



February 3, 2022

City Council of Guelph
1 Carden Street
Guelph, Ontario
N1H 3A1

To City Council,

Re: Our Food Future and Guelph Family Health Study at the University of Guelph

It is with great pleasure that we provide an update on the progress of Our Food Future and immensely productive interactions with the Guelph Family Health Study (GFHS) at the University of Guelph. This has been a strong relationship from the beginning where mutual interests aligned with the Nutritious Food Workstream. This letter details in brief our work together and significant leveraging opportunities that have come to fruition. These successes support the training of students for an increasingly competitive job market, production of tangible outputs for our families and communities in support of their health and high-quality research that advances the reputation of the City of Guelph and University of Guelph.

1. **Our Food Future** provides direct support for a PhD student within the GFHS to study local food policies and the retail environment that provides access to food. This work is ongoing and is anticipated to identify potential opportunities for policy changes to improve access to nutritious and healthy food and the quality of food available in the Guelph market.

Leveraging our engagement, we have been able to secure additional supports for research, training and knowledge mobilization totalling ~\$5.9M.

2. **Health Canada.** Enhanced engagement with Health Canada-Office of Nutrition Policy and Promotion (~100k, 1 year, 2021-2022)

a) **Cookbook.** Development of our 6th family friendly cookbook provides quick, simple and affordable recipes on the theme of plant-based proteins. The cookbook development brought to the table supports and contributions from Our Food Future, The Helderleigh Foundation, OMAFRA, George Brown College, Canadian Nutrition Society and Health Canada. This is also a tool supporting nutrition literacy and food skills. A national launch is planned for Nutrition Month, March 2022, in partnership with Health Canada.

b) **Food literacy tool.** Development of a new measure to assess food literacy among adults. This will be used to improve our understanding of food skills in Canada for use by Health Canada as well as other practitioners and researchers across Canada.

c) **Student (University) food security.** Food security at Canadian Universities is an area of growing concern. This work was led by University of Guelph Community Engaged Scholarship Institute (Elizabeth Jackson and Sam

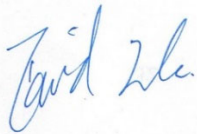
Laban) resulting in increased national awareness in partnership with Health Canada – ONPP and partnership building with other Universities across Canada. This funding initiative was made possible through the partnership between Our Food Future and the GFHS.

3. SMART Training Platform grant. The Smart Training Platform was awarded a 6-year (2021-2027), \$4.95M training grant comprised of a multi academic and Smart City (Guelph, Montreal, Opaskwayak Cree Nation-Town of Pas) network led by the GFHS (Dr. David Ma). The training grant will provide trainees with knowledge, skills, and experiential opportunities to tackle the challenges of healthy and smart cities through the lens of implementation science, the science of decision making, partnership building and evaluation.

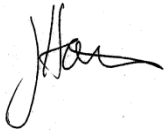
4. PHAC Community planning grant. In partnership with the Nutritious Food Workstream and led by the GFHS (Dr. Jess Haines), the team was awarded a \$765,000, 2-year (2022-2024) planning and development grant. This grant will support engagement with residents of the Onward Willow community to co-develop community initiatives to enhance access to nutritious foods and increase healthy eating. This is phase 1 funding with an opportunity to apply for longer term phase 2 funding.

Overall, these successes highlight the successful partnership between the City of Guelph and University of Guelph to further advance the mission of Our Food Future to build a vibrant community where we **learn, live, work and play**.

Sincerely,



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