



City of London Budget Committee
February 23, 2024

Re: Multi-Year Budget & Community Food Security

Dear Budget Committee,

The [Middlesex London Food Policy Council \(MLFPC\)](#) was established in 2017 based on the recommendation of the 2016 [Community Food Assessment](#) funded by London Community Foundation. Our vision is that the Middlesex London community sustains a healthy, safe, equitable, and ecologically responsible food system that nourishes all residences and is economically viable. Unfortunately, our community continues to experience significant gaps in our local food system that have been highlighted through issues such as inflation, COVID-19, geopolitical and environmental events. Southwestern Ontario is home to one of the most fertile agricultural regions of the world, and as such our community has a responsibility to protect and grow our regional food system.

We are writing to express our support of the Community Gardens expansion in the multi-year budget. The addition of one new Community Garden plus 20 new plots at existing gardens is an important element of growing our local food system and supporting food security. Community Gardens not only provide critical benefits for food security, but also contribute to community health and well-being through mental and physical benefits. We commend the expansion of the Community Gardens program and believe there are many ways that community food security can continue to be bolstered in our city. We would be happy to continue conversations with City Councillors and staff around ways we can support the enhancement of community food security.

MLFPC has demonstrated local leadership in identifying gaps and opportunities in our food system, most notably through our [Multiphase Assessment of Community Food Security](#), generously funded by the London Community Recovery Network. Our Community Food Security Assessment includes a review of the current food system and recent impacts like COVID-19; community outreach and input; an environmental scan of food policy across eight municipalities; and exploration of the potential for regional collaboration to address long-term food security.

The Middlesex London Food Policy Council thanks you for your time and we hope to continue working together on building community food security in London.

Sincerely,
Jessica Cordes (past-chair)
Middlesex London Food Policy Council
e: info@mlfpc.ca
<https://mlfpc.ca/>

