

Annual Organizational Update

November 19, 2025



ONTARIO FOOD
COLLABORATIVE

Ontario Food Collaborative

- Links food waste reduction with **healthy eating**
- Is an association of waste management, public health, community-based and academic partners working to improve **food literacy** in Ontario
- **Mission:** be a resource that supports, educates, and empowers through advocacy, knowledge sharing, and network building focused on food literacy and food waste prevention to achieve a sustainable food system.

OFC

We believe that integrating **food waste awareness** into **food literacy programs** across diverse environments presents a valuable chance to minimize the loss of edible food throughout its journey—from production to purchase.

We take pride in the OFC's ability to bring together diverse voices across the food system.

why reducing food waste matters

Environmental Impact

- Food waste = wasted water, energy, and soil nutrients
- Reducing waste lowers methane emissions and greenhouse gases.

Economic Impact

- Households save money by buying only what they need.
- Businesses reduce costs through better food storage and handling.

Social Impact

- Cultivating a Culture of Sustainability: Reducing food waste encourages a more sustainable mindset. When we view food as a resource that should be used responsibly, it promotes environmental stewardship.
- Corporate Responsibility: Reducing food waste as part of corporate social responsibility programs can have a ripple effect, influencing other companies and encouraging broader systemic change so businesses are accountable for their waste practices.

Food Waste in Canada

- 396 kg of food waste per person per year (That's the weight of a full-grown horse!)
- 31% of avoidable wasted food is fruits and vegetables

Where Food Waste Happens

- Households: 47% of food waste
- Farms: 10% (Cosmetic imperfections, low demand)
- Processing and Packaging: 20%
- Grocery Stores: 10%
- Restaurants and Food Services: 9%
- Distribution: 4%

let's work together to reduce food waste and make a positive impact!

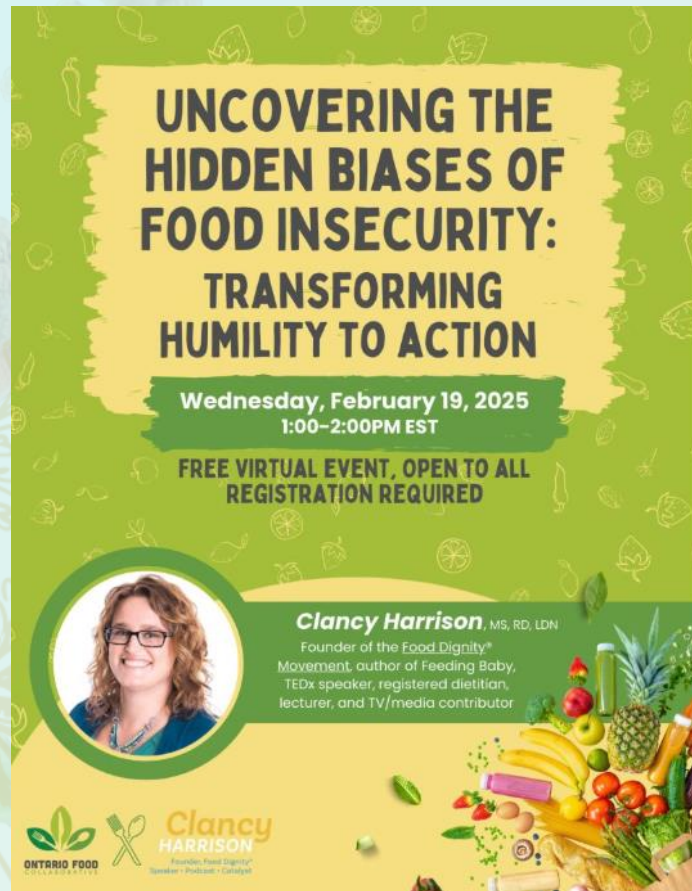
OFC Impact 10+ Years

- Support long-term waste management strategies and public health food literacy initiatives across Ontario.
- Equip municipalities with practical tools (e.g., Food Waste Audit Guide, Sustainable Solutions Handbook, webinars, and resource library).
- Foster collaboration and knowledge-sharing between municipalities, public health units, and community organizations.
- Empower municipalities to advocate for stronger food literacy and food waste reduction policies at provincial and local levels.

Testimonies

- *“OFC resources helped us launch a successful community food literacy session.”* – Region of Peel
- *“The webinars and shared materials have been instrumental in engaging our residents.”* – Halton Region
- *“We value the connections OFC creates – it saves us time and strengthens our local efforts.”* – Wellington County

Recap of February 2025 Webinar



Key Takeaways: Uncovering Hidden Bias of Food Insecurity

1. Hidden Biases Matter
2. Humility as a Starting Point
3. Barriers Beyond Bias
4. Shift from Charity to Empowerment
5. Collaboration Over Competition
6. Farmers as Partners
7. Proactive, Sustainable Solutions
8. Call to Action
 - Recognize biases, overcome barriers, and embrace collaboration.
 - True change requires systemic, community-driven solutions.

