

APPENDIX 6

Table 4: National, Provincial and Global Policy Frameworks at the Agriculture, Agri-Food and Health Interface

Name/Vision and Goal of Initiative	Current Status	Related Policies, Programs/ Initiatives	Relevance to the Vision, Goals and Approaches of the Integrated Health and Agri-Food Strategy for Canada - Synergies, Gaps or Conflicts
National Governmental Level Frameworks (Canada)			
AGRICULTURAL POLICY FRAMEWORK (APF) (2003-2008)			
<p>The objective of the Agricultural Policy Framework (APF) is “to secure the long-term profitability of the sector by making Canada a world leader in food safety, innovation, and environmentally responsible agricultural production.”</p>	<p>Agricultural Policy Framework has been replaced by the Growing Forward policy Framework (as of April 1, 2009).</p>	<p>All provinces and territories have signed on to the APF and the Implementation Agreements with the Government of Canada.</p> <p>Greencover Canada is a five-year, \$110-million initiative to promote sustainable land use and expand the land covered by forage and trees. This will provide land conversion incentives to agricultural producers, protect farm-water quality, and reduce greenhouse gas missions.</p> <p>Flax Canada 2015 Initiative aims to strengthen Canada’s leadership position in flax research, product development and commercialization in the areas of health, wellness, and the environment. It is supported by the APF to develop a strategic plan for flax based on establishing linkages between researchers, industry, the health care community and government.</p>	<p>Under the APF, five pillars were established:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Food safety and quality to make Canada the world leader in producing, processing and distributing safe and reliable food to meet the needs and preferences of consumers. 2. Environment: to help producers act as resource stewards, and to respond to consumer demands regarding environmental performance. 3. Science and Innovation: to support sustainable development and innovation that generates profit, and to instil confidence in food safety and quality. 4. Renewal: to help farm families develop the skills to succeed in the knowledge-based economy. 5. Business Risk Management: to encourage producers to be proactive to reduce business risks.”
<p>(Source: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. (2003). Agricultural Policy Framework. Retrieved from http://www4.agr.gc.ca/AAFC-AAC/display-afficher.do?id=1183127394087&lang=eng)</p>			

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<p>The vision of the new framework is for a profitable and innovative agriculture, agri-food and agri-based products industry that seizes opportunities in responding to market demands and contributes to the health and well-being of Canadians.”</p> <p>The new framework provides a definite change of direction that aims to address the lessons learned from the previous policy framework with a significant focus on competitiveness and innovation.</p>	<p>APF programs will continue until <i>Growing Forward</i> programs are developed and fully implemented (target date is April 1, 2009). The Government of Canada is currently working with the provinces and territories to sign bilateral agreements and finalize program details prior to March 31, 2009.</p>	<p>Governments would provide funding through an “On-Farm Innovation Initiative” to support the development and adoption of technical innovations to enhance sector competitiveness.</p> <p>Newly formed science networks, created under what would be known as the “Integrated Food for Health Research Initiative,” would help provide scientific evidence needed to approve priority products with enhanced health-promoting attributes.</p> <p>Governments would continue support of branding efforts such as the “Brand Canada” Strategy, to help Canadian businesses position their products better in key international markets.</p> <p>“Sustainable Agriculture Environmental Systems Initiative” would be a research and technology transfer program which would develop priorities based on sector needs.</p>	<p>The new framework outlines the following strategic outcomes:</p> <p>1. A Competitive and Innovative Sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expanding the sector’s capacity to innovate - Improving governments’ regulatory performance by “improving the approval processes for novel foods and food additives; and help the industry generate approvals for health claims”. - Facilitating industry success in global and domestic markets through “support for industry-led marketing strategies; a Canada branding strategy; and action to maintain and improve market access”. <p>2. A Sector that Contributes to Society’s Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhancing post-farm and on-farm food safety; and improving food safety systems through scientific research - Enhancing environmental performance <p>3. A Sector that is Proactive in Managing Risk</p> <p>(Source: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. (2008). <i>Growing Forward: The New Agricultural Policy Framework</i>. Retrieved from http://www4.agr.gc.ca/AAFC-AAC/display-afficher.do?id=1200339470715&lang=eng)</p>

GROWING FORWARD: THE NEW AGRICULTURAL POLICY FRAMEWORK (2008-2012)

