

COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION

6. Decreasing Food Waste, Increasing Food Security

Submitted by: Councillor Carr

WHEREAS

1. On average in British Columbia, we throw away the equivalent of 1 out of every 4 bags of groceries we buy, adding up to more than \$1,100 of food from our homes every year;¹
2. The National Zero Waste Council's 2022 research shows that in Canada as a whole almost 2.3 million tonnes of edible food is wasted each year, costing Canadians in excess of \$20 billion, and 63% of the food thrown away could have been eaten;²
3. Over one in 10 BC households (11.8%), representing 485,500 British Columbians, experience some level of food insecurity. About 3% of households, representing 91,100 British Columbians, experienced severe food insecurity;³
4. In BC, organic waste currently represents 40% of material sent to our landfills. As this material decomposes, it generates a significant level of greenhouse gases, including the potent greenhouse gas methane, which increases global warming and contributes to climate change. Climate scientists are predicting that accelerated global warming, with increased droughts, floods, extreme heat and extreme weather events, will greatly reduce global food-production capacity and lead to food shortages.⁴

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT City Council direct staff to forward the following motion to the UBCM for consideration at its 2023 Annual General Meeting.

Resolution

MOTION: Decreasing Food Waste, Increasing Food Security

WHEREAS over 11.8% of BC households (485,500 British Columbians) experience some level of food insecurity and about 3% of households (91,100 British Columbians) experience severe food insecurity, leading to more than 163,000 people in BC using a food bank in March of 2022 and the prediction that reliance on food banks and other food charities is expected to increase by 60 percent in BC in 2023, with the non-profit sector bearing the brunt of costs associated with collecting and delivering food that would otherwise be wasted to people in need;

AND WHEREAS the National Zero Waste council calculates that 63 percent of all of the food Canadians throw away could have been eaten and, according to the Government of BC, about 40 percent of our produce ends up in a landfill, where it breaks down to produce significant greenhouse gases which climate scientists predict will accelerate global warming and greatly reduce food-production capacity:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT UBCM urge the BC Government to:

- Measure, monitor and make publicly available data on food waste in BC in order to inform and develop policies, guidelines and practices to reduce food waste; and
- Support the non-profit sector involved in rescuing and distributing food as an essential interim measure to address food insecurity for vulnerable and equity-seeking populations until more sustainable public interventions address poverty and income insecurity, the primary drivers of food insecurity in BC.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT

- UBCM urge the BC Government to incorporate measures to reduce food wastage and over-packaging of produce, increase organic waste diversion, and promote the consumption of planet-friendly foods into its climate plan (CleanBC).

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¹ [Residential Food Waste Prevention - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)

² [Food Waste - The Issue, National Zero Waste Council](#)

³ [Household food insecurity indicator report - Priority health equity indicators for British Columbia](#)

⁴ [Food and organic waste - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)