

International Women's Day Lunch and Learn Introduction: Equity in Action



My name is Brittany Traynor, and it is my privilege to serve the Municipality as Manager of Community Development, and today it is my honour to welcome you all to this event.

When I was thinking about what thoughts I wanted to share I found inspiration and wisdom in our guest speakers – two food-growing women, and in this year's theme: Embrace Equity.

The work of Emily and Janet and their colleagues proves that equity is necessary everywhere. In fact, if there was no equity, there would be no food. If all fruit was treated the same regardless of its need, we'd go hungry. Did you know after being carefully picked from the tree, but before anything else happens, the stems are removed from Honeycrisps because of the risk of damaging the apple's skin? All apples don't need that level of care, but Honeycrisps do. It is non-negotiable. Risk of harm is removed, and equity is in action.



In consideration of women broadly, we often hear the phrase “may we know them, be them, and raise them”. In this modern world, I don't think that is

enough. It's too passive. It hopes for the best rather than creating the best, rather than fighting for the best.

As leaders in their orchards and board rooms, Emily and Janet teach us that it isn't enough to simply hope for the best. When an orchard is planted, it is not left on its own. It is nurtured, protected and when harm appears or is at risk of appearing, the orchard and the fruit it bears is fought for – fiercely fought for.

In both the examples of the Honeycrisp and the orchard, intentional, focused care is relentlessly given. Success is fought for, not hoped for. Equity is non-negotiable.

Women, girls, and gender diverse people – especially our trans, differently abled and sisters of colour, need everyone to fight for their success and care. These things are non-negotiable.

Nobody came here to hear me speak, so I will leave it at that...

Thank you all very much for being here. Thank you for embracing equity.

Event background:

Nova Scotia Food Growers Association President Janet Chappel and Executive Director Emily Lutz (the Municipality's Deputy Mayor) discussed the impact, roles, and legacies of women in agriculture at an educational lunch and learn event hosted in Council Chambers, and catered by Cumin Kitchen and Drink, on March 8.



