

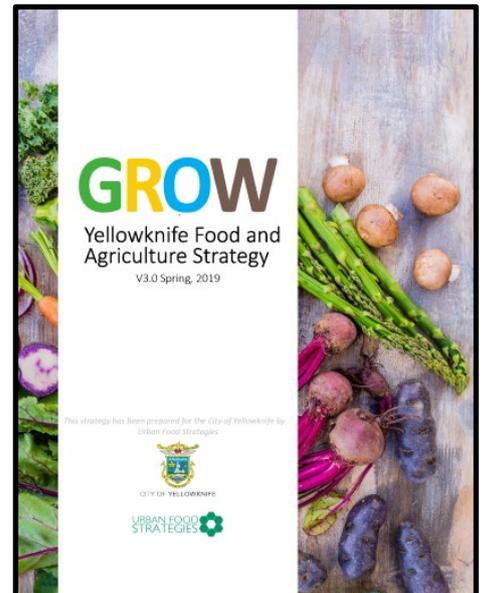


Envisioning a Yellowknife Food Hub

In 2019, the City of Yellowknife released [‘GROW’, Yellowknife’s first municipal agriculture and food strategy](#), a plan to build a vibrant and resilient local food economy in the city. ‘GROW’'s vision is “a just and sustainable food system in Yellowknife is rooted in a healthy community, where everyone has access to adequate and affordable nutritious food; more food is grown and harvested locally; and food production policies and infrastructure are in place to support an economically viable, diverse, and ecologically sustainable local food system.”

To advance this vision, the City of Yellowknife, and Wilfrid Laurier University researchers have partnered to identify opportunities and barriers for local food infrastructure in Yellowknife.

The purpose of this research is to engage community members to envision a food hub model that meets local needs and aspirations for a flourishing local food economy.



What is a food hub?

Food hubs connect producers and consumers in a community or region. They have assets, such as physical buildings or online platforms that support the local food economy by providing a central space for trade. They can also support marketing and distribution of local and regionally grown food. While many food hub models are designed to address local food system issues, food hubs have a broad definition so communities can innovate and co-create models that best suit their needs.

Although food hubs may have different business and governance models, they have similar values and visions- to support small- and medium-sized local producers and to create positive social, economic, and environmental impacts throughout the community.

Food hubs typically offer human resources and marketing supports needed to support local buying and selling and the physical infrastructure needed to produce, harvest, process, and package local food products. The services and infrastructure food hubs provide depend on the vision and needs of each community.



What are the benefits of food hubs?

Food hubs provide many benefits to communities such as economic development and jobs; access to affordable and healthy local food; and more reliable access to food in the event of extreme weather, economic, social and health events. Food hubs help stimulate the local economy by simplifying the supply chain, and provide support for food production/processing businesses, by marketing, organizing, and connecting small- and medium-sized producers directly with a larger and more diverse consumer base. This makes everyone more competitive and economically viable. Food hubs also offer producers and entrepreneurs essential infrastructure and supports to establish food-based businesses. Jobs are created when food businesses become more profitable and when the capacity increases to produce and exchange larger quantities of food.

In the face of uncertainty, access to local food helps to reduce dependence on national and international food supplies. This is particularly important in Yellowknife where many families rely mainly on foods imported from southern Canada and abroad. Food hubs, especially those with a vision to support a sustainable food system, encourage producers to grow food using sustainable and ethical practices. This can lead to creative ways to improve and use urban green spaces.

Some examples of food hubs include:

- [Alaska Food Hub](#)
- [The Stop Toronto](#)
- [Fireweed Food Co-op](#)

Examples of infrastructure that may be found in food hubs:

- Commercial Kitchen(s)
- Cold storage facility
- Store
- Central market area
- Washing and grading facilities
- Shared farm implements/tool sheds
- Online buy/sell platforms
- Food innovation lab
- Delivery vehicles
- Composting facilities
- Packaging and labeling equipment
- Office space

For more information visit: yellowknife.ca/foodies



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

