

Volunteer Role Description

Middlesex London Food Policy Council Member

Food Policy Councils have been emerging across Canada for the last 25 years, the first one being the Toronto Food Policy Council. Currently more than 28 food policy councils or groups exist in Ontario alone. Vancouver's Food Policy Council define a Food Policy Council as:

[A group] comprised of individuals from all aspects of a local food system. [Food Policy Councils] are often officially sanctioned through a government action such as a City Council motion or they can also be a grassroots effort. A Food Policy Council is an innovative collaboration between citizens and government officials. The goal is to provide a forum for advocacy and policy development that works towards the creation of a food system that is ecologically sustainable, economically viable and socially just. The primary goal of many Food Policy Councils is to examine the operation of a local food system and provide ideas and policy recommendations for how it can be improved. (www.vancouverfoodpolicycouncil.ca/what-is-food-policy)

In November 2017, the Middlesex London Food Policy Council was established (www.mlfpc.ca), based on the recommendation of the [Middlesex London Community Food Assessment Report](#) (2015-16).

Requirements

Members of the Food Policy Council must either live or work in Middlesex County or the City of London.

Seat Descriptions

- Agriculture, urban
- Agriculture, rural
- City of London Council*
- City of London Municipal Staff*
- Economic Development
- Education
- Energy, Environment and Waste Management
- Food Distribution
- Food Service Industry
- Food Security
- General Community Member, county (Priority given to populations not represented by other member positions e.g., newcomers to Canada)
- General Community Member, City
- Indigenous Peoples
- Middlesex County Council*
- Middlesex County Municipal Staff (e.g. Planning, Social Services)*
- Middlesex London Board of Health*
- Provincial Agricultural Group*
- Research
- Youth

**Member to be appointed by representative organization.*

Roles and Responsibilities

Members of the Food Policy Council will be expected to:

- Set direction on food system change;
- Take positions on food issues consistent with the vision and values of the MLFPC ([see Terms of Reference for Details](#)) and advocate for change;
- Develop, recommend or drive strategies for bringing about food system change;
- Write and advise on food policy
- Provide leadership (i.e. attending events, speaking on behalf of the Council);
- Discuss food system issues in an open and democratic way; and
- Leverage relationships to further the strategies and tactics that the MLFPC identifies.

Relevant Skills

Relevant skills for applicants to the Food Policy Council include:

- Experience with policy (e.g., writing or evaluating science/social/food policies)
- Legal expertise
- Financial background
- Communication
- Graphic design (Web development and marketing)
- Technical abilities (data management, database development, information and analysis)
- Public relations
- Leadership
- Consultation and facilitation
- Research
- Campaigning
- Community engagement
- Partnership building
- Public speaking

Applicants with these skills should highlight their expertise in these areas through their application.

Time Commitment

The Food Policy Council meets for 2hrs, 7-8 times per year on the last Wednesday of each month (no meetings in July, August and December) and the expected time commitment is a minimum of **6 hours per month**. In addition to formal meetings, smaller, task-oriented groups may be formed in order to gather more information and/or engage in further consultation to make recommendations on a specific issue and report back to the full council for further discussion and decisions.

Term of Service

Food Policy Council members will be appointed to a 2.5-year term with the possibility of renewal for one term. Executive committee will be voted upon by Council members annually. Executive willing to stand for additional year may be considered. Missing two meetings a year without prior discussion with Chair is deemed equivalent to a resignation. The Executive will appoint new interim members during the term as needed.