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Laurier Centre for Sustainable Food Systems to explore 'Food, diversity and inclusion' at public discussion

WATERLOO – All living things need food to survive. With this simple fact in mind, there is much that can be learned about a community by examining the way it produces, distributes and consumes food.

On **Thursday, March 20** Wilfrid Laurier University's Centre for Sustainable Food Systems and the University of Toronto's New College will present a discussion on "**Food, diversity and inclusion**," featuring three speakers who each bring a unique perspective when it comes to the broader impacts of food systems.

The discussion will be moderated by Marc Xuereb from the Region of Waterloo Public Health, while the panel will include **Malik Yakini**, founding member and executive director of the Detroit Black Food Security Network and D'town Farm co-founder, and **Utcha Sawyers**, food justice and community food animation, FoodShare, Toronto. **Joseph Leblanc**, founding board member and president of True North Community Co-operative, will join remotely from Thunder Bay.

"This panel provides an important venue to discuss inclusion and diversity in our local sustainable food system and beyond," said Alison Blay-Palmer, an associate professor in Laurier's Department of Geography and Environmental Studies and director of the Centre for Sustainable Food Systems. "We look forward to learning about experiences in northern Ontario, Detroit and Toronto as they relate to Waterloo."

The event will run from **6:30-8:30 p.m.** and take place at the **Balsillie School of International Affairs** (67 Erb St. West). Admission is free and open to the public, however seating is limited so anyone interested in attending must RSVP. Desserts and coffee will be provided.

[Click here](#) to RSVP.

About the Laurier Centre for Sustainable Food Systems

Food systems are an effective lens for understanding and acting on some of the most pressing issues facing communities, including growing global food insecurity. Laurier's Centre for Sustainable Food Systems brings together researchers from a wide range of disciplines — from Geography and Environmental Studies, to Religion and Culture, to Business and Economics — to examine and address the interconnected environmental, social and economic challenges facing the global food system. For more information, [click here](#) or contact Alison Blay-Palmer, director: Centre for Sustainable Food Systems, at ablaypalmer@wlu.ca.

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