



Food Matters Manitoba

2016/2017 Annual Report



A message from our Board Chair & Executive Director

Food Matters Manitoba is working hard to improve food security in Manitoba. We are excited to report that this year, we have undertaken exciting organizational renewal growing and evolving in line with our new, multi-year strategic plan and building on our board leadership. We have strengthened and focused both our vision and mission. Working alongside partners like the City of Winnipeg, the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, the Northern Association of Community Councils, and Boys and Girls Clubs of Winnipeg, we are taking steps to reach our vision: a Manitoba where good food nourishes strong communities and healthy people.

We rely on donors, volunteers, and partners to take those steps towards our vision. Thank you. Because of you, Food Matters Manitoba has been instrumental in the creation of Winnipeg's first ever food council. We have been active in fifteen diverse communities throughout Manitoba and taken our Community Tables program to Thompson, Grand Rapids, and Portage la Prairie. For the first time, we have helped people in Shamattawa First Nation raise chickens and have partnered with people in the same community to establish a semi-regular fresh food market. Together, the board, staff, and stakeholders work to achieve our strategic goals. During our strategic planning process, we dedicated a lot of time reflecting on and examining how we work with our partners and communities. We want to be as open as we can about how we approach our work together and are proud of the values we have articulated.

Our most ambitious goal over this last year was to serve more communities across Manitoba. To achieve that, we teamed up with three new youth-serving organizations to bring cooking classes to even more young people who can carry food skills with them for life. The more people we connect with, the more groups we partner with, like Winnipeg Harvest, the stronger the voices on systems and policies affecting food we can help bring forward.

Going forward, our new strategic plan builds on our strengths and sets the stage for Food Matters Manitoba to develop additional strengths and capacities to even more effectively tackle food security issues in our province. The Food Matters Manitoba Board of Directors is renewed and building systems to govern for success. As part of our renewal, the board is delighted to announce the engagement of Loraine Nyokong as our permanent Executive Director. Together, we look forward to continuing to build the network of groups addressing aspects of food security in Manitoba and becoming a central voice in the discussions and actions we collectively need to take.

Symbolically, the refresh includes moving our offices to an inspiring space in downtown Winnipeg. With the full involvement of our strong and committed board of directors, we are diversifying our revenue streams to build a Manitoba we all want to call home: a province where good food nourishes strong people and healthy communities.

Food Matters Manitoba has a rich history. We were born through the commitment and drive of a group of passionate people who wanted to see a province where everyone can get the food they need. Moving into our eleventh year of operation, we are humbled to have the support of community stakeholders and funders, working hard to do our part for good food, healthy people and strong communities!



Loraine Nyokong, Executive Director

Angela Chotka, Board Chair





Mission

We work with communities across Manitoba to create opportunities for people to be able to eat good food.

Vision

We envision a Manitoba where good food nourishes strong communities and healthy people.

How we work

We are building a province where good food nourishes strong communities and healthy people by:

- Partnering with communities to increase access to good food.
- Facilitating food skills education that incorporates culture, tradition, and nutrition.
- Championing a better food system through food policy work and community engagement.

We Are Community Driven

We believe that successful initiatives must have the active participation and ownership of people most affected by the issue, and build on their shared knowledge, skills and capacity.

We Are Innovators

We are unafraid to take risks in order to develop creative programs that respond to community needs.

We Are Systems Thinkers

We understand and approach food issues as part of a complex and interconnected system of people, practices and processes within multiple scales.

We Are Collaborators

We work together with many communities, partners and stakeholders to elevate our collective impact.

