

Good morning and thank you Chairs, and Councillors for an iterative approach to develop a fresh, new, visionary Official Plan.

My name is Moe Garahan and I am the ED of Just Food, and also part of organizations working together to focus on economic development within climate change targets.

I am here to commend staff on initial linking of food and farming into the Official Plan in a more coherent fashion. I am also here to stress the importance of a strengthened food lens throughout the Official Plan to ensure we as a city leverage the abundant economic, environmental and health benefits that a focus on food offers Ottawa.

Some quick examples:

Rural Employment Areas are intended to support and encourage clustering of uses that are not suitable in the Urban Area, Village or General Rural Area, but then agriculture as a complete category is listed alongside mining of aggregates, transport, construction, storage, etc. Agriculture is the production of food and this must run through all zoning throughout our city - within rural, suburban and urban areas. Ottawa is already a leader in innovative residential zoning to allow for food production and young people are interested in accessing this for entrepreneurialism within the local food sector.

The goal for flexibility for farm operations, while ensuring that agricultural viability is not jeopardized, is applauded as a key strategic direction - and a key part of this is recognizing that smaller parcels of land for local food production is critical for apiaries, greenhouses, market gardening, poultry/eggs, seed companies, etc. where demand outstrips supply in Ottawa.

We applaud the Live, Work, Play design goals to liveable, integrated neighbourhoods. This does mean that small and medium-sized food businesses must be integrated, with sufficient space for manufacturing, warehousing and distribution space as a top priority to stay within the liveable communities across the city, to support value-chain development and food as an economic driver in Ottawa .

Regarding the tree canopy - We need to plant tens of thousands of trees over the next few years to be tied to policies that support the building of an incredible edible landscape that beautifies and provide foods. Edible landscapes allow for carbon sinks even as we as residents are able to pull berries and fruits off the trees on the way to school or work, or make teas out of herbs along edible pathways. THIS is innovative within a capital city.

Regarding the urban boundary - the statement is that everything will be attempted to prevent development onto agriculture lands, however the bottom line is we need to COMMIT to doing this, recognizing the fragile nature of productive soils on the planet at this point in time and the incredible value of this asset we have within a highly populated city - something that will become critical well before 2046.

The Official plan and Greenspace plans need to focus on prioritizing agroecological approaches to growing food throughout the city - including rural, suburban and urban lands as part of the

climate change solution. Synergizing with the NCC Greenbelt MasterPlan is part of this, including new sustainable agriculture goals for its 25,000 acres of agricultural lands within the capital region, and a special focus on food for people. We hope to see the City of Ottawa echo these priorities.

Encouraging agriculture in Ottawa means supports for established farms, AND investment into incubation of new food and farming start-up businesses throughout Ottawa as key to not only increased employment and liveable communities, but investing in Ottawa being a world-class culinary, farm-to-table destination encouraging the world to Savour Ottawa, Savourez Ottawa.

Successful global branding needs to build upon our unique assets - we are unique on the planet as a capital city of a country that has 1100+ farms within our city boundaries.

We are a city that tourists will prioritize to get to, not for an improved airport, but if we compel people with economic development to create a Good Food City like no other. Let's make Ottawa the global place to go to feed both our minds and our bodies.