



**WORKING GROUP GUIDELINES
TASK FORCE ON HEALTH AND HOUSING
COVID-19 FOOD SECURITY WORKING GROUP**

PURPOSE:

- 1) To develop a food security plan; including funding, procurement and distribution options to provide safe and consistent food for vulnerable individuals¹, including those experiencing homelessness and seniors; and
- 2) To ensure that all Nanaimo residents have access to safe, culturally acceptable, nutritionally adequate diet through a sustainable food system that maximizes self-reliance and social justice.

OBJECTIVES:

Supports the mandate of the Health and Housing Task Force on community food security issues and related policy development, including the development of a Food Security Plan that incorporates the following:

1. Identifies and makes recommendations regarding funding opportunities to enhance food security for vulnerable populations;
2. Facilitates and coordinates a collective community approach to food security for homeless and vulnerable populations in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic;
3. Recommends strategic actions and specific policy/by-law changes to support and enhance community food security;
4. Encourages innovation and community development by providing information to local organizations (e.g. research, grant information);
5. Includes the needs and perspectives of individuals and communities who are marginalized by the current food system (e.g., people living in poverty, farmers).

MEMBERSHIP:

Stakeholders representing, but not limited to:

¹ Vulnerable populations are groups and communities at a higher risk for poor health as a result of the barriers they experience to social, economic, political and environmental resources, as well as limitations due to illness or disability. In addition, in the context of a pandemic vulnerable populations may include infants and young children and women, seniors, people with compromised immune systems or chronic illness, disabled, and those experiencing homelessness.

- Up to four (4) members of the Health and Housing Task Force
- Emergency food service providers
- Food advocacy organizations
- Food producers (farmers) and processors
- Social service advocates and/or providers
- School District 68
- Vancouver Island University
- Relevant labour organizations
- Food industry (production, retail and/or food services)
- Those directly experiencing food insecurity
- City of Nanaimo staff

Chair (rotating) – Member of the Health and Housing Task Force

MEETING FREQUENCY:

Meetings will be held weekly by teleconference until June 1, 2020, at which time the schedule will be reviewed.

STAFF SUPPORT:

The following City Departments will provide support to the Working Group as needed:

- Community Planning