVERNMENT

The Right to Food (RTF)

F

CATEGORY

F Framework

A structured plan or system that outlines key principles or components for implementing a policy.

DESCRIPTION

A legal framework defining and advocating for the right to food, addressing food insecurity, and promoting policies that protect individuals' access to nutritious food. Includes resources to learn more about the right to food in Canada.

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