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<p>An essential principle underlying the development of AAFc's Strategy is a focus on supporting a strong Canadian industry.</p> <p>The Strategic goals include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Focusing our science and innovation investment; - Addressing the need to catalyze a healthy, vibrant agriculture industry; - Addressing policy objectives in health care, environment, energy, biosecurity, food safety and quality, and international trade" 	<p>A number of outcomes were set out to reach the Strategy's seven priorities.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA (AAFC) SCIENCE AND INNOVATION STRATEGY</p>	<p>The AAFc Strategy identifies seven priority areas among which the first priority was "enhancing human health and wellness through food, nutrition and innovative products" and sets the following end outcomes:</p> <p>End Outcomes 2015-2030</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canadians are among the healthiest people in the world due to health promotion and disease prevention attributable to the better understanding of linkages between food and health, access to high-quality nutritious foods, and information about food allowing informed choices. • Significant reductions in Canadian health care costs and increased longevity achieved due to enhanced wellness and well-being of Canadians. • Canadian functional food and nutraceutical standards set world standards. <p>Intermediate Outcomes 2010-2015</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information about food, functional foods and nutraceuticals allow Canadians to tailor their diets to suit their personal needs. • Nutritious, high-quality foods are readily available and more appealing than less nutritious alternatives. <p>Immediate Outcomes 2006-2010</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health claims for functional foods and nutraceuticals are recognized and endorsed by official standards. • Foods with functional properties are characterized and used in the production of healthy products. <p>Science Deliverables 2006-2010</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foods with functional properties are identified and strategies developed to preserve bioactivity. • Understanding of nutritive components of specific foods and their mode of action in disease prevention, and health promotion is available. • Health claims for functional foods and nutraceuticals are substantiated by research. <p>Other priorities include enhancing: the quality of food and the safety of the food system; security and protection of the food supply; economic benefits for all stakeholders; and environmental performance of the agricultural system.</p> <p>(Source: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. (2006). Agriculture and Agri-Food Science and Innovation Strategy. Retrieved from http://www4.agr.gc.ca/AAFC-AAC/display-afficher.do?id=1175602657035&lang=eng#s7)</p>

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THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA, FOOD AND CONSUMER SAFETY ACTION PLAN			
<p>Canada's Food and Consumer Safety Action Plan recognizes the need to better support the collective responsibilities that government, industry and consumers have for food safety, with a renewed focus on prevention, addressing food safety along the food continuum.</p>	<p>The Government of Canada will engage the full range of partners on this Plan.</p>	<p>The Government is considering new initiatives to enhance policies, standards and processes to strengthen the prevention of food safety issues.</p>	<p>The Action Plan addresses safety along the food continuum, from production to consumption; enhances the food safety issues of food imports; strengthens standard setting for the safety and nutritional quality of all food sold in Canada; provides better information to consumers (government will undertake a review of current policies for a voluntary "Product of Canada" and "Made in Canada" claims on product labels).</p> <p>(Source: Government of Canada. (2007) Canada's Proposed Food and Consumer Safety Action Plan – Overview. Retrieved from http://www.healthycanadians.ca/alt_formats/pdf/01-P_440-ActionPlan_Pamphlet_eng_16.PDF)</p>
CANADA'S ACTION PLAN FOR FOOD SECURITY			
<p>The Canada's Action Plan for Food Security is a call for multi-sectoral action and it provides important opportunities to link issues related to food, health and the environment</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>The following priorities and commitments are part of the Action Plan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Access to Food promotion of access to safe and nutritious food reinforcing of the healthy eating practices monitoring systems for food insecurity 2. Sustainable Agriculture and Sustainable Development 3. Trade and Food Security 4. Food Safety 5. Emphasis on environmentally sustainable practices <p>(Source: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. (1998). Canada's Action Plan for Food Security. Retrieved from http://www.agr.gc.ca/misb/fsec-seca/pdf/action_e.pdf)</p>

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<p>An Agenda for Action "is to ensure integration of nutrition considerations into health, agriculture, education, social and economic policies and programs."</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>NUTRITION FOR HEALTH: AN AGENDA FOR ACTION</p> <p>The Agenda for Action describes a multilevel, multi-sectoral approach to improving the nutritional health of the population with the following strategic directions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reinforce healthy eating practices through the incorporation of nutrition into curricula for children and youth; the improvement of the usefulness of nutrition labelling; and the provision of responsible public information on healthy eating and physical activity. 2. Support nutritionally vulnerable populations 3. Continue to enhance the availability of foods that support healthy eating by ensuring that food policies promote the increased availability of foods with compositional characteristics that support healthy eating; working with the food service sector to increase the availability of foods that support healthy eating; implementing policies and incentives in publicly funded organizations (e.g. schools) to promote increased availability of foods that support healthy eating; supporting agriculture and food policies that are consistent with environmentally sustainable practices. 4. Support nutrition research <p>(Source: Health Canada. (1996). Nutrition for Health: An Agenda for Action. Retrieved from http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/nutrition/pol/nutrition_health_agenda-nutrition_virage_sante-eng.php)</p>

