

**CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR FOOD STUDIES
THIRD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:**

“Thinking Beyond Borders: Ideas, Values and Concerns of Food in a Global World”

2008 MAY 30 – June 1

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

FRIDAY, MAY 30

REGISTRATION

1:00 to 7:00 CAFS table in Student Union Building (SUB) Ballroom

FOOD TOURS

Each guided tour is priced at \$25 and includes a light meal as well as public transportation

Meeting time: ***Location:***

- *Tour 1 Friday morning – Approximately 2.5 hours long*

Food Unfair: where a city block separates two vastly different food landscapes.

8:30 (UBC) Meet at UBC (Walter Gage Residence Commons Block foyer, 5959 Student Union Blvd) **or,**

9:30 (downtown) Meet at Carnegie Centre, 401 Main Street (at Hastings)

- *Tour 2 Friday early afternoon – Approximately 3.5 hours long*

Growing in Vancouver: a half-day tour through a selection of the many exciting examples of urban agriculture in Metro Vancouver.

11:30 (UBC) Meet at UBC (Walter Gage Residence Commons Block foyer, 5959 Student Union Blvd) **or,**

12:30 (Strathcona) Meet at Strathcona Community Garden, 700 block Prior Street (at Campbell Street)

- *Tour 3 Friday late afternoon – Approximately 2.5 hours long*

The Green Table Network: Can eating out be sustainable?

3:45 (UBC) Meet at UBC (Walter Gage Residence Commons Block foyer, 5959 Student Union Blvd) **or,**

4:30 (downtown) Meet at a downtown restaurant (*location TBA*)

SATURDAY, MAY 31

7:30am – 5pm **REGISTRATION**
Student Union Building (SUB) Ballroom
CAFS table will be staffed 8:00-noon

9:00 – 10:30 **WELCOME AND OPENING PLENARY**
“Thinking Beyond Borders: Ideas, Values and Concerns of Food in a Global World”

MCML 166 Chair: Mustafa Koc, Ryerson University

Food Sovereignty: International and Domestic Perspectives
Annette Desmarais, University of Regina

Aboriginal Food Security 101 & the Post-Colonial Indigenous Food Diet
T'Uy'Tanat-Cease Wyss, Skwxw'u7mesh Nation, Ethnobotanist/Media Artist/Educator/Activist, Vancouver Native Health Society

Food and Human Rights: Market Failure, Charity and Public Obligations
Graham Riches, University of British Columbia

Giving a Little: Food Charity and Community Food Security
Valerie Tarasuk, University of Toronto

Annette Desmarais is an Associate Professor in the Department of Justice Studies at the University of Regina. Prior to conducting her doctoral research in geography Annette was a farmer in Saskatchewan for 14 years and she then worked with OXFAM-Canada and the National Farmers Union as Coordinator of the Global Agriculture Project, a project that helped build links among farm organizations in the North and South. Annette is the author of the book entitled *La Via Campesina: Globalization and the Power of Peasants* published by Fernwood and Pluto in 2007. The book has been translated into Spanish and will soon be available in French.

T'Uy'Tanat-Cease Wyss from the Skwxw'u7mesh Nation is an Ethnobotanist/Media Artist/Educator/Activist. Cease approaches her work the way she does her life: Arts and Culture go hand in hand. Her work has been in the company of community, health and healing practices, and this is visible in her work over the past two decades. Cease is currently working with Vancouver Native Health Society, as Coordinator in both the Urban Aboriginal Food Enhancement Program, and the Urban Aboriginal Community Kitchen Garden Project-[Cultural Coordinator]. Through this work Cease is able to continue her journey of understanding the relationship between arts and culture and how this brings together community holistic health.

Graham Riches is director of the UBC School of Social Work (until June 30/2008). Since the early 1980s he has researched and written extensively on the rise of charitable food banks and more recently within an international context on the related topics of first world hunger, social policy and the human right to adequate food.

Valerie Tarasuk is a professor in the Department of Nutritional Sciences at the University of Toronto. Much of her research focuses on problems of domestic food insecurity, considering their origins and nutrition implications and examining current policy and program responses. Paralleling this focus is an ongoing interest in Canadian food policy and nutrition disparities.

10:30 – 10:45 **BREAK**

10:45 – 12:15 **SESSION 1-A: Food Sovereignty: The Seedy Case**

MCML 260 Chair: Catherine Phillips, York University

Putting our Seeds in Corporate Hands

Brewster Kneen, No Affiliation

Devlin Kuyek, GRAIN

Svalbard Global Seed Vault: Some Ethical and Cultural Implications

Irena Knezevic, York University

Resisting Corporate Control Through Saving Seeds

Catherine Phillips, York University

10:45 - 12:15 **SESSION 1-B: Breaking through Borders toward Food Security:
Collaboration Across Sectors**

MCML 158 Chair: Barb Seed, City University, UK

Forwarding Food Security in British Columbia: Lessons Learned & Future Recommendations

Barb Seed, City University, UK

Food Insecurity in the Land of Plenty: The Windermere Valley Paradox

Alison Bell, University of Adelaide

*Crossing Boundaries: Farmers' Market Nutrition and Coupon Programs - Adapting an
American Model to the Canadian Context*

Anna Kirbyson, Project Manager, Farmers' Market Nutrition and Coupon Project,
BC Association of Farmers' Markets;

Surya Govender, Lead Evaluation Consultant, Coyne and Associates

10:45 - 12:15 **SESSION 1-C: Mobilization on Food Security through the Canadian Social Economy Research Partnerships**

MCML 160 Chair: Patty Williams, Mount Saint Vincent University

Mobilization around Food Security within the Canadian Social Economy Research Partnerships: A National Scan

Liesel Carlsson, Patty Williams, Leslie Brown, and Noreen Millar, Mount Saint Vincent University

Debbie Reimer, Annapolis Valley/Hants Kids Action Program

Annie McKittrick and Aleiz Kay, Canadian Social Economy Research Partnerships

The Canadian Social Economy Research Partnership and the Southern Ontario Node:

The State of Food Security in Ottawa and Eastern Ontario

David Welch and Clare Sales, University of Ottawa

Starting with Food Boxes: Participatory Action Research and Social Economy Contributions to Food Security

Patty Williams, Lesley Frank and Jessica Penner, Mount Saint Vincent University

Debra Reimer, Annapolis Valley/Hants Kids Action Program

Cooperatives and the Future of Food

Elizabeth Morrison, Canadian CED Network

A Comparative Study of Farmers Markets in Alberta and BC: BALTA SERC 2 Research

Paul Cabaj, Canadian Centre for Community Renewal/Centre for Community Enterprise

12:15 - 1:45 **LUNCH**

1:30 – 3:00 **SESSION 2-A: Thinking Beyond the Borders of Classroom, University, and Community: Food System and Sustainability Initiatives at the University of British Columbia**

Note that this session will be held at the UBC farm, an easy 20 minute walk from the Macmillan Building. A *walking group* will leave from the MacMillan building foyer (outside rooms 160-166) at 1 p.m. The walk will include a brief tour of the Farm. Limited *van shuttle service* will also be available. Those needing the shuttle should also meet in the Macmillan building foyer (outside rooms 160-166) at 1 pm.

Chair: Gwen Chapman, University of British Columbia

Pedagogy, Politics, and Produce: 7 years of Building a Working University Farm for Learning, Research, and Community

Mark Bomford, University of British Columbia

Holistic Health Promotion with the Urban Aboriginal Community Kitchen Garden Project
Erika Mundel, University of British Columbia

The University of British Columbia Food System Project: Creating Opportunities for Students to Enhance the Sustainability of our Food Systems
Liska Richer, University of British Columbia

Agora Café: Academic Applications and Service Learning
Sophia Baker-French, University of British Columbia

1:45 – 3:15 **SESSION 2-B: Crossing Borders: Collaboration for Food Secure Communities**

MCML 160 Chair: Tony Winson, University of Guelph

Building a Community of Practice for Food Systems Planning
Deepthi Jayatilaka, BC Provincial Health Services Authority
Shannon Bradley, Environment Canada

Spaces of Multiplicity and Globalism Within a Local Food Systems Network: Encouraging Inclusiveness in Waterloo Region
Ellen Desjardins, Wilfrid Laurier University
Steffanie Scott, University of Waterloo

1:45 – 3:15 **SESSION 2-C: Critical Approaches to Food Safety**

MCML 158 Chair: Melanie Sommerville, No Affiliation

Safe Food: A Dangerous Policy Goal?
Melanie Sommerville, No Affiliation

Paradoxes of Food Safety in an Age of Extinction: The Need for a Change in the Regulatory Climate
Martha McMahon, University of Victoria

One-Size Fits All Food Safety: Myth or Myopia?
Kate Hughes, University of Victoria

Food Safety and Food Security
Cathleen Kneen, Food Secure Canada

3:15 – 3:30 **BREAK**

3:30 – 5:00 **SESSION 3-A: Crossing Borders and Connecting Values through Local Food**

MCML 158 **Chair: Kristen Lowitt**, Dalhousie University

Comparing and Contrasting Stakeholder Perception and Expectations of Local Food
Colin Anderson, University of Manitoba

Between Field and Table: Social Capital and the Distribution of Local Food
Lenore Newman, Chris Ling and Ann Dale, Royal Roads University

Exploring the Role of Independent Grocers in Linking Local Food, Local Folk and Rural Communities in Ontario
Emily Shapiro and John Smitheres, University of Guelph

Connecting Across Borders: Stories of Local Eating in Toronto
Laurel Waterman, University of Toronto

3:30 – 5:00 **SESSION 3-B: Food Policy in Canada**

MCML 160 **Chair: Valerie Tarasuk**, University of Toronto

Good Food for All: The Need for Innovative Food Policy to Improve Access to Healthy Food in Canada
Erin Charter, Ryerson University & York University

Feeding the Homeless and Under-housed in Toronto: Implications for Community-based Food Provisioning Efforts
Naomi Dachner and Valerie Tarasuk, University of Toronto

Creating a Just Urban Food System: Do Local Conditions Matter?
Melanie Bedore, Queen's University

3:30 – 5:00 **SESSION 3-C: Food as a Lens on Society**

MCML 260 **Chair: Annette Desmarais**, University of Regina

A Study of Cooking Practices and Food Security in Low-Income Women in Montreal, Canada
Rachel Engler-Stringer, University of Montreal

Resisting Biotechnology, Resisting Neoliberalism: Re-imagining the Purpose and Power of Food System Activism
Robin Jane Roff, Simon Fraser University

Sustainable Food Systems and the Civil Commons: Beyond the Individualizing Borders of Neoliberalism
Jennifer Sumner, University of Toronto

5:00 –7:00 **ASSOCIATION RECEPTION AT UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH
COLUMBIA**

Agora Commons; ground floor Macmillan Building

Sponsored by UBC Faculty of Land and Food Systems

Enjoy a Wine and Cheese reception featuring local products. One glass of Okanagan wine is included with your reception ticket. Additional wine will be available for purchase.

