

Rod MacRae (00:00):

The most central thing is the ability to engage with people who don't agree with you and have those kinds of discussions that can lead to some new allegiances. It's not just about obviously having the ability to talk and engage constructively with somebody. It's also about having the strategic skills to figure out, well, what might actually have some chance of success, building on whatever alliance you've managed to create.

Peter Andrée (00:34):

Hello and welcome back to The Ecopolitics Podcast, season four, The Politics of the Anthropocene. This is a podcast for students and researchers studying environmental politics. And I'm Peter Andrée from Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada. And I'll be your co-host today. Ryan Katz-Rosene from the University of Ottawa is normally my co-host for the show, but today he'll be replaced by Ecopolitics Podcast producer, Kaleigh McIntosh. So, it's great to have you in the co-host chair with me today, Kaleigh. Welcome.

Kaleigh McIntosh (01:07):

Hi, thanks for having me. Great to be in a slightly different chair this time.

Peter Andrée (01:10):

Yeah, that's right. Last time we heard from you was in the show on ecopolitical researchers earlier this season. And today you're co-hosting with me, and we're going to be diving into the theme of collective action for sustainability. Learning from two key leaders and elders of Canada's food movement for inspiration. They are Dr. Harriet Friedmann and Dr. Rod MacRae, both recently retired academic researchers and activists with lots of experience working to build more just and sustainable food systems in Canada through integrated policy approaches. But you and I didn't do these interviews, right? These are people who were interviewed by Trish Ballamingie and Charles Levkoe for a previous project. So, before we get started, Kaleigh, can you tell us a little bit about these interviews and the larger initiative that they're part of?

Kaleigh McIntosh (02:02):

Yeah, for sure. Dr. Harriet Friedmann and Dr. Rod MacRae are academics who have worked in this field for a long time. They also know each other quite well from working together on the Toronto Food Policy Council, which was a foundational body in the food movement in Canada that developed food policy from within the Board of Health for the city of Toronto. This will be an important part of the story we're telling here today, and they both have long histories of tackling the challenges of food systems, particularly here in Canada. This project is called Appetites for Change: Learning From Food Movement Elders. It's a research project compiling interviews from food movement elders, including Indigenous Elders, community engaged scholars, current food movement leaders, to create a digital library of multimedia and open educational resources that will support the work of students, like those listening to our podcast, researchers and practitioners, and the civil society leaders who are all working to advance the food movement today.

Peter Andrée (02:55):

Yeah. I'm so excited for the opportunity to dig into the interviews for this project and for this podcast. Bringing these two voices together to be part of a digital library of multimedia and open educational

resources that's going to help us all better understand the work of food movements. And I've actually known both Rod and Harriet for a long time. I've been very inspired by Harriet in my teaching on the politics of food. She was an early innovator around something called food regime theory. And Rod, believe it or not, was actually the external on my master's thesis way back in 1996 at Trent University. And so, I've followed his work for many years as well.

(03:35):

So, Kaleigh, we're using this lens of food systems today to get at the bigger question of how we build collective action and governance systems for sustainability. So, can you help us set some context? What do we mean by food systems, and why focus on food systems in the context of this discussion about sustainability?

Kaleigh McIntosh (03:54):

Yeah, so I think food systems are a really interesting lens to take to look at the world because they're all about the processes that it takes to bring food from where it is grown to our plates. So, this is the waterways, the fields, the forests, where food comes from, and all the actors that are involved in that process. So, this is the farmers, the gatherers, the fishers, and also the policymakers, the grocers, the drivers, anybody who has a hand in that process.

(04:21):

When we think of such a wide array of actors that really touch on a wide array of outcomes in the environment, economy, health, society, and politics. So, that makes food systems a really interesting lens and driver when we think about sustainability challenges. We know food systems are one of the largest contributors to global greenhouse gas emissions and the primary causes of biodiversity loss. So, how we produce the food, grow, and distribute it can be really significant pieces of the puzzle when we think about how to transition to a more sustainable and equitable future.

Peter Andrée (04:58):

Yeah, that makes a lot of sense to me, Kaleigh. And in that transition, the literature and so on tell us governance is so essential. Who shapes decisions around how food is produced and where it goes, and ultimately what its environmental and social impacts are. When we talk about governance, we're talking about the relationships, processes, rules, and structures through which power and control are exercised. In this case, in the food system. So, in their interviews, because you and I have listened to them beforehand to curate this, Harriet and Rod bring slightly different perspectives. Harriet really brings relational, historical and cultural lenses to this topic, and Rod tends to focus on the role of government and public policy. And together – we're going to weave their voices together because they give us a bigger picture that food systems governance or collective action on sustainability, if we put that into a bigger perspective, it requires imagination as well as institutional strategy. It requires participatory democracy and policy literacy. It requires community power and regulatory action. So, let's get into all of those topics. So, what's the first theme you want to bring forward, Kaleigh?

