Re: Item No. 15.1.3

HALIFAX

February 6, 2024

Part B of the JustFOOD Halifax Action Plan

Implementation Strategies

Item # 15.1.3

Leticia Smillie, Community Safety

Origins

March 7th, 2023 Regional Council:

- Approved **Part A**: JustFOOD Halifax Action Plan & the priority recommendations and workplan for **Part B**
- Made HRM a signatory to the **Milan Urban Food Policy Pact**

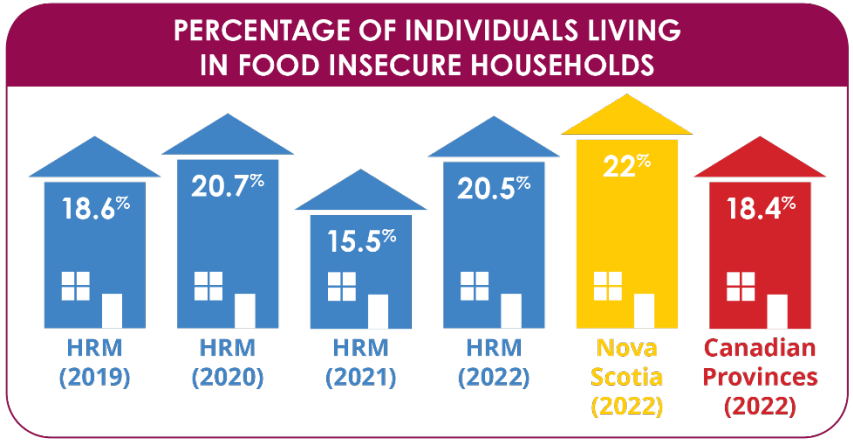
and a decade+ of collaboration with the Halifax Food Policy Alliance towards a healthy, just, & resilient food system

Collaboration & Collective Impact

Baxter Research Group
research/action/design

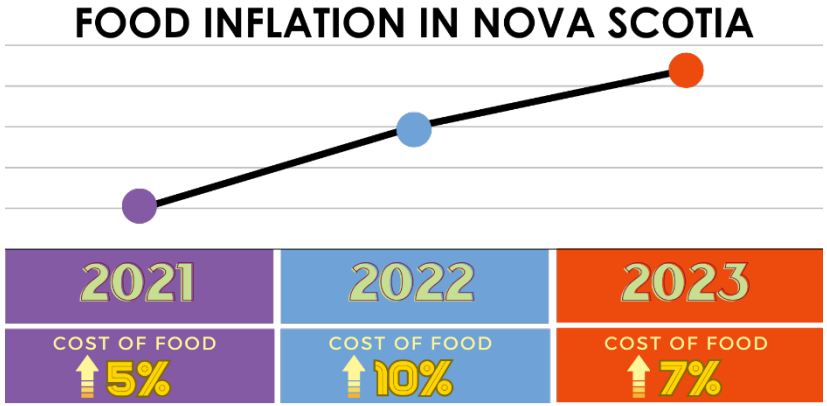
Greater Need for Collective Action

⇧ HOUSEHOLD FOOD INSECURITY



- > 1:5 HRM households
- ⇧ in racialized & households with children

COST OF LIVING CRISIS



Source: Statistics Canada Consumer Price Index

Growing Capacity for Change

- **Regionally Focused** with advocacy for income supports, universal school food, resiliency across food system
- **Community Based** with shift from “charity” to a localized food system with choice, dignity, and sovereignty over food
- **Municipally Championed** with continued investment as “municipal food entrepreneur” & Milan Pact signatory
- **Collectively Advanced** with ongoing efforts to bring in missing actors including Province: NS Food & Beverage Strategy and major food businesses

Part A → Part B (Year 1)

PART A

- origins, context, community engagement, & 56 recommendations

+ Year 1 priority recommendations

PART B

- Implementation Strategies for Year 1 (2024/25) Priorities including roles, resources, outcomes, next steps & KPIs

