

FoodShare Toronto names new Executive Director

Paul M. Taylor, formerly of Gordon Neighbourhood House Joins FoodShare April 18

Toronto -March 22, 2017- After an extensive search FoodShare announces Paul M. Taylor, an experienced nonprofit leader and social justice activist, as FoodShare Toronto's next Executive Director. Taylor was selected following an in-depth search process, consulting with key stakeholders, identifying FoodShare's future needs and interviewing a breadth of strong candidates.

"Paul Taylor is the ideal person to further FoodShare's mission," said Suman Roy, Chair of FoodShare Toronto's Board. "He understands food security, is a committed anti-poverty advocate, he's an innovator and not only has experience leading and growing non profit organizations, he's got vision."

Taylor most recently served as Executive Director of Gordon Neighbourhood House, a community service organization in Vancouver's West End where he broadened the scope of existing programming while developing new initiatives and overseeing the neighbourhood house's physical rejuvenation. Over the past 3 years, he launched the Attic Thrift Store, the Young Ideas Initiative, developed the West End Food Festival and the Vancouver Food Summit. He is a the vice-chair of the Board of Directors of Food Secure Canada and Co-Chair of BC's Poverty Reduction Coalition. Prior to that he was the Executive Director of the Downtown Eastside Neighbourhood House and Second Base Youth Shelter in Scarborough where he began as the food services manager and worked his way up to Executive Director by the age of 27.

"I'm absolutely elated and honoured to serve as FoodShare's next Executive Director. Having grown up in Downtown Toronto, I look forward to trading in my Vancouver Umbrella for a Toronto snow shovel, but most importantly I'm delighted to be returning home to work with such a dedicated team at a dynamic organization with a stellar reputation."

Taylor will continue the work of out-going Executive Director Debbie Field, who is leaving FoodShare after 25 years. Field, a leader and champion of food security issues in Canada will focus on research, teaching, consulting and advocacy.

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About FoodShare Toronto

FoodShare Toronto is Canada's original direct field to table Community Food Hub. Since 1985, FoodShare has modeled a food system that is sustainable and accessible to everyone. We deliver good healthy food, and food education to underserved schools and communities through programs focused in fresh produce distribution, food literacy education and nutrition, urban agriculture, and community cooking. All programs support a variety of health, economic, environmental, community, and social benefits, and seek to improve food access for people and communities currently underserved by the food system. Find out more at www.foodshare.net.

More About Paul Taylor

Growing up on Welfare as a child shaped Paul's vision on poverty, food insecurity and social justice and set forth an activist path grounded in the right to food. He firmly believes that we need more than kind hearts to address poverty – we need a national food policy, comprehensive poverty reduction strategies and a national housing strategy. He has experience with policy development, community building, engagement, governance, and fundraising.