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“Locating local: Localism and the Eat Local Sudbury Co-operative”

Abstract

This essay explores the discourses surrounding the sustainable food movement in Northern Ontario, specifically the City of Greater Sudbury. With the emergence of food agencies such as Eat Local Sudbury Co-operative the definition of the term *local* has come into question. Academics argue that *local* has become an ambiguous term that no longer simply represents a geographical location. The term *local* can characterize a political stance, a site of negotiation and exchange or a set of values and face-to-face interaction between producers and consumers and implies specific ethical and human rights debates. Through a critical reading of the Eat Local Sudbury Co-operative and the academic literature related to the local food movement I demonstrate this organization engages in practices that mediate various identified dilemmas inherent the alternative food-system.