

Notice of Meeting and Meeting Agenda Planning, Transportation and Protective Services Committee

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

1:30 PM

6th Floor Boardroom

A. Finall (Chair), C. Hamilton (Vice Chair), J. Brownoff, V. Derman,
D. Howe, N. Jensen, R. Kasper, S. Price, J. Ranns, D. Screech,
R. Windsor, B. Desjardins (Board Chair, ex officio)

1. Approval of Agenda

2. Adoption of Minutes

- 2.1. [16-627](#) Minutes of the April 27, 2016 Planning, Transportation and Protective Services Meeting

Recommendation: That the minutes of the April 27, 2016 Planning, Transportation and Protective Services meeting be adopted as circulated.

Attachments: [2016-04-27 Minutes PTPSC](#)

3. Chair's Remarks

4. Presentations/Delegations

- 4.1. [16-656](#) Presentation: Derek Masselink, Consultant, Food and Agriculture Strategy

Attachments: [Presentation: Food & Agriculture Strategy](#)

5. Committee Business

- 5.1. [16-638](#) Community Health and Wellbeing Pilot Project

Recommendation: That the Planning, Transportation and Protective Services Committee recommend to the Capital Regional District Board:
That the Health and Capital Planning Strategies Division be authorized to expend the Vancouver Island Health Authority grant funding for the purposes of piloting the five commitments of the draft Community Health and Wellbeing Plan.

Attachments: [Staff Report: Community Health and Wellbeing Pilot Project](#)

[Appendix A: Draft CHW Plan](#)

[Appendix B: CRD/VIHA Grant Funding Agreement](#)

[Appendix C: Addressing Purpose of CRD/VIHA Grant](#)

- 5.2. [16-640](#) Draft Regional Food and Agriculture Strategy

Recommendation: That the Planning, Transportation and Protective Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board:
That the draft Regional Food and Agriculture Strategy be:
1. Received for information;
2. Used by staff to inform content for the Regional Growth Strategy food systems section that the Board on March 9, 2016, requested staff bring forward for Committee of the Whole consideration; and
3. Advanced for further discussion at a Forum of Councils targeted for fall 2016.

Attachments: [Staff Report: Regional Food & Agriculture Strategy](#)
[Appendix 1: Draft Regional Food & Agriculture Strategy](#)
[Appendix 2: Vancity Agricultural Land Report](#)

5.3. [16-502](#) An Overview of Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Chart
(Director Derman)

Recommendation: The Environmental Services Committee recommends:
That the Planning, Transportation and Protective Services Committee receive the chart titled An Overview of Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation for information.

Attachments: [Chart: Overview Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation](#)

5.4. [16-629](#) Previous Minutes of Other Committees and Commissions for
Information

Recommendation: That the following minutes be received for information:
1. CRD Traffic Safety Commission, April 14, 2016
2. Local Government Emergency Program Advisory Committee, February 18 and
March 17, 2016

Attachments: [Minutes: CRD Traffic Safety Commission April 14, 2016](#)
[Minutes: LGEPAC February 18, 2016](#)
[Minutes: LGEPAC March 17, 2016](#)

6. New Business

7. Adjournment

Next Meeting: June 22, 2016

To ensure quorum, please advise Nancy More (250-360-3024) if you or your alternate CANNOT attend.

Meeting Minutes
Planning, Transportation and
Protective Services Committee

Wednesday, April 27, 2016

1:30 PM

6th Floor Boardroom

PRESENT:

Directors: C. Hamilton (Vice Chair), J. Brownoff, V. Derman, D. Howe, N. Jensen, R. Kasper, S. Price, B. Gramigna (for J. Ranns), D. Screech, C. Stock (for A. Finall), B. Desjardins (Board Chair, ex officio)
Staff: R. Lapham, Chief Administrative Officer; K. Lorette, General Manager, Planning and Protective Services; B. Reems, Corporate Officer; P. Perna, Committee Clerk (Recorder)

ABSENT:

Director(s): R. Windsor

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm.

1. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Director Howe, SECONDED by Director Price,
That the agenda for the April 27, 2016 Planning, Transportation and Protective
Services Committee be approved as circulated.
CARRIED

2. Adoption of Minutes

- 2.1. [16-495](#) Minutes of the March 23, 2016, Planning, Transportation and Protective Services Committee Meeting

MOVED by Director Screech, SECONDED by Director Price,
That the minutes of the March 23, 2016 Planning, Transportation and Protective
Services Committee be adopted as circulated.
CARRIED

3. Chair's Remarks

None.

4. Presentations/Delegations

- 4.1. [16-535](#) Presentations: Don Elliott, Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness

D. Elliott spoke to a PowerPoint Presentation on the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness.

- 4.2. [16-536](#) Presentations: Dr. Murray Fyfe and Kim Bruce, Island Health
- M. Fyfe spoke to a PowerPoint presentation on the Clean Air bylaw, it's upcoming one year anniversary, and what has been achieved since the bylaw has come into effect.

5. Committee Business

- 5.1. [16-549](#) 2016/17 Public Health Service Agreement between the CRD and Island Health

MOVED by Director Howe, **SECONDED** by Director Screech,
That the Planning, Transportation and Protective Services Committee
recommends to the Capital Regional District Board that:
The 2016/17 Service Agreement between the Capital Regional District (CRD) and
the Vancouver Island Health Authority be approved and authorize the CRD Board
Chair and Corporate Officer to execute the Agreement.
CARRIED

- 5.2. [16-560](#) Previous Minutes of Other Committees and Commissions for Information

MOVED by Director Derman, **SECONDED** by Director Brownoff,
That the minutes of the CRD Traffic Safety Commission meeting of March 10,
2016, be received for information.
CARRIED

6. New Business

None.

7. Adjournment

MOVED by Director Price, **SECONDED** by Director Derman,
That the April 27, 2016 Planning, Transportation and Protective Services
Committee meeting be adjourned at 1:55 pm.
CARRIED

Chair

Recorder

Setting Our Table

Capital Regional District Food & Agriculture Strategy



Food Security

Regional Sustainability Strategy Policy Options Series | Fall 2010

Throughout the Capital Region, people and organizations are taking a new interest in food – edible gardening, learning about nutrition, supporting local farms and sustainable food options. Local governments are involved in initiatives, looking for new ways to enhance food production and distribution and recycling of organic wastes. What are the links between food, health and wellbeing? Can we do more to protect the viability of local agriculture? How can we reduce the impact of food production on climate change?

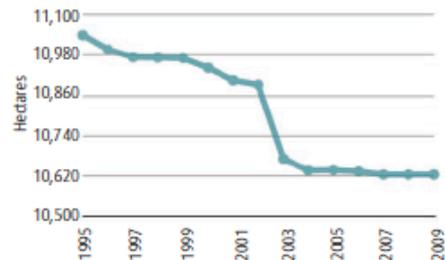
This is one of nine papers that aims to challenge our thinking about being a sustainable region, of which food systems should play an integral role. The paper sketches out the current context, key drivers and good practices from other communities. It also compares current policy and practice against more aggressive approaches to enhance and secure local food production and our accessibility to local produce. Three policy directions are presented.

Your feedback is welcome.

A Regional Context

Productive agricultural land in the region has been reduced substantially over the past three decades, resulting in nearly 1,500 hectares removed from the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) between 1974 and 2009. With over 12,000 hectares in 1974, the ALR in the Growth Management Planning Area (excluding the Gulf Islands or Indian Reserve lands) has dropped to 10,600 hectares by 2009, as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Net Change in Agricultural Land Reserve Lands (GMPA), 1974-2009



