FOOD for THOUGHT – Speaker Highlights

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

PAULA DANIELS is Senior Advisor to the Mayor of Los Angeles, on Food Policy and Special Projects in Water. She is the founder and fulltime Chair of the Los Angeles Food Policy Council, a policy based collective impact initiative of food system leaders. An attorney, she has been actively engaged in California environmental policy issues for over 20 years, when she first became involved with Heal the Bay. She has served on a number of boards of environmental and Asian American non-profit organizations and bar associations, and is the recipient of a number of recognitions and awards. She was named by the LA Weekly as one of the top ten people making Los Angeles a better place, in their People 2012 issue.

RAFFI is a renowned singer and a pioneer in quality recordings for kids, as well as a music producer, author, entrepreneur, and ecology advocate. He is the recipient of numerous honours, including the order of Canada. In 2010, Raffi founded the Centre for Child Honouring, a global movement that views honouring children as the best way to create sustainable, peacemaking culture. In 2013, Raffi wrote Lightweb Darkweb: Three Reasons To Reform Social Media Before It Re-Forms Us. This book focuses on safety, intelligence and sustainability, and highlights children’s developmental needs as a key missing consideration in the digital revolution.

SESSION PRESENTERS:

KENT MULLINIX is Director of the Institute for Sustainable Food Systems at Kwantlen University in B.C., and is engaged in research and development to advance sustainable agriculture and food systems. Kent has lived and worked on farms, owned and operated an orchard with his family in eastern Washington and oversaw the establishment and management of a 45 acre organic apple, sweet cherry, and peach teaching and research orchard in eastern Washington. He is current leading the development of a bio-regional food system plan for south-west BC.

DAWN MORRISON’s Secwepemc heritage along with her technical and practical background in horticulture, ethnobotany, and Indigenous community development has led to her lifetime passion of health and healing in the context of Indigenous food sovereignty and eco-cultural restoration. Dawn currently works as a Research Associate with the Kwantlen University Southwest BC Bioregional Food Systems Design and Planning Project (leading Indigenous Community Engagement). Dawn is the founder and Chair for the BC Food Systems Network Working Group on Indigenous Food Sovereignty and works as a leader and/or associate on various other Indigenous land, culture or ecology related projects.
SETH KLEIN is the BC Director of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, a public policy research institute committed to social and economic justice. Seth holds a BA in international relations and a B.Ed from the University of Toronto, and an MA in political science from Simon Fraser University. He has been a social activist for over twenty-five years. A former teacher, Seth is co-chair of the BC Poverty Reduction Coalition, a board member of the Canada Without Poverty Advocacy Network, and an advisor and instructor for Next Up, a leadership program for young people committed to social and environmental justice. He is a frequent media commentator and public speaker on public policy issues.

LINDSAY BABINEAU is the Executive Director of the BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation. The foundation’s largest program, the B.C. School Fruit and Vegetable Nutrition Program is present in more than 1,400 public and First Nations schools, serving over 500,000 students across the province. For more than 20 years, Lindsay was a teacher of agriculture, horticulture and science with School District #35, Langley. Lindsay bring her passion for agriculture to the classroom-ready resources and programs she is creating for other teachers in the province.

KEVIN MILLSIP is the Sustainability Coordinator with the Vancouver School Board where he focuses on food systems, transportation and waste related projects. He also runs a national leadership program called Next Up, which operates in 4 provinces. Kevin co-founded Check Your Head, has been a Vancouver School Board Trustee and currently serves on the board’s of the Columbia Institute Centre for Civic Governance, The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, The Small Change Fund and Theatre for Living.

LYNN MCINTYRE is a Professor in the Department of Community Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Dr. McIntyre holds both a medical degree and master's degree in Community Health and Epidemiology from the University of Toronto and is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Canada in Public Health and Preventive Medicine. Dr. McIntyre's research uses both quantitative and qualitative means to advance policy that will reduce food insecurity at the population level in Canada. Most recently, she and her colleagues are examining how food insecurity is constructed as a policy problem in Canada.
HERB BARBOLET is an Associate with both the Centre for Sustainable Community Development and the Dialogue Centre at Simon Fraser University and a Research Associate with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. He founded and for 10 years was Executive Director of FarmFolk, CityFolk. He was an organic farmer, was a member of Health Canada’s Food Expert Advisory Committee, and was on CBC Almanac Food Panel for 13 years. Herb helped create the Vancouver Food Policy Council and was a member for 7 years. He still works to envision and create a just, sustainable and resilient food future.

WENDY MENDES is an urban food systems planner for the City of Vancouver, an adjunct professor at the School of Community and Regional Planning at the University of British Columbia, and a research associate at Ryerson University’s Centre for Studies in Food Security in Toronto. She is an urban aficionado who researches and teaches about local governance, policymaking, sustainability and participatory decision-making, with a specialization in urban food security.