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TOWARDS A REGULATORY MODERNIZATION STRATEGY FOR FOOD AND NUTRITION, A KEY FEATURE OF THE HPPFB BLUEPRINT FOR RENEWAL			
<p>The main policy goals of the Strategy which focuses on addressing food safety and nutrition challenges are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Improving effectiveness and efficiency in Health Canada’s food regulatory system; - Promoting regulatory responsiveness to food innovation and promoting consumer access to foods with assessed health benefits; - Modernizing the regulatory toolkit; - Promoting a sustainable and integrated system for food safety and nutrition in Canada.” 	<p>Health Canada anticipates engaging a broader range of stakeholders to discuss Health Canada’s goals and objectives under the Regulatory Modernization Strategy for Food and Nutrition to further clarifying the scope and scale of the Strategy through public, stakeholder, and inter-agency consultations, the process which will lead to the completion of a <i>Regulatory Modernization Strategy for Food and Nutrition (the Strategy)</i>.</p>	<p>Health Canada is reviewing the current framework for the management of health claims for foods as part of the Strategy, a number of specific policy actions have been initiated or planned to help address the call for the development of clear, consistent policies to manage a variety of health claims on food.</p> <p>Health Canada is chairing a <i>Multi-stakeholder Working Group on Dietary Sodium Reduction</i> tasked with developing and overseeing implementation of a strategy that would result in lowering the sodium content of the diets of Canadians.</p> <p>New guidance has also been published by Health Canada on the principles for using the Eating Well with Canada’s Food Guide in advertising and labelling.</p>	<p>The specific objectives of the Strategy include improving Health Canada’s processes for pre-market regulatory clearances and notifications; developing a comprehensive framework for the management of food with health claims; increasing Health Canada’s science and research capacity for health claims and food innovation by increasing strategic partnerships; developing strategies to reduce the presence of trans fatty acids in Canadian diets to the lowest possible levels, consistent with the reduced levels of trans fats recommended by the Trans Fat Task Force; improving the alignment of food safety and nutrition priorities and risk management approaches within Canada’s food safety system by strengthening and deepening collaboration between Health Canada, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, the Public Health Agency of Canada, and the food safety authorities in the Provinces and Territories.</p>
<p>(Source: Health Canada. (2007). Blueprint for Renewal II: Modernizing Canada’s Regulatory System for Health Products and Food. Retrieved from http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/alt_formats/hpfb-dgpsa/pdf/hpfb-dgpsa/blueprint-plan_II-eng.pdf)</p>			

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THE INTEGRATED PAN-CANADIAN HEALTHY LIVING STRATEGY			
<p>The Healthy Living Strategy is a conceptual framework for sustained action based on a population health approach. Its vision is a "healthy nation in which all Canadians experience the conditions that support the attainment of good health".</p> <p>To achieve this, the goals of the Strategy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - improve overall health outcomes; and - reduce health disparities. 	<p>The Government of Canada is contributing \$56.05 million over five years (2005-2010) to the implementation of the federal/provincial/territorial <i>Integrated Pan-Canadian Healthy Living Strategy</i>.</p>	<p>President's Choice Blue Menu, a new product line launched by <i>Loblaws</i> to promote healthy eating, highlights the nutritional benefits of lower fat, lower calorie and high fibre pre-packaged foods.</p>	<p>The Strategy's areas of emphasis are healthy eating, physical activity and their relationship to healthy weights, with 2015 to be considered as a first success marker for the set targets, and with other areas such as mental health and injury prevention identified for potential future action.</p> <p>From a policy and program perspective, a number of opportunities for action have been identified to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - improve healthy eating patterns, behaviours and choices among Canadians; - improve access to, and the affordability of healthy food choices; - enhance collaboration and planning across health and "non-health" sectors. <p>This approach is consistent with the <i>WHO Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health</i>, which states that the "responsibilities for action to bring about changes in dietary habits and patterns of physical activity rest with many stakeholders from public, private and civil society".</p>
<p>(Source: Public Health Agency of Canada. (2005). The Integrated Pan-Canadian Healthy Living Strategy. Retrieved from http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/hl-vs-strat/pdf/hls_e.pdf)</p>			

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Provincial Governmental Level Frameworks (Canada)			
THE BRITISH COLUMBIA AGRICULTURE PLAN: GROWING A HEALTHY FUTURE FOR B.C. FAMILIES			
<p>The B.C. Agriculture Plan provides a vision for a “continued development and growth of an economically viable and resilient agriculture and food sector which contributes significantly to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - health of British Columbians; - climate change mitigation; - environmental sustainability; - a growing B.C. economy”. 	<p>There are a number of actions that the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands highlighted in its commitment to implement strategies identified in the Agriculture Plan. While the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands has taken the lead in implementing the plan and in delivering programs, these action items also involve other provincial agencies, local/regional governments and community and industry groups with various implementation timelines.</p>	<p>Eat B.C.! is an industry-led marketing program promotes awareness of local B.C. food. This initiative piloted by the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Lands in partnership with the B.C. Restaurant and Foodservices Association connects local chefs, growers, distributors & retailers.</p> <p>The new “Food Miles” program helps educate and encourage consumers to buy local food by featuring regional branding.</p> <p>EatSmartB.C. program developed to provide easy access to information about food safety and healthy eating.</p> <p>The ActNow! B.C. provides a coordinated cross-governmental and cross-sectoral platform to promote, support and encourage agri-food industry initiatives and activities that proactively “make the healthy choice the easy choice” for British Columbians, and to provide as many B.C. products as possible to meet their healthy food choices (e.g. <i>The School Fruit and Vegetable Snack Program</i> and the B.C. Dairy Foundation’s <i>Elementary School Milk Program</i>).</p> <p>Climate Action Project, initiated to assess: the impact of climate change on agriculture and agri-food, and the sector’s challenges and opportunities in responding within an agricultural Climate Change Action Plan.</p>	<p>The B.C. Agriculture Plan highlights the importance of integrating food and agriculture policies in B.C. outlining strategies for sustaining the agriculture industry under five key themes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Producing local food in a changing world where the province “will enhance its market brand to profile high-quality products” and provide its population with “access to safe, locally produced food”. 2. Meeting environmental and climate challenges through “shifts in farm practices, development of new local markets and the advancement of new technology”. 3. Building innovative and profitable family farm businesses by “shifting its role toward extension, training, research and advisory services and away from direct income for farmers”. 4. Building First Nations agriculture capacity by creating “new opportunities to develop agricultural capacity for healthier communities”. 5. Bridging the urban/agriculture divide to strengthen the future of farming through “new policies targeted to allow generations of farming families to operate viable and integrated farm-related businesses”.
<p>(Source: British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture and Lands. (2006). The B.C. Agriculture Plan: Growing a Healthy Future for B.C. Families. Retrieved from http://www.al.gov.bc.ca/Agriculture_Plan/Agriculture_Plan.pdf)</p>			

