The FLEdGE Research Partnership and Centre for Sustainable Food System acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee, Anishnawbe, and Neutral Peoples. We thank the Haudenosaunee, Anishnawbe, and Neutral Peoples for allowing us to gather and work here.

Kitchener-Waterloo is located on the Haldimand Tract, which, on October 25, 1784, after the American Revolutionary War of Independence, was given to the Six Nations of the Grand River by the British as compensation for their role in the war and for the loss of their traditional lands in Upstate New York (www.sixnations.ca). Of the 950,000 acres given to the Haudenosaunee (six miles on either side of the Grand River, all the way along its length), only 46,000 acres (less than 5 per cent) remains Six Nations land (www.sixnations.ca).
Wilfrid Laurier University and The Centre for Sustainable Food Systems

The FLEdGE Partnership is associated with and supported by The Laurier Centre for Sustainable Food Systems (CSFS), a Wilfrid Laurier research centre dedicated to examining interconnected environmental, social and economic challenges facing the global food system. The CSFS brings together researchers studying these issues from across Laurier including Geography and Environmental Studies, Psychology, Biology, Global Studies, Religion and Culture as well as the School of Business and Economics.
# MEETING PROCEEDINGS: TABLE OF CONTENTS

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Dear FLEdGE Meeting Participant,

On behalf of the FLEdGE research group, I am delighted to welcome you to the FLEdGE: Food, Locally Embedded, Globally Engaged meeting at the Centre for Sustainable Food Systems at The Balsillie School of International Affairs. This week, FLEdGE partners from across Canada and around the world will gather to share information about their ongoing work, identify comparative research opportunities, share successes and challenges, and workshop shared projects. This SSHRC and Wilfrid Laurier University funded event marks the mid-point of the FLEdGE Partnership Grant, and I am eager to hear your ideas on where we take the partnership from here.

The first two days of the meeting will consist of presentations and discussions that focus on sustainable food systems work in four key areas: Hard and Soft Infrastructures, Food Growing, Indigenous Food Systems, and Food Policy and Assessment. Presenters from across the FLEdGE network will give short presentations about their work, respond to focused questions, and engage with the audience in discussion. This information sharing and discussion will allow us to set the stage for a facilitated visioning session for the FLEdGE project at the end of day 2.

The third day of the meeting will consist of meetings of the Innovative Governance and City Region Food Systems Metrics Working Groups and will be structured according to each group’s specific needs. If you are not already part of one of these working groups, we invite you to join whichever group best suits your interests.

Throughout the meeting, there will be ample time for networking and the informal sharing of information. Building strong relationships with all of our partners has been the cornerstone of our shared success thus far and I hope that this meeting will enable us to strengthen and grow our partnerships. As always, your feedback is invaluable and I hope that you will let us know what you think about the meeting programming and any aspect of the FLEdGE Research Partnership.
Thank you for your participation in this meeting and in the FLEdGE Research Partnership. I hope that you find the meeting both enjoyable and productive.

Alison Blay-Palmer  
Principal Investigator, FLEdGE: Food, Locally Embedded, Globally Engaged  
Director, Centre for Sustainable Food Systems  
Wilfrid Laurier University
I am personally delighted to bring greetings and welcome on behalf of the Wilfrid Laurier University community to all participants at this Food: Locally Embedded, Globally Engaged (FLEdGE) Research Partnership conference.

Laurier is home to more than 30 research centres and institutes across our institution that involve faculty, post-doctoral fellows, staff and students, who are actively engaged in many global interdisciplinary networks, including FLEdGE. Housed through Laurier’s Centre for Sustainable Food Systems and under the direction of Dr. Alison Blay-Palmer, the SSHRC supported FLEdGE Research Partnership is further strengthening our food systems through innovation, effective leadership and community engagement.

I want to especially welcome our guests who have travelled to Kitchener-Waterloo to attend this important and meaningful event. I am also encouraged to see so many of Laurier’s students engaged in research and knowledge mobilization experiences through presentations as part of the conference.

At this opportune time in Canada’s history as we establish future food policies, I wish you success in the conference, over the next few days, and look forward to hearing more about the next steps in building your research networks and impacts both at home and abroad.

All the best.

Robert Gordon  
Vice-President Research and Acting Provost,  
Wilfrid Laurier University
MEETING PROGRAM IN BRIEF

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 7, 2017

7:30am  Breakfast
8:30am  Welcome and Introductions
9:00am  Session 1: Hard and Soft Infrastructures I
10:40am  Break
11:10am  Session 2: Hard and Soft Infrastructures II
12:50pm  Lunch
2:20pm  Session 3: Food Growing
3:40pm  Break
4:10pm  Session 4: Indigenous Food Systems
5:15pm  Wrap Up
7:00pm  Dinner

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 8, 2017

7:30am  Breakfast
8:30am  Session 5: Food Policy and Assessment I
10:10am  Break
10:40am  Session 6: Food Policy and Assessment II
12:30pm  Lunch
2:00pm  Facilitated Session: Where do we take FLEdGE from here?
5:30pm  Wrap Up
7:00pm  Dinner

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 9, 2017

7:30am  Breakfast
8:30am  International Working Group Meetings/Presentations
10:30am  Break
11:00am  International Working Group Meetings/Presentations
12:30pm  Lunch
1:30pm  International Working Group Meetings/Presentations
3:00pm  Depart
IMPORTANT INFORMATION

KEY FACILITIES AND INFORMATION

The FLEdGE Meeting will take place at the Balsillie School of International Affairs (BSIA), an institute for advanced research, education, and outreach in the fields of global governance and international public policy. The Balsillie School of International Affairs (BSIA) is situated within the CIGI Campus and is affiliated with the Centre for International Governance Innovation an independent, non-partisan think tank with a uniquely global perspective.

The Balsillie School of International Affairs is located at 67 Erb Street West, on the southwest corner of Erb and Caroline Streets in Uptown Waterloo. All FLEdGE Meeting activities will take place within walking distance of the BSIA building.

The Delta Waterloo
The Delta Hotel is located at 110 Erb Street W. on the north side of the street, roughly two minutes west of the BSIA. Meeting participants from outside of the Kitchener-Waterloo area will stay at the Delta Hotel throughout the meeting. The Delta Hotel can be reached at (519) 514-0404.

Uptown Waterloo
The BSIA is conveniently located near the Waterloo Public Library, The Canadian Museum of Clay and Glass, and the Uptown Waterloo commercial area. To access the main business area of Uptown Waterloo, walk east on Erb Street West toward King Street then, head south.
FOOD THROUGHOUT THE MEETING

As part of our commitment to building sustainable food systems, we’ve worked with local caterers and restaurants to provide locally-sourced and sustainable food for conference participants wherever possible. On-site catering will be provided by Y-Café and Seven Shores Catering.

On Thursday, September 7th, a networking dinner will be hosted at Taco Farm, a local restaurant that is a favourite among FLEdGE partners/researchers in Waterloo. On Friday, September 8th, local brew pub Abe Erb, will host a casual BBQ in the CIGI courtyard beginning at 7pm.

There are many other dining establishments within walking distance of the BSIA, and more information is available in the Uptown Waterloo patio map provided in the FLEdGE Meeting registration package.

Getting to Taco Farm
Dinner on Thursday September 7th will take place at Taco Farm at 8 Erb Street West. From the BSIA, cross at the lights onto the north side of Erb Street and walk 5 minutes east to Taco Farm.
GETTING AROUND WATERLOO

Travelling to Toronto from Waterloo
VIA Rail and GO Transit offer service from the Kitchener Train Station at 126 Weber St W, Kitchener, to Union Station in Toronto. The Kitchener Train Station is a 10-minute taxi ride from the BSIA.

Taxi Services
The Kitchener-Waterloo Region has several taxi companies. All service the Kitchener Train Station and can be booked in advance or as needed:

Waterloo Taxi: 519-888-7777  www.waterlootaxi.ca
City Cabs: 519-747-7777  www.citycabs.ca/
United Taxi: 519-888-9999  www.unitedtaxi.ca/

Public Transit in the Waterloo Region
Public transit in Waterloo is run by Grand River Transit and schedules can be found at www.grt.ca. Several bus stops are located within walking distance of the BSIA and public transit fares are $3.25 per ride for adults.

