

Winnipeg Free Press

Letter Of The Day

Mon 14 Jan 2008
Page: A10
Section: Editorial Leaders
Byline: Declare war on trans fats

Re: Restaurants to list trans fats? Jan. 10.

If Coun. Jenny Gerbasi truly believed there is a need for the City of Winnipeg to "step in and control the (trans fat) issue," she would throw her support behind the national action plan to reduce trans fat from Canada's food supply.

The federal Trans Fat Task Force recognized that the entire food supply chain -- from farm to fork -- must work together to remove trans fat from the Canadian food supply. Food processors, manufacturers, retailers and restaurateurs have been working to achieve the task force limits on trans fat and, as Health Canada noted in its recent release of trans fat data, tremendous progress has been made.

In light of this very positive report card from Health Canada, Gerbasi and the rest of city council should be applauding local food service operators who have made the switch to healthy trans-fat-free alternatives well ahead of the federal deadline. Going through the process of preparing a report, considering it, and then making a decision on future implementation is unlikely to speed up the June 2009 deadline implemented by the federal government last year, and will cost the city valuable time and resources.

When it comes to trans fat, we all agree on the public health outcomes. The only real question is why would Winnipeg proceed with its own confusing and costly regulatory approach when a national action plan is already well underway?

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