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MAKING THE FOOD-HEALTH CONNECTION – AN ALBERTA FRAMEWORK FOR INNOVATION			
<p><i>An Alberta Framework for Innovation</i> is an overarching approach to guide future provincial investments leading to food and health innovations that improve health and economic outcomes.</p> <p>Vision: “Albertans benefit from producing and eating food that makes them healthier. Alberta businesses participate in the global market place for healthy food products. The overall goal of the framework is to attract and grow local companies that will provide differentiated health-based food products such as functional foods, natural health products, fresh foods or products with improved nutritional value.</p>	<p>The next steps of this project is to develop a five year action plan involving health, food/agriculture and innovation sectors that will identify the project milestones needed to implement the strategies identified in the framework. The project recognizes that long-term success will require a solid foundation of partnerships among the players in the food and health system.</p>		<p>The Alberta Framework links agriculture, food and health in a cross-ministry strategy with the following desired key outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Government policy facilitates the development of new healthy foods and promotes healthy lifestyle choices, including the consumption of healthier foods”. - An efficient “lab-to-industry innovation pipeline that results in development of new, Alberta-based healthy food products”. - “Healthy food choices are affordable and readily available”. - New “commercially competitive healthy food and food products”. - Well-informed population “in nutrition and health outcomes”. <p>The proposed actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Respond to consumer demands by developing healthy new products and reformulating existing products. - Facilitate knowledge transfer and partnerships among industry, academia and government. - Advance expansion and availability of fresh locally produced foods. - Invest in new technologies (e.g. genomics) to provide businesses with a competitive advantage. - Increase Albertans’ knowledge about healthy food and lifestyle choices. - Develop healthier food environments”.
<p>(Source: Alberta Life Sciences Institute. (July 2008). Making the Food-Health Connection. <i>An Alberta Framework for Innovation</i>. Retrieved from http://alsi.alberta.ca/media/395569/making%20the%20food-health%20connection.pdf)</p>			

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FOOD FOR HEALTH – ONTARIO MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS (OMAFRA) STRATEGIC RESEARCH THEMES			
<p>Under the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) and University of Guelph (UoG) Agreement of 2008, OMAFRA determined research themes and engaged in a process which outlined the priorities for 2008-2012.</p> <p>One of the research themes – Food For Health – is intended “to help guide the OMAFRA research agenda to address the significant potential to improve health through food”.</p> <p>OMAFRA calls for policy research that addresses its policy objectives. The vision behind the policy is most clearly described by the following: “Ontario’s agri-food sector will be innovative, sustainable and provide opportunity for profit for all participants. We will be globally competitive and the supplier of choice by responding to consumer needs and contributing to provincial prosperity, the environment and the health of citizens”.</p>	<p>The ministry envisions the annual revisiting of theme priorities as is required under the OMAFRA/ UoG Agreement. This is an ongoing process which will incorporate stakeholder input and serve to reconfirm the importance of current priorities, refocus energy toward emerging priorities, and reassess short or medium term direction research themes.</p>	<p>The Pick Ontario Freshness marketing strategy focuses on building awareness of and demand for the fresh, high-quality foods grown and produced in Ontario. It encourages consumers to purchase Ontario foods in grocery stores, and restaurants across the province.</p>	<p>Core components of the Food for Health theme include societal and environmental drivers for food for health; consumer behaviour; linkages between food and health and how food impacts long-term health and healthcare costs; bioactives and food profiling; food processing and food for health; economic implications for farmers; rural communities, agri-food companies, and employees across Ontario; development of research capacity in Ontario; and barriers to innovation in food for health”.</p> <p>Research Areas and Priorities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Ontario agriculture and food industry can be leaders in producing, promoting and ultimately profiting from products that are healthier for consumers.” - Bioactives, functional foods and new healthy food products - Developing policies and strategies to support healthier choices by consumers and to create new health focused societal models of behaviour. - Understanding linkages between food and health - Review the effect that policies, regulations and research funding have on the development of new niche products and markets”.
<p>(Source: Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. (2008). Food for Health. Retrieved from http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/research/priorities/foodforhealth.htm)</p>			

