

## Levels of Government & Influence Over Food Systems

Similar to climate change, food is a complex issue, touching all sectors and levels of government. This makes it challenging to understand how each level of government may be positioned to contribute towards building healthy, just and sustainable food systems and where there is shared responsibility. In community conversations about food and policy change, we often heard questions such as “Who is responsible? What could they do?”

This document provides a response to those questions with an overview of some of the roles different levels of government could or are already playing and illustrates how food issues can be addressed at multiple levels. We are drawing on a mix of examples relevant to Nova Scotia and general examples from other municipalities and provinces/territories, except for First Nations band councils and traditional Indigenous governance. The tools in the municipal toolbox are not the same in every province and territory.

In some cases, all three levels of government may play a role. For example, all levels of government could have their own poverty reduction strategy, but each strategy would outline different actions and roles. Having three different levels of government involved presents an important opportunity for coordination, alignment and shared responsibility. In other cases, one level of government may have a leading role, but could still work with other levels of government, community and private sector stakeholders, including internationally and with Indigenous decision makers.

<b>Role</b>	<b><u>Municipal Examples</u></b> Recreation Built environment Social & economic development Healthy communities	<b><u>Provincial Examples</u></b> Agriculture & aquaculture Health Education Business & Economic Development Labour Social supports Environment Justice	<b><u>Federal Examples</u></b> Income & social supports Trade agreements Agriculture Fisheries Environment Finance Economic Development
<b><u>Leadership &amp; Policy</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritizing food</li> <li>• Food-related policies</li> <li>• Removing policy barriers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food in master/regional plans</li> <li>• Food charters</li> <li>• Municipal staff dedicated to food coordination</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food procurement policies</li> <li>• Healthy eating policies in public institutions (e.g., schools)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canada Food Guide</li> <li>• Food Policy for Canada</li> </ul>
<b><u>Funding &amp; Taxes / Fees</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing funds to other levels of government, non-governmental organizations research, industry associations</li> <li>• Tax dis/incentives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding or grants for food-related activities</li> <li>• Partnerships</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tax rates on agricultural land</li> <li>• Agri-environmental funding</li> <li>• School breakfast programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farm loans</li> <li>• Northern Isolated Community Initiatives Fund</li> <li>• Research funding</li> </ul>

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<p><b><u>Legislation &amp; Regulations</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Laws, acts, by-laws and regulations, along with implementation &amp; compliance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land-use by-laws</li> <li>• Permits for food businesses</li> <li>• Enabling community food programs to sell food</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local food acts</li> <li>• Sustainable Development Goals Act</li> <li>• Minimum wage</li> <li>• Food safety inspection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food safety &amp; labelling</li> <li>• Fishing quotas</li> <li>• Marketing restrictions of food and beverages to children</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Agreements &amp; Relationships</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Private sector, associations, other levels of government</li> <li>• First Nations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federation of NS Municipalities</li> <li>• Development agreements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministerial councils</li> <li>• Interprovincial trade</li> <li>• Restrictive covenants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International trade agreements</li> <li>• Health accord</li> <li>• UN Right to Food</li> <li>• Treaties</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Programs, Services &amp; Strategies</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinated action for change</li> <li>• Delivering services / implementing initiatives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community gardens</li> <li>• Poverty reduction</li> <li>• Mobile food markets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farm business development</li> <li>• Income Assistance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guaranteed Income Supplement</li> <li>• Canadian Agricultural Partnership</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Infrastructure</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical assets that relate to food systems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Affordable housing</li> <li>• Public transportation</li> <li>• Kitchens, community ovens</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food hubs</li> <li>• Food business incubators</li> <li>• Affordable housing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fishing wharves</li> <li>• Research facilities</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Shifting culture &amp; capacity building</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awareness, attitudes, norms</li> <li>• Civic engagement &amp; action</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breast-feeding friendly spaces</li> <li>• Food policy councils</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get your hands on Local campaign</li> <li>• Advisory Committees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth Agricultural Council</li> <li>• Buy Canadian Promotion Campaign</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Research, Tools &amp; Monitoring</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shared indicators, data collection, and reports on impact / progress</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community food toolkits</li> <li>• Mapping of food outlets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Market assessments</li> <li>• Community wellbeing index</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Census of Agriculture</li> <li>• Market Basket Measure</li> </ul>

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