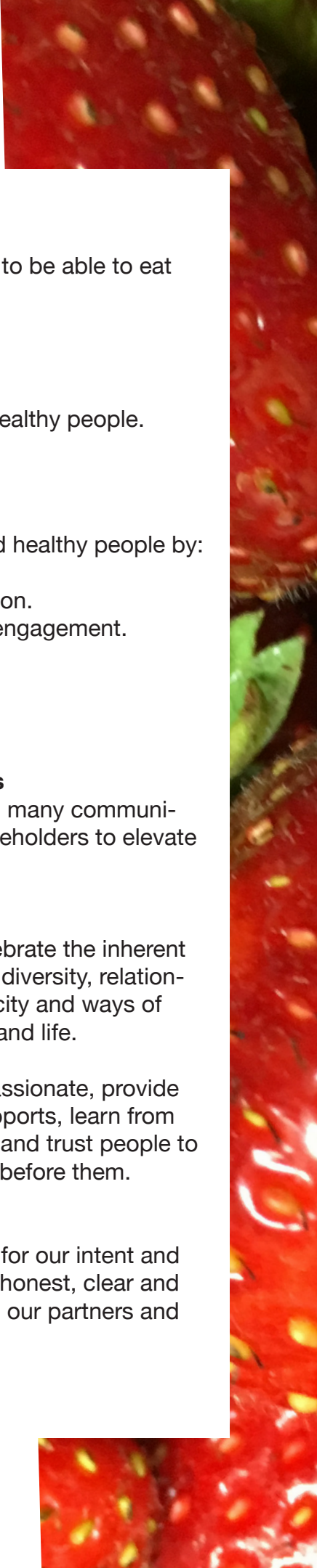
We Are Respectful

We recognize and celebrate the inherent worth, dignity, history, diversity, relationship to the land, capacity and ways of knowing of all people and life.

We strive to be compassionate, provide the highest quality supports, learn from each other's mistakes and trust people to rise above challenges before them.

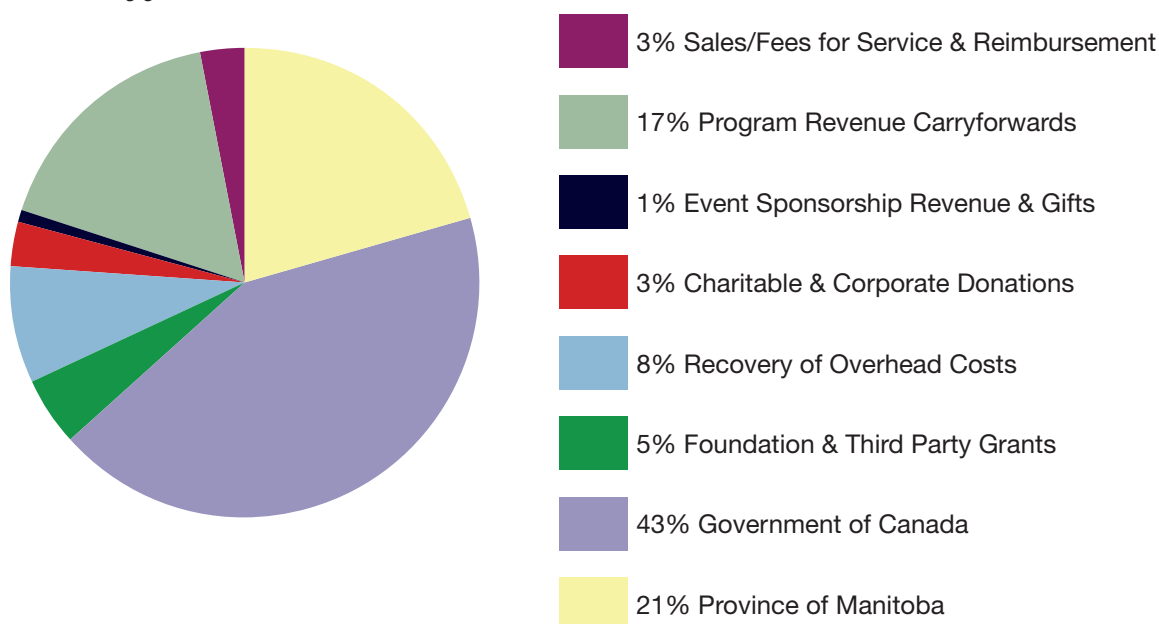
We Are Accountable

We take responsibility for our intent and actions. We are open, honest, clear and timely with each other, our partners and stakeholders.