Building Convergence

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ONTARIO'S ACTION PLAN FOR HEALTHY EATING & ACTIVE LIVING			
<p>Ontario's Action Plan for Healthy Eating & Active Living has created a forum to link cabinet ministers with mandates to support healthy eating and active living, and to improve the coordination of policies and programs. The Action Plan is part of a worldwide response to reduce chronic disease by targeting nutrition and physical activity.</p>	<p>In its consultation report titled "Moving the Healthy Eating and Active Living Strategy Forward in Ontario" the Ontario Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance proposed implementation of the four priorities for action to move the Strategy forward.</p>	<p>Northern Fruit and Vegetable Program. The primary mandate of the program is to increase the intake of fruit and vegetables of elementary school age children. The underlying goal is to promote healthy eating and wellness while increasing children's awareness of the benefits of eating fruit and vegetables.</p> <p>Eat Smart!, a voluntary program that establishes criteria and recognizes cafeterias and restaurants that provide healthy food choices.</p>	<p>The ministry is committed to the following four key strategies to make healthy eating and active living easier for all Ontarians:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grow healthy children and youth (support Healthy Schools; improve access to healthy food) - Build healthy communities - Champion healthy public policy - Promote public awareness and engagement <p>(Source: Ontario Ministry of Health Promotion. (2006). Ontario's Action Plan for Healthy Eating and Active Living. Retrieved from http://www.mhp.gov.on.ca/english/health/HEAL/actionplan-EN.pdf)</p>
INVESTING FOR THE FUTURE. 2006–2012 QUEBEC GOVERNMENT ACTION PLAN			
<p>The Action Plan aims to improve the quality of life of Quebecers by creating environments that foster healthy lifestyles, especially physically active and healthy eating.</p>	<p>Following consultations and initiatives coordinated by the Ministère de la Santé et des Services Sociaux, each ministry has determined the course of action it will pursue over the next few years.</p>	<p>In keeping with this Action Plan, several ministries, in conjunction with the Quebec Ministry of Health and the Quebec Ministry of Agriculture, are publishing the Framework Policy on Healthy Eating and Active Living. The <i>Framework</i> demonstrates the firm intention of the government to ensure that food supplied in the schools promote the adoption of healthy eating habits with the following priority elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To offer a variety of foods with good nutritional value; - To provide a variety of fruits and vegetables; - To reduce the fat content of meats; and, - To eliminate foods of low nutritional value from all school food supplies. 	<p>The Action Plan identified four main focuses of intervention. They are: to promote and support the development of environments conducive to the adoption of healthy eating habits and a physically active lifestyle; to promote favourable social standards; to improve services for people with weight-related problems; and to promote research and the transfer of knowledge.</p> <p>(Source: Québec Ministère de la Santé et des Services Sociaux. (2006). <i>Investing for the Future</i> Quebec Action Plan to promote healthy lifestyles and prevent weight-related problems. Retrieved from http://publications.msss.gouv.qc.ca/acrobat/f/documentation/2006/06-289-01.pdf)</p>

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Municipal Governmental Level Frameworks (Canada)			
TORONTO FOOD STRATEGY			
<p>The goal of the Toronto Food Strategy is to develop an action plan to improve the food system to better support good nutrition, healthy development and disease prevention, a strong local economy, environmental protection and climate change action, and the promotion and celebration of culture and community through food.</p>	<p>The Food Strategy will flow from an analysis of each stage of the food system through a health lens. The structure for developing the strategy will be multi-sectoral and interdisciplinary, with expertise and input from a wide range of food sectors. It is anticipated that a draft Toronto Food Strategy can be completed by winter 2008-2009 with a public consultation process in spring 2009.</p> <p>As a first step in the process, Toronto Public Health office drafted a background paper, entitled "The State of Toronto's Food." The paper highlights current trends related to a broad range of food system activities.</p>	<p>A Snack Vending Machine Policy is being proposed to increase the range of healthier food choices. The nutrition standards are organized by food group according to <i>Eating Well with Canada's Food Guide</i>.</p> <p>Community and School Gardens promote healthy eating, active living and contribute to a healthy environment.</p> <p>Farmers' Markets - Toronto has a number of farmers' markets that help connect Torontonians to farmers and offer an opportunity to buy fresh, locally-grown foods.</p>	<p>The strategy is envisaged around the following principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - locally grown, locally raised and locally processed food; - supports the local economy, especially, Ontario's farmers and their suppliers; - connects farmers and consumers; - an action plan to ensure that Toronto's food system improves health, promotes economic development and protects the environment.
<p>(Source: Toronto Public Health and the Board of Health. (June 2008). Proposal for Development of a Toronto Food Strategy. Retrieved from http://www.toronto.ca/health/boh_pastreports/061608_boh_pastreports.htm#001)</p>			