Kaleigh McIntosh (06:17):

So first, I want to start with Canada's food governance. Canada's food governance is quite fragmented, and this sets a really critical context for everything we're going to hear in the interviews today and why collective action is essential if these systems are going to become more sustainable.

Peter Andrée (06:32):

Yeah, that's a great point. Both Rod and Harriet were asked how they define food systems governance and, particularly, participatory food systems governance. And so, let's start with the quote from Rod where he is responding to that question.

Rod MacRae (06:47):

The architectural pieces of governance in this country are completely fragmented on so many different levels that we don't really have a coherent approach, which in some ways is why we get all these different kinds of activities happening at different layers across the country from the very basic neighbourhood level to some attempts, obviously, which have had some success finally to create a national food policy.

Kaleigh McIntosh (07:14):

So, Rod is pointing to a structural issue here. Governance for food was never coherently imagined in the constitutional foundations of Canada, so there's no single institutional place where food systems decisions are coming together. So, without that sort of ownership, it's often left to community groups or advocates and the local networks who are identifying problems and pushing for solutions. So, that's kind of a structural puzzle, I think that Rod is capturing, where there's a lot of activity, but little coordination. And while that's not stopping the activities, as he says, there's still neighbourhood food programs, municipal strategies, and provincial pilots, coordinated policy is very difficult.

Peter Andrée (07:53):

Yeah. So, both of those points are really important in their own ways. Lack of coherence is what he's identifying. And also that there's always been this bubbling up of food policy activity at multiple levels. And again, I can see that sustainability activity more broadly takes that picture as well. And so, this is why Rod and Harriet spent so much of their careers working on how do you integrate across these different levels and approaches to governance. Both worked specifically to make food policy efforts at all of these levels inclusive and accountable to the public, to social movements, to the civil society actors who are doing that bottom-up work. So, this is what Harriet said in response to the question about food systems governance. She really focused on what makes such governance inclusive or participatory.

Hariett Friedmann (08:44):

It has to do with how civil society is incorporated, either into informal networks or, even more perhaps, into formal ones. My experience would be with the city of Toronto through the Toronto Food Policy Council and Food Systems, and Montpellier, and how they balance between the local – trying to build up the regional food system there. I think what we're trying to do when we bring people into governing structures, formal governing structures like the city and the city bureaucracy, is we're trying to enliven the bureaucracy, and food is such a good way to do it.

Kaleigh McIntosh (09:27):

I think Harriet is really talking here about the inclusion of diverse voices in policy. I think it's important to note how she emphasizes policymaking being multi-pronged, and she sort of carries on that in this quote here.

Hariett Friedmann (09:39):

Public health developed at that point a commitment to food strategy, and the food strategy was itself a brilliant term. It's not a policy, right? It's a way of thinking and working with the six pillars that you try to change many things in society and in the government at the same time.

Peter Andréé (10:01):

Wow. Those are some great points that we're getting from Harriet. I just want to pick up on a couple. I love that phrase to enliven the bureaucracy. I expect many of the engaged civil servants who work in these institutions, some of whom are listening to this and who try to make progressive change each day, will really resonate with that phrase.

(10:21):

Secondly, her point about food policy, or in the case of Toronto, a strategy targeted at the food system – and we could say this would be true for broader strategies for sustainability transition – they need to be multi-pronged. Including both social change and formal institutional changes. Governance for sustainability needs to be about all of that, right? So, what's our next theme, Kaleigh?

Kaleigh McIntosh (10:48):

Yeah, so, I think we've kind of touched on it a couple times, and now it's time to really look at the Toronto Food Policy Council. So, the Toronto Food Policy Council is a citizen body of food activists and experts that develops food policy inside the Board of Health for the City of Toronto. And this gives it kind of an unusual place of access to decision-making at the municipal level in Toronto. It was started in the 1990s, and Toronto had just at the time, and we'll hear from Rod about this, the right collection of progressive counsellors and staff who were interested and open to these new ideas about food. And then getting that foothold meant that community-led food concerns could move directly into municipal policy areas. And this, as we mentioned earlier, really connects Rod and Harriet. For both of them in their interviews, the Toronto Food Policy Council was a coming together of factors that offered valuable insights into collective actions and institutional strategies.