Financial Report

Source of funds



Statement of Financial Position March 31, 2017

	2017	2016
Assets		
Current		
Cash	\$ 343,703	\$ 558,472
Accounts Receivable	191,335	56,978
Goods and Service Tax Recoverable	5,817	6,491
Prepaid Expenses	25,509	4,592
	\$ 566,364	\$ 626,533
Liabilities		
Current		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	\$ 17,269	\$ 34,215
Deferred Contributions	222,814	268,988
	240,083	303,203
Net Assets	326,281	323,330
	\$ 566,364	\$ 626,533



“This was like a dream... doing all this stuff with all these people”

- Youth Gathering participant



Shamattawa First Nation buying club & market

Food Matters Manitoba organized the first food buying club in Shamattawa First Nation in December 2016. The buying club brought produce to the community, bringing prices more in line with those in the south. The buying club was established after years partnering with the community and regularly hearing about the barriers to accessing fresh food. These barriers include high prices and lack of fresh options. When Shamattawa's only store burned down in September 2016, momentum behind the project grew.

The buying club evolved into a market, which was a hit! People left with piles of fresh fruit and vegetables. One of the many highlights was when a young child held up a head of broccoli and said "This is my favourite."

This project was a partnership effort involving Neechi Commons, the school, the community, the nursing station, the health department and the Food Matters Manitoba Team. In so many ways, this club demonstrates our values at work. Winnipeg-based Neechi Commons shared their knowledge of food markets and helped order the produce and organize the shipment. The school provided transportation, storage and people to move produce. The community opened its doors to the Food Matters Manitoba team. The nursing station provided staff a place to stay. The health department hosted the market and the band and Chief were great supporters and helped ensure its success.

This was an exciting first for Food Matters Manitoba and the popularity of the market is inspiring. We look forward to continuing and growing the market this winter.



Winnipeg's first food council

The past year marked a milestone for Winnipeg with the formation of the city's first food council. The council will advise the Mayor's Executive Policy Committee on food policies and strategies to benefit the people of Winnipeg.

The goals of the Winnipeg Food Council are to:

- Make food more available, accessible, and usable,
- Improve the health of people and environment, and
- Create economic opportunities in a strong, vibrant, local food economy.

This good food move has been a long time coming. In 2006, the Manitoba Food Charter, the foundational document of Food Matters Manitoba was drafted. The Manitoba Food Charter brought together people who wanted to build a just and sustainable food system. The signatories of the charter along with other dedicated groups and people have worked hard to see the formation of a local food council. During the 2014 municipal election, Food Matters Manitoba organized a mayoral debate focused on food. Food Matters Manitoba worked with Mayor Brian Bowman's community engagement team and Councillor Brian Mayes to form the Winnipeg Food Council.

Food Matters Manitoba has been instrumental in consulting and collaborating on how the food council should be formed and how it should operate.

Over the past year, we spearheaded a post-card campaign, asking people why a food council is important to them. More than 600 cards were sent to Winnipeg City Council. We also hosted two stakeholder engagement events with the City of Winnipeg Planning Division where we asked the 54 participants for advice to guide the composition and governance structure of the council. A public survey gathered even more public input. The City of Winnipeg Planning Division considered the consultation results as they created the council's terms of reference. On February 8, 2017, the Executive Policy Committee approved the terms of reference, and on February 22, 2017, City Council followed suit, creating the new Winnipeg Food Council.

The Winnipeg Food Council now has its first appointed members, representing government; food production and distribution; public health; research; non-profits; and the general public. Members were selected to represent a diversity of identities and experience. Rob Moquin, Food Matters Manitoba's Policy Manager, sits on the Council as a community group representative. Through collaboration across sectors, the Council will support the development, implementation and evaluation of a municipal strategy to address food security and food system issues.

We are grateful to the people who worked hard to make the Winnipeg Food Council a reality and we look forward to working with the council to build a city where everyone can access good food.



