

Winnipeg Committees and other Food Councils - Composition

COMPOSITION

The following information makes some general observations of existing Winnipeg committees. Full committee descriptions can be found at <http://clkapps.winnipeg.ca/dmis/>. It also sums up the composition of three different Food Policy Councils in Canada.

Winnipeg Committees

- Generally, there are 10-15 members on each City committee.
- One or two Councillors are always appointed to participate
- Terms of reference can specify general membership (e.g. 7-9 members of the community with a special interest in...) or specific membership (e.g. representatives from a specific profession, specific organization, or a specific association).

Edmonton Food Council – Specific Sector Representation

The Edmonton Food Council has up to 15 members who are at least 18 years old. Membership reflects diverse interests, including: Production; Processing; Distribution; Buying and selling; Eating and celebrating (Cultural groups, non-profits, chefs, food artisans); Waste and recovery; Education; Government; Citizens and eaters; and various demographic groups. Members have a passion for how food contributes to a great city; knowledge of and expertise in the food system; experience working within the food and agriculture sector; leadership capacity; ability to deliver results; relationship-building skills; influence in the community; research and evaluation capacity; accounting and funding capacities; ability for networking and facilitating; and willingness to be progressive and innovative.

Toronto Food Policy Council – Minimal Sector Representation

The Board of Health appoints one member from the Board of Health, two from City Council, three from farms and rural communities, two Youth members, and up to 22 Toronto residents with qualifications based on: professional or community work; skills and experience in community food security; ability to help initiate dialogue and partnerships with distinct population groups; respect for the complexity and sensitivity of the TFPC's work with diverse partners; skills in diversity management, problem-solving; and ability to attend monthly meetings and working group meetings.

Vancouver Food Policy Council – Broad Sector Representation

The council has a maximum of 21 voting members, including 15 from the following food system areas (three members from each area): Production; Processing and Distribution; Retail; Access and Consumption; and Waste Management. The council also has six members-at-large.

Summary:

The **Toronto** model has a few spots for people from certain organizations or demographics, like the Health Board (which is part of the municipal mandate), surrounding farms, and youth. Most of the council, however, is made up of people who fit into very broad categories (their ability to connect with certain people or organizations, policy experience, etc.). The **Vancouver** model also has broad sectors, and requires three people from five different food systems sectors (Production, Processing, Retail, etc.) plus six general members. The **Edmonton** model makes sure people from 10 specific sectors (processing, education, governance, etc.) are Council members.