Travelling to Pearson Airport
If have not already arranged transportation from Waterloo to Pearson Airport in Toronto through the FLEdGE Project Coordinator, please contact Amanda Di Battista at 226-772-3013.

Parking at the BSIA
There is no visitor parking at the Balsillie School of International Affairs and free parking in Uptown Waterloo is limited and strictly enforced. However, permit parking is available in the city-run parking lot at the Waterloo Train Station, directly across the street from the BSIA. Permits will be available at the BSIA front desk and at the FLEdGE registration desk in CIGI A-120.

PLEASE NOTE: in order to be reimbursed for your train or bus fare, you will need to provide proof-of-purchase receipt as well as your boarding passes/ticket. In order to be reimbursed for taxi fares or parking costs, please keep all itemized, proof-of-payment receipts.

TECHNOLOGY AND PRINTING

Wi-Fi Access at the CIGI Campus
The CIGI Campus guest wireless can be accessed through a two-step process:
STEP 1: Connect to the following Wireless Network Connection (SSID): Campus_Guest Network Security Key: CIGIengag3
STEP 2: Open your Internet browser and expect the Web authentication page. Use the following credentials: User Name: cigiguest Password: collaboration
Printing Services
While the CIGI Campus does not have public printing services, volunteers at the FLEdGE meeting would be happy to print your documents. Please speak with the FLEdGE Project Coordinator or any other FLEdGE Meeting volunteer. For those staying at the Delta Hotel, free printing services can be accessed in Business Centre.

Follow @FLEdGEResearch on Twitter
FLEdGE has an active Twitter account and we invite all FLEdGE partners to follow @FLEdGEResearch for announcements, news, items of interest, and important links to new research. During the FLEdGE Meeting, participants are encouraged to use #FLEdGE2017 to live tweet the meeting.

FACILITATION SERVICES AT FLEDGE
In order to work towards our goals of assessing the FLEdGE partnership and planning for the future of the project, we will be drawing on the expertise of Rebecca Sutherns from Sage Solutions, a facilitation consulting firm in Guelph, Ontario. Rebecca is a Certified Professional Facilitator who holds a PhD in Sustainable Rural Communities and has conducted strategic planning, stakeholder consultations, community-based research, coaching, and evaluation exercises for a range of clients around the world, in multiple sectors. She is also a gifted communicator, whose practical and engaging style, combined with strategic insight, has been appreciated by her clients for 20 years.

Rebecca will be on-site on Thursday, September 7th to help document and guide the discussion, and will lead a facilitated visioning session on Friday, September 8th in the afternoon. She will help us to answer the question “Where do we take FLEdGE from here?” and encourage us to think beyond the end of the FLEdGE SSHRC Partnership Grant.

FEEDBACK AND MESSAGE BOARDS
The FLEdGE Research Partnership is built on strong relationship and we are always looking for ways to strengthen our partnerships across communities and disciplines. If you have thoughts on what we are doing well or how we might improve on our partnership with you or your organization, please feel free to leave us a note on the FLEdGE Feedback Board. The Feedback Board will be centrally located near the registration table or at the back of the plenary room.

We also want to hear from you about your experience at the FLEdGE Meeting. Please take a few minutes to tell us what you think about the event by filling out the FLEdGE Meeting Feedback form, included in the registration package and available at the registration table.

Please note that the FLEdGE Meeting is a scent free event. Please be aware that participants have scent sensitivities and refrain from wearing strong perfumes.
FLEDGE MEETING PROGRAM

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 7, 2017

7:30am – 8:30am  Breakfast
CIGI Foyer

8:30am – 9:00am  Welcome and Introductions
Elaine Endanawas, Anishnawbe Kwe from Sheshegwaning First Nation on Manitoulin Island
Robert Gordon, Vice-President Research, Wilfrid Laurier University
Alison Blay-Palmer, Principal Investigator, FLEdGE
CIGI A-120

9:00am – 10:40am  Session 1: Hard and Soft Infrastructures
CIGI A-120
Chair: Jane Battersby

The possibilities and constraints of adopting a food systems lens
Trish Ballamingie, Phil Mount, and Nadia Ibrahim
Drawing on FLEdGE-funded research conducted by Nadia Ibrahim, this presentation will provide a brief overview of the value and meaning of a food systems approach, using Just Food to highlight its possibilities and constraints. Challenges include insufficient core funding (and corresponding reliance on grant funding), difficulty communicating long-term structural goals and a systems approach, and a siloed policy environment. But that very systems approach also facilitates programming across the food system: creating critical links between sustainable agriculture and food access; building fruitful partnerships with diverse groups; collaborating between and among non-profit and for-profit actors; and ultimately, playing a facilitative role in food systems development.

Spatialized urban food systems / Food as an infrastructure
Juliane Brandt
The presentation contributes to an understanding of the relation between the urban system and the food system focusing on the spatial dimension of urban food systems. It illustrates geographies of urban food systems posing the questions: How to describe an urban food system? How do the components relate and manifest? A systemic approach helps to describe connections between components with regard to related places, practices and actors. The urban food system components are spatialized using the examples of Kigali (Rwanda) and Da Nang (Vietnam), case cities of the trans-sectoral research project ‘Rapid Planning’ (RP). It perceives food systems as an urban infrastructure including trans-sectoral synergies between resource flows within an urban metabolism. The presentation, thus, also refers to food as part of an 'interactive infrastructures' in order to help to transform food systems towards functioning systems that produce healthy
food, provide income for (urban) farmers, accessibility to food for many income classes and allows for food waste valorization.

Canada’s Evolving Foodscape: Lessons from the Asia-Pacific
Gisèle Yasmeen

When I started working on “foodscapes” in 1991, my focus was very much on Thailand, where my food-related experiences there in the 1980s had been quite striking, leaving an indelible mark that beckoned for exploration. After completing my Ph.D. in 1996 I moved onto post-doctoral work in the Philippines and India, which enabled comparative work between the regions of South and Southeast Asia. After a career in government, I returned to food studies in 2014 and have begun comparing Canada and the Asia-pacific with respect to economically and environmentally sustainable livelihoods in the food system. This presentation will focus on some policy lessons learned on this journey.

The emergence of food system initiatives and collective impact in Quebec: Case studies contributing to practice and theory
Nii Addy

The collective impact framework has been widely touted to guide stakeholders seeking to collaboratively solve so called “wicked problems” (Rittel & Webber, 1973) or “grand challenges” (George et al., 2016), such as developing sustainable food systems (Hoey et al., 2017). While acknowledging the utility of the framework, critics have noted the need for further developing its theoretical foundation based on evidence from practice. Some argue that little attention has been paid to how partnerships for collective impact are initiated and evolve (Klempin, 2016), and there is limited guidance about how to implement various elements of the collective impact approach (Wolff, 2016). In our presentation, we outline how our case studies of resource sharing across jurisdictions, in Québec en Forme (QeF) at the provincial level, the Système alimentaire montréalais (SAM) at the regional level, and local initiatives by two communities in Montreal will inform practitioners seeking to implement collective impact elements for sustainable food systems, while contributing to the development of theory.

Modeling Food System Futures: Southwest BC Bioregion Food System Design Project
Kent Mullinix

The Institute for Sustainable Food Systems has developed an unprecedented, replicable methodology to assess the economic, environmental stewardship, food production, and food self-reliance potentials of regional food systems. Utilizing the best provincial and national data available to assess 14 indicators, our model compared contemporary land use and food production to scenarios in 2050 when the southwest BC population doubles. The model facilitates exploratory “what if” and trade-off analysis, providing critical information for planners, economic development officers, policy analysts, elected officials and local/ regional food system advocates. It can be applied to various scales and we are now working to expand modeled food system attributes, and make it more precise and “user friendly”. Revealing and compelling outcomes from its inaugural application will be presented.
Food system paradoxes and the brokerage organizations
Atefeh Ramezankhani
Among these malfunctioning aspects of the industrial food system, there are several paradoxes for which innovative system-level resolving pathways should be undertaken by collectivity of actors. These paradoxes include access and affordability in the world of abundant production, scaling and economic sustainability problems of proposed solution of alternative food systems, and inconsistency of tri-sector engagement in the food system solutions. Intervening market arrangements have become a critical way to introduce transformative mechanisms and specifically the role of specific organizations that act as catalysts in building and promoting such market-based projects are of high interest to both theory and practice. Drawing from the literatures of brokerage organizations -- by examining a leading food justice organization in Ontario, Canada -- we aim to enrich our understanding of diffusion of market-based solutions and role of brokerage mechanisms in resolving food system paradoxes. We find that broker organizations periodically switch focus between stakeholders on the supply and demand side to ensure balanced growth of a market-based initiative. Furthermore, we find that the brokerage organization is able to create and scale up its innovative food distribution model through bridging across the supply chain as well as sectors by combining innovation and practice across scales.