MIKE SORON is the executive director of Sustainable SFU. He brings years of experience working with students and universities to create more sustainable communities. He brings a background in advocacy, planning, and nonprofit management that will help Sustainable SFU as it forges new local partnerships and expands the services offered to its members. A recent alumnus, Mike earned a Masters in Urban Studies while also serving as the head of the Graduate Student Society at SFU. He is an active environmentalist and urbanist, advancing local resilience and security through his organizing and writing.

SARAH CARTEN is a Registered Dietitian with 12 years experience working in Public Health throughout BC. Her recent work has focused on improving the health of school-aged children and on connecting students with meaningful experiences to learn an appreciation for good food. She has also worked on improving access to food skill building programs for all ages. She currently sits on the Board of the BC Food Systems Network.

GAËTAN ROYER’s love of everything urban brought him to hundreds of cities in 30 countries. An architect and urban planner, he also served as Base Engineer at Canada’s largest Air Base. He received the Governor General's Meritorious Service Medal for his humanitarian work in Sarajevo. During his time as City Manager in Port Moody, BC, the City received numerous awards including the International Livable Communities Award. He also served the region as Metro Vancouver’s Chief Planner. Through his book, Time for Cities, and speaking engagements across Canada, he is a passionate advocate for a better deal for cities. Gaëtan Royer is President of CityState.ca Consulting Services.
SHARON CROSS is a City Councillor in Cranbook, B.C. She is also the founding President of Citizens for a Livable Cranbrook Society, which was created to engage and inform residents around a large proposed boundary expansion. This grassroots group helped defeat the expansion and referendum, which became the impetus for change on the municipal council two elections ago, and subsequently resulted in the election of Sharon and two other members this term.

ANASTASIA GAISENOK is a project coordinator with the Justice Education Society of B.C. Over the years she has worked on the development of a variety of educational resources and programs for immigrants, Aboriginal communities, youth, and other groups dealing with topics such as governance, law, active citizenship, violence and gender equality. Anastasia is currently working on the Young Women Civic Leaders project, which promotes full participation of young women at all levels of civic, political and community life. Anastasia is a past board member of Oxfam Canada, and holds a BC in Anthropology and an MA in International Studies from SFU.

MARC LEE is a Senior Economist with the British Columbia office of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. Marc joined the CCPA in 1998, and is one of Canada's leading progressive commentators on economic and social policy issues. Since 2008, Marc has been the Co-Director of the Climate Justice Project (CJP), focused on developing fair and effective approaches to climate action by integrating principles of social justice. Over his career, Marc has tracked federal and provincial budgets and economic trends, and published on a wide range of topics from poverty and inequality to globalization and international trade to public services and regulation.

BRENT MANSFIELD has broad interests and experience in food systems policy, planning and education. He works part-time as Community Liaison and Food Policy Research Lead for the Think&EatGreen@School Project, a UBC-Based project working with the Vancouver School Board and numerous other partners to support the development of more healthy and sustainable school food systems. He is currently completing his Masters in the Faculty of Land and Food Systems. Brent is currently the Co-Chair of the BC Food Systems Network, and previously he served as the Co-Chair of the Vancouver Food Policy Council Co-Chair for four years from 2010-2013.

SALLY THICKE has been a B.C. educator for 30 years, of which the last 20 she has been both a teacher and Principal in the Sunshine Coast School District No. 46. Sally is the Principal of Davis Bay Elementary School, home to the Davis Bay Nature Primary Program, an experiential environmental education program that takes children, Kindergarten through Grade 3, into nature to learn and grow for much of each day, no matter the weather. Sally is a keen outdoors person and an advocate for children and youth at risk. She is passionate about developing educational opportunities that take children into nature, supporting children and youth to discover their strengths, and to connect them to their community.
BOB WHETHAM is currently serving his second term as Cranbrook City councillor. Now retired, he had a 30 year career as a land use planner working with public and private sector organizations in British Columbia and Alberta. The prospect of becoming involved in local politics was not even a remote consideration until the city initiated a massive, unplanned boundary expansion without public consultation. The opportunity to share the story of public engagement that lead to the defeat of this initiative and brought about changes in the makeup of council is his reason for being here today.

SILAS WHITE is serving his ninth year as a school trustee on the Sunshine Coast, including six as board chair. Recently he co-founded VOICE on the Coast to advocate for the attraction, retention and engagement of young people and families on the Sunshine Coast, in coordination with the completion of his Master’s degree in Public Administration through the University of Victoria. Other boards and committees he’s served on include an Advisory Planning Committee for the Sunshine Coast Regional District, the Association of Canadian Publishers and the BC Public Schools Employers Association.

LENORE NEWMAN holds the Canada Research Chair in Food Security and Environment at the University of the Fraser Valley, where she is an associate professor of geography. She researches regional cuisine, agricultural land use, and urban food systems. Her love affair with food began on her family’s fishing boats, where she gained an early introduction into the world of direct marketing of local products, and she is a strong advocate for fresh, local food. Lenore sits on the board of the Vancouver Farmers’ Market association and is the director of ARC, the Agriburban Research Centre at the University of the Fraser Valley.