



Annual Report
2018-2019



School Food visits Maskwacis In May 2018 the AFM School Food visited Scott Hall's amazing school food program at Ermineskin High School. AFM has been in touch with Farm to Cafeteria Canada to have Scott present his excellent program at their annual conference being held in Victoria in 2019.

Website Joanna and Lisa have been working steadily to transfer the previous GFSA & AFM website to a new domain and a new look. It has been a daunting affair! As a lot of AFM goals are on hold until we launch our new website, we will continue to work on this portfolio to get it up and running in the very near future - stay tuned for our launch announcement!

Memberships

Farewell to Elizabeth Maclellan and Lisa Martin as they moved on to retirement and motherhood (two incredibly busy life phases!) AFM wishes to thank them so very much for their input and energy in moving us forward in our goals. The AFM Board wants to wish them all the best in the future, and we hope to keep in touch!

New members: we are excited to consider applications from people around the province who wish to join us in our vision, mission and values! Once the web site is up we will start recruiting members! Benefits—> listserv, resources, food connections, monthly teleconferences to share resources, skills, and projects across the province!

AFM VISION → ALL PEOPLE IN ALBERTA HAVE HEALTHY FOOD, AS CLOSE TO HOME AS POSSIBLE

Alberta Food Matters Mission → Working together to foster leadership, relationships, and actions that reconnect people, land, and food in Alberta; Alberta Food Matters grows through community development, research and evidence-based approaches, policy development and skill building, educational projects, programs, and workshops. (developed Jan 2014)

AFM Values → (developed January 2015)

- WE value nature as the enduring measure, mentor and model: sustainable, equitable, locale-driven, regenerative and system.
- WE believe successful actions and healthy food systems are built on relationships
- WE value asset-based approaches that recognize everyone and every group has something to contribute
- WE value equity: practices that are participatory and support open source sharing
- WE value credible, evidence-based information and practices

Our Partners - Initiatives we are supporting:

Food Secure Canada

Susan has just retired from the FSC board. She represented AFM well as she attended meetings and advocated for Alberta on that board.

Coalition for Healthy School Food

As well, we are in touch with Debbie Fields who has worked tirelessly with the Coalition for Healthy School Food to get School Food on the Federal Government's platform and to have them take action to ensure our school age children receive an equitable and nutritious food program in this nation's schools. They have achieved their goal of getting it into the Federal Liberal's spring budget. The next step is to have all 5 federal political parties also make a nation-wide nutritious school food program part of their policy platform. The goal is to also raise this national program as an election issue in this fall's federal election.

Alberta Policy Coalition for Chronic Disease Prevention (APCCP)

Gbemiro and Susan have been attending APCCP meetings.

AFM School Food

AFM are trying to gather a vibrant school food group in Alberta. We are looking forward to convening a gathering in the future! Scott Hall and Scott

Harrison are presenting in Banff on May 4th on their two stellar school food programs, which other schools and school divisions could look to replicate.

Floor Display at conferences & events:

Gbemiro has the AFM floor display and can relay it to members who are attending various events. We need to continue to advocate for AFM using these opportunities.

Monthly AFM Board meetings:

The AFM Board has Google Hangouts meeting to manage our activities and continue to share the activities of the board in their various agencies, and develop our School food arm and to get the new webpage finished. These meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. as one of our Board, Jamie, is based in Ottawa doing her Masters of Public Policy and Administration (MPPA).

From the AFM Chair

AFM had an interesting year in 2018!

I attended the regional roundtable discussions on local food production in the province on a very frigid day in February. There was a wide array of producers and foodies in the room and we had a productive day giving our feed-back to the government of Alberta. The government has since struck a Local Food Council to continue to see about how to make Alberta producers as effective and successful within a provincial framework (and under regulations) as possible.

We managed to pull together the visit to Ermineskin Junior/Senior High in May. Many dietitians and some educators came together in Maskwacis to find out first hand how educator Scott Hall had created such an amazing school food program for very low cost per student. Scott makes a point of sourcing a lot of his menu items locally, and involving the students in the food preparation, so that they would become familiar with making nutritious

and delicious meals as a career or for themselves. It was video taped by CBC and was shared widely among the AFM contacts.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/universal-food-program-maskwacis-school-student-ermine-skin-1.4880982>

We have been working on our website, trying to find a website designer and then all the tension and interaction that goes with having an outside party create something for you! We are in the final stages creating the pages and migrating information over, and we hope to launch the site very soon. We think it will be an integral part of how AFM works and how AFM will bring people and programs together. Johanna has been leading this challenging task, and it has seen some real exciting moments as well as some set-backs. We really appreciate her determination in undertaking this big project!

In March, AFM invited Debbie Field, with Food Secure Canada (and Coalition for Healthy School Food), to speak to the Board on FSC's accomplishment of getting a national school food program into the Federal Liberal spring budget. We were very inspired by what Debbie told us about their progress and their plans to get the National School Food program onto every other party's platforms in the upcoming fall federal election. AFM is certainly keen to help that happen!

In the future we hope to reconvene the monthly members google hangout meetings for members to share resources, actions/activities and news. Stay tuned!