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Global Governmental Level Frameworks			
WHO GLOBAL STRATEGY ON DIET, PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND HEALTH			
<p>The overall goal of the WHO Global Strategy is to promote and protect health through healthy eating and physical activity.</p>	<p>Since adoption of the WHO Global Strategy in 2004, there has been an acceleration of the development and implementation of national policies, plans and programs to promote a healthy diet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The WHO has been working alongside other stakeholders in order to provide technical assistance and support for the Strategy's implementation. - Interactions have taken place with international organizations and bodies to promote the objectives of the Strategy. - The WHO has been working with the FAO and the Codex Alimentarius Commission Secretariat to explore how the Codex Alimentarius, as the system setting food standards and guidelines to protect the health of consumers, can support the implementation of the Strategy. - Informal agreements have been reached between global NGOs and WHO in order to support the implementation of public health objectives identified in the Strategy. 	<p>WHO/FAO Framework for Promoting Fruit and Vegetable Consumption for Health</p> <p>This framework guides the development of cost-efficient and effective interventions for the promotion of adequate fruit and vegetable production and consumption worldwide.</p>	<p>The WHO Global Strategy sets out recommendations for national governments. Canada has addressed or is in the process of addressing all of the following recommendations:</p> <p>For diet, recommendations for populations and individuals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Achieve energy balance and a healthy weight; - Limit dietary intake of free sugars; - Limit energy intake from total fats and shift fat consumption away from saturated fats to unsaturated fats and towards the elimination of <i>trans</i> fatty acids; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase consumption of fruits, vegetables and legumes, whole grains; nuts - Limit salt (sodium) consumption from all sources”, ensure that salt is iodized. <p>Specific recommendations to the food industry include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “limit the levels of saturated fats, transfatty acids, free sugars and salt in existing products; - Practice responsible marketing that supports the Strategy, particularly with regard to the promotion and marketing of foods high in saturated fats, <i>trans</i>-fatty acids, free sugars/salt, especially to children”. <p>To facilitate the adoption of healthy diet, the Strategy calls attention to national food and nutrition policy which “should cover food safety and sustainable food security”. The Strategy also encourages governments “to examine food and agricultural policies for potential health effects on the food supply”.</p>
<p>(Source: World Health Organization. (2004). Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health. Retrieved from http://www.who.int/dietphysicalactivity/strategy/eb11344/strategy_english_web.pdf)</p>			

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WHO GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR FOOD SAFETY: SAFER FOOD FOR BETTER HEALTH			
<p>The primary goal of the WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety is to reduce the health and social burden of foodborne disease through advocating and assisting in the development of risk-based, sustainable, integrated food safety systems; developing science-based measures along the entire food production chain; and assessing, communicating and managing foodborne risks, in cooperation with other sectors and partners.</p>	<p>The WHO is now elaborating a more detailed long-term workplan outlining specific activities and initiatives to ensure the Strategy's success. The Strategy is predicated on a long-term commitment to food safety as a means of improving public health, which will be reflected in medium and long-term workplans.</p>	<p>Healthy Food Markets Initiative, an approach for promoting food safety and related environmental health issues which seeks to improve food safety from production to consumption and fosters partnerships among food suppliers, government and consumers.</p>	<p>Canada supports the goals of the WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety. The approaches of the Strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthening surveillance systems of foodborne diseases; - Improving risk assessments; - Developing methods for assessing the safety of the products of new technologies; - Enhancing the scientific and public health role of WHO in Codex; - Enhancing risk communication and advocacy; - Improving international and national cooperation; - Strengthening capacity building in developing countries". <p>(Source: World Health Organization. (2002). WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety: Safer Food for Better Health. Retrieved from http://www.who.int/foodsafety/publications/general/global_strategy/en/)</p>
COMPREHENSIVE FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION (CFA). HIGH-LEVEL TASK FORCE ON THE GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY CRISIS			
<p>The CFA is a framework for setting out the joint position of High-Level Task Force (HLTF) members on proposed actions to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) address the current threats and opportunities resulting from food price rises; 2) create policy changes to avoid future food crises; and 3) contribute to country, regional and global food and nutritional security. 	<p>It is envisaged that a "Madrid Declaration" will be endorsed by Ministers and then agreed at the conclusion of the HLTF meeting held in Madrid in 2009. This will reaffirm conclusions of the Rome conference and the CFA; indicate policies and actions to address both immediate and longer term challenges to food security; describe the process through which stakeholders will work out a broader partnership on agriculture and food security; identify the potential for increasing and improving the effectiveness of financial contributions.</p>	<p>Current actions by the UN and Bretton Woods Institutions to address the global food crisis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve access to food and nutrition support and take immediate steps to increase food availability (e.g. OCHA: CERF Response to the Effects of Current Food Price Crisis; FAO Initiative on Soaring Food Prices) 	<p>Canada continues to be part of the global framework and is taking steps towards helping to address food insecurity and the following priority goals set out in the CFA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Emergency food assistance, nutrition interventions and safety nets to be enhanced and made more accessible. - Smallholder farmer food production to be boosted by increasing access to costly agricultural inputs and by rapid improvement of agricultural infrastructure. - Trade and tax policies to be adjusted as appropriate. <p>Source: United Nations The Secretary-General's High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis. (July 2008). Comprehensive Framework for Action. Retrieved from http://www.un.org/issues/food/taskforce/cfa.shtml)</p>

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THE WHO COMMISSION ON SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH			
<p>The Commission fosters a global movement for change with a clear evidence of concern about the scale of inequity emphasizing the lack of food production and food security with its global impact to ensure the availability of and access to healthy diets for children by improving food security.</p>	<p>To address the social determinants of health, the implementation plans are currently in development at global and national levels following the 2008 final report of the WHO Commission on the Social Determinants of Health in its call to close the gap in a generation.</p>	<p><i>“Health Equity Through Intersectoral Action: An Analysis of 18 Country Case Studies”</i> – this synthesis is part of a joint initiative between the World Health Organization and the Public Health Agency of Canada, to increase knowledge and application of effective intersectoral approaches. The report provides an analysis of key learnings about intersectoral action for health and health equity.</p>	<p>Canada plays a key role in advancing the action on social determinants of health and supports the following recommendations of the Commission on health and health equity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For local government and civil society to “encourage healthy eating through retail planning to manage the availability of and access to food”; - For government “to develop regulatory strategies to address the impact of globalized food production and trade on the nutritional quality of national and local diets. Food-related policy-making and trade agreements need to concentrate on the three key aspects of nutrition and health equity: availability, accessibility, and acceptability”; - For national government to “establish a whole-of-government mechanism” ensuring its “coherent consideration across all policies”. <p>(Source: World Health Organization. (2005). Commission on Social Determinates of Health, 2005-2008. Retrieved from http://www.who.int/social_determinants/thecommission/en/index.html)</p>