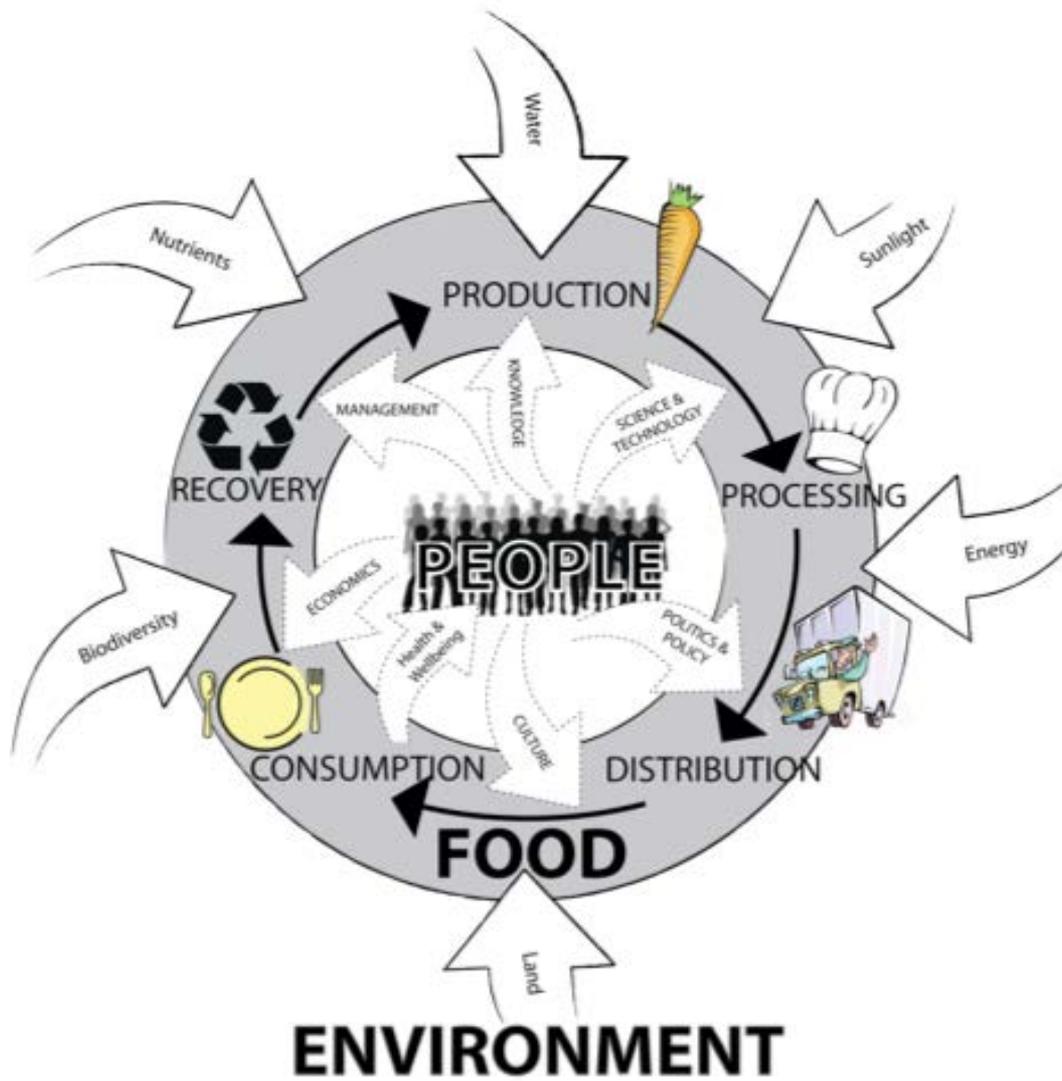
Source: Agricultural Land Conservancy



"... In our vision, sustainable food systems ensure nutritious food for all people, shorten the distance between food consumers and producers, protect workers' health and welfare, minimize environmental impacts and strengthen connections between urban and rural communities..."

