

Peterborough Community Food Network

April 15, 2013

Prime Minister Stephen Harper
c/o Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Harper:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Peterborough Community Food Network in regards to the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and our concerns that it will undermine all of our "buy local" strategies at the municipal level, which help to enhance food security and our local economy which includes the promotion of healthy food and farming.

Although there has been little public education or discussion about the details of CETA nor the impact that CETA might have, early indications are that CETA will, unlike other trade agreements around the world, include rules about agriculture and food purchasing. If the indications are true it means that Europe with its advanced food production and marketing capabilities will be able to tell Canadian municipalities such as Peterborough that they cannot favour local producers and suppliers. Preferential treatment is how many cities in Canada, including Peterborough, build local development and employment.

In April 2012, the City of Peterborough passed a resolution in support of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' principles for negotiations relating to CETA. Peterborough's City Council expressed concern over any trade agreement that could reduce or eliminate its right to identify and invest in local priorities.

Over the past many years, the Peterborough Community Food Network have been strong advocates and supporters of local food production and distribution. We do not support any policies that would adversely affect our local food economy and food security, including CETA. We encourage you, Prime Minister Harper, to recognize the impacts that signing an agreement like CETA will have on our food and farming industry in Canada and not support any initiative that would hinder this vital community industry.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Rosana Pellizzari, MD, MSc, CCFP, FRCPC
Chair, Peterborough Community Food Network
Medical Officer of Health, Peterborough County-City Health Unit

cc: Dean Del Mastro, MP, Peterborough
Barry Devolin, MP, Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes- Brock
Mayor Daryl Bennett, City of Peterborough
Roy Brady, Chair, Peterborough Chapter, Council of Canadians