

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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400+ Concerned Citizens Call upon Grocery Chains to Support LOCAL Farms

HALIFAX -- Community concerns about local food production and distribution are on the rise. The Ecology Action Centre, Nova Scotia's voice for the environment, has distributed a petition to Sobeys Inc. and Loblaws Inc. (who own Atlantic Superstores) containing over 400 names of concerned citizens.

The Ecology Action Centre's Food Action Committee (FAC) initiated the petition and is comprised of Nova Scotians whose objectives are to promote the social, economic, and environmental benefits of locally-produced food; and to promote socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable ways of growing, processing, and distributing food.

The FAC developed the petition to demonstrate growing public support for increased availability of local food and the importance of growing and selling Nova Scotian foods to Nova Scotian people.

In the petition FAC and the signing population call on Sobeys Inc. and Atlantic Superstore Inc. to:

1. Increase availability of locally produced food
2. Take action to properly label the place of origin of all fruits and vegetables
3. Support local growers and producers by creating MORE regionalized purchasing centres

FAC recognizes many reasons to buy local, including reducing harmful green house gases due to long distances foods travel; consumers contribute financially to the local economy by buying locally produced foods; and, choosing local leads to a healthier and more nutritious product (miles of travel means produce is picked before ready and often sprayed with a hormone to help it ripen once it has reached its destination).

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For more information on this petition and the Ecology Action Centre's Food Action Committee, please contact:

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Visit http://www.ecologyaction.ca/food_action