Procurement, social infrastructure, and the development of a community of practice in Alberta
Mary Beckie and Leanne Hedberg
In order for local food initiatives (LFIs) to have a transformative effect on the larger food system, greater levels of economic, organizational and physical scale are needed. One way for LFIs to reach the scale necessary to generate a more significant impact is through increased institutional procurement of local foods. But how do people and organizations come together to generate the social infrastructure required to shift food purchasing practices and processes? In this presentation, we report on an innovative community of practice consisting of institutional food buyers, large-scale distributors, regional online retailers, processors, producers, researchers, municipal and provincial government representatives within the Edmonton city-region that formed for the express purpose of “creating a positive community impact by getting more local foods on more local plates”. In describing the formation and first three years of the Alberta Flavour Learning Lab we examine the unique characteristics of this community of practice that has aided the development of a common framework for learning, understanding and joint action. In addition to the accomplishments to date, we also discuss the challenges faced by the Learning Lab and the strategies used to overcome them.
FarmWorks provides the opportunity for Nova Scotians to invest in local food: Investee outcome survey report

*Linda Best*

By the end of 2016, FarmWorks had loaned $1,575,000 to food-related businesses including farms, local food retailers and restaurants. This report summarizes survey results that gauge the economic and social impacts of these businesses, FarmWorks role in supporting them and clients’ assessment of opportunities and challenges. The results of the survey indicate that FarmWorks loans produce significant positive outcomes. Investment in food production is improving the rural economy and increasing the supply of delicious, nutritious, locally produced food for Nova Scotians.

Food Infrastructure and the Crossroads Resource Centre

*Ken Meter*

Community based food systems require supportive infrastructure that creates efficiencies in localized food trade. Several creative approaches have been devised at local and state levels. Indiana economic developers opted to coordinate activity through stronger local food networks. Maine food leaders opted for hyper-local opportunities, veering from a New England-wide approach. Hawaii food leaders draw upon constitutional protections for land and water as a Public Trust. South Carolina food leaders are opting for on-farm washing, packing, and cooling facilities to give farmers greater choice in marketing. Each approach expresses unique local conditions and emergence in complex adaptive food systems.

Food Counts: Food Systems, Food Sovereignty and the Politics of Report Card Indicators

*Alison Blay-Palmer and Charles Z. Levkoe*

In a recent report, the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems recognized that “current systems will be held in place insofar as these systems continue to be measured in terms of what industrial agriculture is designed to deliver, at the expense of many other outcomes that really matter in food systems”. In response, they call for the development of new indicators for sustainable food systems that are rooted in an alignment of social justice, support for local economies, ecological regeneration and democratic engagement. This paper reflects on the ways that report cards can serve as a practical tool to understand the current state of food systems, challenge food systems theory and (re)frame a future vision of justice and sustainability. In general, report cards aim to provide a lay of the land by bringing together relevant indicators, act as a benchmark to inform analysis, and identify data gaps that point to areas requiring further research. However, report cards are not politically neutral with many revealing implicit bias towards promoting a narrow set of objectives and neoliberal logics. Our analysis focuses on the development of the Food Counts food systems report card that attempted to bring together existing measures of social, environmental, and economic well-being as a tool to help researchers, policy makers, and practitioners examine Pan-Canadian food systems in a more comprehensive way. The report card used a food sovereignty framework to reframe food within an integrated systems perspective and make connections to a global movement for collective social change. Beyond its practical value, our analysis of the Food Counts report card also illuminates the limited kinds of data available, the privileging of scientific expertise over
traditional knowledge, the implicit assumptions about the meaning and value of certain indicators, and the reductionist nature of using data to quantify food systems.

**12:50pm – 2:20pm**  
*Lunch*  
CIGI Foyer

**2:20pm – 3:40pm**  
*Session 3: Food Growing*  
CIGI A-120  
Chair: Terry Marsden

### Kakisa Food Growing Projects  
**Melaine Simba and Andrew Spring**

In 2014, the Ka’a’gee Tu First Nation partnered with Wilfrid Laurier University and Ecology North, a territorial non-profit organization, to conduct a climate change and food security action plan for the community. The project encouraged community members to identify ways they could become more self-sufficient and food secure in the future. Community members spoke about creating more opportunities to educate youth on the land and transfer traditional skills to the next generation of harvesters, and about the importance of research and monitoring the health of the land. The community also identified gardening and growing food. Growing their own food would limit the amount of time they would need to travel to the store as well as the quantity they would need to buy there. Plus, by growing their own food they would have access to fresher and healthier options. The community of Kakisa has had experience with gardening in the past, but that knowledge and expertise comes and goes, as those individuals pass or leave the community. Now, three years into their most recent gardening experience, we reflect on the successes, barriers and needs to keep the community growing food.

### The Future of Agriculture in Hastings County Project  
**Peter Andree, Kim Bittermann, Louise Livingstone**

This research project has been designed in partnership with Harvest Hastings, a non-profit community organization that promotes local sustainable farming and forestry in Hastings County. The goal of the project is to understand the challenges to agricultural sustainability in the County from the perspective of farmers, with a particular view to the questions of farm succession and access to land for new farmers. The next stage of the project (fall 2018) will focus on how the community, including local officials and politicians, can better work together to address these challenges. Interviews with Hastings farmers revealed important place-based nuances, while also illustrating common challenges farmers face across Canada. These farmers struggle with economic and policy barriers to marketing their meat and produce. They are frustrated with corporate ownership in agriculture and with agricultural policies that they believe are designed to benefit large farms. They see agricultural land going out of production given the challenges facing the next generation. These farmers also demonstrate a high level of concern about the health and resiliency of their soils, but they struggle with the time and labour costs of maintaining them. Interviews with local officials, in contrast, tend to focus on positive stories: new market opportunities and new farm-based businesses emerging in the County. Our preliminary analysis suggests that there is a major divide in perceptions of agriculture and its possibilities in Hastings
County, but that there is also much common ground in terms of the vision of the future. We argue that any efforts to build community cohesion around sustainability in food and agriculture will need to take seriously the ongoing economic crisis in agriculture, and its emotional toll on farm families, as a starting point.

Supporting sustainable communities through erva-mate agroforestry systems

André Lacerda and Evelyn Nimmo

In Southern Brazil, traditional agroforestry systems, which include the cultivation of erva-mate (a tea commonly consumed in Southern Latin America), are being threatened by increased pressure on farmers to deforest their lands and move toward monocrop systems. As a result, rates of deforestation in the region have risen dramatically and small-holder farmers are facing issues related to food security, poverty, and loss of traditional knowledge. Our team is working with local community members, government institutions and NGOs to document these traditional life-ways and develop networks of knowledge to support local community members in sharing knowledge about food heritage and culture and supporting sustainable practices that ensure the continuation of traditional food procurement practices and natural forest ecosystems.

Models for new farmer training

Laura Schreiner

This project, a partnership between FLEdGE, Collaborative Regional Alliance for Farmer Training (CRAFT) and Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario (EFAO), scans new farmer training models in the global north. Emergent categories are developed to explore the various structures of these models. These structures are assessed against some of the ethical, legal and human resource concerns that have been raised in recent years over unpaid/underpaid farm internships.

