MEDIA RELEASE

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Bringing the Food Charter to Life with a Toolkit for Municipalities

<u>foodcoreLGL</u> is thrilled to announce the completion of their second Food Charter implementation toolkit, this one for municipalities. The tool uses the five main principles of the <u>Food Charter for the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville and Lanark County</u> and offers concrete and credible ideas on how municipalities can apply those principles in policy and by-law development and in collaborative work with communities. Created over the course of one year through a broad, multi-stakeholder process the Food Charter, a shared vision statement, was launched in 2014.

The local Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Paula Stewart, sees the implementation of the Food Charter as "an ongoing opportunity for citizens, governments, community organizations and groups to work together for the creation and maintenance of a safe, healthy and sustainable food environment accessible to all. The goal is to do this within a local economy that supports local food." Find the toolkit at <u>foodcoreLGL.ca</u> and share it with others.

Like the first toolkit, designed jointly with the <u>school community</u>, this toolkit for municipalities was developed with broad input from experts and community members. The work was led by foodcoreLGL's Stewardship Group whose task is to promote local food and food-related initiatives, monitor the implementation of the Food Charter and maintain the Food Inventory. The group's work is supported by The Table Community Food Centre, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs, both the North Lanark and the Country Roads Community Health Centres and the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit.

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The Health Unit is a partner in foodcoreLGL.

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