

LOCAL FOOD PROCUREMENT

in LONG-TERM CARE HOMES

Step 1: ASSEMBLE YOUR INTERNAL TEAM

Bring together food directors, purchasing staff, representatives from cooking and serving staff and select residents.



Define Local

Ontario definitions of local are widely accepted. Consider both food origin and processing location.



Step 2: ASSEMBLE YOUR EXTERNAL TEAM

BRING TOGETHER COUNTERPARTS IN YOUR GROUP PURCHASING ORGANIZATION (GPO)

(a) Review current buying practices

REQUEST VELOCITY REPORTS
from GPOs and/or distributors to see the % of local food you purchase

(b) Ask your distributor to recommend local substitutions and new products.

Many have Ontario lists.

(c) Decide on new Ontario products to try



Step 3: EVALUATE THE PRODUCT



Invite local vendors to food shows



Get samples to test in your cooking system



Review nutritional specifications



Compare cost of local substitutions



Seek feedback from long-term care residents

Step 4: MAKE THE SWITCH

Respect your Contract when Ordering

80% is contracted services, but 20% is discretionary. This is where many new local products can be purchased.

Communicate Your New Menu Options

Identify local food on menus and request that staff identify local when presenting meals with local ingredients

Use your buying power to boost volumes as a group and get your chosen local product listed!

Step 5: SUSTAIN THE CHANGE

Identify Your Champions - Engage these food staff, administrators, distributors, funders, or political representatives in your food system who are passionate about local foods to ensure local purchasing will continue.

Make "Local" a Criteria - when your GPO contract is up for renewal make sure your definition of local is an evaluative criteria

Share menu ideas among GPO members that incorporate local ingredients, or tried and tested local products.

Research conducted by Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance (GHFFA) with financial support from the Government of Ontario, in partnership with the Greenbelt Fund.



Possibility grows here.



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For more information:
<http://www.foodandfarming.ca/current-projects/serving-up-local/>