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Other Governmental Level Frameworks (OECD Countries)			
FOOD MATTERS: TOWARDS A STRATEGY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY			
<p>The UK project on food and food policy aims to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) review the main trends in food production and consumption in the UK; 2) analyze the implications of those trends for the economy, society and the environment; 3) assess the robustness of the current policy framework for food; and 4) determine what the objectives of future food strategy should be and the measures needed to achieve them. 	<p>In July 2008, the UK Cabinet office published the results of a ten-month Strategy Unit project looking at food policy across Government – and concluded that rising demand, climate change, and trade and productivity restrictions must all be addressed.</p> <p>The report commits the UK Government to consulting the public and stakeholders on many of its conclusions. This work will be led by Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Annual reports of progress against the report’s recommendations will be published in 2009-2010.</p> <p>To put a new food policy framework for the UK in place, the Cabinet Office will set up a Food Strategy Task Force. As a first step, in 2008 DEFRA published a paper entitled “Ensuring the UK’s Food Security in a Globalised World”. This report sets out the key factors which affect food supply and pricing, and encourages discussion with stakeholders about ensuring long-term food security.</p>	<p>The Department of Health will take forward the development and launch of a new “Healthier Food Mark” for public food.</p> <p>The new mark will be awarded to catering companies who serve the public sector if they meet certain criteria. These criteria includes the design of menus, sourcing ingredients that are lower in saturated fat, salt, and added sugar, preparation and presentation of food, including portion sizes, and procuring environmentally sustainable food.</p> <p>5 A DAY Initiative aimed at increasing fruit and vegetable consumption. The initiative’s renewed focus aimed at increasing fruit and vegetable consumption in specific population groups who are least likely to consume fruit and vegetables, and on working with industry to expand the range of products that can count towards the 5 A DAY target.</p>	<p>Canada lacks a comprehensive food policy to deal holistically with food systems and to ensure cross-governmental policies. The UK undertaking of the project on food and food policy is a timely model of setting out a future strategic framework for food policy and practical measures for addressing issues around food and health, food and the environment and other concerns which draws together evidence about long-term trends in food production and consumption, and how food safety and nutrition impact on the health of the UK.</p> <p>Some key recommendations are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For Government to “launch a public engagement about a more joined-up approach to UK food policy that pursues fair prices, safer food, healthier diets and better environmental performance”; - For DEFRA “to develop and engage the public and food businesses in a new shared vision to guide future food strategy”; - “to continue to focus on fair prices, access to food and food security through competitive markets”; - “to promote the role of agriculture in mitigating and adapting to climate change”; - “to get the public sector in England providing healthier, more environmentally sustainable food”; - “improving the clarity of messaging to consumers”; - “making further progress with the 5 A DAY campaign to increase average daily consumption of fruit and vegetables is a priority”.
<p>(Source: UK Cabinet Office. (July 2008). Food Matters: Towards a Strategy for the 21st Century. Retrieved from http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/strategy/work_areas/food_policy.aspx)</p>			

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<p>The ETP seeks to deliver:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a platform for effective, consumer-oriented, and improved food products; - a forum for ensuring an effective approach to integrating "strategically-focused, trans-national, research in the nutritional-, food- and consumer sciences and food chain management; - training and education in multiple disciplines relevant for the food and nutrition". <p>These products "will have a positive impact on public health. Such targeted activities will support a successful and competitive pan-European agro-food industry having global business leadership securely based on economic growth, sustainable food production and consumer confidence".</p>	<p>The ETP Food for Life Vision for 2020 and beyond was launched in Brussels in 2005.</p> <p>The next step which is currently underway is the development of a Strategic Research Agenda for a strategy to achieve this vision and to meet the innovation challenge, and a detailed Implementation Plan that describes the research, training, education and dissemination requirements needed to fulfill the vision and strategy.</p> <p>The immediate focus is on defining the requirements and priorities for the EU Commission's Framework Programme 7, the EU's main instrument for funding research in Europe which will run from 2007-2013. In the longer term this focus will be broadened to include nationally-funded initiatives.</p>	<p>ETP EUROPEAN TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM FOOD FOR LIFE</p> <p>Joint Technology Initiatives provide an entirely new mechanism to support long-term research through setting up long-term public-private partnerships, involving industry, the research community and public authorities.</p> <p>ERA-NET Consortium SAFEFOODERA aims to strengthen the European scientific base and food safety research. "In addition, the ETP has proposed that the European Commission consider support for the establishment of two more ERA-NETs on <i>Food and Health</i>, and <i>Sustainable Food Production/Food Chain Management</i>".</p> <p>The ETP has responded to the Lead Market Initiative by identifying Healthy Foods as "a sector where the greatest market growth opportunities lie and which reflects the increasing consumer desire for a healthy and varied diet. Analysis of the issues facing this sector will cover areas that, in addition to R&D issues, will require future action for market success".</p>	<p>The three key thrusts identified by the ETP "Food for Life" for the food sector are also at the core of many Canadian frameworks. The key thrusts are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1: Improving health, well-being and longevity includes the issue of obesity as one of the priority areas. 2: Building consumer trust in the food chain identifies the following research challenges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - innovation; - sustainable safety of European food systems; and - consumer trust in the food system. 3: Supporting sustainable and ethical production <p>(Source: European Technology Platform Food for Life. (July 2005). Retrieved from http://etp.ciaa.be/asp/home/welcome.asp)</p>

