



# 2021

# ANNUAL REPORT



*For fiscal period ending December 31, 2021*



# YORK REGION FOOD NETWORK

## Acknowledges

We work on the traditional territories of the Wendat, the Haudenosaunee, the Mississauga's of the Credit and the Anishinaabe peoples, and are part of the Williams Treaties and Treaty 13. We acknowledge the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation as our closest Indigenous community.

We also recognize that many of our practices including our organizational structure, the seeds we plant, the food we prepare, the ways we educate and our methods of growing, harvesting, preparing and sharing food came to these lands through the ongoing process of colonialism. We seek to hold this understanding in our interactions and engagements with this land and its people as we are all treaty people and play a role in reconciliation.



# THE YEAR IN REVIEW

As we moved into year two of this global pandemic, York Region Food Network was presented with no shortage of challenges, and endless opportunities to question the status quo, propose new ways of doing and advocating for lasting change.

Throughout 2021, York Region Food Network has been able to push forward many new initiatives that are building infrastructure for coordination and change within the local food system. In January 2021, we launched the **York Region Youth Food Committee**, an arm of the **York Region Food Council** that ensures youth, between the ages of 18 and 30 years, have a space to share their voices.

During the year, we released our **Narratives from the Frontlines** research report and oversaw a food security research project for the food sector. We also made sure there was more visibility and awareness about the reality of food insecurity in York Region with regular opinion pieces in the newsletter, as well as presentations and conversations with elected officials. The **Just Recovery** campaign, in partnership with the **Social Planning Council of York Region**, also flourished and pushed the conversation forward on better ways of producing social change such as social procurement.

Overall, York Region Food Network has continued to cement our place in York Region as a regional leader in food security. Through our services that prioritize choice to the expansion of our program sites and with the dedication and commitment of our staff, volunteers and supporters, York Region Food Network continues to work towards building social inclusion and tackling food insecurity.

*Kate Greavette*  
*Executive Director*

*Suzette Seveny*  
*Chair of the Board of Directors*

# PROGRAMS



**Food Access**



**Urban  
Agriculture**



**Good Food Box**



**Food Skills  
Education**



**Systems  
Change**

# IMPACTS

## Food Access

With the continued COVID19 threat in 2021, York Region Food Network mobilized to offer grocery gift cards and fresh meals throughout the year. Without missing a day of service delivery, we have served over 20,000 meals this year via our takeaway breakfast program and through partnerships with Hope House Community Hospice, Canadian Mental Health Association and Aurora United Church's Rise and Shine program.



# IMPACTS

## Good Food Box

With lots of support from staff and volunteers, York Region Food Network's Good Food Box program continued to operate twice monthly in 2021.

Through the expansion of partnerships and drop-off sites, we have distributed 4903 Good Food Boxes.



# IMPACTS

## Urban Agriculture

Despite COVID19 restrictions, in 2021 York Region Food Network had the opportunity to open up our five community gardens. Over the course of the growing season, we engaged 1749 people in our urban agriculture program. Community members grew food at our Aurora Allotment Garden, Newmarket Allotment Garden, Newmarket London & Main Community, Firehall Growing to Give Garden and Vaughan City Hall Community Garden. Workshops were offered virtually throughout the year, and we have been finding demand for community garden spaces is at an all-time high.

At the end of 2021, we acquired a third garden space in Vaughan that is being transformed into our Compost Learning Hub demonstration site.





# IMPACTS

## Systems Change

York Region Food Network continues to be a regional leader in systems change – working towards a more coordinated food system and advocating for a better food system for all.

In 2021, we launched the Youth Food Committee, a subcommittee of the York Region Food Council that is made up of youth between the ages of 18 and 30 years. We also released *Narratives from the Frontlines: Providing Emergency Food in York Region During COVID19*, a research report that captures stories of service providers during the first and second wave of COVID19. The release of this research report is one exciting step that we took in 2021 to ensure that we have the data we need as a sector to advocate for lasting change. In partnership with the 3C Emergency Food Access Cluster Table, we also coordinated a sector-wide food security data research project to be released in 2022.

Throughout the year, the York Region Food Council has engaged 417 community members, organizations and policy makers through four community events, three workshops, 25 meetings with elected officials and decisions makers, 10 opinion pieces and by supporting multiple research projects and networks.



# OUR FUNDERS



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BENEFITS THIS ORGANIZATION  
AND YOUR COMMUNITY.*

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# Canada



An agency of the Government of Ontario  
Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario



**community food centres**  
CANADA good food is just the beginning



## AT A GLANCE

|                     | 2021    | 2020    |
|---------------------|---------|---------|
| TOTAL ASSETS        | 307,741 | 384,764 |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES | 84,073  | 164,082 |
| NET ASSETS          | 223,668 | 220,682 |
| TOTAL REVENUE       | 878,393 | 761,443 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES  | 875,407 | 663,176 |
| EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) | 2,986   | 98,267  |

*Complete Audited Financial Statements  
are available upon request*

# THANK YOU

York Region Food Network would like to thank the over 250 individual donors who supported our operations and administration. Without your support, day-to-day operations would be impossible.

We would also like to thank the following for their generous financial and in-kind support:

605485 Ontario Limited  
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