Registration and \$15 fee is required – register for ‘Banquet’ under ‘Banquet/Other fees’ when you register for Congress.

SUNDAY, JUNE 1

9:00-10:30 **SESSION 4-A: Food and Public Health**

FNSC 50 Chair: Naomi Dachner, University of Toronto

*Evaluating the Northern Healthy Food Initiative : What is the Impact on Food Security in
Aboriginal Communities in Northern Manitoba*

Shirley Thompson, University of Manitoba

*Food Insecurity among Low-income Families Residing in High-poverty Toronto Neighbourhoods is
Associated with Household Financial Circumstances but not with Local Area Food Access*

Sharon Kirkpatrick and Valerie Tarasuk, University of Toronto

9:00 - 10:30 **SESSION 4-B: The Politics of Food in a Global World - I**

FNSC 60 Chair: Steffanie Scott, University of Waterloo

Small-scale Producers’ Experiences in Organic Aquaculture Certification in Vietnam

Steffanie Scott and Reiko Omoto, University of Waterloo

Food Sovereignty as a Feminist Issue

Leigh Brownhill, No Affiliation

Women Farmers and Agricultural Re-structuring in India

Vanmala Hiranandani, Dalhousie University

9:00 - 10:30 **SESSION 4-C: Crossing Cultural Boundaries and Borders through Food**

FNSC 40 Chair: **Gwen Chapman**, University of British Columbia

Porta Palazzo: Crossing Cultural Boundaries at the Market
Rachel Black, Università di Scienze Gastronomiche

Meanings of "Well-being: in Everyday Food Decision-making
Gwen Chapman, University of BC
Brenda Beagan, Dalhousie University

A Bibliography on Aboriginal Food Security – An Attempt to Bring the Existing Literature Together
David Welch and Josette Cattan, University of Ottawa

10:30 – 10:45 **BREAK**

10:45 - 12:15 **SESSION 5-A: Funding in Food Studies: Obstacles and Opportunities**

FNSC 50 Chairs: **Mustafa Koc and Ozlem Guclu-Ustundag**,
Ryerson University

10:45 - 12:15 **SESSION 5-B: The Politics of Food in a Global World - II**

FNSC 60 Chair: **Steffanie Scott**, University of Waterloo

Vegetables, Food Safety and Agro-Food System Sustainability in Vietnam
Luke Simmons, University of Waterloo

Alberta RancHERS: Beef and the Politics of Gendered Advertising
Gwendolyn Blue, University of Calgary

Organic Compromises: The Regulation of Organic Food in the Global Economy
Lisa Clark, York University

10:45 - 12:15 **SESSION 5-C: Meanings of Food: The Politics of the Personal**

FNSC 40 Chair: **Ellen Desjardins**, Wilfrid Laurier University

Traditional Foods: Problematizing the Concept
Lisa Luppins, Queens' University

A Comparative Case Study of Nova Scotia Farmers' Markets: Exploring Connections Among People, Places and Food
Kristen Lowitt, Dalhousie University

Planning for Local Food: Case Studies of Farmers Markets in Prince George and Quesnel
David J. Connell, University of Northern British Columbia

12:15 - 1:45 **CAFS AGM & LUNCH**
FNSC 60

1:45 – 3:15 **SESSION 6-A: Localizing Food Systems: Challenges and Opportunities**

FNSC 50 **Chair: David Welch**, University of Ottawa

Home Garden Networks: An Exploration of Spatial Arrangements and Exchange
Chris Hergesheimer, Simon Fraser University
Hannah Wittman, Simon Fraser University

Edible Backyards: Residential Food Production in the North American City
Robin Kortright, University of Toronto

To Make Canada's Federal Capital Secure on a Food Level: The Actions of Just Food
Maxine Cleroux, University of Ottawa

New Approaches to the Health Promoting School: Public School Participation in Sustainable Food Systems
Liesel Carlsson and Patty Williams, Mount Saint Vincent University.

1:45 – 3:15 **SESSION 6-B: Social Change Through Food**

FNSC 40 **Chair: Patty Williams**, Mount Saint Vincent University

The Whole Foods Market Shopper: Shopping for Change, or Cruising for Pleasure?
Josée Johnston, University of Toronto
Michelle Szabo, York University

Governing Taste: Slow Food's Virtuous Communities
Karine Vigneault, University of Montreal

Researching the Dimensions of Nutritional Decline and Building the Movement for Healthy Eating
Tony Winson, University of Guelph

Transition to « Real Food » - Reality and Contradictions in South West British Columbia
Hannah Wittman and Herb Barbolet, Simon Fraser University

- 1:45 – 3:15 **SESSION 6-C: Immigrants’ Ideas, Values and Concerns of Food**
- FNSC 30 Chair: Ellen Desjardins, Wilfrid Laurier University**
- Constructing Place with Food: Immigrants’ Constructions of Place and Identity through Food*
Helen Vallianatos and Kim Raine, University of Alberta
- Beyond the Kitchen, Beyond the Work: Food, Cooking and Learning among New Chinese Immigrants to Canada*
Willa Liu, University of Toronto
- Food Safety and Traditional Foods of New Immigrants to Canada*
Suzanne Dietrich, Sandy Isaacs, Barbara J. Marshall and Andrea Nesbitt, Public Health Agency of Canada
- 3:15 – 3:30 **BREAK**
- 3:30 – 5:00 **SESSION 7-A: Evaluating the Community Food Action Initiative:
A Cross-sectoral Partnership For Achieving Community Food Security in BC.**
- FNSC 50 Chair: Deepthi Jayatilaka, Community Food Action Initiative**
- Deepthi Jayatilaka, Community Food Action Initiative
Claire Gram, Healthy Communities and Food Security, Vancouver Coastal Health
Jim Mactier and Kim van der Voerd, Facilitate This!
- 3:30 – 5:00 **SESSION 7-B: The Right to Food, Nutrition and Social Welfare: Policy
Implications for Vancouver’s Eastside**
- FNSC 60 Chair: Graham Riches, University of British Columbia**
- Graham Riches, University of British Columbia
Judy Graves, City of Vancouver
Shefali Raja, Fraser Health
- 3:30 – 5:00 **SESSION 7-C: Crossing Borders and Pushing Boundaries for a Sustainable
Food Supply**
- FNSC 40 Chair: Pamela Courtney-Hall, University of Prince Edward Island**
- Sustainable Farming, Sustaining Communities in an Age of Declining Soil Supplies*
Gary Clausheide, Valleyfield, PEI
Pamela Courtenay_Hall, UPEI

Back to the Farm: Bringing Agriculture Back into the Undergraduate Arts & Science Curriculum
Pamela Courtenay_Hall, UPEI
Gary Clausheide, Valleyfield, PEI

MONDAY, JUNE 2

**9:00-10:30 Feeding Babies and Families, Regulating Health, Female Bodies and
Communities / Allaiter ses enfants, nourrir sa famille: régler la santé, le
corps des femme et la communauté**
Joint Canadian History Association and CAFS session

LAW 101 Facilitators: Mustafa Koc, Ryerson University and Patty Williams,
Mount Saint Vincent University

'Tutti a Tavola!' Food, Celebrations and Domesticity among Italian Immigrants in
Postwar Montreal
Sonia Cancian, Concordia University

Policies Promoting Breastfeeding in Canada in the early 20th Century
Aleck Ostry, University of Victoria

'Natural' Milk: Physicians, Public Health Officials, Veterinarians, and Public Health
Reform in 1920s New Brunswick
Jane E. Jenkins, St. Thomas University

'A National Priority': Food, Health, and Colonizing Bodies in Nutrition Canada's
National Survey, 1965-1975
Krista M. Walters, University of Toronto

**CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR FOOD STUDIES
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2008 MAY 30 – June 1

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA

ABSTRACTS

SATURDAY, MAY 31

10:45 – 12:15 **SESSION 1-A: Food Sovereignty: The Seedy Case**

MCML 260 Chair: Catherine Phillips, York University

Putting our Seeds in Corporate Hands

Brewster Kneen, No Affiliation

Devlin Kuyek, GRAIN

Until the end of the nineteenth century, the seeds of the world’s agricultural crops were, with few exceptions, the exclusive domain of farmers. Through generations of experimentation and selection, farmers developed a wealth of seeds adapted to their unique conditions and suited to their various cultural, economic, and social needs. In Canada, decisions about seeds were once made on the farm and by farmers. There were no seed regulations, simply the traditional cultural practices of farmers. Then the seed system passed from the hands of farmers to the state and harnessed to a new set of agricultural development policies that focused on large-scale production of certain commodities, largely for export markets.

Now the role of the state is to facilitate the transfer of decision-making over seeds into the hands of a few transnational corporations that seek proprietary control of seeds as they secure their positions in a global agrifood system privatized from the ground up.

