

## Richmond Food Security Task Force

### May 2008 Report to the Planning Committee

#### Re: Updates on the Richmond Community Food Action Initiative (CFAI)

#### Background

The Richmond Food Security Task Force, a sub-committee of the Richmond Poverty Response Committee, has been implementing a food action plan based on the *Richmond Food System Assessment* Report that was presented to the Planning Committee in February 2007.

Community food security programs are funded by the Ministry of Health's Smart Fund program which allocates funds to municipalities in B.C. through regional health authorities. The Richmond Food Security group is made up of agency representatives and community members who are promoting and working towards local food security. Members include:

- . Family Services of Greater Vanc.
- . Richmond Food Bank
- . Richmond Family Place
- . Richmond Fruit Tree Sharing Project
- . Terra Nova School Yard Project
- . Richmond Community Kitchens
- . Kairos
- . Peace Mennonite Church
- . Richmond Health Dept. (VCH)
- . Richmond School District
- . Reindeer Army
- . Richmond Women's Resource Centre

#### February 2007 to May 2008 Highlights

- . Introduced an alternative concept proposal of a sustainable food centre/park that could be located on the Garden City Lands
- . Informed citizens of the benefits of urban agriculture at community festivals
- . Participated in the first 10-Mile Diet; co-sponsored the first *Field to Feast* Tour with the Richmond Museum
- . Sponsored a successful 3rd Annual World Food Day - October 2007
- . Produced a variety of brochures to promote local food security in Richmond
- . Received an Enterprising Nonprofits Grant to conduct a "Pocket Market", community economic development pilot project - Summer 2008
- . Held a two-day FOOD FOR ALL DIALOGUE conference in Richmond, Feb. 29

and March 1 - 200 people attended. (Report attached)

. Produced a Local Food Guide to promote Richmond farms, market stands, community gardens and U-picks. (Attached)

. Vancouver Coastal Health announced in Feb. 08 that they would be providing another round of continued three-year funding for Richmond: 2008 – 2010 (\$105,000 @ \$35,000 per year)

### **Future of Food Security in Richmond**

In the last two years there has been a significant growth and interest to promote local food initiatives in Richmond.

In the 2006 *Richmond Food System Assessment* Report three year action plan, one of the tasks was to explore options to develop a food policy for Richmond.

To date, other than research - this initiative has yet to happen.

Within the context of a global food crisis and the impacts of climate change, there is a need to work more closely with the City of Richmond to develop together, a food security strategy - similar to other cities and municipalities in B.C.

### **Proposed Actions for the Planning Committee to consider:**

1. Appoint a city staff liaison to the Richmond Food Security Task Force
2. Recognize an opportunity to work together to begin developing a food strategy for Richmond
3. Allocate resources in the City's 2009 budget for a Food Security Coordinator city position

Respectfully Submitted,

---

Mary Gazetas, Co-chair – Richmond Food Security Task Force

---

Margaret Hewlett, Co-chair – Richmond Food Security Task Force