3:40pm – 4:10pm  Break
CIGI Foyer

4:10pm –5:15pm  Session 4: Indigenous Food Systems, Presentations and Discussion
CIGI A-120
Chair: Paul Taylor

Food Insecurity and Northern Indigenous food production/distribution

Vicki Blanchard, Bruce Sakakeep, Connie Nelson

The myth: the world’s population would outgrow food production

The global truth: accessibility and cost is the leading cause of food insecurity and one-third of all isolated First Nation communities reside north of Sioux lookout.

How one isolated community joined a municipality and urban First Nation tackle this issue.
Exploring community food-focused initiatives in a Northern Indigenous community: A case study of Cumberland House, SK

Vikki Schembri

This research explores the impacts of market and community garden initiatives on a Northern Saskatchewan Indigenous community. This case study employs an asset-based, solution-focused approach in a broader effort to study and acknowledge community-led food initiatives currently being pursued by Indigenous peoples across Northern Canada. In Canada’s North, the threat of food insecurity is very real for many Indigenous communities and residents. A complex web of social, political, economic, cultural, and environmental factors compromise market, traditional, and home-grown food sources; though, it is worth noting that how these factors play out and the severity of food insecurity is different within and across Inuit, Metis, and First Nations communities. Nonetheless, a common theme emerges: a lack of community agency and control is a major cause of food security erosion. Communities across the North are engaging with their food systems and maintaining/regaining control by initiating market and community gardens, greenhouses, food co-ops, the selling of country foods at the market, community kitchens, hunter support programs, among other actions. Studying community-led food initiatives and engaging with the people involved in them provides an opportunity for understanding community-level and -specific perspectives of, opportunities for, and barriers to building a secure and self-determined food system. As well, it is useful to know if/how these initiatives are promoting community and individual well-being. This research focuses on Cumberland House in Northern Saskatchewan, which is home to a market and a community garden. Data collection occurred on-site over a three-week period in August 2017. Interviews, document collection, and participant observation involving gardeners, non-gardeners, and garden organizers provided a community-level perspective of what impacts these gardens have had on the community and its members’ lives and well-being.

Fisheries, Fish, and Lake Health in the Northwest Territories

Kaitlin Kok

My research involves working with the community of Kakisa, NT to develop a community-based monitoring system to identify changes in the surrounding environment. As the community is highly dependent and connected to the land for their well-being, the environmental changes which have been noted by community members have created concern regarding their ability to continue traditional ways of living. Key concerns surround how environmental changes are affecting lake health, safety on the land, and impacting food security. The research will be completed with community members to identify these locations of environmental change and develop the baseline for change in the region.

5:15pm – 5:30pm  Closing Remarks

7:00pm  Dinner: Taco Farm
Advancing Sustainable Fisheries and Food Systems Governance in the Lake Superior Region

Charles Z. Levkoe, Kristen Lowitt, Gordon Hickey, and Connie Nelson

The Great Lakes are the largest group of freshwater lakes in the world. They contain over 150 fish species and numerous commercial, recreational, and Indigenous fisheries. Management authority is divided among the US and Canada federal governments, eight states, one province and more than a dozen major cities, while 29 Indian Tribes (USA) and 64 First Nations (Canada) also have complex governance responsibilities. In this context, a key challenge is to facilitate cooperation among these overlapping jurisdictions, recognizing that they also have different management philosophies, needs, and political dynamics. This paper will begin with an overview of the Great Lakes fisheries governance system, including its social and natural characteristics and governing challenges. We will then focus on Lake Superior - the largest and northernmost of the Great Lakes - as a case study in transboundary governance. Specifically, based on qualitative interviews and policy analysis, we will explore the perspectives of key actors in the governance system, including what they believe to be the main challenges facing fisheries and how they understand their capacity to contribute to solutions within the transboundary network. Here, we will pay particular attention to Indigenous leaders’ perspectives, recognizing that not only have Indigenous communities been marginalized in transboundary management efforts to date, but also that their traditional territories often don’t correspond with modern borders, providing them with a unique perspective on transboundary cooperation. Ultimately, we seek to inform strategies for transformative potential in Lake Superior’s fisheries governance network by identifying opportunities for power-sharing and collaboration among actors in ways that may support sustainable small-scale fisheries.

Assessing capacity to work on advocacy and policy

Anne Palmer and Raychel Santo

This advocacy capacity toolkit was designed to help food policy councils (or similar coalitions of diverse stakeholders) to assess their capacity to work on advocacy and policy and provide them with appropriate recommendations and resources to reach their strategic goals. The toolkit is divided into six sections: Organizational Assessment, Advocacy Goals, Plans & Strategies, Conducting Advocacy Section, Advocacy Avenues, Organizational Operations to Sustain Advocacy, Policy Implementation. Members complete a series of questions in each section; each response is assigned points with a cumulative score at the end of the section. The numbers are intended to give respondents a sense of what the council has mastered and where they could improve. In addition, each section has a corresponding set of resources to help build
Building a Food Policy Database for B.C

Naomi Robert

As the food system becomes an increasingly important component of the municipal planning agenda, planners have expressed a need to improve information transfer across jurisdictions in order to share precedents and expedite policy research. To address this, the Institute for Sustainable Food Systems at Kwantlen Polytechnic University has developed a searchable, online database of municipal food policy in B.C. The resource includes 2,000+ policy references (compiled from Official Community Plans, Bylaws, Food Strategies etc.) from more than 60 local governments and serves as a comprehensive and centralized resource for planners, policy makers and community advocates to research precedents and advance food system planning in their regions. This presentation will introduce/demonstrate the database resource as well as collaboration within the western regional node of FLEdGE to extend the resource into the province of Alberta.

A Regional Food Charter for Northwestern Ontario

Andrea Habinski, Connie Nelson and Charles Levkoe

CLFC is currently working to develop a food charter for the Kenora and Rainy River Districts in partnership with Lakehead University’s Food Security Research Network, Centre for Sustainable Food Systems, Northwestern Health Unit (NWHU), municipalities, and other key partners across the region. To create a comprehensive vision for food in our communities, CLFC and our partners are out in the area reaching out to community members, councils, organizations and clubs. These input sessions are an opportunity for individuals and organizations to share their priorities as they related to food and food related issues in our region, and to identify challenges they see in their community for creating a sustainable and thriving local food system. This document will encourage policy and commitment to support local foods, and will emphasize a collaborative, regional approach to collectively address challenges and leverage assets within a northern context.

Yellowknife Food Charter

Carla Johnston

This presentation looks at food movement actors engaging in governance processes at the municipal, territorial and federal scales in the Northwest Territories (NWT), Canada. The Yellowknife Food Charter Coalition, a civil society group focused on driving action for just and sustainable food security in Yellowknife, is working with their municipal government to propose a collaborative local food strategy. At the same time, food movement actors from across the NWT are lobbying to create a cross-sector Territorial Food Strategy that takes a food systems approach. Many of these territorial actors are also engaged in the consultation process for Canada’s upcoming National Food Policy, ensuring that Northern food systems are represented in this federal policy. Carla was directly involved in facilitating these events and using capacity in that area. The toolkit is available free of charge, and answers to survey questions are kept confidential. We developed this in collaboration with Dr. Larissa Calancie, a postdoctoral fellow at the Center for Health Equity at UNC Chapel Hill, several sections of the toolkit were adapted from the Alliance for Justice’s Advocacy Capacity Tool.
Participatory Action Research methods, ran exploratory sessions with all three groups to answer the following questions: what is the ideal scenario for food system policy at the municipal/territorial/federal level? (How) does your organization want to be involved in the creation, implementation and execution of this policy? The answers to these questions provide a case study of how scale affects the governance options and decisions of civil society food movement actors from a single geographical location.

10:10am – 10:40am  
**Break**  
CIGI Foyer

10:40am – 12:30pm  
**Session 6: Food Policy and Assessment**, Presentations and Discussion  
CIGI A-120  
Chairs: Jill Clark / Peter Andree

**Local government planning and policy transformations**  
*Samina Raja*  
Local government planners lay claim to creating places where people can lead full and healthy lives. A key characteristic of such a place is a well-functioning food system. Although planning scholars and practitioners have outlined strategies for rebuilding community food systems, mainstream planning practice, especially through the agency of local government, falls short. Planners continue to undermine health and food equity by failing to strengthen community food infrastructures (CFIs). The presentation draws on examples from the Global North (USA) and Global South (India) to emphasize the need for local governments to understand and invest in CFIs as *levers* for promoting food and health equity. The essay concludes with cautionary notes about planners’ engagement in this new area of planning.

