



2 ZERO HUNGER



Moderation Team

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SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture

Event Description

On **June 21, 2021**, Queen's University hosted its first [17 Rooms](#) event, which brought together Queen's faculty, students, and staff to identify next steps for advancing the [UN Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) at the university.

Participants were divided into 17 virtual rooms, one per SDG, and asked to identify actions **that Queen's University could take in the following 12 to 18 months to advance their specific goal.**

Rooms participants were also asked to identify:

- The most important issues related to their SDG that Queen's should address,
- Connections and common themes amongst these issues,
- How their SDG connects with reconciliation/conciliation, decolonization, and Indigenization,
- How their SDG connects with other SDGs.

Each room had two hours to brainstorm ideas before presenting their recommended actions to all participants. Following the event, each room's moderation team authored a summary report.

Room Participants

Isabella Machado Altoe	Rupa Patel
Imaan Bayoumi	Kaitlyn Paterson (Student Facilitator)
Diane Beauchemin	Jennifer Pete
Susan Belyea (Moderator)	Elaine Power (Moderator)
Aditi Sen Chowdhury	Paige Redmond
Tom Collier (Staff Facilitator)	Mara Shaw
Janette Haase	Colette Steer
Kate Humphrys	Kasim Tirmizey
Rebecca Manley	Molly Wallace
Karan Mehindiratta	Bingru Yue

Preamble

We recognize that hunger and food insecurity are **the result of inequitable arrangements of power and lack of resources.**

In urban and market societies this means a lack of money to purchase healthy, culturally appropriate, and personally beneficial food; for rural societies, this includes lack of access to land for farming; for Indigenous peoples, this may include a lack of access to land for traditional food procurement practices, including hunting, fishing, cultivation, and gathering. Overall, **poverty is the main root cause of hunger and food insecurity.**

This means that the SDG 2 is connected to many other SDGs, including No Poverty (SDG 1), Good Health and Well-being (SDG 3), Quality Education (SDG 4), Gender Equality (SDG 5), Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8), and more. The goals of zero hunger and sustainable food systems are also intimately connected to climate action (SDG 13) and other goals related to sustainability (SDGs 11 & 12). The attainment of SDG 2: Zero Hunger can be seen as an outcome of the successful attainment of other SDGs.

The inequitable social arrangements that produce hunger and food insecurity are reflected in the Canadian statistics for household food insecurity, which shows that some racialized groups, notably Indigenous peoples and Black Canadians, have rates of food insecurity that are 2-3 times higher than the national average (and even higher in the northern territories and on remote First Nations reserves). Food insecurity is also more likely for parents of young children and single mothers. (For more information about food insecurity in Canada, see <https://proof.utoronto.ca>)

Achieving Zero Hunger

SDG 2 can be considered in relation to multiple scales (e.g., Queen's, Kingston, the local region, the province, the country, the planet), and to short-, medium-, and long-term goals. Short-term actions of providing food to keep people from being hungry, while important and necessary, must not be used as an excuse to avoid the more difficult, long-term, and politically challenging work of addressing the underlying causes. Importantly, **we must not achieve "Zero Hunger" locally or nationally at the expense of communities in other parts of the world.**

Proposed Actions

Room 2 brought together 20 individuals from across Queen's University to discuss approaches to addressing SDG 2. The group identified nine areas for action.

Action 1: Endorse Basic Income (Guaranteed Livable Income).

There is a [growing movement](#) in Canada to create an unconditional basic income for all living in poverty, which would dramatically reduce food insecurity and hunger, and its associated pathologies. An adequate basic income would enable everyone to live with dignity, achieve better health, and participate more fully in society.

There is documented student food insecurity at Queen's and other Canadian universities. A basic income that includes everyone ages 18-64, adequately resourced to meet the basic needs for food, shelter, and clothing, would facilitate access to higher education for marginalized groups, allow low-income students to graduate with less debt, and enable student success.

A basic income that supports a sustainable food system would include migrant farm workers, who are integral to our food system.

Action 2: Align Queen's endowments with the SDGs

Divest from investments that undermine food security and food sovereignty nationally and globally. This includes those, such as oil companies, that contribute to climate destabilization, and companies such as Nestlé, with a proven track record of undercutting infant food security (i.e., breastfeeding) and privatizing and monetizing water, which is essential to health and food security.

Action 3: Support Indigenous Food Sovereignty

This could be achieved by making available a parcel of land to be governed by an Indigenous land council, supporting Indigenous food production, and contributing to the revitalization of Indigenous land-based cultural traditions and practices (for example: the [Indigenous Food Sovereignty Garden](#) on Highway 15).

Another meaningful step would be to add Indigenous partners to the Queen's University Biological Station and to include Indigenous food sovereignty content and programming at the QUBS.

Action 4: Publicly endorse Ontario Bill 216

Queen's University could endorse Ontario Bill 216, the Food Literacy for Students Act, introduced by MPP Daryl Kramp, working with the Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington (KFL&A) Food Policy Council.

Action 5: Amplify local initiatives

Amplify local initiatives promoting agricultural sustainability and adaptability in the local KFL&A region. Increase the proportion of locally supplied food available on campus, in conjunction with local agricultural partners (for example: The National Farmers Unions – Ontario Local 316). Re-examine the definition of “local.”

Action 6: Increase Access to Campus Programs

Increase access to and support for campus programs that develop food knowledge and food skills.

Action 7: Improve Awareness of Existing Resources

Increase awareness of and access to charitable food resources available on Queen's campus (Campus Food Bank, Swipe It Forward, and other programs).

Action 8: Align Queen's endowments with the SDGs

Mount a community dinner or speaker series, in collaboration with community partners, open to the public, featuring Queen's faculty, students, and staff discussing the SDGs and actions to achieve them.

Action 9: Catalogue Queen's Courses

Catalogue Queen's courses that address food (in)security and food sovereignty, with a longer-term goal of developing a cross-disciplinary certificate in food studies, in collaboration with Indigenous community members and elders, local food and agricultural partners (e.g., the National Farmers Union-Ontario; KFL&A Food Policy Council) and community agencies.

There are significant opportunities for community service-learning in the broad areas of food (in) security, food sovereignty and sustainable agriculture.

Appendix 1. Definitions used by Room 2 Team

Food security: “exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life” (World Food Summit, 1996). It includes 4 dimensions:

- availability of adequate amounts of appropriate quality food
- access to adequate resources to obtain appropriate foods
- utilization of food to achieve nutritional well-being (which requires clean water, sanitation and health care, in addition to an adequate diet)
- stability of the food supply

Food insecurity: inadequate or insecure access to food because of financial constraints. In Canada, food insecurity is a serious public health concern, with negative effects on physical, mental and social health, and increased health care costs.

Indigenous food sovereignty: the right of Indigenous peoples to healthy, culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods. It is characterized by four principles

- Sacredness: the recognition of food as a gift from the Creator and the right to food as sacred; human animals have a sacred responsibility to nurture interdependent relations with land, plants, and non-human animals.
- Participation: Indigenous food sovereignty requires ongoing, active participation in cultural harvesting activities.
- Self-determination.
- Restorative policy and law: centering Indigenous cultural values and foodways in colonial laws, policies and mainstream economic activities, including forestry, fisheries, environment, health, energy, agriculture, and rural and community development

Hunger: a broad, inexact term describing the physical and emotional condition created by a lack of food. When hunger is a result of food insecurity, it can be a devastating and all-consuming condition, which has been shown to cause significant declines in cognitive function.