Recap of May 2025 Webinar

The poster has a brown background with a yellow and orange checkered border at the top. It features two portraits of speakers in starburst frames, a central illustration of a mobile market truck with fresh produce, and logos for 'Farmers' Truck' and 'grow?'. The text is in white and yellow, providing details about the speakers, the event's theme, and registration information.

Farmers' Truck **grow?**

MOVED BY COMMUNITY:

DRIVING FOOD JUSTICE WITH MOBILE MARKETS

FREDERIC LAFORGE
FOUNDER & CEO OF THE FARMERS' TRUCK

DR. PAMELA FARRELL
PROFESSOR OF EDUCATION AT UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY & FOUNDER OF GROW

LEARN HOW MOBILE MARKETS ARE RESHAPING FOOD ACCESS AND SUSTAINABILITY ACROSS CANADA AND BEYOND

Location: Zoom (Virtual)
When: Wednesday May 7th, 2025
Time: 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. EST

Cost: FREE
Pre-register to save your spot!

ONTARIO FOOD COOPERATIVE

Key Takeaways: Moved By Community – Driving Food Justice with Mobile Markets

1. Mobile Markets Promote Dignity and Choice
2. Innovation for Accessibility
3. Community Collaboration is Essential
4. Zero Waste Commitment
5. Beyond Charity: Systemic Change
6. Food Justice and Sustainability
7. Community-Driven Solutions
8. Hopeful Outlook

Recap of July 2025 Webinar



TACKLING FOOD WASTE TOGETHER:

INDUSTRY & COMMUNITY HOUSEHOLD STRATEGIES FOR A WASTE FREE AND AFFORDABLE FUTURE



JESSICA REGAN

Jessica is an award winning entrepreneur and thought leader on circular economy, waste recovery, and social impact business. She has previously consulted for numerous Fortune 500 corporations, start ups, and all four levels of government, including the United Nations. Jessica's work concentrates on developing highly scalable startups using business as a vehicle for social change. She is the Vice Chair of KASOW, and serves as the Director for the Git'gaat First Nation Economic Development Council.



Give food a second chance



ONTARIO FOOD COLLABORATIVE



LOVE FOOD hatewaste

MEGAN CZERPAK

Megan is a mission-driven communications leader with nearly two decades of experience advising organizations across North America and Europe. She is the Head of Communications at FoodMesh, where she leads national efforts to reduce food waste, including overseeing the Love Food Hate Waste Canada campaign. A former adjunct professor at the UBC Sauder School of Business, Megan has a passion for making complex ideas accessible and inspiring action through storytelling.



PRESENTATION DETAILS

Learn how British Columbia has teamed up with the IC&I sector and how adopting the 'Love Food Hate Waste' campaign can help close the loop on food waste prevention

WEBINAR DETAILS

Wednesday July 9th, 2025
12:00 - 1:00 PM EDT
Virtual - MS Teams
FREE

Key Takeaways: Tackling Food Waste Together – Industry & Household Strategies

1. Food Waste is a Major Challenge
2. Building a Food Recovery Ecosystem (FoodMesh)
3. Household Food Waste (Love Food Hate Waste Canada)
4. Behavior Change Works
5. Systemic & Community Benefits
6. Final Message
 - Food waste reduction is about environmental responsibility, affordability, and resilience.
 - Everyone can contribute—one meal, one household, one community at a time.



Beyond the **Green** Bin Manual

A brand-new digital toolkit developed in collaboration with the Ontario Food Collaborative (OFC), York Region (The Regional Municipality of York), and York Region Food Network, in partnership with Environment and Climate Change Canada.

This one-of-a-kind toolkit is:

- 📖 Part manual – guiding partnership-building between municipalities and community organizations, packed with worksheets and templates
- 👉 Part communications pieces – intended to promote food waste reduction tips and stats
- 🎨 Fully researched, beautifully designed, and ready to use, thanks to a highly motivated and passionate project team.



Get involved!

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Join Us as a Partner or Volunteer

- Have an interesting project you want to work on with the OFC?
Visit ontariofoodcollaborative.ca/partnership/
- Want to volunteer your time working on exciting 2026 OFC projects?
Visit ontariofoodcollaborative.ca/volunteer/

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Working Groups – Call for Volunteers

We've identified five areas where we need volunteers to help advance our work.

- Events
- Partnerships
- Communications
- Advocacy



Thank you!

Heidi Levitzky

Chair, Steering Committee

Ontario Food Collaborative

ontariofoodcollaborative.ca

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