

**PEI Food Security Network**  
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**Media Release**  
**Formation of the PEI Food Security Network**

The PEI Food Security Network is a new education and action organization committed to achieving food security in Prince Edward Island. Food security means that people have access to healthy and affordable food that has been grown or harvested in a way that causes minimal harm to the environment and properly pays producers for their efforts.

The PEI Food Security Network is dedicated to changing community attitudes and public policy to promote environmentally appropriate practices for the production and distribution of food; the availability of affordable, healthy, culturally appropriate and personally acceptable food; livable income for producers; the right to food; and PEI self-reliance in food. The Network was formally launched on April 29, 2008.

Membership in the Food Security Network consists mainly of organizations in agreement with the mission and goals established by the Network. The sectors involved in food security issues are primary producers (farmers and fishers); dietitians/health professionals; home economists; environmentalists; people working in government; individuals affected by food insecurity; livable income advocates; academics; and people involved in processing, marketing and distribution of food.

The new PEI network follows the lead of many other provinces who have had food security networks for a number of years. There is also a Food Secure Canada organization, dedicated to national and global food issues.

The PEI Healthy Eating Alliance began the formation process for the PEI group following up on a conference organized by CHANCES Family Resource Centre in 2005. Cooper Institute and the PEI Working Group for a Livable Income, involved over the years in food security programs, also participated in organization work leading up to the founding. Many Island dietitians and Public Health personnel were also active in getting the new network formed.

Michelle MacCallum, of Women's Network PEI, one of the network founders states: "It is exciting to have so many organizations in PEI agreeing to work for food security. The time is right and the energy of the people is high. We have both short and long terms goals relating to everybody's access to livable income, and to nutritious and safe food." MacCallum continues, "The PEI Food Security Network is also very committed to working so that food producers will receive their cost of production and that food will be produced and in ways that protect the environment."

For more information about the PEI Food Security Network, call Michelle at 368-5040 or email [michelle@wnpei.org](mailto:michelle@wnpei.org)