Svalbard Global Seed Vault: Some Ethical and Cultural Implications

Irena Knezevic, York University

Svalbard Seed Vault is a genebank in the Arctic Ocean designed to store up to 4.5 million seed samples from around the globe. Touted as the “ultimate safety net” in case of a global disaster, this facility is funded by governments, corporations and philanthropists, and overseen by the Global Crop Diversity Trust. Permanently frozen, the collected crops seeds are intended to provide a biodiversity backup for the world’s food supply. This paper will address some of the ethical and cultural implications of the project and investigate its ecological relevance in light of one of

the most pressing global issues, climate change. More broadly, this work will examine the role that science and technology play in the contemporary food system, food cultures, and the distribution of power over food resources.

Resisting Corporate Control Through Saving Seeds
Catherine Phillips, York University

In Canada, and worldwide, a corporate seed regime is consolidating control of seeds, growers, and eaters. This control is facilitated by governmental policies and technological design. However, a corporate-controlled seed system is not the only possibility. Despite the strength of the corporate seed regime and increasingly difficult circumstances, some people continue to save seeds. Indeed, opposition to the corporate seed regime and a desire to elude this control are among the reasons many seed savers continue to save seeds. Whether explicitly or implicitly, saving seeds eludes and resists corporate control of seeds, growers, and their relations. This paper will explore various statements made by Canadian seed savers in this regard to explore how and why seed saving continues to be important in Canada, and how it is an expression of resistance to corporate control of seed networks.

10:45 - 12:15 **SESSION 1-B: Breaking through Borders toward Food Security:
Collaboration Across Sectors**

MCML 158 Chair: **Barb Seed**, City University, UK

Forwarding Food Security in British Columbia: Lessons Learned & Future Recommendations
Barb Seed, City University, UK; Dr. Tim Lang, Prof City University, UK; Dr. Martin Caraher, City University UK; Dr. Aleck Ostry, University of Victoria.

We present preliminary results from a policy analysis of the integration of food security into Public Health and other related government policy and infrastructure in British Columbia. The study investigates the emerging integration into initiatives and policies at both the provincial level and in the Regional Health Authorities. Forty-eight key informant interviews were conducted with representatives from three key sectors - the government (with a focus on Public Health and other provincial government partner initiatives), civil society, and the food supply chain (with a focus on those involved with government initiatives). Results from one of five questions asked will be presented. Results center on lessons learned and recommendations for further integration of food security into British Columbia government policies and programs. Success in furthering food security in British Columbia demands greater collaboration between the three sectors – both conceptually and in practice.

Food Insecurity in the Land of Plenty: The Windermere Valley Paradox
Alison Bell, University of Adelaide

Like many rural areas in Canada, the Windermere Valley was once highly valued for its vast wilderness and fertile agricultural land. Now, that “fertile land” is valued for what it can offer in the way of amenities such as golf resorts and lavish

condominium projects. This transformation of land-use has had negative repercussions in the area, most notably, to its food security. Where once many residents relied upon a source of locally-grown food, local food production has become marginalized. Agricultural lands are threatened, local farmers and ranchers are moving out of agriculture at an alarming rate and the global food system fuels the area's current food supply. Is a return to a healthy local food system possible for the Windermere Valley? With rapid development, it may be too late to achieve the food security that once existed here. But there are possibilities. By researching the history of agriculture in the area, interviewing local farmers and ranchers, learning residents' attitudes toward local food and by exploring initiatives that can relocalize food systems, my dissertation argues that there is a future for a healthy local food system in the Windermere Valley.

Crossing Boundaries: Farmers' Market Nutrition and Coupon Programs - Adapting an American Model to the Canadian Context

Anna Kirbyson, Farmers' Market Nutrition and Coupon Project, BC Association of Farmers' Markets; Surya Govender, Coyne and Associates

This paper presents the implementation and evaluation results from a BC Farmers' Market Nutrition and Coupon Pilot Project. The paper includes descriptions of the governance model – a hybrid involving various levels of government and government ministries, NGOs and industry – and the implementation partners which spanned regions and sectors. The inspiration for and design of British Columbia's Farmers' Market Nutrition and Coupon Pilot Project drew from the experiences of the existing Farmers' Market Nutrition Programs in the United States, established in 1982 under the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (also known as WIC). The evaluation concluded that the pilot project was successful in contributing to a healthy British Columbia. A detailed description of the evaluation methodologies and findings from the pilot year, which spanned the months of May 2007 to October 2007, will be presented.

10:45 - 12:15 **SESSION 1-C: Mobilization on Food Security through the Canadian Social Economy Research Partnerships**

MCML 160 Chair: Patty Williams, Mount Saint Vincent University

Mobilization around Food Security within the Canadian Social Economy Research Partnerships: A National Scan

Liesel Carlsson, Patty Williams, Leslie Brown, and Noreen Millar, Mount Saint Vincent University

Debbie Reimer, Annapolis Valley/Hants Kids Action Program

Annie McKittrick and Aleiz Kay, Canadian Social Economy Research Partnerships

Sub Node Three (Mobilization on Food Security and Community Economic Development), one of six regional sub nodes of the Atlantic Social Economy Research Network (SES), undertook a national scan of food security research within the Canadian Social Economy Research Partnerships (CSERP). The purpose of the scan was to fuel discussions around future collaborations and research, identify gaps

in national food security research, and to initiate cooperation within CSERP to synthesize food security related results. The scan was conducted from July 2007 to May 2008 and included a review of the CSERP online resources and interviews with node coordinators and specific project leads. Results were analyzed using McCullum's three stage continuum of Community Food Security (CFS) strategies as a framework. This presentation will discuss how CSERP is contributing to CFS, opening a session on food security and the social economy, which highlights food security research in several CSERP regional nodes.

*The Canadian Social Economy Research Partnership and the Southern Ontario Node:
The State of Food Security in Ottawa and Eastern Ontario*
David Welch and Clare Sales, University of Ottawa

In the past year, a group of researchers have begun studying the state of food security and its links to what is generally referred to as the social economy in both Ottawa and Eastern Ontario. The purpose has been to look at the synthesis between urban food security and rural food producers through specific social economy projects such as buy local strategies, thereby improving economic opportunity for small local farmers by increasing the supply and access to local fresh food distribution. At the same time there has been increased integration of existing projects such as local community gardens. The study of these projects will be followed by closely working with the Union des cultivateurs franco-ontariens, to study innovative social economy projects such as an eco-village in Eastern Ontario and a coop for sharing space in the transformation of small-scale local farm production. Though all of these projects are ongoing and some are in their early stages, certain conclusions can already be drawn as to their place in what we refer to as the social economy.

Starting with Food Boxes: Participatory Action Research and Social Economy Contributions to Food Security
Patty Williams, Lesley Frank and Jessica Penner, Mount Saint Vincent University
Debra Reimer, Annapolis Valley/Hants Kids Action Program

Over the past two years, Sub Node Three (SN3): Community Mobilization around Food Security and Community Economic Development, one of six research clusters (sub nodes) that are part of the federally-funded *Atlantic Social Economy and Sustainability (SES) Research Network* have undertaken a program of participatory action research to address food security issues through a social economy approach in Annapolis, Hants and Kings Counties in Nova Scotia, Canada. An initial research project was conducted to examine the contributions and potential contributions of the Kid's Action Program's (KAP) Food Box program to the social economy including benefits and challenges from the perspective of other groups that might benefit from access to the program, and suppliers and producers who might support the program. Methods included a literature review; interviews with program participants and potential participants, program staff and suppliers and producers; and a community forum on food security and the social economy. This paper will highlight key processes, tools and outcomes from this research including the development of participatory action research projects to improve alternative food distribution processes and community food security programs.

Cooperatives and the Future of Food

Elizabeth Morrison, Canadian CED Network

This presentation will explore how networks are an effective tool for breaking barriers in building thriving local food economies. The rooted nature of food growing means many work alone, unaware of effective initiatives in other regions of the country. This presentation will highlight how CCEDNet (The Canadian Community Economic Development Network) members use information sharing, tele-learning, and compilation of best practices to overcome the geographical limitations that force locally based initiatives towards isolation. Presenters will examine how national networks made up of co-operative food producers, distributors, and lobbyists -including the new CCEDNet food policy working group- create collaborative communities. In particular, presenters will provide positive examples of how collaborative networks can act as crucial support for research and policy analysis leading to supportive legislation.

A Comparative Study of Farmers Markets in Alberta and BC: BALTA SERC 2 Research

Paul Cabaj, Canadian Centre for Community Renewal/Centre for Community Enterprise

Farmer's markets are arguably one of the most successful example of social enterprise activity in the food sector. Uniquely positioned for start-ups and micro-businesses, farmers markets offer an affordable venue, ongoing direct customer feedback for product research and development, and the flexibility to scale production incrementally in a low-risk environment. However, despite the proven success as economic generators, with many experience a doubling in growth over the last several years, most farmers markets across Canada operate with virtually no security in policy, zoning or bylaws with most city policies prohibiting open air vending, meaning they can be moved or shut down at any time. The precarious nature of their status mitigates the potential for farmers' markets to leverage their potential as a local food incubator. These case studies will examine and compare the breadth, role and range of activity of farmer's market in BC and Alberta, with a particular focus on the policy issues that need to be addressed for them to flourish as an essential pillar of a re-localized food system.

1:30 – 3:00 **SESSION 2-A: Thinking Beyond the Borders of Classroom, University, and Community: Food System and Sustainability Initiatives at the University of British Columbia**

Chair: Gwen Chapman, University of British Columbia

Pedagogy, Politics, and Produce: 7 years of Building a Working University Farm for Learning, Research, and Community

Mark Bomford, University of British Columbia

In 2000, students, staff, faculty, and community members at UBC united with a vision to retain an existing field area on campus and re-invent it as a university farm. This vision met UBC's academic goals of providing relevant, innovative, experiential learning for students, but it also conflicted with plans to develop the land into market housing to strengthen the UBC's endowment fund. In 2005, the farm's academic activities were grouped together as "The Centre for Sustainable Food Systems," reflecting the growing inter-disciplinary appeal of the site. Over 40 UBC courses now utilize the farm, with tight links to community service learning. A growing research program encompasses both agro-ecological field work and socioeconomic study. All projects on site are tightly integrated into a working farm operation, which provides organic produce year round to the wider UBC community. Successes and challenges of the initiative will be reviewed and future opportunities discussed.