In September 2016, 12 students and their teacher, Christine Ravenis set off on a 648 kilometre road trip from La Ronge, SK, their home community. Christine is the Northern Lifestyle Teacher at Churchill Community High School and her mission is to integrate learning about tradition, culture, and being on the land into her school curriculum.

Christine and her students ended their journey at Freddie Throassie's camp, Corck Lake, SK. Freddie lives locally and has spent years building his knowledge and skills by living off of the land and he values sharing his knowledge with young people. Freddie's family and friends were with him, and generously donated their time to help teach the students.

Despite it being September and already cool at night, most of the students still bunked down in tents to sleep, keeping warm with makeshift stoves. In the mornings, they ate a unique breakfast of porcupine before they set out on one of their many adventures of the week.

The youth learned to catch trout and whitefish and how to smoke their catch. They hiked, canoed, and hunted moose. They had the rare chance to kill, clean and prepare a beaver.

While hiking Freddie taught them about traditional medicines, gathering the plentiful blueberries and cranberries they came across along the way.

Christine showed her students how to test the quality of the water that surrounded them. The testing sparked questions and insights about the environment. The group engaged in some deep conversations about the connection between the health of the environment and the activities in which they had taken part.

If you ask Christine what makes activities like these and others she facilitates throughout the year a success, her answer is simple — "Creator, community and connections."

"The success of this class does not come from me," says Christine, humbly refusing to take credit for the success of the program. "It is what it is because of the Creator's blessing, our community's support and the connections and partnerships that we have cultivated over time."

With the involvement of a group of other local experts, agencies, and Food Matters Manitoba, the Northern Lifestyle class offers a full program that gives students the skills, knowledge, and connections that they will need to carry forward the traditions of their communities.

Staff

Loraine M. Nyokong | Executive Director
David Heinrichs | Program Coordinator
Kelsey Evans | Program Manager
Nicole Lamy | Program Coordinator
Owen Campbell | Community Food Facilitator
Daniel Gladu Kanu | Program Manager
Amanda Froese | Community Food Facilitator
Tressa Alexiuk | Program Coordinator
Gabriel Gabriel | Community Food Facilitator
Amy Henderson | Program Coordinator
Rob Moquin | Policy Manager
Olivia Boyce | Policy Coordinator
Melissa Hiebert | Evaluation Coordinator
Liz Bend | Marketing & Communications Manager
Mindy Barsky | Fundraising & Development Manager

Liana Lutz | Accounting Contractor

Board Members

Angela Chotka, Board Chair
E.J. Fontaine, Vice Chair
Angela Visser, Treasurer
Pat Lachance
David Gingera
Jim Slater
Tyler Pearce
Gabriela Klimes
Phaedra Miller (Ex-Officio)



Thank you to our 2016/2017 Donors!

you made this year of good food possible

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Patricia Allen
Adolf & Wanda Andres
Norma Armstrong
Anne Marie & Kevin Bailey
Will Bailey-Elkin
Diane Balez
Ian Barnett
Erin Bend
Lorie-Anne Bretecher
Bryan Neil
Ruvimbo Chimusta
Angela Chotka
Carol Mae Clegg
Jeff Davey
Valerie Denesiuk
Daniel Dessureault
Lovepreet Dhunna
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Kreesta Doucette &
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Corrine Earl
Wendy Elliot
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E.J. Fontaine
Cindi French
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To LIFT Philanthropy Partners...

a special thank you for the support over the last two years. You have guided us through our organization's renewal and helped us develop a comprehensive strategic plan. The guidance and expertise of the LIFT team and your partners has been instrumental in positioning Food Matters Manitoba to grow and achieve its goals in the years to come.

Thank you.

LIFT is a venture philanthropy firm that supports social purpose organizations to improve their operations, accountability and measurement practices so they can deliver meaningful, lasting impact in Canada.



thank you to our in-kind donors!

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good food
champion too!***

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foodmattersmanitoba.ca

Thank you!

