

Ontario Edible Education Network Action Planning Project

Food Education Outside of the Classroom

Project Title:	OEEN – Food Education Outside of the Classroom
Project Abbreviation:	2013OEEN
Start Date:	February 2013
End Date:	September 31st 2013
Project Lead:	Ontario Edible Education Network
Project Sponsor:	Ontario Trillium Foundation
Project Manager	Name: Laurie Thomson
	Email: laurie.thomson@gbcae.com
	Address: RR5, #596788, Concession Rd. 10 Chatsworth, ON, N0H 1G0
	Tel: (1) 519 794 0907
Keywords:	Food Education, action planning, youth

Theme and objective

The objective of this project was to develop priority actions, in the focus area of Food Education Outside of the Classroom, as part of a larger network action planning process regarding food education for Ontario children and youth undertaken by the newly formed Ontario Edible Education Network. This action planning stage was Phase 2 of a larger action planning process, and built on an environmental scan and needs assessment conducted earlier by Sustain Ontario. Stakeholders from across the province were surveyed to provide more specific information on the challenges they face and how a provincial network could help to support their efforts and enhance the experiences of Ontario children and youth regarding food education and access. This area of focus was one of six priority areas being developed for the network and consolidated into the overall action plan.

Results

The information collected through this process identified several opportunities for the Ontario Edible Education Network to consider for the implementation phase to follow. Improvement of networking, skills and resource sharing, and partnership opportunities among groups involved in food education for children and youth across the province were identified as key areas for the network to focus on, as was improvement in co-operation between school boards, schools, and teachers, and those offering, or interested in offering, outside-the-classroom food education programming. The following priority actions were identified: relationship and network building, information and resource sharing, funding support, communications, addressing research and data gaps, and advocacy and government relations.