Rod MacRae (11:45):

We're talking about a lot of really progressive people in Toronto City Council, particularly Jack Layton, who was critical to the whole success of the Toronto Food Policy Council. He loved the idea that we could use the potential power of a very large municipality to try and influence how other levels of government worked. And he was very creative strategically about how that would work. And he was also critical to lining up votes for our work.

Peter Andréé (12:09):

That's neat that Rod's talking about Jack Layton, who many of our listeners may know, eventually became the leader of the New Democratic Party in Canada and was quite successful in that role. But the Toronto Food Policy Council's success wasn't just about one leader, right? It was made possible by people like Jack, and people like Rod and Harriet, and others like Wayne Roberts, who is another name that we'll link to some articles about the amazing work he did at the Food Policy Council. And it involved broader activist networks, politicians, academics, and staff. And that really reinforces this kind of core point that it's about collective action. That's what becomes powerful when it's connected to institutional strategy.

Kaleigh McIntosh (12:57):

For sure. And I think Harriet draws that out even further in this relationship between collective action and institutional strategy. She's really clearly in her reflection, looking at how the Toronto Food Policy Council had to connect across community networks and sometimes a skeptical sort of municipal bureaucracy itself.

Hariett Friedmann (13:15):

Now, the Toronto Food Policy Council over its years, it had to work in two directions. So, it had to educate and connect and network across jurisdictions inside the city and had to deal with professional resistance. What we learned to do, because food is the hole in the donut, which you don't see, but which gives shape to the whole thing. And so, food is connected to everything.

Peter Andrée (13:40):

That's a great way to put it. So, food becomes a way of framing or reframing policy problems, the hole in the donut that shapes everything around it. I think the examples Harriet shares from her experiences in Toronto really helped bring this framing of food to life. So, let's listen to those.

Hariett Friedmann (13:59):

For instance, in one of the poverty reduction strategy neighbourhoods in Toronto, which are often these high-rise buildings in the suburbs, there was someone very entrepreneurial who was bringing vegetables in a truck, but there was a parking problem. So, people were running down when the parking person was shifting. There are quite a few examples like that. People who want to be able to have wine in the parks, or the conflicts between the dogs and the garden people, and all that kind of thing. That to me is a big piece of the food movement: how do you bring people in who are dealing with parks and recreation, who are dealing with parking, who are dealing with poverty and so on.

Kaleigh McIntosh (14:41):

Yeah. And I think that is a great example. This work of bringing people in and connecting through food builds really well on how Rod shares the Toronto Food Policy Council's success in pushing the city into conversations outside of what would normally be considered municipal jurisdiction.

Rod MacRae (14:56):

We were remarkably successful, I thought, in getting them to agree to do things on behalf of the Food Policy Council and food system change. And that's what really was shaking the system. I can't tell you how many times we got a communication from some other level of government, which was basically, "What is the city of Toronto doing intervening on this issue? Why should they even care about this?" What that allowed, I guess, was a broadening of the people who were going to be engaged in food system work. It was no longer going to be acceptable for it to just be the usual actors, the usual suspects.

Peter Andrée (15:28):

Yeah, that's so interesting. So, that's the power of a well-positioned municipal institution. I think it's really interesting what Rod's saying. The Toronto Food Policy Council expanded who participated in food systems governance, bringing in a broad range of perspectives and actors and alerting other levels of government that the local level of governance, the city, cared about these issues.

(15:52):

There's an interesting example that Rod brought forward in his interview, and it's about something called RBGH, or Recombinant Bovine Growth Hormone. This was the very first product of genetic engineering to try to get commercialized in Canada. I think it was the late '80s, early '90s. And the Toronto Food Policy Council ended up being one of the places among many where there was some resistance to the idea of bringing this product of genetic engineering into a milk production system that really didn't seem to need it. We have a supply-managed dairy system in Canada where farmers are only allowed to produce up to a certain quota, and there's a perception that what they produce is a healthy product for the most part. And there were some questions about whether Recombinant Bovine Growth Hormone would compromise that in some way. And the Toronto Food Policy Council got really engaged on that.

Kaleigh McIntosh (16:46):

Yeah. I think it's really interesting how Rod sort of speaks to how they were sort of able to do that through collective action that kind of took on a life of its own at the time.

