



The Transformation Initiative Launches A Food Security Program in York Region

Vaughan, ON – September 22 2020 – The Transformation Initiative is proud to announce the launch of our newest community program, *Sovereignty Gardens*. In partnership with The Food Bank of York Region (FBYR), and supported by York Region, the purpose of Sovereignty Gardens is to provide fresh produce to local food banks, supporting underserved communities in response to overwhelming economic hardship as a result of COVID-19. Residents of York who cultivate their own gardens are encouraged to share their fresh fruit and vegetable surplus towards the program.

“We are excited about this new partnership and look forward to participating in community focused programs, like Sovereignty Gardens,” says Founder and CEO of the FBYR, Alex Bilotta.

Sovereignty Gardens reimagines the success of “Victory Gardens” from WWII where homeowners were called upon to grow fresh fruits and vegetables in their backyards and donate produce to the war effort. In 2020, in the wake of Covid-19, we again need to call on our backyard growers to produce fresh food for Canadians in need.

“This program can demonstrate the power of a local, resilient, and sustainable food system. We recognize food as a right and hope to remind communities that they have the power to shape their own food system; this is why we call our program Sovereignty Gardens,” explains Natasha Arsenijevich, Program Director. “We want to empower communities by fostering a culture of resiliency through urban agriculture, and provide immediate food security for under-served communities in Ontario.”

Residents will be able to drop off their home-grown food from Monday to Friday, between the hours of 8:00 am and 2:00 pm at the FBYR located at 8201 Keele Street, units 5 and 6, in Vaughan. For more information on how to become a part of this program visit <https://www.facebook.com/SovGardens>.

About Transformation Initiative: The Transformation Initiative is a Canadian registered not-for profit agency. Our goal is to serve as an industry catalyst to transform markets and the economy by bringing people together to collaboratively create sustainability solutions across Canada’s five core sectors: Finance, Insurance, Energy, Resources, and Agri-food. Learn more about the [Transformation Initiative](#).

About the Food Bank of York Region: The FBYR is a regional food bank serving the nine municipalities of York Region (Vaughan, Richmond Hill, Markham, Whitchurch-Stouffville,

Newmarket, Aurora, East Gwillimbury, Georgina, and King). We source, collect, warehouse, and deliver surplus fresh, frozen, and non-perishable food donations for the 76+ local front-line community service agencies we support within our network. We also run a home delivery program for residents of York Region experiencing hunger and food insecurity. For more information about the FBYP, ways to donate or get involved, please visit www.fbyr.ca and follow us on social media.

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