

Nanaimo Foodshare

Food Policy Council

Presentation: Jen Cody



What is a Food Policy Council?

A Food Policy Council is an innovative **collaboration between community organizations, local government, and community members** who work together to:

- Facilitate networking and information sharing
- Coordinate stakeholders response to community food and nutrition security
- Act as a food and nutrition security advisory for local government and others
- Support official community plans, municipal planning, and regional growth strategy as needed

Why a Food Policy Council?

Create opportunities for coordinated and strategic food security planning and action among stakeholders, which will:

- improve efficiency,
- maximize existing resources, and
- reduce redundancies among community organizations
- Create dialogue, policy recommendations and action that support City in addressing City priorities that benefit from Food and Agriculture Policy (eg, climate change mitigation)

Policy areas important for municipalities

Areas of coordination and action can include:

- Healthy food access
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Local food economic development
- Reconciliation
- Food waste reduction
- And other food and nutrition security issues

Food Policy Councils support City policy

Help fulfill the City of Nanaimo's food security goals and policies outlined in the City of Nanaimo's Official Community Plan, including:

- "The need to protect farmland and increasing food growing opportunities;
- The need for local food infrastructure;
- The need for more and better access to fresh healthy food and community food assets;
- The potential to expand the value of the local food economy"

History leading to the proposal

When COVID hit, the city mobilized staff to support food security. Two staff facilitated the Emergency Food Working Group of the Health and Housing Committee.

Out of working group report came the recommendation to support establishing a Food Policy Council.

December 2020, council approved a City of Nanaimo Staff participation in the Nanaimo Food Policy Council as non-voting members and include one council member.

Past and Current activities to establish the FPC

- Funding for Food and Nutrition security network attained Jan 2021
- Ongoing monthly meetings convened
- Initial discussions of network in participation and development of Food Policy Council
- Direct preparation and planning for inclusive approach to the FPC of all stakeholder including people with lived experience

Example of Direct support to City of Nanaimo

- The Food Policy Council provides input to municipal/regional governments and staff about issues of concern

Provided support and research to environment committee members regarding agriculture's role in mitigating climate change and tools to measure this role (carbon sequestration)

Ongoing follow up and partnership with city staff in developing the Food Policy Council

Relationship of NFPC with City of Nanaimo

- The Food Policy Councils are funded through diverse sources of funding

Nanaimo Foodshare is willing to dedicate \$5000/year towards staff time to contribute to the coordination of the FPC

Nanaimo Foodshare is willing to work with community partners and the City of Nanaimo to obtain additional funding to fully support the FPC

Our Proposal

The City of Nanaimo grant Nanaimo Foodshare \$10,000 as bridging funding while community stakeholders identify additional funding sources

Thank you

