



# Nova Scotia Food and Beverage Strategy

**Public Input Guide**

November 2022

# We want to hear from you

The Government of Nova Scotia is developing a food and beverage strategy to outline policies, programs and initiatives that help raise awareness of, improve access to, and increase the production of healthy local food. Healthy local foods are food and beverage products that are grown, produced, harvested, or processed in Nova Scotia and help meet your nutritional needs.

Food production, access, and awareness affects the lives of every Nova Scotian. Whether you are involved in farming or fishing, own a food business, run a non-profit organization, buy food for your family, or use your local food bank, we want to hear from you.

This document will give you background on the strategy and tell you how you can get involved and share your views.

## Why a food and beverage strategy?

Nova Scotia produces a variety of healthy local foods and beverages. The agriculture and seafood sectors also provide good jobs, support rural economies, and help Nova Scotia be more food self-sufficient.

The Nova Scotia Food and Beverage Strategy will guide the work of government, partners, industry, and stakeholders toward common goals for our food system:

- Increase access to healthy local food for all Nova Scotians;
- Promote more food and beverage production and encourage Nova Scotians to choose local;
- Support the agriculture and seafood sectors that are the cornerstones of many of our rural communities; and
- Create a more diverse and inclusive food system – including production, processing, transportation, and sales to arrive on our tables

## Our approach

We are taking a coordinated, whole-of-government approach and working closely with industry and community partners to create this strategy. We have been reviewing the government initiatives in place today that support production, awareness, and access to healthy local food to identify what's working, what needs adjusting and where new programs and initiatives could help fill gaps. We're proposing to focus new efforts in the following areas:





### **Food Access Infrastructure**

Increasing infrastructure that helps make healthy local food more available in publicly accessible places



### **Food Security Initiatives**

Providing dedicated programs to ensure all people living in Nova Scotia have access to healthy local food



### **Collaborative Food Networks**

Building community capacity to address food insecurity through coordinated partnerships



### **Capacity Building for Underrepresented Groups**

Encouraging diverse and equitable participation in the food system including Mi'kmaq/Indigenous peoples, persons of African descent, and newcomers.



### **Marketing of Local Products**

Promoting the variety of Nova Scotia food and beverage products that are available throughout the year



### **Targeted Production Support**

Increasing the amount and variety of food grown in Nova Scotia



### **Food Processing Expansion**

Expanding food processing facilities and value-added processing

## Next steps

We will continue to work with industry and community partners to create and implement the strategy and find ways to measure our progress. The strategy is expected to launch in 2023.

## How to contribute

We want to know about your experience with healthy local food. We also want to know what government could do to improve that experience.

Your feedback is anonymous. The information you provide helps ensure the food and beverage strategy reflects the needs and priorities of Nova Scotians.

Please visit [novascotia.ca/food-and-beverage-strategy-engagement/](https://novascotia.ca/food-and-beverage-strategy-engagement/) to share your thoughts.