**Moving individual Action to collective policy making**  
*Cornelia Flora*  
Tying local food production to clean water, small businesses, education and good health requires lots of partners. All the partners may not share the same holistic vision, but participate because aspects of a sustainable local food system meet their organizational ends. In central Iowa, cooperative extension, local schools, local appraisers, local officials, veterans’ organizations, environmental groups, and industrial farmers are working together to ameliorate water quality through on the land treatment technologies, improve food served in local schools, improve science education, and build local economies at the rural-urban interface in ways that are collaborative. Diversity of networks, good media contacts and regular communication through hands on projects keeps the work going and expanding.

**Foodscapes and Foodstyles Research**  
*Damien Conaré*  
This work analyses the relationships between the foodscape and the food consumption and eating practices of urban dwellers. It also characterizes the configuration of food supply and domestic space in residential districts and in the areas of activity, where “Food supply” refers to procurement zones (markets, shops) and catering sites available, and “Domestic space”
relates to food production areas (balconies with plants, private or shared gardens, etc.) and the configuration of dwellings (kitchen, eating areas, storage areas). This work also asks, to what extent does the configuration of these areas influence consumption, eating habits and their sustainability? It aims to assess the individual factors (representations, perceptions, etc.) which interact in those relationships with a view to identifying those which consolidate the effects of the foodscape on practices and those which mitigate them.

Recent Movement Toward and Away from the Right to Food in the US

Molly Anderson

This paper compares four governance mechanisms for combatting hunger and food insecurity at different scales: municipal food policy councils in northeastern United States; Vermont Farm to Plate’s statewide Cross-cutting Team on Food Access; the Brazilian national CONSEA system; the international reformed Committee on World Food Security. All of these bodies incorporate civil society, but in different ways. I will describe the structure and means of implementation of each mechanism, then explore their respective challenges and achievements. My aim is to develop working hypotheses about the types of civil society incorporation in governance mechanisms that seem particularly effective in fighting hunger and food insecurity.

Citizen, Civil Society, and Social Movement Engagement in Food System Governance for Justice and Sustainability

Peter Andree, Carla Johnston, and Jill Clark

Globally, food systems are in a state of flux in response to a wide range of forces, including consumer movement demands; the globalization of financial capital; technological changes in agriculture, processing and distribution; and government responses to the challenges of climate change mitigation, food safety, waste reduction, as well as the double burden of malnutrition and food-related non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and cardiovascular diseases. This state of flux represents both a challenge and an opportunity for social movements seeking to build more sustainable and just food systems. Part of the challenge facing movement actors is to articulate and then help institutionalize appropriate governance mechanisms for achieving more sustainable and just food systems in the face of the many other forces at work. The overall purpose of the collaborative FLEdGE Innovative Governance Working Group is to examine and compare a variety of governance innovations in food systems (or those which are relevant to the food sector from other fields), at a range of scales (from local to global), which could (or do) support the building of more just and sustainable food systems. Our project is particularly interested in those co-governance innovations that also help to catalyze, integrate or support broader progressive economic, political and/or cultural transformations. This introductory paper sets the theoretical context for the cases to be presented during the Innovative Governance workshop on Saturday.

Canada’s National Food Policy: Ongoing Work and Reflections

Mary Coulas, Trish Ballamie, and Peter Andrée

This presentation will examine the possibilities for (and challenges to) development of an integrated food policy at the national level—identifying the driving issues and critical context within which this conversation can be situated. We note the previous national food policy efforts
[A Food Strategy for Canada (GoC 1977) and Canada’s Action Pla’n for Food Security (AAFC 1998)]; discuss the current configuration of state and civil society actors engaged in national food policy discussions, including points of commonality; and make preliminary recommendations for governments and other stakeholders about how best to approach the food policy file

12:30pm – 2:00pm  Lunch  
CIGI Foyer

2:00pm – 5:30pm  Facilitated Session: What’s working and where do we go from here?  
CIGI A-120  
Facilitator: Rebecca Sutherns

7:00pm  Dinner  
CIGI Courtyard
7:30am – 8:30am  Breakfast
BSIA Foyer

8:30am – 10:30am  International Working Group Meetings and Presentations
Innovative Governance Working Group, BSIA142
City-Region Food Systems Working Group, BSIA131

10:30am – 11:00am  Break
BSIA Foyer

11:00am – 12:30pm  International Working Group Meetings and Presentations
Innovative Governance Working Group, BSIA142
City-Region Food Systems Working Group, BSIA131

12:30pm – 1:30pm  Lunch (boxed)
BSIA Foyer

1:30pm – 3:00pm  International Working Group Meetings and Presentations
Innovative Governance Working Group, BSIA142
City-Region Food Systems Working Group, BSIA131
Nii Addy is Assistant Professor in the Desautels Faculty of Management at McGill University and his work focuses on effecting sustainable organizational and institutional change through multi-stakeholder partnerships spanning societal and industrial sectors. His areas of expertise include strategy and policy formulation, and process evaluation in partnerships. His current projects include studying and designing management and learning processes in partnerships promoting business-oriented strategies for the supply and demand of healthy foods in Canada as well as in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA).

Molly Anderson is William R. Kenan, Jr., Professor of Food Studies at Middlebury College in Vermont, where she teaches and directs the Academic Program in Food Studies. She bridges interests and concerns of academicians and community-based food system activists and is involved in food systems planning, research and reform at the local, state, regional and international scales. She is a member of the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES-Food) and was a Coordinating Lead Author on the IAASTD.

Peter Andrée is Associate Professor and Associate Chair in the Department of Political Science at Carleton University. His research focuses on governance questions related to food, agriculture and the environment. Peter is also the Principal Investigator on a SSHRC-funded Partnership project called Community-First: Impacts of Community Engagement (CFICE) [https://carleton.ca/communityfirst/]. CFICE works to strengthen community-campus partnership practices with the non-profit sector in Canada.

Rotem Ayalon works as a food and planning consultant for Québec en Forme. She advises, creates, and implements strategies, action plans, programs and policies to encourage healthy eating and physical activity in cities in Québec. Recently, she has been helping with the development of a food strategy in Montréal (the Système alimentaire montréalais). Rotem has a master’s in urban planning from McGill University, a bachelor’s in agricultural engineering from Cornell University, and is active in her community.
**Elizabeth Bacon** is a research assistant with Dr. Mary Beckie at the University of Alberta, as part of the FLEdGE network. In projects related to FLEdGE, she has had the opportunity to investigate the role of local food to enrich regional food systems. She is a recent graduate of the University of Alberta (BA in Environmental Studies) and will start an internship with Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Montreal this fall.

**Patricia Ballamingie** is an Associate Professor at Carleton University, cross-appointed to the Department of Geography & Environmental Studies and the Institute of Political Economy. A broad range of experiences in the public, private, and non-profit sectors inform both her teaching and research. As a community-engaged scholar, Patricia is most interested in *praxis* – the application of theory. Her research interests include: Localizing food systems and sustainable community, aligning institutions for community impact, environmental conflict and deliberative democracy.

**Jane Battersby** is a senior researcher at the African Centre for Cities University of Cape Town, South Africa, where she leads the food security and food systems cluster. She is the Research Coordinator of the ESRC-funded Consuming Urban Poverty project and the PI and the IDRC-Funded Nourishing Spaces project. She is the Premio Carasso Laureate 2017. Her work focuses on urban food security, food systems and the right to food with particular interest in the nutrition transition in Africa, linking SDGs 2&11 and food in the New Urban Agenda.

**Mary Beckie** is Associate Professor and Director of Community Engagement Studies in the Faculty of Extension, University of Alberta. Her academic and community work focuses on the development of sustainable agri-food systems including the roles of urban agriculture, farmers’ markets, organic agriculture, agroecology, social economy, governance, and community-university partnerships. She has been involved in related research projects in western Canada, Europe, Cuba, Sri Lanka and India. She is the western regional node lead for FLEdGE.