San Francisco Healthy and Sustainable Food Directive



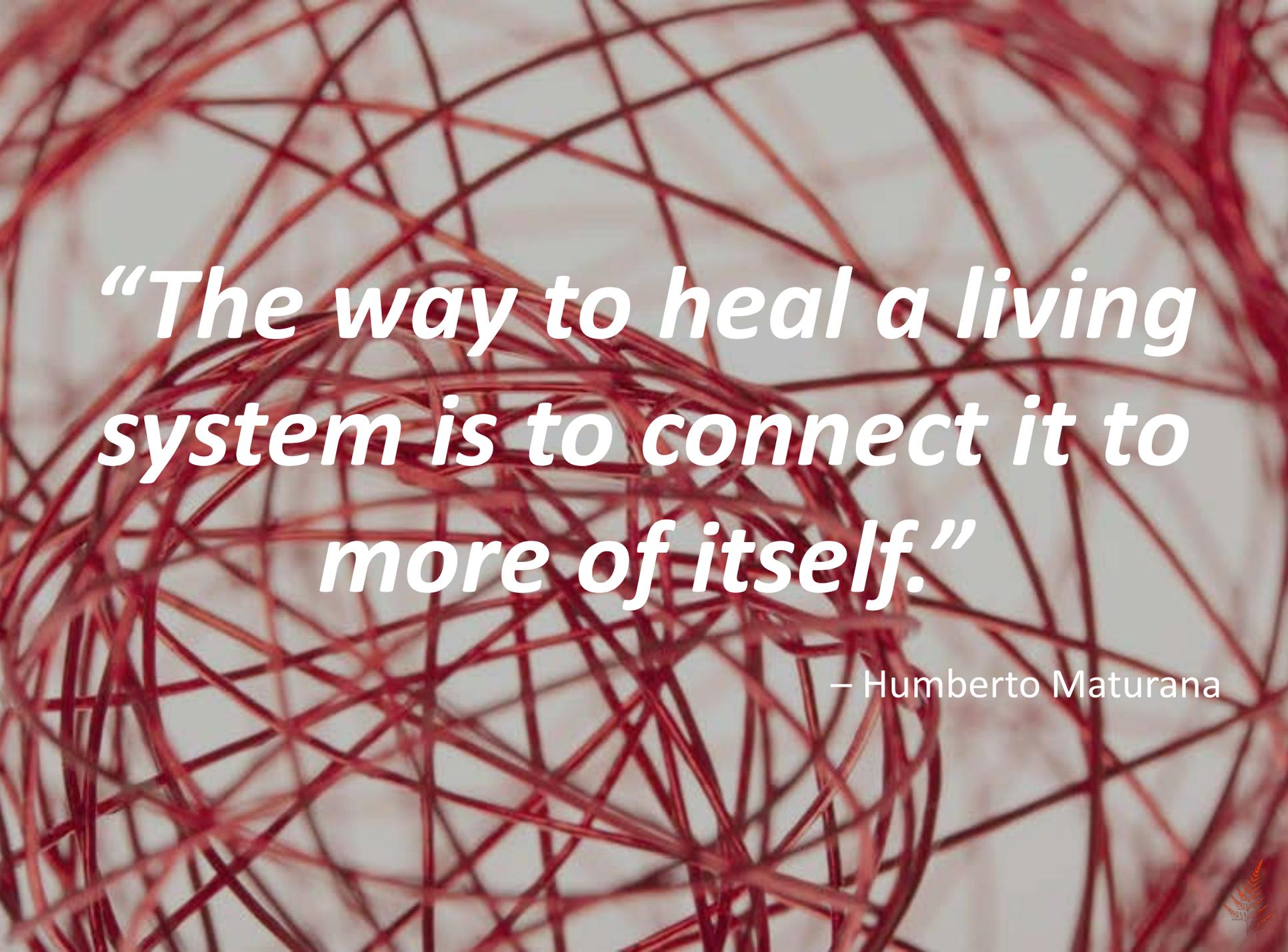




RURAL

URBAN





“The way to heal a living system is to connect it to more of itself.”