Rod MacRae (16:58):

It was sort of emblematic of how a food policy council can work. And the members got engaged in that discussion. We did a lot of research on it, and then we started to pull in the Toronto Board of Health, and then they got worried about it. And then Health Canada got nervous because the regulatory body was through them. They got nervous about the kind of policy advocacy and mobilization that was happening. And then it kind of took off nationally like all kinds of organizations got upset about the implications of this drug being approved. And then it was kind of like a firestorm, and we weren't controlling it. It was just running wild.

Peter Andréé (17:32):

That's a perfect example of collective action translating into policy influence. And what the Toronto Food Policy Council's role in that was was to do some initial research to get some actors engaged and then they got involved and took it to the next level. Eventually, the punchline here is that Recombinant Bovine Growth Hormone was not approved in Canada, and there's a whole history to that story. But what's happened to the Toronto Food Policy Council, Kaleigh?

Kaleigh McIntosh (18:01):

Yeah. So, today it remains in place as a citizen advisory group to the Toronto Board of Health. However, in 2020, COVID-19 led to a lot of reassignment of the staff that was working for the Toronto Food Policy Council to areas of emergency pandemic response duties, and the council currently lacks a dedicated staff. As well, the Toronto Food Policy Council itself has sort of called for an internal renewal and anti-racist restructuring to address longstanding equity issues. The council continues to influence how food issues are understood across city departments, though, and you can hear, I think, Harriet speak to this in a really interesting way.

Harriett Friedmann (18:39):

Even if the Toronto Food Policy Council ceases to exist, the food movement and the culture around food, food knowledge, food awareness, and food politics has just blossomed. And I don't think we need to pin down what role the Food Policy Council had in that. And I don't think it would be easy to do. I'm not even sure we could because so much of it is the experience of the members of the council who are part of their own organizations. Then people move. You watch them. You watch them take jobs here and there in

different institutions, or form their own civil society organizations, move to different places, and carry their experiences from here, there, or from other places here.

Peter Andrée (19:22):

Yeah, that's really interesting. So, even if this particular institution ceases to exist, there's a legacy carried forward by people. And that includes members who go to new organizations, city staff who internalize more systemic thinking, and community networks that continue to grow. And, quite honestly, I would say from their work in the early '90s, it was through the 1990s that we ended up with national organizations working on food like Food Secure Canada. We even have now a national academic organization called the Canadian Association for Food Studies. All of that arguably was influenced by the kind of work that the TFPC was doing in the early '90s. So, that's fascinating. That's a real legacy of the work that they were involved in. So, what's our next theme, Kaleigh?

Kaleigh McIntosh (20:14):

Yeah, so, I'm calling this theme the importance of strategy, allies, and political imagination. I think Rod emphasizes strategy and the internal dynamics of civil service, while Harriet is emphasizing creativity and political imagination, seizing an opportunity. But in both cases, this requires allies and team building, and we'll hear how Rod addresses that first.

Rod MacRae (20:35):

Well, I think that the most central thing is the ability to engage with people who don't agree with you and have those kinds of discussions that can lead to some kind of new alliance and some new allegiances and some new willingness to implement things. And I did have a few very strange relationships when I was at the Food Policy Council with people who I got on with very well, but we completely disagreed about pretty much everything, but we figured out how to sit in a room together. And it's not just about obviously having the ability to talk and engage constructively with somebody. It's also about having the strategic skills to figure out what might actually be viable, what might actually have some chance of success, building on whatever alliance you've managed to create.

Kaleigh McIntosh (21:25):

Yeah. I think what Rod highlights here is really important. It's the skill of sitting down with people who may not share your worldview, but share enough interests that we can actually build something together.

Peter Andrée (21:34):

Yeah, that's such an important point. So, it's not enough just to have a compelling policy idea. You also need to identify allies from a broad range of actors, even some who you don't agree with on a number of other fronts, but who can work with you to move this idea through the system and who can help carry it.

(21:54):

This is exactly the experience that I had with a number of others when I worked with Food Secure Canada and other organizations to encourage the Liberal government to develop a National Food Policy Advisory Council. We didn't just have the support from food security organizations. We also got support from farmers' organizations like the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, big industry actors like Maple Leaf Foods, and it was this combination of advocates for an innovative policy idea that led to the creation of the new advisory council in 2019 alongside the National Food Policy.

Kaleigh McIntosh (22:32):

Yeah. And I'd like to add to that that I think policy innovation doesn't happen in a vacuum. And Harriet's insights on creativity really speak to this.