**Linda Best,** BSc Acadia, grew up on an Annapolis Valley farm; Medical Microbiologist and Gastroenterology Researcher; former Director of Capital District Health Authority; operated an apple orchard; founded Frame Plus Art which grew to three stores. Awareness of food-related health issues led her to help establish Friends of Agriculture and FarmWorks Investment Co-operative Limited, a Community Economic Development Investment Fund.
Kimberly Bittermann is a doctoral student in Political Science at Carleton University. She is studying agricultural sustainability and climate change adaptation policy and practice in the Maritime Provinces under the supervision of Dr. Peter Andree. Prior to beginning her PhD, Kimberly worked as a Policy Analyst and Climate Change Adaptation Coordinator for the Department of Environment and Conservation, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Vicki Blanchard is Economic Development Manager for the Municipality of Sioux Lookout and works collaboratively to develop new programs, amendments to policies and legislations. Vicki was instrumental in leading "Sharing Conferences” to provide collaborative planning process wherein First Nations’ communities and Municipalities work together to ensure that planning, land use, growth management, and transportation strategies on/near Aboriginal settlement lands are compatible with neighbouring Local government strategies.

Alison Blay-Palmer is the founding Director for the Centre for Sustainable Food Systems and Associate Professor in Geography and Environmental Studies at Wilfrid Laurier University. Her research and teaching combine her passions for sustainable food systems and community viability through civil society engagement and innovative governance. In the 2017, she was a Scientific Advisor to the UN-Food and Agriculture Organization where she worked with colleagues on the City Region Food Systems initiative.

Juliane Brandt has been working at the Department of landscape architecture and open space planning at the Technical University of Berlin since 2013. She has a diploma in geography at the University of Greifswald / Germany and her thesis focused on "Urban-rural linkages in the emerging megacity Casablanca." Her research interests include the urban food system and food as an infrastructure, and she is currently working on her PhD in transdisciplinary urban settings.

Stephanie Budynski is a second-year MSc student in Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology at the University of Alberta, and is co-supervised by Drs. Brent Swallow and Mary Beckie. Her thesis research will examine local food systems across the value chain via cross-Canada and cross-Alberta case studies. Stephanie’s goal is to determine what policies have the greatest impact on local food systems.
Cornelia Butler Flora is the Charles F. Curtiss Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Sociology, Agriculture and Life Sciences, Iowa State University and Research Professor, Kansas State University. A Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and past president of the Rural Sociological Society, the Community Development Society, and the Society for Food, Agriculture and Human Values, she has taught, done research, and worked with research and development programs across the US, Latin America, Africa and Asia.

Andrea Calori is an expert in territorial policies, local development and sustainable food systems; past president of Urgenci and scientific responsible of the Milan Food Policy. He is partner of ESTà, an independent research centre working on a systemic approach to sustainability. Since the early ‘90s he has been working with local, national and international institutions (OECD, EU Commission, Council of Europe, FAO, UNDP, etc.).

Ghalia Chahine holds a bachelor’s degree in History a certificate in archival science, a Master’s degree in Urban Planning and hopes to finish her PHD degree in the next year. In 2011, she helped build the first food system network in Montréal: the SAM (système alimentaire montréalais). As the regional coordinator of the SAM, she coordinates the many strategic and operational aspects of the planning process as well as various collaborative food mandates. In 2018, the SAM will become the Conseil-SAM, Montréal's first Food Policy Council.

Jill Clark is an Assistant Professor at the John Glenn College of Public Affairs at Ohio State University. Her research focuses on agri-food system policy and practice, centering on governance of food systems, the policy process, and community engagement. Jill provides statewide leadership for the Ohio Food Policy Network and national leadership as an advisory board member for Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future’s Food Policy Network.

Nevin Cohen is Associate Professor at the City University of New York (CUNY) Graduate School of Public Health, and Research Director of the CUNY Urban Food Policy Institute. His research explores the policies, governance systems, practices, and infrastructure to support socially just, healthy, ecologically resilient, and economically viable urban and regional food systems. He is the co-author of Beyond the Kale: Urban Agriculture and Social Justice Activism in New York City University of GA Press).
Damien Conaré was appointed Secretary General of the UNESCO Chair on World Food System in 2011, to develop activities around three axes: dialogues between science and society (conferences, seminars, publications); the coordination of research programs (more specifically on the topic of sustainable urban food systems), and training programs (in particular for a master degree on innovations and policies for sustainable food).

Sean Connelly is Senior Lecturer in the Department of Geography at the University of Otago. He is interested in how sustainable communities mobilize resources and build capacity to disrupt the status quo and examines these processes in the context of alternative food networks and food system sustainability; regional development and the transition to sustainability; and the convergence of social economy and sustainable community development movements.

Mary Coulas is a PhD student in the Department of Political Science at Carleton University. Mary’s research focuses on the policy-making process and policy communities involved in producing food policy at the municipal, provincial, and federal levels of governance in Canada. Under the supervision of Dr. Peter Andree and Dr. Patricia Ballamingie, Mary is currently studying the developmental process of a *National Food Policy* for Canada.

Aabir Dey, developed his passion for seeds while he was completing his Sustainable Farming Certificate at Everdale and supporting research trials for Seeds of Diversity’s collection of over 3,000 different Canadian seed varieties. After completing a Master of Environmental Studies at York University, researching organic seed systems in Ontario, Aabir joined the The Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security, as the Regional Program Coordinator for Ontario. Aabir is based at the regional host organization in Ontario, Seeds of Diversity.

Amanda Di Battista is a long-time environmental educator and researcher with a passion for supporting local food projects. As the FLEdGE Project Coordinator, she provides project management and administrative support to the many research initiatives associated with the FLEdGE network. Amanda has worked as an editor, university instructor, and podcast producer and is currently working towards her doctorate in environmental studies.
Florence Egal started her carrier in the health sector and joined the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in 1990 where she has been working for over 20 years on food security, nutrition and livelihoods. She has been actively involved in inter-institutional and intersectoral collaboration, with particular attention to the linkages between climate change and nutrition. Since her retirement in 2013, she has been actively engaged in the promotion of sustainable diets and local food systems in the context of climate change.

Elaine Endanawas; Anishnawbe Kwe from Sheshegwaning First Nation on Manitoulin Island; was born in Blind River, Ontario and now lives in Kitchener. She is a mother of four, a grandmother of eight and a great-grandmother of nine. In 1989, she began a healing process in decolonization and learning and practicing Anishnawbe teachings, culture and worldview. She has a master’s degree in Indigenous social work and has traveled to various First Nation gatherings, in southern and northern Ontario, listening to and learning from Anishnawbe Haundneshone, Sioux, Dene, Cree elders and traditional teachers.

Fleur Esteron is a PhD student in the Communication and Media Studies program at Carleton University and a contract lecturer in the School of Nutrition at Ryerson University. Her research explores Canada’s food movement, paying attention to issues of social equity and community food narratives. In contributing to the FLEDGE partnership, Fleur has developed an overview of the models for measuring social impact of community food initiatives.

Harriet Friedmann is a Professor Emeritus of Sociology and Fellow of the Centre for International Studies at the University of Toronto, recently Visiting Professor at the Institute of Political Economy, Carleton University, and Institute of Social Studies, The Hague. Her cross-disciplinary publications span several aspects of food and agriculture, notably through the food regimes approach which she developed with Philip McMichael. She was Chair of the Toronto Food Policy Council in the 1990s, and is now in her third term as councilor

Robert Gordon is the Vice President–Research at Wilfrid Laurier University where his primary focus involves continuing to build Laurier’s research enterprise and promoting its value and importance to its mission and vision. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees in engineering from McGill University and a PhD in land resource science from the University of Guelph. He also holds an engineering diploma from NSAC. A leading authority on environmental issues in Canada, his Canada Research Chair was in Environmental Resource Management.
Andrea Habinski was born and raised in Sioux Lookout—a small town of 5000 in rural Northwestern Ontario. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Animal Biology and later a Master of Science in Animal and Poultry Science at the University of Guelph. In May, Andrea took on the role of the Sioux Lookout Community Coordinator where she helps collect community input for the regional food charter and is working to increase the amount of local food purchased in the community.

