

February 3, 2022

City of Guelph-County of Wellington Smart Cities Initiative Scott Stewart, Chief Administrative Officer City of Guelph 1 Carden St. Guelph, ON N1H 3A1

## **VIA EMAIL**

Dear Mr. Stewart,

I would like to provide this letter of support for Guelph-Wellington's *Our Food Future* project. This project is an ideal opportunity for cross-community collaboration to develop Canada's first circular food economy – a non-linear system where the social, economic and environmental value of the food we produce and consume is maximized. The project continues to strive to meet targets which will increase access to affordable nutritious foods, create new opportunities for circular business and collaborations, and increase circular economic revenue by recognizing the value of waste in the City of Guelph and County of Wellington.

Physical and economic access to nutritious food is essential to foster healthy eating patterns that meet nutrition requirements at every stage of life. Guelph-Wellington's *Our Food Future* project continues to be in alignment with Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health's strategic directions and the Ontario Public Health Standards.

Public Health will continue to play a lead role in projects devoted to increasing access to nutritious foods. To date, we have successfully led the completion of a food environment assessment (this will be available soon on the *Our Food Future* website). The assessment brings together local data and past research to provide a snapshot of food access in Guelph-Wellington that identifies strengths and opportunities. Public Health is committed to supporting the Our Food Future project by coordinating community engagement opportunities, developing an action plan for interventions, and evaluating programs to measure success.

Thank you,

Dr. Kyle Wilson Director – Information Systems & Chief Privacy Officer Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health