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Disease Specific Frameworks (Canada)			
CANADIAN DIABETES STRATEGY			
<p>The goal of the Canadian Diabetes Strategy is to “provide an integrated, comprehensive, multi-sectoral, and sustainable approach to preventing and controlling diabetes”. The Strategy recognizes that “one of the challenges in preventing diabetes is food access and security”.</p>		<p>The recommendations for policy actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creating an environment in which “healthy choices in terms of nutrition and physical activity are easy choices”; - Programs and services in the community should support individuals with diabetes by encouraging and enabling healthy food choices and the access to healthy food. <p>(Source: Public Health Agency of Canada. (1999). Canadian Diabetes Strategy. Retrieved from http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/cd-mc/diabetes-diabete/diabetes_strategy-diabete_strategy-eng.php#nat)</p>	<p>The recommendations for policy actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creating an environment in which “healthy choices in terms of nutrition and physical activity are easy choices”; - Programs and services in the community should support individuals with diabetes by encouraging and enabling healthy food choices and the access to healthy food. <p>(Source: Public Health Agency of Canada. (1999). Canadian Diabetes Strategy. Retrieved from http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/cd-mc/diabetes-diabete/diabetes_strategy-diabete_strategy-eng.php#nat)</p>
CANADA'S NEW HEART HEALTH STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN: BUILDING A HEART HEALTHY CANADA AND REALIZING OUR VISION			
<p>The new Heart and Health Strategy and Action Plan for Canada will persuade people to adopt healthier lifestyles to achieve less chronic disease goal through a whole-of-Canada approach.</p>	<p>A report, released on Feb. 24, 2009 in Ottawa proposed an action plan on the development of a new Heart Health Strategy to fight heart disease in Canada, which will be closely aligned with the existing national strategies in stroke and diabetes.</p> <p>The action plan was initiated after a private member's bill and was introduced in the House of Commons in 2005, urging for the introduction of national strategies targeting heart disease and other chronic ailments. The new strategy will be undergoing a review.</p>	<p>There have been initiatives in place to address certain aspects of heart health, such as the Canadian Heart Health Initiative, which focused on prevention and promotion in the late 1980s, 90s.</p> <p>Currently, the Canadian Stroke Strategy focuses on access to integrated, high-quality and efficient services for stroke prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and community reintegration.</p> <p>At the provincial/territorial, regional and community levels, there are many heart health programs by governments, NGOs and the voluntary sector that use a range of approaches and initiatives related to chronic disease prevention and control, and health promotion. These include initiatives to address common major risk factors such as smoking, physical activity and healthy eating.</p>	<p>The new action plan made six key recommendations to fight heart disease and stroke nationwide, including creating “heart-healthy” environments and helping Canadians lead healthier lives highlighting a need to make healthier foods available.</p> <p>One of the suggestions made in the plan was to establish regulations for the amount of salt added to processed foods sold in Canada.</p> <p>Benchmarks that will lead to significant benefits to the overall health of Canadians and to the economy, and expected results include the following:</p> <p>By 2015 (in partnership with other strategies and initiatives):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 20% more Canadians eating at least five servings of vegetables and fruit per day - 20% more physically-active Canadians - 20% fewer obese or overweight adults - 35% fewer obese children
			<p>(Source: Canadian Heart Health Strategy and Action Plan. (February 2009). Retrieved from http://www.chhs-scsc.ca/)</p>

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CANADIAN STRATEGY FOR CANCER CONTROL			
<p>The Canadian Strategy for Cancer Control is a coordinated, comprehensive approach to managing cancer in Canada. It harnesses the strengths of Canada's federal system of government and province-based health care.</p>	<p>In 2006, the Federal Government committed \$260 million over 5 years to implement the Strategy which is overseen by the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer, a new, independent and not-for-profit corporation to implement the eight strategic priorities of the Canadian Strategy for Cancer Control.</p>		<p>The initial priority areas are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cancer Prevention and Early Detection; • Supporting the Cancer Patient's Journey; • Supporting the Cancer Workforce; • Encouraging Cancer Research; and • Improving Cancer Information and Access. <p>(Source: Canadian Cancer Society. (July 2006). Canadian Strategy for Cancer Control: a Cancer Plan for Canada. Discussion Paper. Retrieved from http://www.cancer.ca/canada-wide/how%20you%20can%20help/take%20action/advocacy%20what%20were%20doing/cancer%20control.aspx?sc_lang=en)</p>