HALIFAX

Council Approved Year 1 Priorities

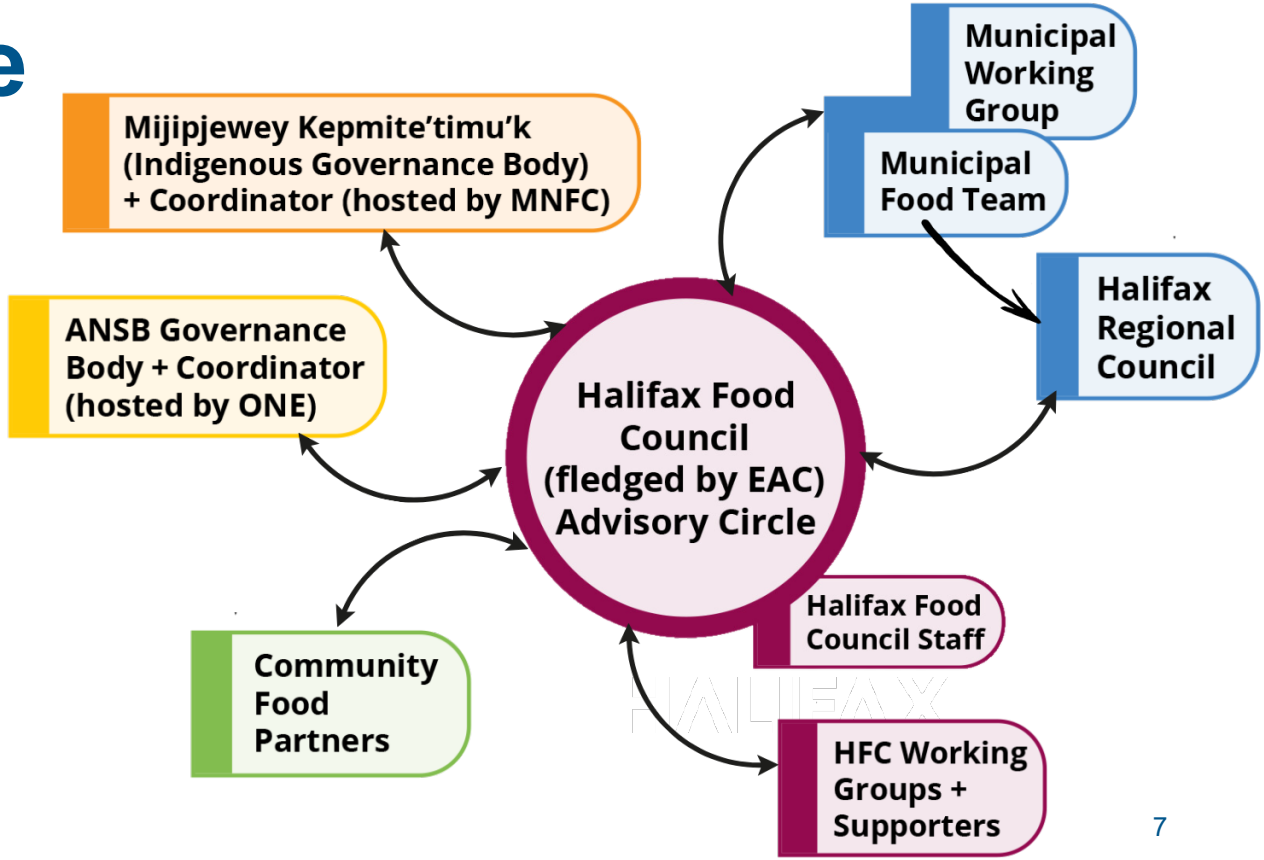
PRINCIPLES

- Governance
- Social and Economic Equity
- Food Production
- Food Supply, Processing, and Distribution
- Health, Wellness, and Resilience
- Food Waste

YR1 PRIORITIES

- ✓Food Council & KPIs
- ✓ Indigenous Food Advisory
- ✓ ANSB Food Council
- ✓ Virtual Hub & Food Map
- ✓ Community Food Grant
- ✓ HRM assets for food
- ✓ Community Plots & Gardens
- ✓ Emergency Food Planning
- ✓ Municipal Food Lens

Collaborative Governance



Part B 2024/25 Initiatives & Objectives

- 15 Strategies = roles, budgets, outcomes, & KPIs
- HRM to continue to provide core funding, to be leveraged for other funding and support to expand scope & impact
- delivers priority recommendations while increasing food literacy and community capacity for action beyond the initiatives, leveraging social return on municipal investment

Municipally Led Initiatives

- Investing in municipal capacity for action, required for:
  - municipal food lens,
  - municipal recommendations,
  - broader priorities i.e. emergency response, homelessness, climate, etc.

Urban Ag Specialist- $103,000
Food & Climate Specialist- $00,000

GROWING MUNICIPAL CAPACITY FOR ACTION

- Grow municipal food team to 4 FTE (+ urban ag specialist, emergency food, & food specialist)
- Build capacity & food lens through municipal working group(s)
- Collaborate with Parks & Rec, Planning, Solid Waste, Environment & Climate Change, EMO, Horticulture, IT, Corp Comms, & other departments.