Mike Hamm is the C. S. Mott Professor of Sustainable Agriculture and Interim Chair, Dept. of Community Sustainability at Michigan State University and is affiliated with the Departments of Community Sustainability; Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences; and Food Science and Human Nutrition. He was co-founder and director of the New Jersey Urban Ecology Program and founding director of the Cook Student Organic Farm. His research area encompasses regional and sustainable food systems with a current special interest in city region food systems.

Leanne Hedberg is a third-year PhD student in the school of business and an academic boomeranger. After obtaining an MBA, she spent several years in management and executive positions, including founding an urban agriculture center, before returning to the well of academia to research local food systems.

Lesli Hoey is an Assistant Professor of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Michigan. Her current research on food systems in Michigan, Bolivia, Vietnam and Kenya focuses on food environment transitions, collective impact initiatives, the systemic effects of food stamp cuts, and policy interventions to enable sustainable diets.

Nadia Ibrahim recently graduated from the Master’s in Political Economy program at Carleton University, where her research focused on local food systems. Through a FLEdGE-funded Research Assistantship, she conducted a community-based research project with Just Food, Ottawa on the meaning and value of adopting a “food systems approach.” She currently works as a researcher in agriculture and trade policy and is a new member of the Ottawa Food Policy Council.
Carla Johnston is a MA candidate at Carleton University’s Institute of Political Economy. Her research has focused on the political economy of sustainable food systems in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, with an emphasis on civil society action and community-led governance structures. Using participatory action research methodologies, Carla has worked directly with community partners in their efforts to create more just and sustainable food systems in Yellowknife, the territory and across the North.

Kaitlin Kok is entering the second year of the Masters of environmental studies program at Wilfrid Laurier University. After graduating from Wilfrid Laurier University’s geography program in 2016 with a geomatics option, her interests in food security, mapping, and environmental change led her to work with Dr. Alison Blay-Palmer and Andrew Spring on a community-based project in Kakisa.

James Kuhns is the coordinator of Toronto Urban Growers and an associate of the Ryerson Centre for Studies in Food. He was the coordinator of the GrowTO urban agriculture initiative that resulted in the formation of the Toronto Agriculture Program. He is a member of Sustain Ontario’s Municipal Regional Policy Network and the Toronto Agriculture Program steering committee. His interests are governance and food security in Africa and food security policy cities.

Andre Lacerda conducts research on biodiversity, sustainable forest management, genetics, and community-based agroforestry. His engagement with local communities has led to productive partnerships, including the Caçador Model Forest in collaboration with local stakeholders and the Centre for Education and Development of Erva-mate (CEDIerva). His team’s research projects help to enhance biodiversity, restore ecological functions, and find innovative ways to use forest species as an alternative source of income for land owners.

Julia Laforge is a Ph.D. Candidate at the University of Manitoba and examines how farmers learn about alternative agriculture in Canada. She has worked with the National New Farmer Coalition in Canada to conduct a national survey of new farmers, and with the Manitoba Alternative Food Research Alliance to explore how rural communities can foster sustainable, local food systems. Her research focuses on the experiences of farmers in Canada in both a contemporary and historical context while striving for community based research.
Karen Landman is a Professor in Landscape Architecture at the School of Environmental Design & Rural Development, University of Guelph. She conducts research on green infrastructure, food systems, urban agriculture, ecological sustainability and landscape stewardship. She is a member of the Nourishing Communities research team.

Charles Z. Levkoe is the Canada Research Chair in Sustainable Food Systems and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Sciences at Lakehead University. He uses a food systems lens to better understand the importance of, and connections between social justice, ecological regeneration, regional economies and active democratic engagement. He studies social movement networks that view the right to food as a component of more sustainable futures.

Louise Livingstone studied ecology, planning, and journalism at the University of Edinburgh, Heriot Watt University, and Loyalist College. She has taught at Edinburgh University, Aberdeen University, Robert Gordon University, Queen’s University and Loyalist College and has worked as a municipal planner, journalist, project co-coordinator and web manager. Since 2009 she has coordinated Harvest Hastings, a community project promoting sustainable farming, and forestry.

Kristen Lowitt is an Assistant Professor (2017-18) in the Department of Geography and Environment at Mt Allison University. Her research focuses on the interactions between food security, natural resource management and communities in rural and coastal contexts. She is currently leading a project looking at transboundary fisheries governance and sustainable food systems in the Lake Superior region as part of the Northern Node of FLEdGE.

Timothy MacNeill is Senior Lecturer in Political Science at UOIT. He researches impacts of development projects on the health, wealth, and well-being of populations in Latin America, as well as social movements that respond to threats to lives and livelihoods.
Catherine L. Mah is Associate Professor in the Faculty of Health at Dalhousie University. She directs the Food Policy Lab, a multidisciplinary program of research in the policy and practice of public health, with a focus on health-promoting innovations in the food system. Her work integrates population health intervention research, policy science, and community action on environmental contexts for consumption. Her current research focuses on strengthening data and policy options to negotiate dual aims in community nutrition and economic development.

Terry Marsden is the established Chair of Environmental Policy and Planning in the School of Planning and Geography at Cardiff University and director of the Sustainable Places Research Institute (PLACE). With more than 25 years’ experience working in the field of sustainability, He is a Member of the Royal Town Planning Institute, Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, and Academy of Social Sciences. Terry’s research expertise is in theoretical and empirical studies in rural development, agro-food studies, sustainable development and planning, policy development and rural governance.

Jennifer Marshman is pursuing a PhD in Human Geography at Wilfrid Laurier University with the Centre for Sustainable Food Systems. Jennifer is exploring the human-nature relationship through pollinator friendly spaces in cities, and how these spaces can catalyze collective action and build social capital and networks in neighbourhoods.

Hugo Martorell just graduated from Concordia University's Individualized Program, where he studied and assessed regional food planning efforts in Montreal, Quebec. Hugo has collaborated with FLedGE and Food Secure Canada, authoring a number of discussion papers and designing maps that explore the national food policy landscape. Hugo is interested in issues related to broader questions of governance, collective action and the commons.

Ken Meter is president of Crossroads Resource Center in Minneapolis and his “Finding Food in Farm Country” studies have promoted local food networks in 139 regions in 39 U.S. states and the province of Manitoba. He has completed statewide food system assessments for Minnesota, Ohio, Indiana, South Carolina, Mississippi, Alaska, and Hawai`i, and served as an advisor for the USDA Community Food Projects including managing the national proposal review panel.
Leia Minaker is an assistant professor in the School of Planning at the University of Waterloo and an Affiliated Scientist at the Propel Centre for Population Health Impact. She currently holds a Canadian Cancer Society Research Institute Career Development Award in Cancer Prevention. She is interested public health nutrition especially around retail food environment interventions and using urban planning practice to create healthy cities.

Ana Moragues-Faus is a Research Fellow in the School of Geography and Planning and the Sustainable Places Institute at Cardiff University. She is interested in sustainable agri-food systems, food security, governance, justice, and community engagement. She started her career tackling aspects of sustainable rural development, looking at farmers' strategies, collective action and the dynamics of alternative food networks and is now involved in participatory-action research with civil society organizations and public institutions.

Marie-Claude Morin Oulette is a food literacy coordinator for the Carrefour alimentaire Centre-Sud. Last fall she initiated a partnership with the NDG Food Depot to offer Boîte à lunch, one of their program, in Centre-Sud. Since last October, children from Centre-Sud come after-school in the kitchen to learn about cooking and nutrition. This affiliation between the two organisms to make the program available in another community has been a successful experience who will be repeated.

Phil Mount was born and raised on a dairy farm in Ottawa, and completed doctoral studies focused on the challenges involved with the transition to sustainable regional food systems. He now serves as Associate Researcher at the Centre for Sustainable Food Systems, Associate Director of Just Food, and on the board of Sustain Ontario.

