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London
CANADA

Feb 24, 2026

Dear Colleagues,

We seek your support in exploring opportunities to increase our local food procurement in our city managed facilities. In the context of ongoing global economic uncertainty, including supply chain disruptions, inflationary pressures, and geopolitical instability, strengthening local and regional economies has become an increasingly important strategy for municipal governments.

Buying locally helps retain economic activity within the community, ensuring that public dollars circulate through local businesses, farms, processors, and workers rather than leaving the region. This approach supports job creation, stabilizes small and medium-sized enterprises, and enhances the resilience of local supply chains at a time when international markets remain volatile.

For the City of London, prioritizing locally sourced and locally processed food represents an opportunity to align municipal procurement with economic development objectives. Increased demand from municipal facilities can provide predictable, long-term markets for regional producers and processors, encouraging business growth and investment within Southwestern Ontario. This, in turn, supports rural–urban economic linkages, strengthens the regional food system, and helps local businesses better withstand broader economic shocks.

By examining actions for local sourcing and processing, the City can assess what is achievable in the short, medium, and long term, while balancing fiscal responsibility, operational realities, and sustainability goals. We seek your support on the following motion:

THAT Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to report back to Council on policy compliant actions that could be taken to support increased participation of local and regional food producers and processors in food sourcing for City managed facilities, including the use of existing provincial and municipal resources and guidance, while ensuring compliance with the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy and applicable Trade Agreements.

Thank you,

Skylar Franke
Ward 11 Councillor

Hadleigh McAlister
Ward 1 Councillor