Municipally Led Initiatives

- Increasing opportunities for food production on municipal land & connecting land with gardeners,
- Increasing use of municipal assets for food production, access, and literacy

Community Orchard-	$8,800
Community Plots-	$41,400
Community Garden Grants-	$40,000

MAXIMIZING MUNICIPAL ASSETS FOR FOOD

- Fund & resource new Community Plots & existing Community Gardens Programs
- Launch Community Orchard & Vermicompost Pilots
- Create directory of municipal sites for food distribution
- Launch backyard sharing matchmaking program and land sharing resources

Municipally Led Initiatives

- Advancing partnerships with trusted community organizations to support emergency response,
- Maximizing emergency food truck to support bringing food into vulnerable communities for regular programs and during emergencies

Food Truck Coordinator- $00,000

STRENGTHENING EMERGENCY FOOD PLANNING

- Hire Food Truck Coordinator
- Work with Second Harvest to match supply with demand & maximize emergency food truck for Community Food Distribution Pilot
- Advance Community Food Partner agreements
- Advance Emergency Food Playbook
- Explore connection between Food & Climate

Collaborative Initiatives

- Meeting commitment to support Halifax Food Council and Indigenous and ANSB sovereignty & governance,
- Funding low-barrier grants & support for community initiatives
- Sharing progress of JustFOOD & space for ongoing collaboration

Food Council-	$251,500
Food Grants-	$186,000
ANSB-	$105,500
Indigenous-	$52,600

FORMALIZING GOVERNANCE & ESTABLISHING COMMUNITY GRANTS

- Stand-up Halifax Food Council (EAC fledge) to oversee JustFOOD
- Resource HFC: 2 FTE & funds for operating and community participation
- Establish Community Food Grants
- Fund ANSB FTE, Advisory, & Pilots
- Fund Indigenous FTE & Advisory
- Expand Virtual Food Hub
- Progress Monitoring Framework

Collaborative Initiatives

- Working together to increase quality data and understanding of assets, opportunities, and vulnerabilities in our food system through asset mapping, equity indexes, and JustFOOD Monitoring Framework

Food Asset Map- $25, 300

UNDERSTANDING FOOD RESOURCES & COMMUNITY VULNERABILITIES

- Advance the Halifax Food Asset Map
- Work with municipal & community partners (Public Safety, HalifACT, Planning, United Way, FeedNS, Province, Public Health, and others) to better understand community vulnerabilities & inequities

Collaborative Initiatives

- Exploring dignified access alternatives to charitable food
- Supporting inclusion for the most vulnerable food system workers
- Advocating & connecting to programs crucial for positive food system change

Migrant Worker Pilots- $42,000
FeedNS Pilots- $000,000

COLLABORATING TOWARDS FOOD SYSTEM CHANGE

- Outreach to NS Food & Beverage Strategy leadership
- Tap into Milan Urban Food Policy Pact
- Support Regional Food Hub
- Partner with FeedNS for Social Supermarket & Rural Food Pilots
- Partner with NOII to support migrant workers
- Continue support for Mobile Food Market
- Advocate for income supports & universal school food

Budget

Total Budget to deliver Part B:	$1,310,000
Municipal Ask for 2024/25:	**$856,000**
Current Budget Allocation:	**$334,000**
Proposed for 2024/25 BAL:	**$522,000***

*** delivery of Part B in 2024/25 contingent on this funding**

Annual Municipal budget for continued implementation of JustFOOD for next three years estimated at $900,000

Next Steps, if fully funded

Implement Part B, dependant on Regional Council approval

2024

JANUARY 2024
- Present Part B to Regional Council

FEBRUARY-MARCH 2024
- Advance Part B incl. HFC & Community Food Grants
- Consultants develop prelim TOR for HFC
- Advance Monitoring Framework

APRIL 2024 – YR1 COMMENCES
- Budget for 2024/25
- Hire for Municipal & HFC Food Teams

JULY 2024
- Stand up HFC

NOVEMBER 2024
- Launch Community Food Grants

2025

JANUARY 2025
- HFC Update to Regional Council + 2025/26 Priorities & Budget

APRIL 2025
- Begin Year 2 Implementation

Recommendation

1. Accept and approve Part B of JustFOOD Halifax Action Plan;
2. Approve in principle the proposed annual budget request and resources for the ongoing implementation of JustFOOD; and
3. Direct $522,000 for the implementation of Part B as an option over budget on the 2024/25 BAL

Clarification from Community Safety ED Bill Moore

Thank you & Questions