

Ministry of Agriculture,
Food and Rural Affairs

Office of the Minister

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June 7, 2023

Joann Chechalk
President
Garlic Growers Association of Ontario
Jchechalk1@sympatico.ca

Dear Joann:

As you know, June 5th marked the beginning of Local Food Week. Local Food Week is an opportunity to celebrate all the amazing things that are grown and produced in Ontario.

More than 83 per cent of consumers say that they plan to purchase Ontario food when making their purchase decisions and half of shoppers say that they use Ontario food in at least one meal a day when making meals at home.

We know that Ontario food wouldn't be possible without people like you. Farmers, food processors, distributors, retailers and consumers are an integral part of our local food system. When Ontarians purchase what is grown and made right here at home, they are supporting our farmers and our communities in strengthening our local food system. I truly hope, with every purchase you feel a sense of pride and accomplishment.

I'm pleased to unveil the 2023 Local Food Report which highlights Ontario businesses and organizations that are contributing to the resiliency and growth of the local food supply chain across the province. Communities across Ontario depend on the 750,000 jobs created by the agri-food sector ranging from farmers to food processors, distributors and retailers, and we all benefit from the \$47.6 billion it contributes to the provincial economy. To view the 2023 Local Food Report please see the following link: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontarios-local-food-report-2023-edition>

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This Local Food Week I encourage everyone to continue to share, promote and engage with the people who contribute so greatly to our economy and our communities.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone along the value chain for all your hard work and dedication to ensuring Ontario is able to produce the nutritious and delicious products we are all accustomed to.

Please accept my best wishes for a successful week of events and my thanks for your contribution throughout the year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa M. Thompson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Lisa M. Thompson
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

Did you know about the Farmers' Wellness Initiative?

- Your mental health is important! If you're a farmer or a member of a farm family and in need of mental health support, please call 1-866-267-6255 and arrange to speak with a professional today.
- For additional resources visit: <https://farmerwellnessinitiative.ca/>.