



Community Coordinator
Rainy River District
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Regional Food Charter for the
Kenora and Rainy River District
April 2017 – March 2018

Overview

Cloverbelt Local Food Coop

Food Charters



Introduction

Our Vision

Who We Are

Fulfilling Our Vision

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Our Vision:

To become the central hub for production and distribution of local goods in Northwestern Ontario.



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- Ontario's first online Farmers' Market
- Operate year-round out of Dryden
- Started in 2013 with 85 members
- 1400+ current members across NWO
- 100+ producers in NWO
- 12+ producers in RRD



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- Non-profit multi-stakeholder food Coop:
 - Connect producers and consumers of local, naturally grown food, food products, artisanal products,
 - Increase food accessibility through online farmers' market with regular scheduled order cycles (retail and wholesale),
 - Connect communities with local goods via distribution sites spanning 350 km across Northwestern Ontario.

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- Increase amount of local food produced and sold in NWO:
 - Website sales,
 - Increased farming capacity,
 - Education about local food purchasing and supporting local economic development.



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- Expansion into Rainy River District:
 - Distribution hubs:
 - *Emo Feed* SERVICE hub (Nov 2017)
 - Fort Frances hub (Mar 2018?)
 - Atikokan hub (Mar – Apr 2018?)
 - More?
 - Members:
 - 6 (2017) → 40+ (Mar 2018)

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Food Charters

Introduction

History of Food Charters

Purpose and Benefits

Regional Food Charter for the Kenora and Rainy River District

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Food Charters

- First food charter in Toronto in 1991
- Across Canada:
 - Provincial, regional, and municipal levels:
 - Manitoba, Saskatchewan,
 - B.C., N.B., N.S. P.E.I., etc.
 - Ontario (North Bay Perry Sound, Waterloo, Durham Region, Dryden, etc).
- World-wide phenomenon now



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Regional Food Charter

*A **food charter** is a value, vision, or principle statement, and/or series of goals, written by a city, town or region that has a broad base of support and describes what a community wants their food system to look like. It is a “reference document” for municipal decision makers.*

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Regional Food Charter

*A food charter raises awareness and education about food issues, and forms a basis for action. A **regional food charter** can provide a platform for connecting existing local food projects across municipalities.*

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Regional Food Charter

- A food charter helps to:
 - Unite diverse interests in the food system,
 - Develop a common language and vision for working together.
- Food system consists of every step from the growing to disposal of food.

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- April 2017 – March 2018 Partnership with:
 - Lakehead University Centre for Sustainable Food Systems Research Network,
 - Northwestern Health Unit,
 - Municipalities, and
 - Other key partners across NWO.

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Regional Food Charter for Kenora and Rainy River District



- April 2017 – March 2018: Regional approach:
 - Small and large community involvement,
 - Collaboration to shape the vision and use of local food in the region,
 - Multiple opportunities to create a reference document with unified and clear set of principles to form basis for food procurement, decision- and policy-making.

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- April 2017 – August 2017: Community Input Sessions:
 - Asked community members to share their priorities for our local food system.
 - Sessions held in:
 - Sioux Lookout, Kenora, Ear Falls, Dryden, etc.
 - Emo, Devlin, Fort Frances, Stratton, Rainy River.

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- Sept – Nov 2017: Survey Development and Circulation:
 - Input condensed into a survey and circulated across:
 - Municipalities,
 - Community groups,
 - Social Media,
 - Local newspapers
 - Objective to narrow the focus and capture major common priorities.

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Regional Food Charter for Kenora and Rainy River District



- Dec 2017 – Mar 2018: Draft Charter Development and Circulation:
 - Final opportunity for community feedback before document finalized:
 - Copy of document to each member of council
 - Available at:
 - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Regionalfoodcharter>

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Regional Food Charter for Kenora and Rainy River District



- Regional Food Charter (Spring 2018):
 - Endorsement as per each community:
 - Agree with Charter values and vision,
 - Support local and regional activities that advance these goals.
 - Reference document forms basis for decisions and actions related to food, food procurement, food security (accessibility, availability, affordability), to address child/adult hunger, low nutrition status (household food insecurity) and related negative health, social, cultural and economic impacts, etc. across the region.

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Thank you!

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