Holistic Health Promotion with the Urban Aboriginal Community Kitchen Garden Project

Erika Mundel, University of British Columbia

In 2000, students, staff, faculty, and community members at UBC united with a vision to retain an existing field area on campus and re-invent it as a university farm. This vision met UBC's academic goals of providing relevant, innovative, experiential learning for students, but it also conflicted with plans to develop the land into market housing to strengthen the UBC's endowment fund. In 2005, the farm's academic activities were grouped together as "The Centre for Sustainable Food Systems," reflecting the growing inter-disciplinary appeal of the site. Over 40 UBC courses now utilize the farm, with tight links to community service learning. A growing research program encompasses both agro-ecological field work and socioeconomic study. All projects on site are tightly integrated into a working farm operation, which provides organic produce year round to the wider UBC community. Successes and challenges of the initiative will be reviewed and future opportunities discussed.

The University of British Columbia Food System Project: Creating Opportunities for Students to Enhance the Sustainability of our Food Systems

Liska Richer, University of British Columbia

For the last seven years, our students have worked together with food providers, producers, waste managers, planners, and others, to work towards creating a sustainable campus food system. We call this effort the UBC Food Systems Project (UBCFSP), a collaboration between the Faculty of Land and Food Systems and the

UBC Sustainability Office. The UBCFSP is part of a required course for 4th year Faculty of Land and Food Systems students. The Project has involved over 1200 students, who work on scenarios which address themes ranging from food security, food policy, sustainable waste management to climate change. The objective of the Project is to conduct a campus food system sustainability assessment, where opportunities to make transitions towards food system sustainability are collaboratively identified and implemented. This presentation will describe the process that led to the emergence of the UBCFSP, the pedagogical and methodological experiences, achievements, challenges, and our future plans.

Agora Café: Academic Applications and Service Learning
Sophia Baker-French, University of British Columbia

When UBC Foodservices closed the Agora Café because it was not economically viable, a group of Land and Food Systems students saw an opportunity to create a socially, economically and ecologically sustainable business. Since 2004, student volunteers have operated the Café throughout the academic year, focusing on fair trade, organic, and local products. In addition to providing a foodservice outlet and social hub for the faculty, the Agora Café provides opportunities for experiential learning about foodservice management, a venue for directed study projects, class projects, community service learning and theses, and a site for demonstrating faculty principles at work. This presentation will provide an overview of Agora's operations, including its mission statement, philosophy and general café structure. The presentation will also highlight how students have been involved academically with Agora and summarize the successes and benefits of this hands-on learning experience for Land and Food Systems students.

1:45 – 3:15

SESSION 2-B: Crossing Borders: Collaboration for Food Secure Communities

MCML 160 Chair: **Tony Winson**, University of Guelph

Building a Community of Practice for Food Systems Planning
Deepthi Jayatilaka, BC Provincial Health Services Authority
Shannon Bradley, Environment Canada

Planning for a healthy and sustainable Food System includes all components of the food system: production, distribution, access, consumption and nutrition and waste/composting. In Canada, all three levels of government have policy, program and funding mandates that intersect one or more components of this system. Since the early 1990's, federal and provincial governments have embraced New Public Management as a model of governance to link with other departments and levels of government for horizontal planning and decision making. This approach to planning is more prevalent in the areas of air and water quality; however, with respect to the food system, this approach to planning is not prevalent in British Columbia. Recognizing the tremendous opportunity that exists for more coordinated planning within the food system, the Community Food Action Initiative and the Georgia Basin Action plan collaborated to host a forum of public sector agencies that either

directly or tangentially play a role in the food system. On January 22nd, 2008 representatives from 12 provincial ministries, 9 federal departments and 3 regional districts (covering the Georgia Basin Ecosystem) came together to identify opportunities for future collaboration and to build a community of practice. From the inception of the idea to the delivery of the workshop, collaboration and innovation shaped the process. This session will explore the meaning of and opportunities for collaboration within the public sector, to add value to each others mandate in pursuit of a healthy and sustainable food system.

Spaces of Multiplicity and Globalism Within a Local Food Systems Network: Encouraging Inclusiveness in Waterloo Region

Ellen Desjardins, Wilfrid Laurier University
Steffanie Scott, University of Waterloo

The Waterloo Region Food Systems Round Table (FSRT) was the child of intensive planning and long term community engagement. Now that it is operational, it has transformed into a dynamic, multi-sectoral network of networks. In this presentation, the FSRT's initial achievements are analysed using Actor Network Theory, which views global and local influences on the food system not as dualities with vastly different scales, but only by their actions at the regional level. FSRT members have felt empowered to affect change through their sub-networks with specific, feasible goals. They visualize their capacity to make a difference not as "alternative" to the global food system, but as part of a gradual, systemic change based upon growing consumer awareness and shifts in food production, distribution, retail and policy. This presentation will reveal both enabling factors and constraints that the FSRT has faced in attempting to build a healthier, "local/global hybrid" food system in Waterloo Region.

1:45 – 3:15

SESSION 2-C: Critical Approaches to Food Safety

MCML 158 Chair: Melanie Sommerville, No Affiliation

Safe Food: A Dangerous Policy Goal?

Melanie Sommerville, No Affiliation

Over the past two decades, a series of food scares has driven public concern about the safety of food production systems to new levels. These developments, which have been one impetus for the growing popularity of alternative food movements, have not gone unnoticed or unaddressed by the Canadian government. Indeed, food safety has become an increasingly prominent priority in Canadian agricultural policy, with significant consequences for our food systems. This paper examines the emergence of food safety discourses in Canadian agricultural policy, the operation and institutionalization of these discourses, and the implications for the structure, functioning, and future development of our food systems. The paper highlights a growing need for critical geographies of food safety that explore the role of dominant food safety discourses in reinforcing food production systems with questionable safety records, and in limiting the development of the alternative food systems that consumers are increasingly demanding.

Paradoxes of Food Safety in an Age of Extinction: The Need for a Change in the Regulatory Climate

Martha McMahon, University of Victoria

In *Waiting for the Macaws and other stories from the age of extinctions*, Terry Glavin explains that extinction is often an unintended consequence of business as usual, of following the rules, not breaking them. New BC meat regulations may be threatening small-scale livestock farming with extinction. Their introduction was couched in a rhetoric of food safety and carried much of the authority associated with that sphere of governance. If they result in 'extinction', however, it is not clear that the consequences were fully unintended. Contemporary understandings of food safety as developed in the 20th century involve many of the power relations of that period and are politically and technically inadequate for 21st Century problems. While perhaps inadequate for new food safety issues in the age of extinction (and climate change), they are well positioned to restructure local agriculture to serve powerful interests.

One-Size Fits All Food Safety: Myth or Myopia?

Kate Hughes, University of Victoria

If small, localized or ecological farmers are forced to implement food safety systems designed primarily for industrial producers, could this endanger their livelihoods and perhaps entire local food systems? Research suggests that small farmers, and those otherwise not structured by industry norms, are regularly disadvantaged by the exigencies of food safety regulations. Local food producers claim the risks these regulations seek to mitigate do not arise on a local scale. I explore how the differences in values, practices and ways of knowing between the global/industrial and local/ecological agricultural paradigms limit the utility of one-size-fits-all approaches to food safety, and render localized ways of ensuring safe food production invisible. I also consider how notions of 'safe food' can be reconceptualized to allow the emergence of a regulatory system that encourages diverse forms of ecological agriculture, and support the capacities of BC communities to grow their own food.

Food Safety and Food Security

Cathleen Kneen, Food Secure Canada

Industrial food processes emphasize uniformity, volume, speed and lowest per-unit cost. Uniformity, however, makes both plant and animal populations vulnerable to disease epidemics which can affect population health directly (e.g. avian flu) or indirectly (e.g. pesticide poisoning, water contamination). Similarly, volume and speed pose direct risks, especially in the area of meat processing. The assumption of "economies of scale" has led to policies supporting ever larger production and processing units and the globalization of the food system. The food safety discourse in Canada has been driven by the same logic as the industrialization of the food system: reductionism, belief in technological solutions, and a deep desire for "security" and predictability. This approach actually increases the public health risks

related to food, through deregulation in the name of “risk management” and “economic growth”. Genuine community food security, I argue, depends on biodiverse, locally-managed and socially just food systems – often referred to as “food sovereignty”.

3:30 – 5:00 **SESSION 3-A: Crossing Borders and Connecting Values through Local Food**

MCML 158 Chair: Kristen Lowitt, Dalhousie University

Comparing and Contrasting Stakeholder Perception and Expectations of Local Food
Colin Anderson, University of Manitoba

Local food has become increasingly prominent as an alternative to the conventional agro-food system and is often lauded as a solution to the ongoing trend of rural decline in Canada. Indeed, the perceived shortcomings of the global agro-food system have prompted many farmers to explore local markets. Yet, little is known about how priorities coincide and differ amongst farmers and between other stakeholders in the food system. The overall goal of this study is to better understand local food systems from multiple perspectives. We used a combination of likert scaled and opened ended questions in a series of interviews (n=45) with conventional and alternative farmers, retailers and consumers. Despite substantial variation in priorities, all respondents responded positively to the concept of local food. Our results suggest that local food has the potential to connect multiple stakeholders around a common set of values.

