



## **AN URGENT CALL FOR PROVINCIAL ACTION ON FOOD POLICY**

### ***WHEREAS:***

- Food security has been identified as an urgent priority and goal by our province,
- Thousands of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians are already growing and gathering millions of pounds of local food, as confirmed by a recent provincial food survey,
- Inconsistent interpretation and enforcement of municipal plans, bylaws and financial penalties is interfering with food production and creating conflict within municipalities,
- There are no longer buffer zones around registered farms inside municipal boundaries,
- Food costs have spiraled steadily upward, while lack of affordable, healthy food targets low-income individuals, seniors, children and immigrants,
- Attendance at food banks has doubled, while donations have decreased by 80%,
- More than half of our province's farmland has been lost to production in 20 years,
- Fresh, local food is healthier than imported food, and will keep more of the money we spend on food in our province,
- There is a direct connection between good nutrition and lower provincial health costs,
- Local food production can help rebuild sustainability and address climate change,
- Growing and gathering food is an important part of our provincial cultural heritage,

### ***And Whereas:***

- Urban and rural communities are being negatively impacted by climate change,
- Local production can reduce greenhouse gas from transportation of imported food,
- The simple application of agricultural “best practice” will alleviate municipal responsibility for local management of food production across the province,
- This can help municipalities avoid complex issues of local enforcement,

### ***Therefore:***

- Arbitrary, outdated municipal regulations should be standardized, amended or removed,
- We need uniform provincial food production regulations for fair treatment of all, and
- We need the return of agricultural buffer zones to protect our remaining farms.

**WE CALL ON OUR PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT to protect food production by amending the Urban and Rural Planning Act and enacting policies to enshrine and protect local food production on residential and agricultural lands for the good of all.**