

For immediate release

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Food Champion Anita Stewart Honoured with Inaugural Dinner Bell Award Celebrating Leadership in Earning Public Trust in Canadian Food

GUELPH. November 14, 2018 - The inaugural **Canadian Centre for Food Integrity Dinner Bell** was awarded to Anita Stewart, founder of Food Day Canada, at the third annual CCFI Public Trust Summit held in Gatineau, Quebec.

Anita Stewart, is a well-known Canadians food crusader and founder behind 'Food Day Canada,' an event and movement celebrated annually across Canada every August. Food Day Canada brings together farmers, chefs and consumers to connect everyone in the food chain at this national event, which is free and inclusive for all to participate.

"In days gone by, the dinner bell was used to call people to tables of all varieties – from the fanciest castles to the most rugged ranches," said Crystal Mackay, CCFI President. "This new award takes the symbolism of the dinner bell from the past and brings it forward to recognize the leadership needed for the conversations about food for the future."

Today's conversations about food are likely to happen online or on the go. There is a growing appetite to know and share more, to come together and to celebrate the great food we have grow, produce and have readily-available in Canada.

Food Day Canada a unique way for everyone involved along the food chain to engage directly in conversations about food, in person or online. Canadians have the opportunity to take part in conversations about where their food comes from, how it is prepared, where they can source Canadian ingredients and thus, have trust in their food system while getting to know the people who are part of it.

"Over the years my culinary journey has taken me across this incredible nation of ours many, many times. I've met the producers and the researchers, the chefs and the home cooks, who've celebrated with me be it from the early days until now, when our entire country celebrates Food Day Canada. Those are the shoulders that we all stand on. Being the first ever recipient of the Canadian Centre for Food Integrity Dinner Bell award winner is a recognition of their work as much as it is my own tenacity, some say stubbornness, to tell their stories."

Anita's vision and leadership in founding 'Food Day Canada' and executing on the idea is what makes her a natural recipient of the first-ever Dinner Bell. A member of the Order of Canada and Food Laureate at the University of Guelph, Anita has an esteemed list of accomplishments in the food sector.

The Canadian Centre for Food Integrity (CCFI), created the Dinner Bell award in 2018 to recognize an individual or effort who breaks new ground in public trust in food with collaboration and leadership with meaningful impact. CCFI helps Canada's food system earn trust by coordinating research, resources, dialogue and training. Find out more at www.foodintegrity.ca

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Background

Anita is an activist and disrupter in the food world. She believes 'Canada IS food and the world is richer for it.' A member of the Order of Canada and the Food Laureate at the University of Guelph, Anita's list of accomplishments are long and speak to an esteemed career in the food industry. She is the President of Food Day Canada and Flavours of Canada and holds a Doctor of Laws (Honouris causa) from the University of Guelph.

Anita was the Culinary Awards Advisor to the Governor General's Awards in Celebration of the Nation's Table and has been recognized by many agriculture-food partners for her work in bringing the food industry closer to consumers. In June 2009, she was inducted as an Honorary Lifetime Member of the Canadian Culinary Federation of Chefs and Cooks. The well-known author of many cookbooks and books, Anita's writing spans country inns, farm markets and hotels as her work has been published internationally in outlets including Canadian Geographic Travel, Food & Drink, The Advocate, Gourmet, Los Angeles Times, Toronto Star and the Globe and Mail. Her lectures, broadcasts on CBC Radio One and speaking engagements around the world passionately tell Anita's food stories that she is a proud champion for.

About CCFI

The Canadian Centre for Food Integrity is a non-profit organization that helps Canada's food system earn trust by coordinating research, resources, dialogue and training. Our members and project partners, who represent the diversity of the food system, are committed to providing accurate information and working together to address important issues in food and agriculture. The CCFI does not lobby or advocate for individual companies or brands.