

WATERLOO REGION COMMUNITY GARDEN NETWORK

VISION We envision a strong and supportive infrastructure enabling residents to have equitable access to opportunities to grow and harvest their own food in a sustainable manner.

MISSION OF THE WR COMMUNITY GARDEN NETWORK
WRCGN will promote and assist with the development and sustainability of community gardens throughout Waterloo Region for all those who wish to garden. WRCGN will function in ways that contribute to achieving the climate change goals of the Region and work from an equity, diversity, and inclusion lens."

"It is only through action that we will find hope" Greta Thunberg

Attention: The Commonwealth Leaf Initiative

RE: the Wilfrid Laurier Sustainability Office's

Food Security Seasonal Expansion Pilot

Hello,

We believe the pilot program that Laurier's Sustainability Office is planning with the PEGASUS Institute, and the Waterloo Region Community Garden Network (WRCGN) would be a great fit for Laurier, Pegasus and WRCGN. We anticipate the plans will make a lasting contribution for equity, inclusion and food security for the groups being served.

The plan is to refurbish an established greenhouse located on the Laurier Campus' Northdale Community Garden site while providing full support for a collaborative pilot. The proposed pilot program would allow PEGASUS to provide an opportunity for newcomer groups to start seedlings to facilitate their desire to grow their own food.

Many newcomer groups are food insecure. Many come from agrarian cultures and being able to grow their own food is a cultural expression. As well growing food contributes to their sense of belonging and food security. This pilot program will increase the community outreach to Rohingya, Syrian and Afghani groups so they can grow the culturally preferred foods they want and need.

The 1,300 square meter Northdale Community Garden on Wilfrid Laurier University's campus is now used by community groups and on-campus organizations to grow food for their families and communities. Community organizations that use the Northdale Community Garden include Young City Growers, Patchwork Community Gardens, KW Urban Harvester, and a variety of Laurier stakeholder groups. The various community gardens are supported by WRCGN.



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WRCGN also works with Pegasus to help them access the land the groups they support need for food security.

We (WRCGN) will provide ongoing support for this program and the people involved. Your financial support will make it possible for newcomer groups to learn, participate in, and benefit from the advantages of growing their own food. Please consider supporting this valuable initiative.

To learn more about WRCGN see: WRCGardenNetwork.ca
To learn more about the PEGASUS Institute see: https://pegasusinstitute.ca

Doug

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