

Province deems community gardens as essential source of fresh food

The Provincial government announced its new and amended emergency orders on Saturday, which permit the use of community gardens during the pandemic.

The community gardens are deemed as an 'essential source of fresh food' for some individuals and families.

'These are gardens set aside for people to grow their own fresh produce, their own food and it was identified that this was part of the food system,' said Simcoe Muskoka Medical Officer of Health Dr. Charles Gardner.

'It will also assist people in improving their access to healthy and nutritious affordable food and so the province is permitting this and I am supportive of this.'

The Province has indicated that the local medical officers of health for each region in Ontario will provide guidance on how to allow people to utilize community gardens safely.

'We're looking at that now with regards to developing our recommendations for these community gardens in order to maintain the physical distancing that's needed while people do this kind of work' so we'll be coming out with those recommendations shortly,' Dr. Gardner noted.

By Sam Odrowski Local Journalism Initiative Reporter