Between Field and Table: Social Capital and the Distribution of Local Food
Lenore Newman, Chris Ling and Ann Dale, Royal Roads University

Local food is experiencing a rapid growth in popularity, and has been described in very positive terms; Delind for example, (2006:121) claims “Local food and eating locally become both the symbol and substance for structural change from which flows enormous social and environmental benefit.” This is reflected in studies of local food consumers, many of whom cite increased social capital and an increased sense of place as tangible social benefits of the local food movement. The environmental benefit of local food, however, has been clouded by questions surrounding distribution. Several studies have found local food to be more energy intensive than imported food due to very inefficient distribution methods. Innovative solutions to this problem are needed, yet at the same time the social capital value of the local food system must be preserved. This paper includes a case study of Food Roots, a local food distributor in Victoria, BC with a mandate to promote a local sustainable food system by creating the infrastructure link between the eaters/consumers and the growers and processors, and to educate eaters/consumers about local agriculture and food security issues. We examine their “pocket markets” which they hold at workplaces and other venues as a tool for innovation diffusion, niche overlap, and social capital formation. We also discuss their project in terms of its energy footprint.

Exploring the Role of Independent Grocers in Linking Local Food, Local Folk and Rural Communities in Ontario

Emily Shapiro and John Smitheres, University of Guelph

Due to growing concerns over food security, food safety, environmental and personal health, 'local food' is attracting considerable attention from Canadian governments and citizens alike. The accessibility of local food, however, is limited by its relative non-accessibility through mainstream grocery outlets. This paper reports on an assessment of the current and prospective role of the independent grocery and food retail sector in (rural) Southern Ontario in hosting and promoting trade in local food. Qualitative data from face-to-face interviews with retailers and consumers provide insight into current practices, perceptions, and challenges from both the retail and consumer side – with emphasis on the former. In particular the research explores the (malleable) meaning of 'local' as it applies to local food, and assesses the processes by which local foods are sourced and verified. Barriers to and opportunities for trading in local food at the retail level are discussed. It emerges that corporate regulations, a lack of intermediary infrastructure, and seasonal availability limit the opportunities for retail food store owners to source and sell local foods.

Connecting Across Borders: Stories of Local Eating in Toronto

Laurel Waterman, University of Toronto

Emerging from my thesis research, *Becoming a Locavore*, I explore the definition of "local food" and focus on Torontonians' experiences of eating locally-grown food. The notion of a 100 mile diet (Smith and MacKinnon, 2007) challenges even the most dedicated local "foodies," especially in the winter months. The research participants, who identify themselves as local eaters, present an alternative definition of local food: knowing and being able to connect with the grower. This definition of "local" includes foods that the 100 mile diet excludes and vis versa. Defining local through connection and relationship presents benefits and challenges unique from other definitions, such as that of "the 100 mile"; it challenges urban food consumers to cross borders dividing consumption and production, urban and rural, individual and community, and body and earth. Given that my work is grounded in arts-informed qualitative research methodology (Knowles & Cole, 2008), and that participants saw their viewpoints and practices resting in "the spiritual", I conclude with a discussion on how the arts and spirituality inform approaches to food education and research.

3:30 – 5:00 **SESSION 3-B: Food Policy in Canada**

MCML 160 **Chair: Valerie Tarasuk**, University of Toronto

Good Food for All: The Need for Innovative Food Policy to Improve Access to Healthy Food in Canada

Erin Charter, Ryerson University & York University

In this paper, I will discuss the problem of lack of access to enough nutritious food for people of low incomes in Canada, and the need for local food security to be addressed by policy at higher levels. While many food security advocates feel that food insecurity can be resolved through increased wages and a better social safety net in Canada, I will argue that food access is also a distinct issue that calls for innovative policies that are specifically concerned with food. This paper emerges from my ongoing community research with programs such as FoodShare's Good Food Markets and Community Food Animators, which respond to some of the many other barriers to food security in Canada, such as poor availability of affordable, nutritious foods and grocery stores in some neighbourhoods; unsustainable production practices that do not meet the needs of urban eaters; and a lack of nutrition education and information, all of which could be improved with policies that address food security as separate from income security and that are universal instead of targeted to specific populations. Food security is not merely a problem of income, but of sustainability, economic viability for producers, and a lack of alternatives to mainstream channels of food distribution, which are barriers for all Canadians.

Feeding the Homeless and Under-housed in Toronto: Implications for Community-based Food Provisioning Efforts

Naomi Dachner and Valerie Tarasuk, University of Toronto

Since 1999, federal homeless initiatives have focused on providing funding for community-based initiatives to address homelessness, but food provisioning is not explicitly mandated. To understand food provisioning efforts in Toronto, we conducted an inventory of 148 food programs, including an in-depth examination of 18 programs and their meals and 6 key informant interviews with policy makers, funders and suppliers of donated food. Our findings indicate that the system of charitable meal programs is entrenched, with both homeless and under-housed individuals reliant on them. Meals were insufficient to meet the nutritional requirements of an average adult. Program coordinators struggled with lack of core funding, reliance on donated food and labour, and inadequate facilities. The food needs of program users appear lost in the emergency focus of current responses to homelessness. The documented shortfalls of community food provisioning must be addressed given the health implications for those dependent on charitable food.

Creating a Just Urban Food System: Do Local Conditions Matter?

Melanie Bedore, Queen's University

Food insecurity is a costly reality for over one million Canadian households annually. Social scientists are looking increasingly at whole neighbourhoods with poor physical

retail food access. These ‘food deserts’ are increasing in Canada, in part due to retail consolidation, relocation of grocery stores out of low-income neighbourhoods, and municipal economic development policies that support these trends. A socially just urban food system exists when service-deprived communities have good access to affordable food through normal retail channels. Such a system would distribute the burdens and opportunity costs associated with purchasing food to those who are most capable of paying for them. Can local political and economic factors make a difference to food access? Doctoral research in progress looks at how urban institutions, regulatory regimes and policy priorities can create just or unjust patterns of urban food access. Preliminary research is based on case studies of Kingston and Guelph, Ontario.

3:30 – 5:00 **SESSION 3-C: Food as a Lens on Society**

MCML 260 **Chair: Annette Desmarais**, University of Regina

A Study of Cooking Practices and Food Security in Low-Income Women in Montreal, Canada
Rachel Engler-Stringer, University of Montreal

North American foodscapes have changed dramatically over the course of the last century as the quantity of pre-packaged, pre-prepared foods available has increased exponentially. Little research has been conducted on what “cooking” means to people considering the broad availability of literally thousands of such foods. Low-income populations may be particularly affected by a societal shift towards the use of increasingly prepared foods in meals due to more nutritious and higher quality prepared foods also being more expensive. The food security of low-income populations may be threatened as they are faced with limited budgets with which to purchase prepared foods. A participatory research project with a group of young low-income women in Montreal was undertaken to examine cooking practices and food security status in a low-income population using a framework that includes social structure, social practices and agency to explain how health outcomes may come to be differentially distributed. In this mixed-method study the participatory research team used focus groups, photography of meals and semi-structured interviews to characterize ‘collective lifestyles’ with regards to cooking practices in this population. Results from the study will be presented and discussed.

Resisting Biotechnology, Resisting Neoliberalism: Re-imagining the Purpose and Power of Food System Activism

Robin Jane Roff, Simon Fraser University

Dominant interpretations depict anti-biotechnology activism as a reaction against the environmental, socio-economic or health effects of genetically engineered (GE) products. The movement’s goals, from this perspective, are to eliminate GE foods and crops from the foodscape. Therefore, while deriving from productivist agriculture, anti-biotechnology activism does not attempt to recreate larger political economic structures. In this paper, I offer a different understanding - one that places the movement in a much broader effort to resist the neoliberalization of global and national political economies. Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork in Sonoma County,

California and in-depth interviews with some of the United State's leading activists, I argue that GE products are proxies for larger social concerns. In so doing, I stretch the significance of alternative food activism beyond the borders of the foodscape to the institutions, ideologies and practices that govern contemporary social and economic relations.

Sustainable Food Systems and the Civil Commons: Beyond the Individualizing Borders of Neoliberalism

Jennifer Sumner, University of Toronto

Constructing sustainable food systems depends on a prior comprehension of sustainability itself. Without this basic understanding, we cannot begin to assess whether a particular food system is sustainable or not.

This paper will put forward a definition of sustainability based on the concept of the civil commons – co-operative human constructions that protect and/or enable universal access to life goods. Using examples, it will apply this definition to food systems in an effort to more clearly delineate the parameters of a sustainable food system. The paper will then contrast such a food system with the current neoliberal food system that produces such contradictions as scarcity and overabundance, obesity and malnutrition, and pseudofoods and organic foods. It will conclude with a discussion of collective versus individual responses to sustainability, and their respective impacts on the creation of food communities.

SUNDAY, JUNE 1

9:00-10:30 **SESSION 4-A: Food and Public Health**

FNSC 50 Chair: Naomi Dachner, University of Toronto

Evaluating the Northern Healthy Food Initiative : What is the Impact on Food Security in Aboriginal Communities in Northern Manitoba

Shirley Thompson, University of Manitoba

The Northern Healthy Foods Initiative (NHFI) was a provincial government-funded intervention to deal with high rates of food insecurity in Northern Manitoba that is caused by many factors including isolation, winter roads, high poverty rates, colonialization and decline in country food consumption. In 2005 the NHFI pilot project focused on 17 remote and semi-remote Northern communities and on six projects to increase healthy food access, namely : 1) community gardens; 2) greenhouse pilot projects; 3) food focused businesses including 'direct-buy' grocery system, 4) school nutrition, 5) increasing use of federal food mail subsidy and 6) a freezer loan project. Community engagement through four community based organizations has resulted in 273 community gardens, school curriculum and community asset maps to develop community food security plans. This paper discusses the NHFI operational strategy, service delivery model and outcomes, to determine its effectiveness at creating more self-sufficient, food secure communities.

