



# Food Sustainability Dialogues

Session 4  
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm



COLLABORATIVE

# Housekeeping

- Breakout groups will be 30 minutes long, occurring simultaneously.
- We encourage you to use your video and mic to engage in discussion.
- Keep your mic off to prevent feedback and disruptions, when not speaking.
- There will be a plenary session after the group discussion, where a member from each group will report back key takeaways from the discussion.
- There is a live transcript function that you can toggle on & off for the plenary part of the session.
- The Plenary session recording will be available after today. We will be putting together a report of what we heard in the breakout groups and sharing it with all of you.
- We encourage you to check out our website and join our Collaborative. Go to [Ontariofoodcollaborative.ca/join](https://Ontariofoodcollaborative.ca/join)

# Moderators



**Carolyn Webb**

Network Coordinator, Sustain Ontario



**Nikita Scringer**

City Manager – Calgary, Fresh Routes



**Angela Picot**

Food Literacy Coordinator, The SEED

# Breakout Groups

## **Breakout 1 – Food Literacy in Schools**

Bill 216: Food Literacy for Students Act proposes amendments to the Education Act that would require school boards to offer experiential food literacy education and healthy eating for Ontario students in every grade, from grade 1 through grade 12. The courses of study would need to ensure that students are given opportunities to grow food, prepare food and learn about local food.

In some communities, programs that provide this type of hands-on food literacy education are already being offered through partnerships between schools, farmers, government agencies and non-profit organizations. From schoolyard gardens and farmer-led workshops to farm to cafeteria programs, the models and activities differ for each school and community.

What can OFC members do to support school boards in developing food literacy programming?



# Breakout Groups

## **Breakout 2 – Food Access**

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, food security has become an increasingly urgent concern. Many barriers to the regular access to safe, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food have been amplified during this crisis. In response, organizations and governments may be exploring different ways to increase food security. This investment in food security programming and planning has the potential to support not only an emergency response to food insecurity, but also long-term community food security. Local governments considering investing time, money and resources into food security plans and programming need to identify the challenges or barriers they aim to undertake and select approaches that will effectively address those challenges.

Imagine you are a member of a local government looking to support food security programs in a community where transportation is known to be a key barrier to many residents' ability to access healthy food, due to high transportation costs, limited transit options and long travel times to grocery stores. These challenges have been exacerbated by the pandemic through business and transit restrictions as well as impacts on household income. Beyond funding, what other supports can local government provide to community-based action on food security issues?

# Breakout Groups

## **Breakout 3 – Food Waste**

Over 60% of Ontario's food waste is sent to landfills. The Province has previously discussed banning food waste from disposal, including both landfills and incinerators, to increase diversion of this material and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Much of this material is expected to end up in Green Bin

programs and composting facilities. While this could have positive environmental impacts including reducing methane gas emissions from landfills, it is unclear if a disposal ban will promote the reduction and prevention of food waste.

If the Provincial government moves forward with this, what key challenges, actions and policies should different sectors, both private and public, consider? What can government bodies and other organizations do to encourage a move beyond organics recovery (e.g. composting) towards a circular food economy?



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# Breakout Groups

30 minutes



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# Plenary

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Thank you!



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