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**2018-2019 Recipient of Marty Memorial Scholarship**

Summary Statement of Studies and/or Research:

Urban Food Governance in Toronto, Canada and Cape Town, South Africa

**Problem Statement:** A greater proportion of low income urban residents in the City of Cape Town (CoCT) experience hunger and food insecurity. The Toronto Food Strategy Team (TFST) aims to facilitate the creation of a sustainable, healthy food system. Cape Town and Toronto, like cities around the world, are beginning to expand their food governance roles. In 2008, the Toronto Board of Health established the TFST, which is now a small unit situated in the Strategic Support Directorate of Toronto Public Health. The TFST completed at least three in-depth strategic planning workshops to clarify its goal, priority areas and how to streamline its activities, one of its current challenges is how to move away from being an implementing agency to become a facilitating or enabling agent. This will allow the TFST to better fulfil its overall goal, which is to help the CoCT to design and implement a food strategy that ensure a sustainable, health food system.

The CoCT has no equivalent institution. The South African constitution guarantees everyone the right to food and there is a national Policy on Food and Nutrition Security. However, there is no urban-specific food policy and there is fragmentation in the institutional arrangements responsible for implementing the national policy. While scholars have advocated for the adoption of a CoCT Food Policy Council, akin to the Toronto Food Policy Council (TFPC), this approach does not address the issue of institutional governance with the municipality. The CoCT is working within a context where the food strategy is not located in public health but shared by three different government departments reinforcing the notion that urban food security is a multi-dimensional phenomenon.

**Research Objectives:** (1) To facilitate the transfer of knowledge and experience on local food governance between the Cities of Toronto and of Cape Town. (2) To design a framework for the TFST, based on their unique challenges that will assist the TFST to identify program indicators to meet their goal. (3) To provide the CoCT with recommendations, drawing on the framework designed for the TFST, to implement a local food strategy office.

**Research Outputs:** (1) To provide the TFST with a framework to identify achievable indicators that will help them achieve their goal. (2) To provide the CoCT practical recommendations, based on lessons from the TFST, and to facilitate the establishment of institutional arrangements for local food governance.

**Research Methods:** The first phase of the research will review the scholarly literature and the policies and reports of the TFST and of the CoCT. This phase will include an exhaustive review of the reports of multiple strategic planning workshops convened by the TFST. During the second phase, I will undertake consultations and key informant interviews with key officials within the TFST and the CoCT. This phase will also include consultations with sector representatives in the CoCT. The goal of the consultations in Toronto is to reflect on the experiences of long-time TFST members. Consultations in the CoCT will gather information to ensure that the proposed framework includes experiences of local actors. The duration of the project is 12 months.

There are several factors that will ensure the success of this proposed research. Firstly, my doctoral and postdoctoral research and policy work focused on local government. I have worked on difference aspects of food security in the CoCT during for my postdoctoral work. My association with the Hungry Cities Partnership (HCP), an international research, training and advocacy partnership allowed me to work with colleagues the University of Cape Town, ensuring access to officials and politicians in the CoCT. While HCP and the TFST provide me with administrative support and access to information, they are not providing research funds to implement the proposed research.