– Humberto Maturana







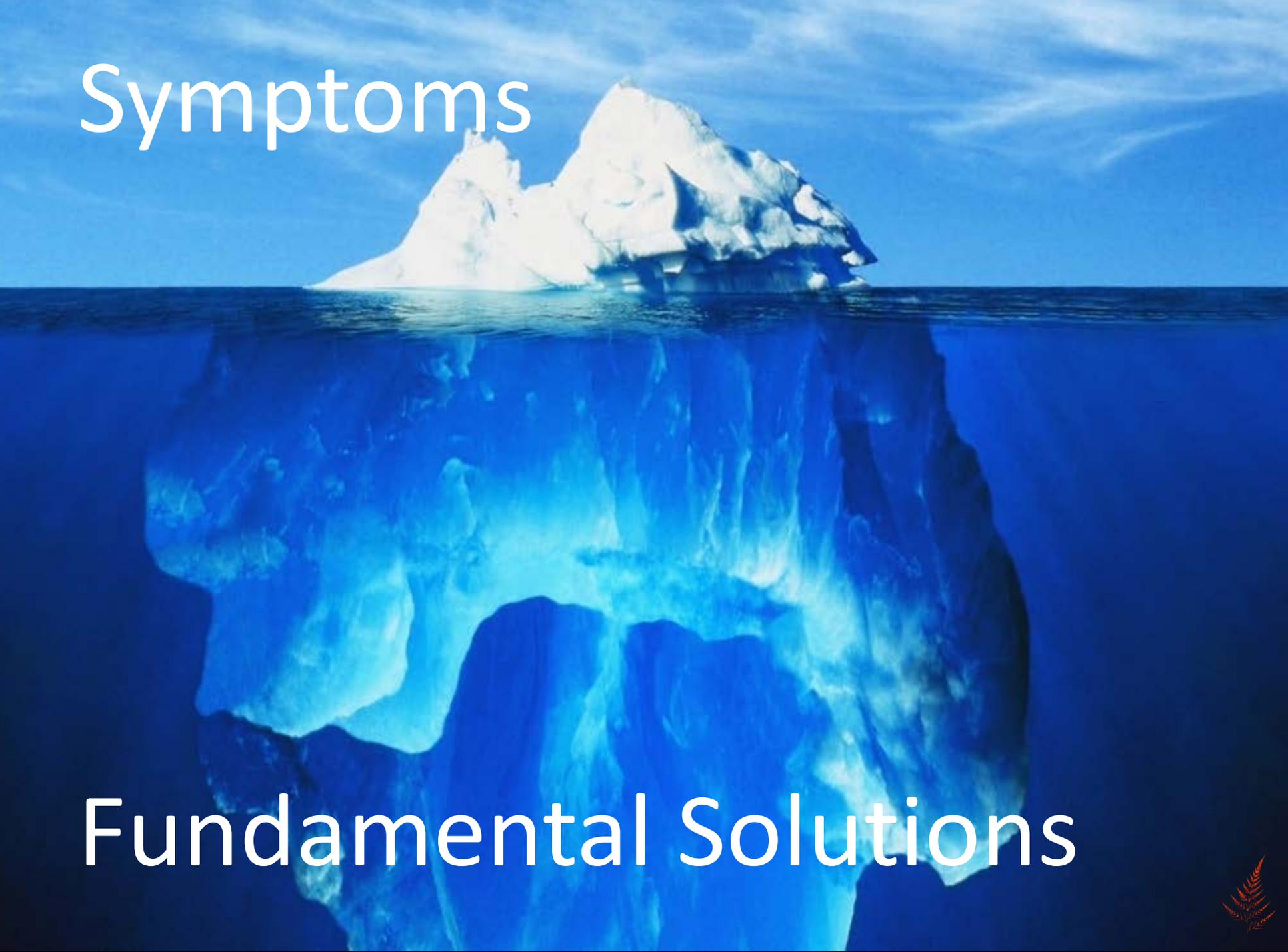
Systemic Approach





Symptoms



An iceberg floating in the ocean. The tip of the iceberg is above the water line, and the much larger, submerged part is below. The sky is blue with light clouds, and the water is a deep blue. The word "Symptoms" is written in white text in the upper left, and "Fundamental Solutions" is written in white text in the lower left.