Harriett Friedmann (22:40):

There are a lot of people in all the different parts of the city who may or may not think of themselves this way or describe it this way, but who have become aware and open to new ways of working. And so, you can't separate food from the people doing the food work. The way it finds entry points into institutions like the city will vary, and people have always and continue to take advantage of openings. But when you get something happening, it's because some champion or creative person has seen the opening and carries with them a vision and a set of relationships to make something new happen.

Kaleigh McIntosh (23:21):

So, I think Harriet's point is that opportunities are appearing all the time, but there has to be somebody who recognizes them and can mobilize a network around them. But I think sometimes, when we're a part of a big institution and organizations like the City of Toronto, it can be hard to imagine who can make an impact and how that is possible. This is something I think that Rod really tied together for me.

Rod MacRae (23:41):

Because a lot of the time, the champions are less visible and you sort of need a cluster of people who are willing to support it, not necessarily at the top of the system, so to speak, but somewhere in the middle. You don't need to go to the highest level of decision-making to do your advocacy work. You can do advocacy work in the middle of the bureaucracy, so to speak, amongst sort of mid-level actors. And if they like what you're generating, they'll run it for you. They'll run it up the post.

Peter Andrée (24:11):

And it's interesting. We often look to high-profile leaders to drive change, but both Rod and Harriet notice that the work of building new innovations, bringing new innovations forward, can happen at the mid-level in the bureaucracy. And when you engage those people, including creative folks who can imagine what's new that is possible at that level, that becomes really interesting.

(24:35):

It makes me think of, just as an example of community gardening and urban agriculture more broadly, which is one of the issues the Toronto Food Policy Council did a fair amount of work on. Figuring out how to produce food within a city like Toronto rather than just having it fed from the countryside is a way to address a wide variety of issues, from the urban heat island effect to stormwater retention and use to the social determinants of health. It connects people with their neighbours, getting exercise, reducing social isolation and so on. So, all of these issues can be addressed through urban agriculture. And you can see how each of them brings in different parts of the city and people who work at the mid-level around land use planning, and around seniors exercising, and social services, and so on. So, when they start to think through the lens of food, there's a lot they can do together to address those issues and strengthen food systems at the same time. Okay. So, what's the next theme, Kaleigh?

Kaleigh McIntosh (25:39):

Yeah. So, I think in identifying the individuals in the system, the creativity that it takes to sort of drive these opportunities and these changes, there are very specific skillsets that are needed. For this next

segment, we're going to focus on what it takes to build the democratic skills of collaboration and policy advocacy.

Rod MacRae (25:57):

Another big piece, obviously, of food system change is you need both community mobilizing, community organization, community pressures, community advocacy, and you need policy advocacy at different levels of government, or you need some kind of advocacy to private firms. Your advocacy skills related to policy change are really critical.

Peter Andréé (26:17):

Yeah, that's such an interesting point. Advocacy skills for policy change. To be able to work with those who are working at the community level, creating momentum, and then taking that and bringing it into institutions and knowing how to find the levers and how to push them.

Kaleigh McIntosh (26:35):

Yeah. And as we've learned, effective food governance involves engaging diverse communities, navigating disagreements, understanding the policy tools, knowing how to work with government or private actors, and these aren't interchangeable roles. They require different forms of knowledge, different trainings, and different types of leadership. This is something I think Harriet introduces really well in this example.

Hariett Friedmann (26:58):

*And you look at somebody like Debbie Field in *The Recipe for Change*, and she's a brilliant political organizer, and she also had experience as the assistant to a former city councillor. That's long before she got involved in the food movement. And watching her operate when the Ford Administration was here, and they were cutting budgets, she helped all these mothers, mostly immigrant women, taught them how to lobby, brought them into council meetings with their kids' drawings about how the student nutrition program had affected them. That's really old-fashioned political organizing that's kind of frayed, I would say. There are very many fewer people experienced in that.*

Kaleigh McIntosh (27:39):

I think by highlighting Debbie Field as an example here, Harriet is pointing to the craft of community organization.

Peter Andréé (27:45):

Yeah. So, we're hearing about policy advocacy within the institutions from Rod, and then this great example of Debbie Field bringing diverse people into a city council policy discussions to affect change or to hold onto policies like the student nutrition policies at the time. That's amazing.

(28:05):

And since then, Debbie has actually gone to the national level in Canada and has been one of the key organizers trying to get what's called the Coalition for a Healthy School Food in Canada, and they've been successful. The Trudeau Liberals did commit for the first time to a national school nutrition program in 2024, and Debbie Field and her broad alliance of organizations and activists were really key parts of that success.

