

# **Policy Framework for Community Action Stakeholder Engagement Meeting March 12, 2009**

## **A Fresh Approach to Food: improving access to nutritious food & food security in Waterloo Region**

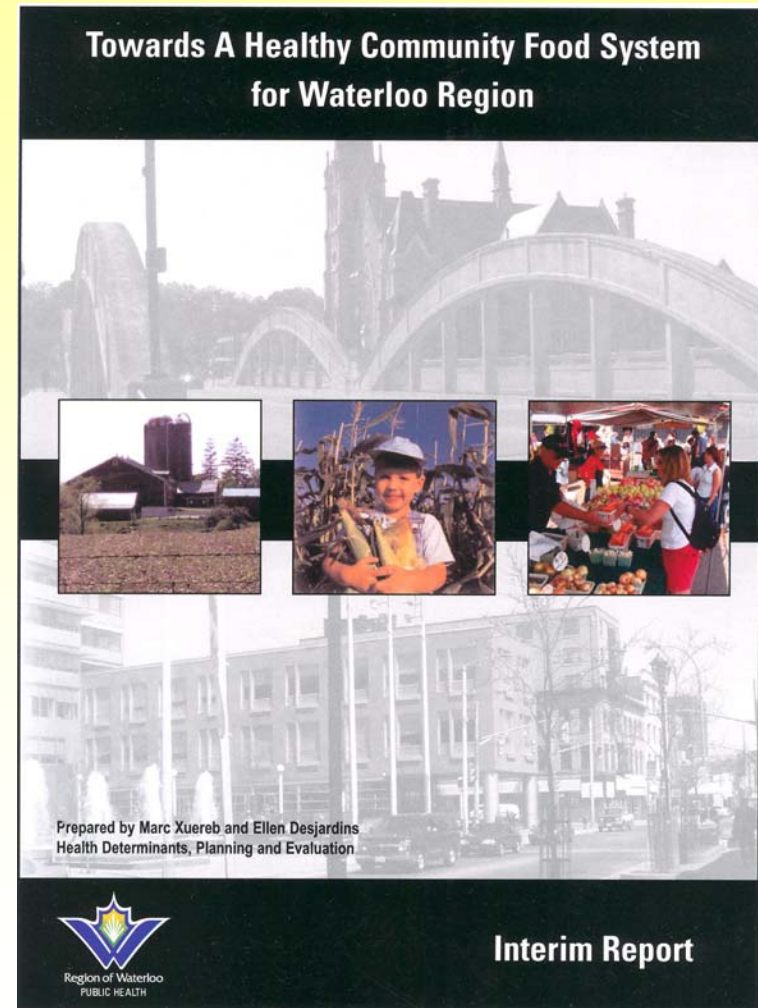


#549839

Building Healthy and Supportive Communities

# Goal of a Healthy Community Food System

All residents have access to, and can afford to buy, safe, nutritious, culturally acceptable food that has been produced in an environmentally sustainable way and that sustains our rural communities.



November 2005

# Public Health as facilitator and catalyst of a healthy community food system

- Raising Awareness
- Building Organizational Capacity
- **Developing Policy**
- Cultivating Partnerships
- Developing system-wide networks
- Creating a Plan

# **Developing Policy – Regional Focus**

- Region of Waterloo Public Health
- Region of Waterloo
- Area municipalities
- Build capacity of community partners (including schools) to work on policy development

# **Region of Waterloo Public Health**

- Guidelines for Offering Healthy Foods at Meetings and Catered Events

# Region of Waterloo

- Incorporation of access to healthy food and preservation of agricultural land provisions into Draft Regional Official plan.
- Potential expansion of Region's Green Purchasing Program (which identifies environmentally-protective purchasing choices) to include the purchase of local food
- Baby Friendly™ Initiative
- Increased annualized funding for Community Nutrition Worker Program

# A Healthy Community Food System Plan, April 2007

## Sample Recommendations:

- Mobile farmers' markets
- Farm-institution programs
- Local food label
- Zoning issues for farming
- Food System Roundtable to oversee new Plan

### A HEALTHY COMMUNITY FOOD SYSTEM PLAN



FOR WATERLOO REGION



# Area Municipalities

- Worked with area municipality planners to develop supportive policy for neighbourhood markets (zoning and by-law issues) and..
- with Regional and township planners on zoning issues related to Elmira Produce Auction

# Elmira Produce Auction



# **Build policy development capacity of community partners**

- "Diggable Communities Collaborative" advocates for supportive regional and municipal policies for community gardens
- Support to elementary and secondary school re: policy development