

# BRENDA SLOMKA



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Mayoral Candidate Brenda Slomka Proposes Development of a Kingston “Food Hub” To Enhance Local Food System**

Mayoral candidate Brenda Slomka announced today that if elected she would work to establish a local food hub that would function as a storage and distribution centre to assist local farms in the marketing, logistics and transportation of locally produced food in order to better supply Kingston consumers and food-serving establishments.

The local food hub would provide a convenient single drop-off location for farmers and pick-up location for consumers and food-serving establishments that want access to source-verified local foods. Additional services such as refrigerated storage to light food processing could be incorporated into the facility to extend the market season. Operated on a cost recovery basis, the local food hub could also incorporate a community food centre where food itself becomes the means of building up health, skills and social vitality, as exemplified by “The Stop Community Food Centre” in Perth, Ontario.

Commented Ms. Slomka: “This is the type of community food security and local agriculture-friendly development that I would support as a compatible use with what I sincerely hope will be a re-established Prison Farm rehabilitation program. We need to enhance not cut these programs – and we cannot afford to lose such high quality agricultural land and green space in the heart of the city.”

Continuing, Brenda added, “We also know that measures which stimulate local agriculture and enhance farm gate revenues has a significant job creation outcome for Kingston and the local region because money is re-circulated back into the local economy. That’s why I propose expanding KEDCO’s focus on food processing and agri-business.”

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