

What is Meal Exchange?

Meal Exchange is a national registered charity based in Toronto, Ontario, that coordinates the student movement to transform food on Canada's campuses. Meal Exchange works with over 40 post-secondary campus chapters across the country on campus and community issues of food sustainability and food security. The University of Manitoba Campus Food Strategy Group is one of Meal Exchange's campus chapters, and is led by co-coordinators Hannah Chan (4th year HNS student) and Eliana Hotz (1st year HNS student).

What is the Good Food Challenge?

The Good Food Challenge is a Meal Exchange program that uses the power and energy of youth and students to create campus food systems that are sustainable, socially just, humane, and healthy. Amidst a sea of confusing labels, certifications and claims about sustainability and ethical purchasing, the Good Food Challenge offers campuses a comprehensive and decisive definition for Good Food, set a high standard upheld consistently among institutions, and support users in tracking their progress.

More information can be found here: <https://www.mealexchange.com/gfc/>

What is Good Food?

Good Food is food which truly nourishes producers, consumers, communities and the earth. It is a food system--from seed to plate--that fundamentally respects human dignity and health, animal welfare, social justice and environmental sustainability. Some people call it "local," "green," "slow," or "fair." We use "Good Food" as a holistic term to bring together many of these diverse ideas people have about a values-based food economy. This is about more than supermarket labels. The Good Food Challenge has developed an innovative Real Food Calculator, which provides in-depth definitions of Good Food and a tracking system for institutional purchasing. Within this tool, Good Food is broken down into four core pillars: local/community-based, fair, ecologically sound, and humane.

The Good Food Challenge is comprised of the Good Food Calculator, and the Good Food Campus Commitment.

Good Food Calculator

The Good Food Calculator is an auditing tool, run by student applied researchers with support from food service staff, used to track food purchases that qualify as Good Food. The Good Food Calculator offers a rigorous national standard for Good Food, capturing best practices in campus food procurement and upheld consistently between campuses across Canada. The calculator's foundation is student energy; students complete comprehensive research and analysis that Food Service staff are often not able to do. Meal Exchange also provides hands on training and

support to equip students with the skills they need to run a successful audit using the Calculator. Good Food A is food that meets criteria in more than one of the four Good Food pillars. Good Food B is food that meets criteria in one of the Good Food pillars. However, both Good A and Good Food B count equally towards the campus's overall Good Food percentage, which is calculated through an online Calculator platform, and determined by dividing the total money spent on Good Food items by the total budget spent on all food items over the course of the assessment.

Good Food Commitment and Campaign

The ultimate goal of the Good Food Challenge is for the university president to sign the Good Food Campus Commitment. By signing the commitment, campuses commit to becoming a Good Food Campus, that is, ensuring that at least 20% of their campus food meet the standards established by the Good Food Calculator by 2025.

Meal Exchange supports campuses by offering a national platform to celebrate the successes in Good Food procurement, to grow the movement for transparency in the supply chain and Good Food procurement.

Information About the UManitoba Good Food Challenge

Student researchers Hannah Chan and Eliana Hotz will be completing the Calculator research, working with Aramark's National Sustainability Manager (Mike Y.) as well as on-campus food services personnel, to conduct a food origin audit of all Aramark's purchases at Pembina Hall during the 2016-2017 academic year (October 2016 and February 2017 were the months chosen to audit, to give a representative sample of Aramark's purchasing on campus). This year's project is currently funded by a grant through the Winnipeg Foundation, that was co-written by Meal Exchange and Hannah Chan.

What We Are Looking For

In addition to running the Calculator, a multi-stakeholder UManitoba Good Food Committee consisting of faculty, students, food services, and administration must be formed to oversee campus work plans and measure progress in responding to opportunities identified by the Calculator audit from now until 2025 (and beyond) We are looking for students and faculty members with interest and/or experience in ecologically-sound, community-based, socially-just, and humane topics from a diverse range of programs and faculties to join the multi-stakeholder committee. In addition, we are looking for individuals to sign letters of support for the UManitoba Good Food Challenge. We have a draft letter of support that individuals can personalize and sign. These will be sent in bulk to President Barnard in 2018 once the Calculator research is complete.