Kent Mullinix is Director of the Institute for Sustainable Food Systems at Kwantlen Polytechnic University. His research focuses on ecologically sound crop production, agriculture education, bioregional food systems, and family-based agriculture revitalization, all as foundational and integral to sustainable society. Kent is an Adjunct Professor in The Faculty of Land and Food Systems at the University of British Columbia and Affiliate Faculty at Royal Roads University.
Lisa Nadeau received an Environmental Sciences degree and Sustainability Certificate from the University of Alberta. She currently works as the Environmental Farm Plan Coordinator for ARECA (Agricultural Research and Extension Council of Alberta), is a board member for Alberta Food Matters, and helps coordinate the Edmonton Urban Agriculture Initiative. Lisa coordinated **Cultivating Connections**: Alberta's Regional Food Systems Forum in February 2017.

Connie Nelson is Director of the Food Security Research Network and Professor Emerita at Lakehead University. She has been actively engaged in community-based regional local food system sustainability in Northwestern Ontario and the embeddedness with provincial, national and global food system issues for over a decade. Connie has a keen interest in explaining local food system development through a complexity theoretical lens.

Eve Nimmo is a Post-Doctoral Fellow in the Department of History at the Universidade Estadual de Ponta Grossa. She is interested in environmental history, community-based approaches to ecological preservation, and exploring gender in relation to traditional ecological knowledge. She works with Embrapa Forestry documenting traditional knowledge, life histories, and memory related to ethnobotany and production of erva-mate in Araucaria forests.

Anne Palmer is the Food Communities and Public Health program director at the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future and a research associate at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in the Department of Health, Behavior and Society. She directs the **Food Policy Networks** project, which aims to improve the capacity of new and existing food policy councils and to advance food system policies. Her research interests include food access and policy, urban agriculture, local/regional food systems, and community food security.

Samina Raja is a Professor of Urban and Regional Planning and the Principal Investigator of the Food Systems Planning and Healthy Communities Lab at the University at Buffalo. Her research, teaching, and civic engagement focuses on the role of planning in creating equitable communities, especially by using food systems as a lever for broader social change. She directs Growing Food Connections (with Jill Clark and others) on building capacity of local governments to promote agricultural viability and food security in the United States.
Atefeh Ramezankhani is a PhD candidate at McGill’s faculty of management and her research explores scaling-up community projects and local initiatives to tackle social and environmental problems, with an emphasis on explaining the role of bridging organizations in creating and transforming market arrangements that sit between social and commercial economies. She has worked as a consultant for businesses in the engineering design industry and an advisor for multiple nonprofit organizations.

Naomi Robert is a Research Associate with the Institute for Sustainable Food Systems (ISFS) where she works to support the advancement of regional food systems as a key element of sustainable communities. Naomi has a Masters of Land and Water Systems from the University of British Columbia, a B.Sc. from McGill University and is an Articling Agrologist with the B.C. Institute of Agrologists.

Wayne Roberts is retired manager of the Toronto Food Policy Council, which acquired a global reputation for city food policy under his leadership, from 2000 to 2010. He is the author of three books on food, and actively promotes healthy, local and sustainable food on a variety of social media outlets. He consults and speaks on city-food topics across North America and Europe.

Joëlle Rondeau holds a Master’s degree in Urban Studies from the National Institute of Scientific Research (INRS) as well as a Bachelor Degree in International Studies from York University. She recently joined the McGill Centre for the Convergence of Health and Economics as Research Assistant and has been working with Dr. Nii Addy and Dr. Laurette Dubé on global and regional food systems.

Bruce Sakakeep works for Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug and was the Director of the Lands and Environment Unit at a time when the leadership of Ki was jailed for their opposition to resource development within their customary homelands. Bruce currently manages all entities under the Ki Economic Development umbrella and initiated Ki’s involvement with CEDI in 2012. He strongly believes that mutual and equal partnerships forge a strong future for the regional economy which isolated "fly-in" reserves can contribute
Raychel Santo is a Senior Program Coordinator at the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future. She works on a variety of research projects related to local/regional food governance (through the Food Policy Networks project), the relationship between diet and climate change, urban agriculture, and institutional food procurement. Raychel earned her Master’s degree in Food, Space & Society from Cardiff University School of Geography & Planning and her BA in Public Health and Environmental Change & Sustainability from Johns Hopkins University.

Laura Schreiner recently completed a Master’s in Rural Planning and Development at the University of Guelph. Her research interests include local and sustainable food systems, agricultural land use policy, and planning for agricultural systems. She spent two years farming in Ontario and has also worked in renewable energy project management. She has a Bachelor of Engineering and Society from McMaster University.

Vikki Schembri is a Master’s candidate in Health Sciences at Lakehead University. She studies food systems in Canada’s North, with a focus on remote, Indigenous settings. While an undergrad, she fought fighting forest fires in Northwestern Ontario and was struck by the threat of food insecurity and the opportunities for self-provision. These experiences left her with many questions about food in the North, which she hopes to chip away at in her graduate studies.

Theresa Schumilas is interested in the ways that sustainable food movements in Canada are engaging with new on-line media spaces. Through ethnographic and action research approaches, she studies how emerging digital economies and internet communication technologies are opening up new possibilities for linking together and scaling up grassroots food innovation and enabling new forms of on-line activism toward transforming unsustainable food systems.

Melaine Simba is the Environmental Coordinator with the Ka’a’gee Tu First Nation in Kakisa, NT. She passionate about ensuring the land, water and wildlife around her community is safe and healthy. She has worked collaboratively with Wilfrid Laurier University for the past 4 years helping her community plant gardens to grow food, educate the youth in the changes the community is seeing on the land, and helping to record and share traditional knowledge about the land and waters with her community.
Kelly Skinner is an Assistant Professor in the School of Public Health and Health Systems at the University of Waterloo. She focuses on community-based health and social projects related to food, nutrition, food security, and food systems and environments in regions in northern Canada. Her work is moving towards social justice and policy for improving food security, advocacy for food sovereignty, and building resilient and sustainable northern food systems.

Andrew Spring has a background in sustainability and the environment, and his expertise is creating innovative programs to engage communities in sustainable planning or environmental conservation. He is a PhD student at Wilfrid Laurier University’s Centre for Sustainable Food Systems and his research focuses on food security in Canada’s Northwest Territories where he explores food security, food sovereignty, climate change, and pressures exerted on country food and traditional economic activity in Aboriginal communities.

Lori Stahlbrand is a member of the Toronto Food Strategy team with the City of Toronto Department of Public Health, and is responsible for the Toronto Food Policy Council. She has a PhD in Geography and her research focused on the role of creative public procurement in promoting just and sustainable local food systems. She founded and the non-profit Local Food Plus and promoted local and sustainand sustainable food procurement as a tool for social and economic development.

Paul M. Taylor’s vison on poverty, food insecurity and social justice was shaped by his experience rowing up on Welfare, and he set forth an activist path grounded in the right to food. He firmly believes that we need more than kind hearts to address poverty—we need a national food policy, comprehensive poverty reduction strategies and a national housing strategy. He has experience with policy development, community building, engagement, governance, and fundraising.

Amanda Wilson is a Post-Doctoral Fellow at Lakehead University, working in partnership with Food Secure Canada. Working predominately in the fields of agro-food studies, political economy and labour studies, her current work is focused on community academic collaboration and civil society engagement in national food policy processes. She is also involved in supporting knowledge mobilization and capacity building in the areas of new farmers and northern food.
Gisèle Yasmeen is Senior Fellow at the University of British Columbia’s Institute of Asian Research and consultant to numerous Canadian and international clients. She was Vice-President of Research and Partnerships at the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council and has worked for the Asia-Pacific Foundation of Canada, CIDA, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), and WIEGO.

Laine Young is a PhD candidate in the Geography and Environmental Studies joint program at Wilfrid Laurier University and the University of Waterloo. Her work focuses on Human Geography and working with the Centre for Sustainable Food Systems. Laine is a social worker with previous experience in the nonprofit sector and also worked with the Toronto Food Policy Council on food asset mapping within the Food by Ward initiative. Her broad research interests are global food security, sustainable cities, poverty, and gender.
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