

# Black Food Sovereignty Alliance



## Overview:

The Black Food Sovereignty Alliance (BFSA) is dedicated to strengthening Black communities' understanding and leadership in Black Food Sovereignty through dialogue, policy advocacy, and community-driven solutions. Rooted in Toronto's Black Food Sovereignty movement, BFSA works to ensure Black communities have access to healthy, culturally appropriate food produced sustainably, with a goal to ending chronic food insecurity and mobilize community partnerships. Student volunteers will have the opportunity to support BFSA's efforts by helping coordinate community events, contributing to digital storytelling initiatives, and participating in data collection activities that highlight community needs and impact.

## The placement:

The Black Food Sovereignty Alliance is a collective initiative rooted in the belief that Black communities have the right to define their own food systems. Established in 2019 by the Afri-Can FoodBasket in partnership with the City of Toronto, BFSA aims to address the systemic issues of food insecurity and anti-Black racism affecting Black communities in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). The alliance is committed to creating sustainable, culturally appropriate, and ecologically sound food systems that empower Black individuals and communities.

<https://www.bfstoronto.ca/>

## The position:

Your responsibilities will include:

- **Community Engagement:** Collaborate with community members and organizations to promote and support Black food sovereignty initiatives.
- **Event Planning & Coordination:** Assist in organizing workshops, community gatherings, and educational events that align with BFSA's mission.
- **Research & Documentation:** Conduct research on topics related to food sovereignty, document community stories, and contribute to reports and publications.
- **Advocacy & Outreach:** Support advocacy efforts aimed at addressing systemic barriers to food access and promoting policy changes.
- **Administrative Support:** Provide administrative assistance in the preparation of materials, communication with stakeholders, and coordination of activities.

## The opportunity:

Participating in a co-op placement with the Black Food Sovereignty Alliance (BFSA) offers a unique opportunity for students to bridge academic learning with real-world community engagement. Through hands-on involvement in food justice, advocacy, and grassroots organizing, students will gain both personal and professional growth rooted in social justice practice.

- Apply classroom theories about equity, anti-oppression, and systems change in a real-world, community-led context.

- Learn how food systems are intertwined with racial, environmental, and economic justice—especially in Black communities.
- Community Engagement & Outreach: Build relationships with diverse stakeholders, facilitate conversations, and support grassroots mobilization.
- Event Coordination: Help organize community events, food drives, and workshops—gaining project planning and logistics experience.
- Policy & Research Skills: Conduct research, analyze data, and contribute to the development of reports and food policy recommendations.
- Communication Skills: Write for public, academic, and advocacy audiences; manage social media and outreach materials.
- Organizational Skills: Learn how nonprofit and advocacy organizations operate and support internal coordination tasks.

**The ideal candidate:**

- Strong research, writing, and communication skills—able to produce materials for both academic and public audiences.
- Brings creativity to event planning, content creation, and problem-solving.
- Capable of working independently, managing tasks, and taking initiative in a fast-paced, evolving environment.
- Passionate about dismantling systemic barriers related to food access, land use, and economic equity in Black communities.
- Enrolled in a relevant discipline such as Social Justice Education, Environmental Studies, Public Policy, Urban Studies, African Studies, or similar.
- Brings an academic lens to their work but can translate ideas into accessible, community-facing actions.

**How to apply:**

For information about the application process, go to: <https://www.newcollege.utoronto.ca/cel-courses/cel-how-to-apply/>

***Application deadline: Wednesday, July 2, 2025***

For more information about the course, please visit: <https://www.newcollege.utoronto.ca/cel-courses/>

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