Food Insecurity among Low-income Families Residing in High-poverty Toronto Neighbourhoods is Associated with Household Financial Circumstances but not with Local Area Food Access

Sharon Kirkpatrick and Valerie Tarasuk, University of Toronto

Responses to food insecurity have been dominated by charitable food programs and, more recently, by initiatives to improve physical access to food. However, the extent to which convenient access to economical food can offset problems of food insecurity rooted in resource constraints is unknown. We examined factors influencing household food security among 501 low-income families residing in 12 Toronto neighbourhoods. Surveys were conducted to collect household-level data, and mapping techniques were used to characterize local area food access. Two-thirds of families were food insecure over the past 12 months. Food insecurity was negatively associated with the amount of income left after paying rent and with access to savings and credit. Proximity to discount supermarkets and community food programs was unrelated to household food security. Our findings challenge the relevance of initiatives to improve local area food access for low-income families in the absence of policies to ensure income adequacy.

9:00 - 10:30 **SESSION 4-B: The Politics of Food in a Global World - I**

FNSC 60 Chair: **Steffanie Scott**, University of Waterloo

Small-scale Producers' Experiences in Organic Aquaculture Certification in Vietnam

Steffanie Scott and Reiko Omoto, University of Waterloo

There has been a proliferation of organic products entering the global market in the past decade, many from developing countries. Critical analyses have drawn attention to the ambiguous implications of this development for small-scale producers, particularly in terms of the complications involved in meeting strict standards for certification. Based on eight months of fieldwork, this paper examines the processes and politics of certification for organic shrimp and *pangasius* (catfish) in southern Vietnam. The research revealed distinct experiences for these two products. Because farmers had to make significant investments to establish organic *pangasius* production, only those with substantial assets and knowledge could become involved. In contrast, it was easier for existing shrimp farmers to convert to organic shrimp production, so even poorer and less well-educated farmers could participate. Yet other factors made this opportunity less appealing, such that some producers even refused to be certified. The paper concludes by discussing the implications for farmer organizing and engagement of small-scale producers in global supply chains for certified organic aquaculture products.

Food Sovereignty as a Feminist Issue

Leigh Brownhill, No Affiliation

Kenya's disastrous 2007 election revealed a problem even deeper than the violence which has accompanied every election in that country since 1992: half the Kenyan people have lived with deteriorating, disaster-like living conditions for 30 years.

Poverty in Kenya is a chronic humanitarian disaster. Its most vicious expression is hunger. One third of Kenyan children under the age of five are malnourished. In many cases chronic hunger leads to stunted growth and development. As cobblers' children go barefoot, so in his country of farmers do children go hungry. The 2007 election disaster was an acute expression of this deeper, chronic disaster of hunger. This paper considers how a social movement of 'commoners' is addressing hunger and landlessness through direct action for food sovereignty and through a campaign to replace Kenya's colonial-era constitution in order to give citizens secure access to land and a voice in their government's management with the global food system and related trade and investment regimes. In particular, the paper addresses Kenyan women's creative solutions to hunger - direct deals between producers and consumers locally - which address rural farmers' need for reliable local markets and urban consumers' need for reliable sources of produce. It argues that the best hope for the relief of Kenya's chronic hunger problem and for the construction of a just and lasting peace lies in the success of the commoners' movement. Kenyans' interface with the global agri-food system is mediated by the Kenyan state. Therefore the commoners' campaign for a new constitution is here placed in the context of the struggle for a food system which supports citizens' needs before turning over land, labour and other resources to the supply of global commodity chains.

Women Farmers and Agricultural Re-structuring in India
Vanmala Hiranandani, Dalhousie University

Of 800 million hungry people in so-called developing countries, 22.1 million reside in India. Women are at the center of food crises – 70% of the world's hungry are females. Nearly 84% of economically active women in India are engaged in agricultural activities. While the colossal impact of globalization of agro-food systems has been extensively documented, there have been relatively few studies on agricultural restructuring and women subsistence farmers in developing countries. The purpose of this paper is to review the existing evidence on the impact of agricultural liberalization on women farmers in India, identify research gaps, and highlight case studies of two NGOs - the Deccan Development Society and *Shetkari Mahila Aghadi* (women's front of *Shetkari Sanghatana*, farmers' union) - which are guided by gender justice in the agrarian sector. The paper concludes with policy recommendations that are supportive of women farmers who play a key role in food security and rural development in the "Third World."

9:00 - 10:30 **SESSION 4-C: Crossing Cultural Boundaries and Borders through Food**

FNSC 40 **Chair: Gwen Chapman**, University of British Columbia

Porta Palazzo: Crossing Cultural Boundaries at the Market
Rachel Black, Università di Scienze Gastronomiche

"Rosie e castravete belli... buon prezzo," yells Said from high behind his vegetable stand at the Porta Palazzo market in Turin, Italy. This Moroccan vendor calls out in a mix of Italian and Romanian when he sees potential clients pass by who might be Romanian. He explains, "It really captures their attention and they will often buy

something if I try to speak their language. They mainly buy tomatoes and cucumbers so those are the words I learned.” Said boldly crosses both culinary and linguistic boundaries to ensure the success of his business. This is just one of the examples in which food and economics facilitates the crossing of cultural boundaries at the Porta Palazzo market. Based on ethnographic sources, this paper will use food and the selling of food as a way to explore how cooperation and conflict are negotiated in one of the most vibrant and multicultural open-air markets in Western Europe.

Meanings of “Well-being: in Everyday Food Decision-making

Gwen Chapman, University of BC
Brenda Beagan, Dalhousie University

The ways in which Canadians’ eating patterns differ from nutrition recommendations varies by age, gender, region, and ethnicity. However, little is known about *why* people make the food choices they do and how these are shaped by family, community and cultural contexts. We explored these issues with families from three ethnocultural groups in British Columbia and Nova Scotia. Qualitative interviews and observations were conducted with members of 46 families. Data were analyzed using constant comparative methods. Findings illustrate how food decisions include consideration of the influence of food on multiple dimensions of well-being. Physical well-being (which includes immediate and long-term effects of food on the body), family well-being, and cultural well-being were salient to members of all groups, but were manifest in different ways. Understanding these meanings and how they operate in families is an important base for making decisions about healthy eating, nutrition counseling or health promotion.

A Bibliography on Aboriginal Food Security – An Attempt to Bring the Existing Literature Together

David Welch and Josette Cattan, University of Ottawa

In recent years as a renewed interest on food security has brought on a vast new literature on the subject, the writings on specific Aboriginal food issues has at times tended to be ignored, scattered or seen as being elsewhere. It was decided by one of the members of DIALOG (a network of people doing research in Aboriginal studies, based in Quebec but with members elsewhere in Canada, as well as Chili and Mexico) to attempt to construct a bibliography that would be useful, to not only members of DIALOG but to other researchers interested in Aboriginal issues and/or food security. The presentation by the team members plans to refer to the present context in writings on Aboriginal food security and its essential role in the larger field of food studies. We plan to point out that as food studies develops, Aboriginal food security must be placed front and centre as an essential component that has the possibility of impacting in important ways on the field of food studies as a whole.

10:45 - 12:15 **SESSION 5-A: Funding in Food Studies: Obstacles and Opportunities**

FNSC 50 **Chairs: Mustafa Koc and Ozlem Guclu-Ustundag,**
Ryerson University

Food Studies is an emerging new interdisciplinary perspective in the social sciences and humanities which addresses the complex relationships and interconnections between food related issues. We observe some broad tendencies common to food studies: 1) Food studies research is generally informed by social science and humanities perspective that examines food from a broader socio-cultural, economic, political and historical perspective; 2) Food studies tend to have a systemic approach in exploring interrelationships and interactions people enter into with each other and with their natural environment through the food chain; and 3) Food studies have an interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary approach that goes beyond theoretical and methodological confines of a single discipline in studying these complex relations. Working in an interdisciplinary research field has its advantages and disadvantages. Securing funding for interdisciplinary research that does not always follow dominant disciplinary perspectives, paradigms and methods is one of these strengths that can also be a handicap. In this session we would like to have a round table discussion about your experience in applying for funding for food studies research. We encourage participants to come up with their interpretation of what “food studies” is about and to share with us their personal experience in applying for funding and their suggestions for improving funding in food studies.

10:45 - 12:15 **SESSION 5-B: The Politics of Food in a Global World - II**

FNSC 60 **Chair: Steffanie Scott,** University of Waterloo

Vegetables, Food Safety and Agro-Food System Sustainability in Vietnam
Luke Simmons, University of Waterloo

The use of agrochemicals in Vietnamese agriculture increased substantially following a series of reforms in the mid 1980s, which were designed to increase agricultural production and spur economic growth. As pesticide use increased, consumers became increasingly concerned about food safety, particularly for fresh vegetables. In the mid 1990s, safe vegetable production was introduced in an attempt to improve the safety of vegetables in Vietnam. This paper presents a case study on safe vegetable farmers from the peri-urban areas of Ho Chi Minh City. The ways in which safe vegetable production is aiding in the development of more sustainable agroecosystems are examined. While the emerging concern for food safety signifies an important trend in Vietnamese agriculture, a number of challenges remain. Consumer confidence in the system for testing safe vegetables is low and the market share of safe vegetables remains small.

Alberta RanchERS: Beef and the Politics of Gendered Advertising
Gwendolyn Blue, University of Calgary

Alberta Beef Producer's (ABP) ranchERS ad campaign (2002 – present) features three female beef producers as representatives of the beef industry in an attempt to brand Alberta beef and to garner consumer confidence in the beef industry, both nationally and globally. The women are actual agricultural producers who not only appear in the ads, but also visit communities in and outside of Alberta. This campaign both illuminates and complicates gendered dynamics of beef. Although beef has historically been associated with men, since the 1980s, beef advertisements have increasingly marketed beef as a desirable food for women. By articulating beef production with women, moreover, the ranchERS campaign links the masculine mythos of the cowboy with a more contemporary sensibility surrounding gender equality. What are the implications of this symbolic transfer in the context of broader issues surrounding food safety, public health as well as the environmental implications of modern globalized beef production, distribution and consumption?

