



Sovereignty Gardens

A community grow & share initiative

Imagine if our rooftops, backyards, and laneways were used to grow food for the most vulnerable.

What if we could...

- Empower individuals? • Promote civic responsibility?
- Start a food revolution? • Create resilient communities?
- Cultivate food security? • Achieve zero hunger?

Why we need this initiative now:

- Food security experts are warning the global pandemic could lead to supply shortages, higher prices and a growing nutrition gap between rich and poor.
- One in eight households across the country is food insecure; this represents 4.4 million people, the largest number recorded since Canada began monitoring food insecurity. This number does not include people living on First Nations reserves, some remote northern areas, or the homeless.
- According to Nick Saul, CEO of Community Food Centres: Our food banks don't have the capacity to deal with community demand, saying that even before the COVID-19 outbreak, the charitable sector was "not coming close" to addressing the need.

Pilot Project: A Call to Action

We are asking Ontarians, who are willing and able, to cultivate their own fruit and vegetable gardens.

Our goal is to provide fresh produce to local food banks, supporting underserved communities in response to overwhelming economic hardship and compromised nutritional needs.

The intention is to mimic the success of the "Victory Gardens" of past generations. By the end of WW2 there were over 200,000 Victory Gardens in Canada, producing 57,000 tonnes of vegetables.



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We have a clear path forward

Our Objectives:

- To provide immediate food security for under-served communities in Ontario through collective community action and strategic partnerships;
- Empower communities by fostering a culture of resiliency through urban agriculture;
- Demonstrate the case for a transformative and resilient food system, and ultimately, food sovereignty, through local, sustainable, and decentralized production and distribution.

The Process:

- **Phase 1:** We will develop partnerships from across the sectors including:
 - food banks
 - municipal governments
 - urban farmers
 - property developers
 - non-profit organizations
 - industry associations
 - consultants
 - financial institutions
 - food distributors
- **Phase 2:** We will launch the pilot project to establish business and operating models, including the expected return-on-investment.
- **Phase 3:** We will create an outreach strategy to engage communities across the province.
- **Phase 4:** We will build a high profile campaign that will celebrate the successes of the program, the partners, the growers, and the local food movement.
- **Phase 5:** We will build upon the success of the pilot project and develop a long-term growth strategy.



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