

North Shore Food Action E-Brief

Food security is a new and broad concept, encompassing the safety, quality and sustainability of our food supply, and access to a healthy diet. By working with our partners toward the goal that all residents have access to adequate amounts of safe, nutritious, culturally appropriate foods, produced in an environmentally sustainable way and provided in a manner that promotes dignity, Vancouver Coastal Health is working towards a healthier tomorrow for communities, families and individuals.

Through these E-Brief's, we hope to disseminate useful information that will build our capacity to be food secure.

Please submit your updates to Margaret.Broughton@vch.ca. You are welcome to distribute the E-Brief to your networks.

January 2010

North Shore Initiatives

2010/2011 Advancing Urban Agriculture Grant Opportunity. Vancouver Coastal Health is offering small grants for food security and urban agriculture projects. Deadline for applications is March 12, 2010. Applications available at: www.ediblegardenproject.com. For further information call Margaret Broughton, VCH, 604-904-6482.

North Shore food security list serve. A list serve related to North Shore food security and urban agriculture will be announced soon. This list serve is being developed in response to a recommendation from Table Matters that methods to increase networking be developed.

Provincial/National Food Security list serves

Food Security Gateway is meant to connect people to BC initiatives and important resources that can help to create healthy eating environments and food secure communities in BC. Available at: <http://www.phabc.org/foodsecuritygateway>

Bits and Bytes This database is a living, ever-growing cornucopia of freely-accessible, community food security resources for British Columbia <http://www.bitsandbytes.ca>

BC Food Systems Network list serve. Has the mandate to work together to eliminate hunger and create food security for all residents of British Columbia. To subscribe or unsubscribe via the World Wide Web, visit: http://bcfsn.org/mailman/listinfo/members_bcfsn.org

Food Secure Canada Canadian list serve related to food security. To subscribe or unsubscribe via the World Wide Web, visit <http://list.web.net/lists/listinfo/fsc-sac>

Food Security

Interactive Food Directory

A Victoria based organization, LifeCycles, has created an interactive food map. Click on the menu item and find out its food miles rating, how far it travels and what that means for the environment. For directory: <http://www.localfooddirectory.ca/foodshed/geobrowser/#>

DIG - Diversity in Gardens

A free booklet on getting your kids, your friends and yourself connected to bio-diversity. Cool pictures of strange plants and lots of activities. To download: <http://www.tgibc.org/DIG.pdf>

Setting Up a Community Seed Bank

This action sheet provides information about Seed Banks including a history and a thorough guide illustrating how to start a Seed Bank. To download:

<http://www.paceproject.net/Userfiles/File%5CSoils%5Cseed%20bank.pdf>

Queen of the Sun

This is a film exploring the global bee crisis as a catalyst for culture shift. They highlight unsung heroes from past and present, from poets and philosophers, to scientists and biodynamic beekeepers, who are dedicated to the survival of the bees. For preview: <http://www.queenofthesun.com/index.html>

Food and Agriculture

Canada's Agriculture & Agri-Food Committee on GMOs (podcast)

From the radio show Deconstructing Dinner, the continued coverage of the controversial subject of GMOs. This episode features the December 2009 meetings of Canada's Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food regarding GMO's. To listen: <http://www.cjly.net/deconstructingdinner/120309.htm>

New Democrats Introduce Bill Aiming to Make Sales of Local Meat More Viable

British Columbians will potentially have easier access to purchasing local meat if a bill introduced in the legislature by New Democrats is passed. Full story: http://www.bclocalnews.com/bc_north/interior-news/news/72894677.html Since some of the information contained in the newspaper article is not accurate; we are attaching two information sheets on the Meat Inspection Regulations for clarification. MIR and Local Gov - <http://www.phsa.ca/NR/rdonlyres/0F878134-ABD7-4652-A30C-738297CE68D1/0/LocalGovernmentsKeyPartnersinLocalMeatProduction.pdf> MIR and consumers - <http://www.phsa.ca/NR/rdonlyres/239A687F-443E-4257-A8DE-0810F17F3406/0/LocalFoodLocalMeat.pdf>

Province Changes Farm Assessment Classification System

The Province is establishing new rules for the split-classification assessment system for farm properties to boost local food production and support small-scale farms, announced Community and Rural Development Minister, Bill Bennett. Full story: http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2009CD0047-000680.htm

Fish Being Wiped Out to Feed Farm Animals, Study Says

The oceans are being emptied to provide feed for farmed animals such as fish, chickens and pigs, a study involving the University of B.C. concludes. For story:

<http://www2.canada.com/vancouver/news/story.html?id=f94debe7-131d-4277-8440-2d09105630c9>

Food and Environment

UN Food Body to Help Farmers Fight Climate Change

The Food and Agriculture Organization is to promote the potential for agriculture in the developing world to lower greenhouse gas emissions. Full story:

<http://www.spacedaily.com/2006/091208153831.u8871k98.html>

Why We Left Our Farms to Come to Copenhagen

"How do we solve the climate chaos, hunger, and assure a better livelihood for farmers, when the agricultural sector itself is contributing more than half of the total emissions?" A Speech of Henry Saragih, general coordinator of Via Campesina at the climate change talks in Copenhagen. To read further:

<http://www.commondreams.org/view/2009/12/08-2>

Urban Greenhouses to Fight Climate Change

Swiss-American design firm Plantagon Greenhouse, proposes giant glass-enclosed farms in cities to provide food and fight global warming. Full story:

http://www.businessweek.com/globalbiz/content/dec2009/gb2009127_707601.htm

Canadian Farmers Suggest Local Food Initiatives as Way to Fight Climate Change

As agricultural experts met in Copenhagen last month to gingerly build consensus on agriculture's role in climate change, some farmers in Canada offered another solution to farming's cost on the environment - change the way farming is practiced. Full story:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/canadianpress/article/ALeqM5jNwb0iGwox35-MGacagRsgDwnWjw>

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Food and Health

Child Diabetes Blamed on Food Sweetener

Scientists have proved for the first time that a cheap form of sugar used in thousands of food products and soft drinks can damage human metabolism and is fuelling the obesity crisis. Full story:

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/health/article6954603.ece>

The Cost of Eating in BC 2009

The yearly report from Dietitians of Canada is now available. This report is full of facts and information regarding real cost of healthy eating in BC. Download at www.dietitians.ca/bccostofeating
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Workshops and Courses

FAO-UOC Joint Certificate in Food Security

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya's (UOC) Department of Food Systems, Culture and Society are partnering to offer a fully accredited, online certificate in Food Security: Assessment and Action. Courses run from March 17 to July 16, 2010. To register or for more information, please email them at foodsystems@uoc.edu

Ryerson Food Security Courses, Winter 2010

This winter term, Ryerson is offering a basic introductory course in food security. This career-related Certificate in Food Security will give the relevant knowledge one requires to excel in this rapidly expanding field. To view course information and to register: <http://ryerson.ca/foodsecurity/certificate/index.html>

CFAI e-briefs are an information service bringing news of food and activity initiatives and research. The news items are for information only and do not reflect any official viewpoint of the Provincial Health Services Authority and [Vancouver Coastal Health](#).

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