



DISPATCH 001 – Food Apartheid

Ishtar's International Network of Feral Gardens

SAVAC is pleased to introduce *DISPATCHES*, a series of timely reports prepared by *Ishtar's International Network of Feral Gardens* about the state of race, food security and anti-capitalist forms of exchange in the time of the pandemic. Each dispatch will share resources and information about how capitalist food systems disenfranchise BIPOC communities. The first edition of *DISPATCHES* delves into the concept of food apartheid to consider the ways that (de-facto) segregation continue to shape access to affordable and nutritious food.

READ —

Black Food Insecurity in Canada

Melana Roberts

“In Toronto, the Black community makes up the largest group of the working poor, and has the greatest representation in low income neighbourhoods. In these low income neighbourhoods, food deserts are more likely to exist, making the possibility of purchasing affordable and healthy foods even more difficult. What is most striking is the factors that usually limit the incidence of food insecurity for other racial groups — employment, household composition, education level, immigration status and home ownership — do not protect Black communities from the experience of marginal, moderate or even severe food insecurity.

Current approaches to addressing food insecurity include: food banks, community kitchens, and food buying clubs [...] These approaches act as band-aid solutions. [...] Municipalities are closest to communities, providing a unique role to deliver neighbourhood food programs, service provision, and targeted community planning and consultation opportunities to address challenges like food deserts, and the policing/securitization of grocery stores in low-income neighbourhoods.”

// [Read more](#) //

How I Got Radicalized Around Food

Devita Davison and Kat Kinsman from FoodLab Detroit

“We don’t use the words ‘food desert.’ What we use is a more appropriate term, ‘food apartheid,’ meaning our neighborhoods and communities in the city of Detroit and communities that have been occupied with Black and brown bodies all over this country, whether it’s Detroit, Harlem, the Bronx, Oakland, parts of Baltimore, DC—we live under food apartheid. A desert is a natural phenomenon, but having lack of access to fresh, healthy, affordable food is not natural, nor is it accidental.”

// [Read more](#) //

First Nations, Inuit and Métis food guides may be coming, Health Canada indicates

Justin Brake

“... food security and food sovereignty are “central” to discussions of nutrition for Indigenous peoples. ‘We have to figure out [how to create] open spaces where communities can integrate their own knowledge with the scientific evidence to create something that’s going to honour their ways of knowing, their food systems, and then provide useful guidance for eating and everyday context’ ”

// [Read more](#) //

WATCH —

Urban Farming in a Toronto Backyard

“We rehabilitate Toronto backyards and convert them into living growing spaces for nutrient-rich, organic locally grown seasonal vegetables.”

// [Watch online now](#) //

Foraging for Wild Rice with Chef Adler

“James Whetung is a member of Curve Lake First Nation and a seeder and harvester of Wild Rice in the Kawartha Lakes. James is the owner/operator of Black Duck Wild Rice and speaks widely about indigenous food sovereignty and food security. His knowledge base has been foundational for other First Nations communities re-establishing wild rice beds.”

// [Watch online now](#) //

SUPPORT —

Black Food Toronto

A Food Sovereignty Initiative

“The Afri-Can FoodBasket Is Building A Team And Raising Money To Provide Emergency Food Support To Individuals And Families Within The African, Caribbean, Black Community In Toronto Who Have Been Affected By COVID-19 And In Need Of Support Accessing Food.

// [Support now](#) //

Black Creek Community Farm

“Black Creek Community Farm increases access to healthy food in our community through our programming and food distribution projects.”

// [Support now](#) //

Food Share

“Our mission is to increase access to, knowledge of and consumption of vegetables and fruit through community led projects. All of FoodShare’s work is guided by strong beliefs that reflect our commitment to food security and food justice. As a leader in food security locally and globally, we collaborate with others who share our beliefs to realize our vision of good healthy food for all.”

// [Support now](#) //

Ishtar’s International Network of Feral Gardens is a playful, experimental food sovereignty initiative. Dedicated to encouraging the cultivation of feral gardens and building an international artists network of out-of-the-box food systems, Ishtar’s International Network of Feral Gardens is a long-term project that opens up new economies for growing, sharing and eating food. Playing with the discursive tensions between the wild (feral) and the domestic (garden), the Network invites artists, curators and cultural workers with thoughtful seeds, unusual tools, and ancestral intelligence to conjure up atypical spaces for cultivating fruits, vegetables, herbs and medicinal plants.