Organic Compromises: The Regulation of Organic Food in the Global Economy
Lisa Clark, York University

Over the past decade the market for organic food in North America and elsewhere has shown high levels of growth, resulting in expanding levels of global trade. While its expansion has been received positively by some advocates, others express more reservation over the incorporation of organic food into the global trade regime. This presentation explores the implications that the NAFTA and select agreements administered through the WTO have for the traditional commitments of organic food and agriculture. It argues that the logic of neo-liberalism, and the harmonization of national trade policies as promoted by the NAFTA and the WTO, privilege the 'product over process' discourse, which restricts the role 'process' plays in distinguishing the characteristics of 'like' products. Crowding out space for substantive commitments in processes of producing organic food and agriculture threatens the integrity of the 'organic philosophy', and its status as a more just and sustainable alternative to the industrial food system.

10:45 - 12:15 **SESSION 5-C: Meanings of Food: The Politics of the Personal**

FNSC 40 **Chair: Ellen Desjardins, Wilfrid Laurier University**

Traditional Foods: Problematizing the Concept
Lisa Luppins, Queens' University

Aboriginal peoples are not infrequently urged to "return to their traditional diets" to improve their health. However, there appears to be little recognition that this is an inherently problematic recommendation. This paper explores the following questions: How are traditional foods defined? Why does the delineation between traditional and non-traditional foods *matter*? I propose that how traditional foods are defined and discussed within academic texts, health promotion materials and popular websites has much to say about how Aboriginal cultures are understood and

represented. While I do not contest the potential nutritional or cultural benefits associated with the use of such foods, I invite a critical look at the assumption and risks inherent in discussions about traditional foods. These include the risks of reinforcing cultural stereotypes and emphasizing difference, while also potentially minimizing the importance of larger social influences on health.

A Comparative Case Study of Nova Scotia Farmers' Markets: Exploring Connections Among People, Places and Food

Kristen Lowitt, Dalhousie University

This study explores connections among people, places and food, and actors' perceptions of 'quality' and 'local' foods, at the Halifax, Wolfville and Hubbards Farmers' Markets in Nova Scotia, Canada. A qualitative framework employing participant observation and interviewing was used. Findings suggest that producer-consumer relations, understood in terms of embeddedness, formed the foundation of the markets. The markets were also important gathering spaces for the local community. This study corroborates previous research in finding that 'quality' was a complex term associated with a range of attributes by different actors (*see* Sage, 2003 and Morris & Young, 2000). Findings also indicate that 'local' food was defined in terms of spatial, social and quality characteristics. Lastly, the foodshed (*see* Kloppenburg, J., 1996, p.33) is used as a conceptual unit of analysis for examining relations in the farmers' markets and the sense of connection to a particular food landscape that the markets may confer.

Planning for Local Food: Case Studies of Farmers Markets in Prince George and Quesnel

David J. Connell, University of Northern British Columbia

The growth of farmers markets means more local food production, which can lead to competing uses for land and a corresponding need for long-term agriculture land management. The purpose of this project was to study the relation between farmers, farmers markets, and land use planning in order to improve our understanding of land use planning issues and of key factors that contribute to the development of farmers markets as part of a local food industry. The project focussed on case studies of farmers markets in Prince George, BC and Quesnel, BC. Researchers completed semi-structured interviews with market managers, market farmers, area planning staff, and economic and business development agencies. The results show significant potential for development as well as potential for increasing conflict among land uses. Results suggest that governance structures can be created to promote and support the development of local food systems, not just the preservation of farmland.

1:45 – 3:15 **SESSION 6-A: Localizing Food Systems: Challenges and Opportunities**
FNSC 50 Chair: David Welch, University of Ottawa

Home Garden Networks: An Exploration of Spatial Arrangements and Exchange
Chris Hergesheimer, Simon Fraser University
Dr. Hannah Wittman, Simon Fraser University

While the phenomenon of community and other urban gardening initiatives, as well as localized food activity at farmers markets, have received recent attention in the sociology of food and agriculture, little research has been conducted regarding the spatial arrangements, design choices and exchange relationships within the context of the home or backyard garden. Exchanges are defined here to include the sharing of garden space, tools, tips and knowledge, produce, purchases and labor and other social transactions. Based on research conducted in Vancouver, BC, this paper contends that access and boundaries have an influence over the frequency and/or probability of neighborhood exchanges. Although many other factors challenge the development of extended neighborhood exchanges with the garden as a nexus, this research focuses specifically on developing conceptual definitions for spatial arrangements and various exchange relationships of home gardens. These definitions can help participants produce “neighborhood specific resource maps” which will help residents connect with each other and to identify, and identify with, the aggregate food resources of their neighborhoods.

Edible Backyards: Residential Food Production in the North American City
Robin Kortright, University of Toronto

This paper draws on research conducted with backyard food growers in Toronto to explore the contribution residential food production can make to food security in North American urban communities. The relevance of the concept of ‘food security’ in understanding home food gardening in North America is discussed and evaluated. Food security is often defined broadly to include not only the absence of hunger and malnutrition but also factors such as the way that food is produced and accessed and the situational context within which it is consumed. A fairly extensive literature explores the potential of urban agriculture to address food insecurity in the developing world. However, the role of residential food gardens in North American food systems has received very little attention, perhaps in part because these gardens are not generally cultivated out of hunger or economic need. Nevertheless I will argue that these gardens do impact food security in important ways.

To Make Canada’s Federal Capital Secure on a Food Level: The Actions of Just Food
Maxine Cleroux, University of Ottawa

Ottawa, Canada’s federal capital, has the most important agricultural economy all major Canadian cities. However, the farmers in this area have seen their numbers constantly drop over the years, and their fertile lands transformed into residential zones. For a few years now, projects initiated by the alternative agro-food networks have led to new optimism, and this, in spite of the fact that the public decision makers of the area often hesitate to support these new initiatives. Out of this renewed interest towards these agro-food networks was born Just Food, a not-for-

profit organization which has become a leader in the local food movement, with the mandate of working towards a just and sustainable food system in the Ottawa area. The purpose of this presentation is to analyze the obstacles and the successes that Just Food has encountered since its establishment, particularly concerning the expansion of Ottawa's community garden network. Finally we plan to raise certain possible options for future actions.

New Approaches to the Health Promoting School: Public School Participation in Sustainable Food Systems

Liesel Carlsson and Patty Williams, Mount Saint Vincent University.

Reviews of innovative food procurement policies and practices provide a wealth of successful models for how schools participate in sustainable food systems, why they do it, and what benefits and barriers they encounter. Peer reviewed literature provides reason to believe that these strategies have value in sustainable community design, food system localization, child health and nutrition, but that they encourage devolution of federal government responsibilities to the community. In this review, we: 1) describe three strategies used by schools: school gardens, farm to school programs and sustainable procurement policies, 2) situate them within McCullum's three-stage continuum of Community Food Security strategies, 3) consider their political context in Canada and the US, 4) considers their role in the social economy, 5) weigh the benefits of these strategies against the challenges they present, and 6), discuss the role of dietitians as leaders for practice-based, collaborative, outcomes research of school participation in sustainable food systems.

1:45 – 3:15 **SESSION 6-B: Social Change Through Food**

FNSC 40 **Chair: Patty Williams**, Mount Saint Vincent University

The Whole Foods Market Shopper: Shopping for Change, or Cruising for Pleasure?
Josée Johnston, University of Toronto
Michelle Szabo, York University

In the era of ethical consumption, the market – and the supermarket in particular – has emerged as a potential arena for consumer activism. Conscientious consumers may promote social change, it is argued, through their “ethical” purchases and their collective influence on food production and distribution. However, this view has also been criticized as part of the downloading of responsibility to individuals in a neoliberal era. Indeed, the motivations, meanings and transformative outcomes of “ethical consumption” are not obvious, or fixed. In this qualitative study based on interviews with Whole Foods Market shoppers, we use empirical data to explore the nuances of shopping for social change as well as pleasure. In-depth interviews with participants shed light on the contradictory meanings and motivations of shopping at an “ethical” grocery store. Further, we examine the implications of these findings for the relationship between “ethical consumption” and social and environmental justice.

Governing Taste: Slow Food's Virtuous Communities
Karine Vigneault, University of Montreal

While our food systems are said to become increasingly globalised, the notion “local food” has recently emerged as a particularly effective point of juncture for many (alimentary, ecological, economical, political and health-related) discourses and practices. Interestingly, the *Slow Food* movement – an international network of local communities – mobilises both discourses in a way that, I will suggest, is very distinctive from other such initiatives. Indeed in proposing that individuals should actively participate in the nearby *Slow Food* local chapter in order to “reawaken their senses” and exert a universal “right to bodily pleasure” to which duties are attached, *Slow Food* deploys a decidedly ethical and embodied conception of food and eating. One that can, as I will argue, be better understood as a form of “government through community” (Rose, 1996) very much consistent with advanced liberalism’s project of “government through virtue” (Giddens, 2000) and emphasis on (a malleable) corporeality (Rose, 2001).

Researching the Dimensions of Nutritional Decline and Building the Movement for Healthy Eating
Tony Winson, University of Guelph

This paper considers the proposition that the growing demand for healthy eating could achieve the most sweeping changes to the contemporary food system of all the various agro-food movements. While contemporary interests around slow food, fair trade, re-localization, organic foods, and community supported agriculture may translate into limited gains for what often amount to relatively small numbers of producers and (often privileged) consumers, a movement demanding healthy eating threatens the very institutional foundation of the corporate food order wedded as it is to the production of nutritionally degraded edible commodities. This paper seeks to map out the various dimensions of dietary degradation as a first step in building a research agenda that can support the demands for healthy eating and curbing the powers of the corporate transnational purveyors of pseudo foods and junk foods that have degraded food environments in the developed world, and are increasingly doing so in the developing world as well.

