

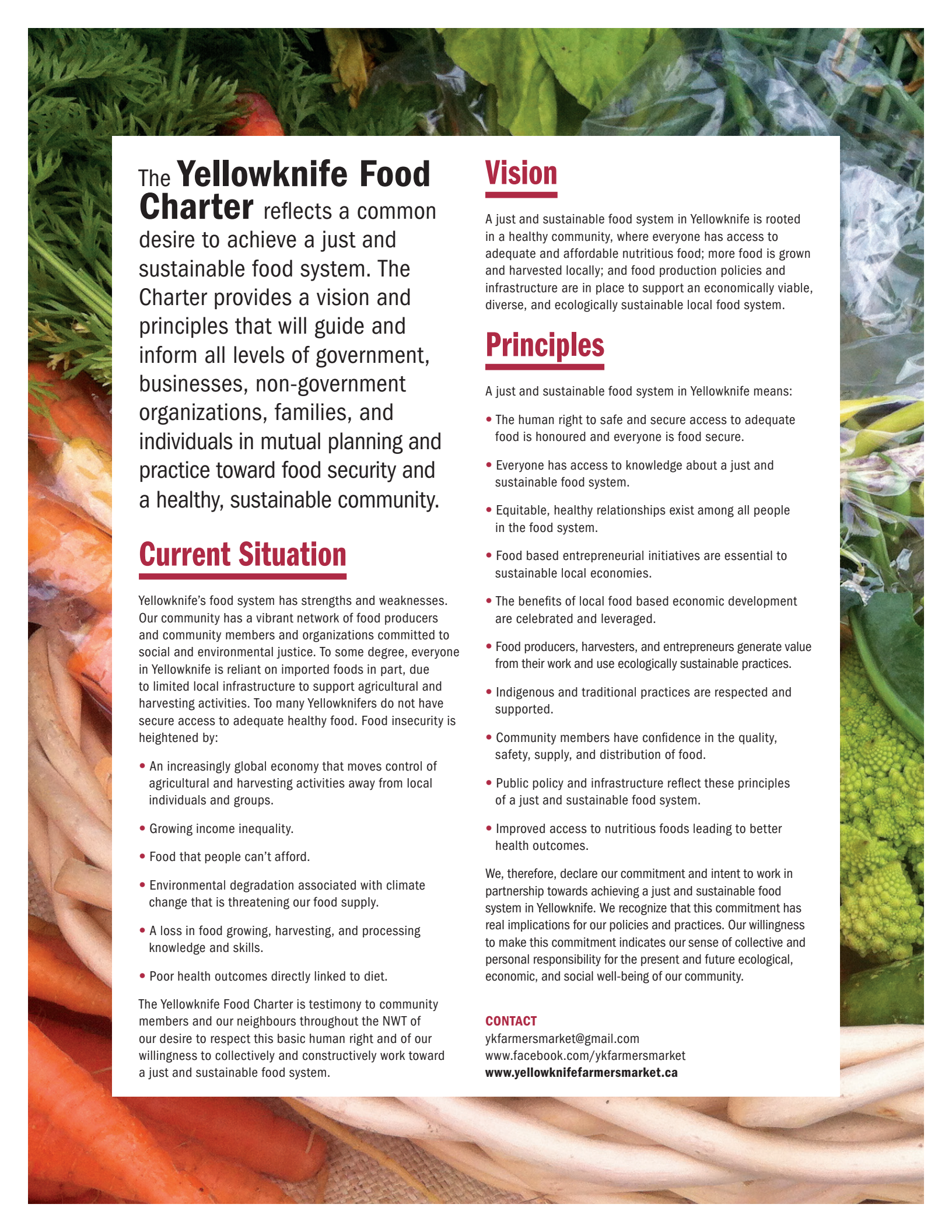


YELLOWKNIFE **FOOD** **CHARTER**

A Food Security Project of the
Yellowknife Farmers Market



www.yellowknifefarmersmarket.ca



The **Yellowknife Food Charter** reflects a common desire to achieve a just and sustainable food system. The Charter provides a vision and principles that will guide and inform all levels of government, businesses, non-government organizations, families, and individuals in mutual planning and practice toward food security and a healthy, sustainable community.

Current Situation

Yellowknife's food system has strengths and weaknesses. Our community has a vibrant network of food producers and community members and organizations committed to social and environmental justice. To some degree, everyone in Yellowknife is reliant on imported foods in part, due to limited local infrastructure to support agricultural and harvesting activities. Too many Yellowknifers do not have secure access to adequate healthy food. Food insecurity is heightened by:

- An increasingly global economy that moves control of agricultural and harvesting activities away from local individuals and groups.
- Growing income inequality.
- Food that people can't afford.
- Environmental degradation associated with climate change that is threatening our food supply.
- A loss in food growing, harvesting, and processing knowledge and skills.
- Poor health outcomes directly linked to diet.

The Yellowknife Food Charter is testimony to community members and our neighbours throughout the NWT of our desire to respect this basic human right and of our willingness to collectively and constructively work toward a just and sustainable food system.

Vision

A just and sustainable food system in Yellowknife is rooted in a healthy community, where everyone has access to adequate and affordable nutritious food; more food is grown and harvested locally; and food production policies and infrastructure are in place to support an economically viable, diverse, and ecologically sustainable local food system.

Principles

A just and sustainable food system in Yellowknife means:

- The human right to safe and secure access to adequate food is honoured and everyone is food secure.
- Everyone has access to knowledge about a just and sustainable food system.
- Equitable, healthy relationships exist among all people in the food system.
- Food based entrepreneurial initiatives are essential to sustainable local economies.
- The benefits of local food based economic development are celebrated and leveraged.
- Food producers, harvesters, and entrepreneurs generate value from their work and use ecologically sustainable practices.
- Indigenous and traditional practices are respected and supported.
- Community members have confidence in the quality, safety, supply, and distribution of food.
- Public policy and infrastructure reflect these principles of a just and sustainable food system.
- Improved access to nutritious foods leading to better health outcomes.

We, therefore, declare our commitment and intent to work in partnership towards achieving a just and sustainable food system in Yellowknife. We recognize that this commitment has real implications for our policies and practices. Our willingness to make this commitment indicates our sense of collective and personal responsibility for the present and future ecological, economic, and social well-being of our community.

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