



**Cooperation at the Urban | Rural Divide**

Why farmers need to think about the city like never before!

## Outline

- Urbanization is not new, it is now normal
- Urbanization destroys biodiversity, and separates humans from the natural-physical world
- This destroys our food system and so much more
- Urbanization is present in Rural communities
- How Farmers choose to confront Urbanization will play a role in the success or failure of our natural world



- “It is no longer possible to construct sound ecological science without explicit attention to urbanization as a key driver of global ecological change” - *Elmqvist*



### Who am I?

- kye kocher
- President of YYC Growers – Farm Cooperative
- a farmer a businessman and a poet





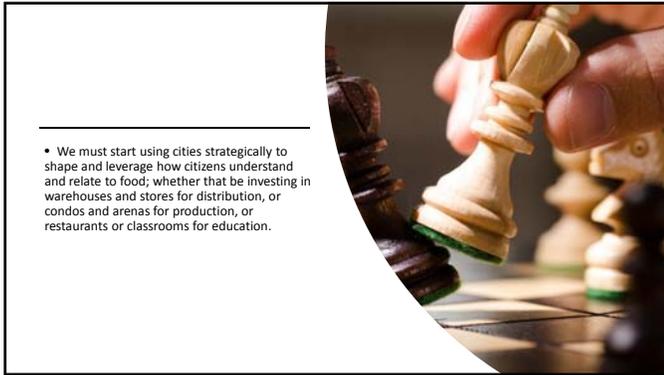
**The Urban | Rural Divide**

### the cost to farming

- Large spread disassociation from our natural landscape from urban citizens
- Decline in population that consumes fruits and vegetables – *Statistics Canada*
- Delegitimization of the renaissance practice—farming
- Land Prices do not match agricultural salaries
- All land, rural or urban becomes “Development Land”
- What was once a town becomes a shopping mall





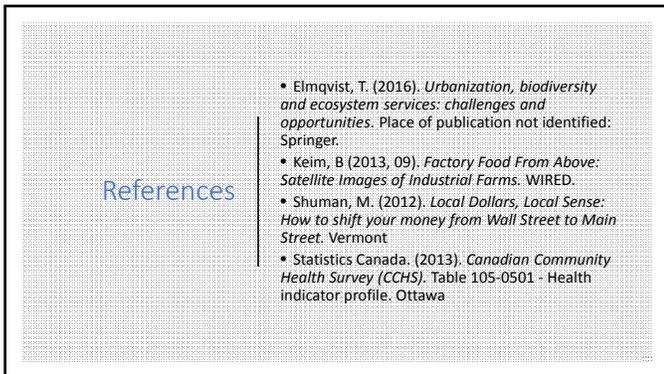



- We must start using cities strategically to shape and leverage how citizens understand and relate to food; whether that be investing in warehouses and stores for distribution, or condos and arenas for production, or restaurants or classrooms for education.



### Where to begin:

- Introduce someone to the process of growing
- Host a school tour to your farm
- Find a way to cooperate with different farms, big, small, micro – farms working together can occupy a larger market share with less work
- And I am sure you can come up with plenty of your own.



### References

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