

Honourable Kathleen Wynne
Premier of Ontario and Minister of Agriculture and Food
Queen's Park
Room 281
111 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A1

May 21, 2013

Dear Premier Wynne,

Re: Ontario Local Food Act

The Ottawa Food Policy Council (OFPC) welcomes the reintroduction of the Ontario Local Food Act to the Ontario Legislature as a milestone in the re-establishment of a dynamic, sustainable, healthy local food system in Ontario.

According to the March 25th news release, the province will “hold consultations with stakeholders on a new provincial designation system that could help promote foods of a particular region.” This is a vital component of the Act as there are great differences across the province, reflecting unique and distinct cultures, ecosystems and infrastructure. Ottawa Food Policy Council would like to emphasize the importance of recognizing regional food systems at the sub-provincial level. Eastern Ontario and other areas of the province have been working hard to support the development of their local food-sheds. Ensuring that these initiatives continue to flourish under a provincial strategy is critical to achieving the multiple benefits of rebuilding the local food system in *every* area of the province. The OFPC is a key stakeholder in this region and will welcome the opportunity to be part of these consultations, especially with respect to investments into infrastructure at regional levels.

Signed,



Christina Marchant, Chair
on behalf of the Ottawa Food Policy Council