(28:29):

But Rod, in his interview, really reminds us about, again, the policy advocacy skills, about knowing that you're delivering the right policy solution to the right level of government and to people who can actually implement that. Let's listen to him here, reminding us.

Rod MacRae (28:45):

Of course, one of the dilemmas here is that if the institutional environment sees that you don't know your stuff, that you haven't actually done the detailed work to understand what they're doing and what their motivations are and what their processes are, they see no reason to engage with you. They'll just shut you down. And we've made that mistake over and over again by pitching the wrong solution to the wrong place, not understanding who's responsible for what, who does what, and where the decisions are actually being made.

(29:15):

I understand – a lot of people said this to me over the years, "I don't want to talk about policy. Policy is a scary thing." I think, again, a lot of it is because we don't talk about policy. Who talks about policy in high school? Hardly anybody, at least when I went through high school, talked about policy stuff. Let alone workplaces, like how many people get to be involved in policy decisions in their own workplace, so that they understand what policy actually is.

Kaleigh McIntosh (29:38):

What I hear Rod's really highlighting here is that in some cases, many organizations are even lacking policy advocacy skills, but the excellent opportunity we have with these interviews and our discussing them here today is that we can learn from these narratives and the successes and the work that's been done historically in food systems.

Peter Andrée (29:55):

Yeah. What we've been hearing from Rod and Harriet really reminds us that when you bring these different skillsets together and working at the community level and at institutional change at different levels of governance, you really can make a difference. But these are skills that we need to build and exercise. So, how do you want to wrap things up for our listeners, Kaleigh?

Kaleigh McIntosh (30:15):

I think that after listening to these interviews, Harriet's reflections on Rod, that she shared in her interview, really helped to bring this episode full circle for me.

Harriett Friedmann (30:24):

I'll just tell you a little story about Rod. When I first got to know him, I went to the Organics Conference at Guelph, and he started leading this meeting, and he had a flip chart. He was standing at the front. There were maybe 20 people in the room from all across the country. And he says, "Okay, let's start with the East Coast. What's going on in Newfoundland?" And people just start talking. They've picked up the conversation from the year before. And I don't know if anyone else could do that, or if it was especially Rod, but it was happening there. And that's the kind of thing that we need is that ability to have an ongoing or a continually resumed conversation among people engaged in specific issues, and that can think beyond those issues too.

Peter Andrée (31:10):

Yeah. I love the fact that Harriet is bringing in the example now from our other interviewee, Rod, because they obviously weren't in the same room together when we did all this. And what she describes Rod doing is exactly what we've been talking about in this episode. Bridging community energy with institutional opportunity, understanding how ideas move into government, seeing political opportunities, and then building this conversation with diverse voices, in this case around the country, but he also emphasized people with different points of view, figuring out how to bring them in as allies.

(31:46):

So, let's recap what we've been looking at here. We see that governance change doesn't happen through structures alone. It happens through people who work in these spaces and on the edge of these spaces between community and government institutions. And what are they doing? Listening, interpreting, building trust, and maintaining relationships. That's all labour that's often invisible in governance, but so crucial to success. What have you noticed, Kaleigh?

Kaleigh McIntosh (32:14):

I think we've heard in these interviews with Rod and Harriet that policies and institutional structures are important to food governance and the governance of the sustainability transition more broadly, but it's ultimately the people who make them. And when we combine community values, strategic advocacy, and creativity, this creates opportunities for better governance that makes our collective actions stick. And in getting to explore these interviews with you, Peter, I think it's clear that this is something that we need more than ever. And through the lens of food, there's a place for everyone in this work.

Peter Andrée (32:48):

Yeah. Food is so invitational. That's what I've noticed working on food issues over the years. It brings a lot of different people around the table to talk about issues like sustainability and how to build more sustainable and just food systems. And then the work takes off from there. And I love the way that Harriet and Rod really walked us through some of the specific pieces of that work.

(33:09):

So, thank you, Kaleigh, for being my co-host today for this episode, and thank you to Rod and Harriet for allowing us to work with their interviews. And we also want to say thank you to the larger project led by Professor Patricia Ballamingie from Carleton and Dr. David Szanto. They gave us the opportunity to work with these interviews and to glean these important insights from Rod and Harriet. Finally, I want to thank our editor, Nicole Bedford, as well as our technical and artistic design lead, Adam Gibbard. So, if you haven't yet, please subscribe to the Ecopolitics Podcast on your favourite podcast app. Send us your feedback through the website, and we'll see you in our next episode.