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HEALTH & BEAUTY

Getting vegetables into your diet is easy with a little planning

A foundational pillar of a balanced diet, vegetables provide us with a long list of nutritional benefits.

But many of us think of boring salads and bland raw vegetables as the only ways to eat this essential food group.

However, eating a balanced diet packed with produce can be as delicious as it is colourful.

Apart from cooking veggie-filled meals, getting more vegetables into your diet is easy with these tips from the produce experts.

- Use the weekend to prep and portion easy grab-and-go veggie snacks.
- Add a handful of spinach or kale to your smoothie, soup, omelette or pizza the mild-tasting leaves blend right in.
- During your weekly grocery shopping trip, pick up a vegetable that you ve never tried before and find a fun way to prepare it.
- Don't forget about frozen or canned vegetables. They re inexpensive and are convenient for days when you'd rather not clean, peel, and chop.

Here is an appetizing veggie-packed side to help you get started. Quinoa & Veggie Stuffed Sweet Peppers Prep Time: 15 minutes Total Time: 60 minutes

Serves: 4

Ingredients:

- 2 large sweet red peppers, halved and seeded
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) quinoa, rinsed and drained
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) olive oil
- · 1 onion, finely chopped
- · 1 clove garlic, finely chopped
- 1 cup (250 mL) sodium-reduced chickn broth
- 1 cup (250 mL) eggplant, diced
- 1 cup (250 mL) zucchini, cut into small ibes
- 1/3 cup (75 mL) jarred tomato salsa
- 1/4 cup (60 mL) frozen or canned (drained) corn kernels
 - 1 tsp (5 mL) dried oregano
 - 1/2 tsp (2 mL) chili powder
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) grated Cheddar heese
- · Salt to taste

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