

The Vision into the future was:
Food Sovereignty

It has 6 supporting pillars:

Focuses on food for people	Builds knowledge and skills	Works with nature	Values food providers	Localizes food systems	Puts control locally
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Our current situation has some blockages that obstruct the realization of this vision. The blockages or contradictions we brainstormed were grouped into 5 areas that we named:

<p><u>Sustainable farming</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Climate *More organic farms *Cost of Energy *Natural- mulching, rainwater *Encourage organic growing methods *Industrial farming works outside natures limits with artificial inputs *Shift away from fossil fuels *Encourage awareness-clean growing 	<p><u>Producer challenges</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Farm labor *Access to labor *Money *People working together *More organic research for local conditions *Underused land *How does the “democratic process’ work? *Current land use *Lack of Education * Not enough food growers *Build interest in becoming a farmer *Need more small parcels of agriculture land *More producers needed *Access to land for new young farmers 	<p><u>Consumer education</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *more promotion locally *need more customers at the market * People need to pay more for their food *Local food competes with cheap imports *Animators need to visit more kitchen tables *Artificially low food prices *Food is considered a commodity *Misunderstanding of total food cost *Growing food is considered against eco-systems *Does the Yukon have the ability to grow enough food? *Consumer awareness 	<p><u>Regulating food policy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Corporate agri-businesses remove local control *Not enough support for sustainable agriculture *Agrifood policy geared toward food export *Daycares unable to serve own grown food *Powerful national lobby groups *Need political will to buy local in institutions *deceptive labeling-product of Canada OJ 	<p><u>Storage and distribution</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Encourage local food producers and processors *Need for food processing facilities *how to buy fresh from venues and store for the winter *Year round linkages *Inadequate food storage
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If each person could pick at least three of the contradictions and give a solution or means to change the outcome, we can compile some final statements to send into the Peoples Food Policy Project in Ottawa. Please understand that although we talked in a local sense this will be a National policy.

Some questions to think about while outlining ideas for erasing these roadblocks (these are directly from the template written by the Peoples Food Policy management team):

Why is your policy proposal important? Why is it timely? Why is it necessary for your region and / or nation and / or country.

What should be the role of the federal, provincial and municipal governments in governing food?

Why do you think the policy you propose is the Federal Government’s responsibility?

What role should citizens, civil society, and other stakeholders in the food system play in making your proposed policy happen?

What mechanisms would help us work across silos and jurisdictions?

Do any of these roadblocks touch on indigenous food sovereignty, poverty and access to food in rural and remote communities, poverty and access to food in urban communities, agriculture-infrastructure and livelihoods, fisheries-infrastructure and livelihoods, sustainability and food, science, technology and food, food, international aid and trade, food and human health? (These are the “chapters” that the policy writing teams will categorize our ideas into)

The more ideas we can come up with the better. Please feel to elaborate at least a paragraph on each of the three suggestions you have for solutions.

Once I submit these ideas they will be given to one of about 9 policy-writing teams who will summarize and categorize our thoughts along with all those from the other submissions across Canada. These summaries will be circulated back to us for feedback. The categories or chapters, as they will then be called, will be presented to a larger audience next spring. In the fall of 2010 the Peoples Food Policy will be launched and a strategy will be developed on how to move toward the vision reflected in the People’s Food Policy.

Once I have received your comments I will compile them for you to read.

Thank you all for putting time into this.