Transition to « Real Food » - Reality and Contradictions in South West British Columbia
Hannah Wittman and Herb Barbolet, Simon Fraser University

Growing public engagement with the concept of local food – as expressed in evocative campaigns for a 100 mile diet, Buy BC initiatives from government, and the increasing popularity of local farmer’s markets - demands closer analysis of the contradictions and disjuncture between social movement organizing towards promoting local food and the current and future potential of local producers to meet this growing demand. Understanding these contradictions is particularly important in the context of rapidly changing food and agriculture policy environments and climate/Peak Oil induced modifications in local production systems. This paper explores the potential for a transition to “real food” in South Western BC by identifying policy pathways toward a locally sourced, nutritionally sound, and environmentally sustainable food basket that takes into consideration regional agronomic constraints, cultural food preferences and other factors including wages

and labour availability, land regulations, and differential ecological impacts of production.

1:45 – 3:15 **SESSION 6-C: Immigrants' Ideas, Values and Concerns of Food**

FNSC 30 Chair: Ellen Desjardins, Wilfrid Laurier University

Constructing Place with Food: Immigrants' Constructions of Place and Identity through Food
Helen Vallianatos and Kim Raine, University of Alberta

This paper examines how concepts of health and bodies are located and transformed with movement across landscapes and socioscapescapes. It is an attempt to cross disciplinary boundaries, where social epidemiologically defined health patterns—by definition focused on populations—are deconstructed to anthropologically refocus on *how* places shape individuals in complex ways. In other words, both locally specific and more common experiences of migration are considered. The ideas presented here are grounded upon on-going research on immigrant health status and experiences in Canada. This work includes multiple approaches to understanding immigrant health, including secondary data analysis of the Canadian Community Health Survey, cycle 2.2, and local qualitative research, utilizing individual and focus-group interviews, with South Asian immigrants.

Beyond the Kitchen, Beyond the Work: Food, Cooking and Learning among New Chinese Immigrants to Canada
Willa Liu, University of Toronto

So far, literature on immigration and food has mainly focused on the impact of immigration on food choices and nutrition, food-related acculturation and cultural identity. Little research has been done on food-related work and food-related learning. This paper explores the impact of cross-cultural immigration on the food-related household work and the informal learning involved in such work among new Chinese immigrants in Canada. As part of a large SSHRC-funded research network on Work and Lifelong Learning (WALL), this paper examines data from two sources: a Canada-wide WALL survey on work and lifelong learning (n=9,362), and in-depth interviews with new Chinese immigrants in the Greater Toronto Areas (n=20), which was part of a WALL sub-project on unpaid household work and lifelong learning. By comparing the quantitative data from the survey and the qualitative data from its follow-up interview, the paper unveils how gender, ethnicity, and immigration influenced the amount of work in cooking and food preparation, and what informal learning the new immigrants had to undertake in order to cope with the changed work, the changed diet as well as their changed identities.

Food Safety and Traditional Foods of New Immigrants to Canada
Suzanne Dietrich, Sandy Isaacs, Barbara J. Marshall and Andrea Nesbitt, Public Health Agency of Canada

Immigrants to Canada bring their own cultural food traditions, food safety practices and knowledge. All Canadians also enjoy traditional foods of immigrants. Due to

the incorporation of these new foods into the mainstream Canadian diet, it is essential that there be a common understanding of traditional foods of new immigrants coming into Canada, and how traditional foods might pose food safety risks, while taking into consideration how food safety is brought into the traditional practices of new immigrants and refugees. This literature review presentation considers a/ what's currently known about the traditional foods of recent immigrants b/ the potential food safety concerns identified in relation to these foods, and c/ the relationships and initiatives between public health professionals and immigrant communities in support of food safety. Current initiatives and suggestions for future studies will also be addressed.

3:30 – 5:00 **SESSION 7-A: Evaluating the Community Food Action Initiative:
A Cross-sectoral Partnership For Achieving Community Food Security in BC.**

FNSC 50 Chair: **Deepthi Jayatilaka**, Community Food Action Initiative

Deepthi Jayatilaka, Community Food Action Initiative
Claire Gram, Healthy Communities and Food Security, Vancouver Coastal Health
Jim Mactier and Kim van der Voerd, Facilitate This!

The Community Food Action Initiative (CFAI) is a health promotion initiative aimed at increasing food security for all British Columbians, particularly those living with limited incomes. Funded by the BC Ministry of Health, coordinated by the Provincial Health Services Authority and implemented by the Regional Health Authorities, CFAI is a collaboration of the Ministry and the six health authorities and is overseen by a cross-sectoral provincial advisory committee. CFAI undertook a process evaluation to understand the effectiveness of program administration and to analyze if CFAI was accomplishing its objectives. The evaluation surveyed 19 program administrators, 67 project leaders (of a total 155 community based projects funded) and 179 program participants. The results demonstrate an overall achievement of program objectives, and illuminate the complexity of evaluating a multi-party community initiative. The systems evaluation revealed the need to build capacity for integrating outcome evaluative practice into program management.

3:30 – 5:00 **SESSION 7-B: The Right to Food, Nutrition and Social Welfare: Policy
Implications for Vancouver's Eastside**

FNSC 60 Chair: Graham Riches, *University of British Columbia*
Graham Riches, University of British Columbia
Judy Graves, City of Vancouver
Shefali Raja, Fraser Health

This presentation describes and analyses the food provision and healthy eating and dietary access needs of Canada's poorest urban neighbourhood - Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. It presents policies for change informed by the right to adequate food and nutrition (UNFAO, 2005) and a national food policy directed at the optimal nourishment of the population (MacRae, 1999). A tripartite analysis will

be presented: a narrative account and qualitative assessment using photographic imagery (powerpoint slides) depicting food insecurity in the DTES; an overview of the cost of eating and the nutritional (in)adequacy and (lack of) affordability of domestic food acquisition and preparation and of charitable emergency food provision; and a right to food and nutrition action plan focused on joined-up food policy and the creation of a local food community taking account of the international and domestic obligations of the state (federal, provincial and municipal), the corporate sector and the community.

3:30 – 5:00 **SESSION 7-C: Crossing Borders and Pushing Boundaries for a Sustainable Food Supply**

FNSC 40 Chair: Pamela Courtney-Hall, University of Prince Edward Island

Sustainable Farming, Sustaining Communities in an Age of Declining Soil Supplies

Gary Clausheide, Valleyfield, PEI

Pamela Courtenay_Hall, UPEI

One of the central reasons why efforts to solve the problems of agriculture have failed is because we investigate the problems of agriculture in isolation, as if our problems could be solved just by making changes in agriculture or in our food distribution systems. The reality is that farmers are caught within an economic system that is inimical to sustainable agriculture and inimical to rural community.

Exposing the inherent tendencies of our economic system to exploit both land and labour, we examine whether our best hope lies in building regulations to curb these tendencies, or in building regionally self-reliant communities to free ourselves from them. To make the contrast clear, we present a model of a community based on equality and on respecting land and resources as commonwealth. In this model, organic agriculture is integrated into the community economically, socially, educationally, and culturally. Modest initiatives like building farmer-citizen cooperatives are a beginning to the consciousness-raising and critical mass needed.

Back to the Farm: Bringing Agriculture Back into the Undergraduate Arts & Science Curriculum

Pamela Courtenay_Hall, UPEI

Gary Clausheide, Valleyfield, PEI

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educationally, and culturally. Modest initiatives like building farmer-citizen cooperatives are a beginning to the consciousness-raising and critical mass needed.

MONDAY, JUNE 2

9:00-10:30 **Feeding Babies and Families, Regulating Health, Female Bodies and Communities / Allaiter ses enfants, nourrir sa famille: régler la santé, le corps des femme et la communauté**
Joint Canadian History Association and CAFS session

LAW 101 **Facilitators: Mustafa Koc**, Ryerson University and **Patty Williams**, Mount Saint Vincent University

Note: For papers see:

http://www.cha-shc.ca/english/activ/meeting_reunion/view.cfm?year=2008#mon

"Tutti a Tavola!" Food, Celebrations and Domesticity among Italian Immigrants in Postwar Montreal

Sonia Cancian, Concordia University

Sonia Cancian has recently completed a PhD in Humanities at the Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies in Society and Culture, Concordia University, Montreal. Her dissertation, "Transatlantic Correspondents: Kinship, Gender and Emotions in Postwar Experiences between Italy and Canada, 1947-1971" examines through the lens of personal correspondence the separation that migrants in Canada and loved ones in Italy experienced as a result of migration. She is the recipient of a number of awards and fellowships. Most recently, she was awarded the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Postdoctoral Fellowship. As a SSHRC postdoctoral fellow, she has been continuing with her research and teaching at the Immigration History Research Center where she is currently based at the University of Minnesota.

Policies Promoting Breastfeeding in Canada in the early 20th Century

Aleck Ostry, University of Victoria

'Natural' Milk: Physicians, Public Health Officials, Veterinarians, and Public Health Reform in 1920s New Brunswick

Jane E. Jenkins, St. Thomas University

Jane Jenkins received her PhD from the Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology at the University of Toronto and currently teaches history of science as well as science studies at St. Thomas University in Fredericton, New Brunswick. Her current research project focuses on the public health reform movement in the early 20th century.

'A National Priority': Food, Health, and Colonizing Bodies in Nutrition Canada's National Survey, 1965-1975

Krista M. Walters, University of Toronto

Krista Walters is completing her first year of the PhD program in History at the University of Toronto. Her paper is based on preliminary research for an upcoming thesis proposal, which will look more broadly at Aboriginal nutrition in Canada's northwest in the postwar decades. Krista is a Research Affiliate with the University of Manitoba Institute for the Humanities, and is grateful for the support of a Canada Graduate Scholarship.