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For Immediate Release

“FOOD: TODAY. TOMORROW. TOGETHER.” IT’S TIME TO TALK!

Network of organizations plans provincial food security conference for January 2009

A network of organizations is planning a January conference to discuss food security issues in the province. The conference will bring together farmers, policy-makers, retailers, and consumers to discuss how to work together to build a healthy local food system for all Albertans.

The conference, titled *Food: Today, Tomorrow, Together* is being hosted by a coalition of non-profit, governmental, and private sector organizations representing a diversity of interests from across the province, including Alberta Agriculture, Growing Food Security in Alberta, the City of Edmonton Community Services, the Alberta Farmers Market Association, and many more. The conference will take place in Edmonton from January 29-31, 2009.

“Why care? Because we all eat!” notes Susan Roberts, conference committee co-chair. “Producing food and eating is an enjoyable part of our social fabric – it’s the Canadian way. This conference will re-open our eyes to the tremendous impact that the food we eat has on our families, our communities, our health, our economy and our environment.”

The conference invites participants to learn and share with farmers, policymakers, activists, and others involved in the food system on the topics of the global food system, agriculture in Alberta, health and nutrition, buying local, hunger in Alberta, and the environmental effects of food production. A major focus of the event will be on networking and action planning.

Food: Today, Tomorrow, Together features keynote addresses by renowned authors, academics, and activists, including Carol Off, host of CBC radio’s *As It Happens* and author of “*Bitter Chocolate: Investigating the Dark Side of the World’s Most Seductive Sweet*”. Also on the lineup are: author Thomas Pawlick, Herb Barbolet, associate in Food Security and Sustainable Community Development at Simon Fraser University; Elbert VanDonkersgoed of the Greater Toronto Authority Agricultural Action Plan, and many others.

For more information or to register, go to the conference website at www.foodalberta.org.

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