Symptoms

Fundamental Solutions



"I knew I had to transform Alcoa.

But you can't order people to change. That's not how the brain works. So I decided I was going to start by focusing on one thing.

If I could start by disrupting the habits around one thing, it would spread throughout the entire company."

Paul O'Neill, CEO Alcoa (1987-2000)

'Keystone' Habits



10 'Keystone' Strategies

1



Support regional, cross-sector relationships, including a food and agriculture task force.

2



Improve the CRD's capacity to address regional food and agriculture issues

3



Support regional organic-matter recycling approaches that benefit food and agriculture

4



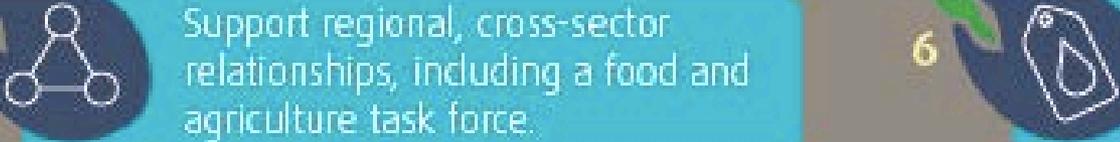
Address chronic drainage issues across the region

5



Continue to consider approaches to effectively address existing and emerging regional wildlife and invasive species issues

6



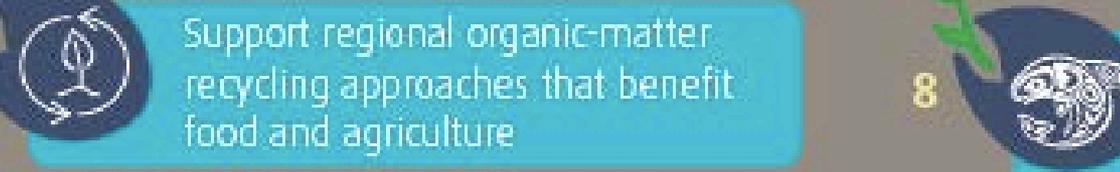
Maintain affordability and improve access to irrigation water for food and agricultural operations

7



Encourage a place-based regional food culture by building relationships between Aboriginal and non-aboriginal communities.

8



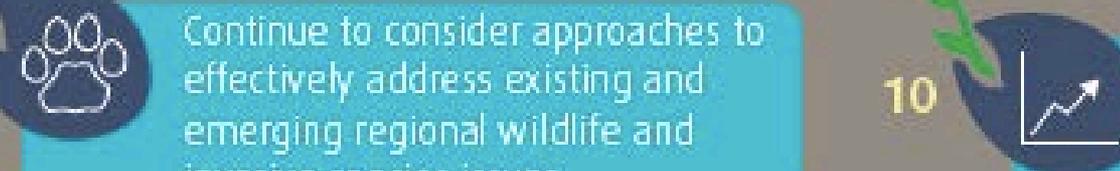
Support Aboriginal food and agriculture-related activities, projects and events.

9



Increase access to agricultural and food lands.

10



Support regional economic development strategies for food and agriculture



10 'Keystone' Strategies

- Establish a FAS task force
- Improve CRD's food & ag. capabilities
- Connect waste stream to food lands
- Address chronic drainage issues
- Help with chronic wildlife issues
- Maintain water access for growers
- Support development of regional food culture
- Support Indigenous food interests
- Establish Regional Farmland Trust
- Support food & ag. economic development strategies



A woman in a dark suit stands in the center of a large room, holding papers and addressing a group of people seated in a circle of red chairs. The room has a wooden floor and a stage in the background with two whiteboards on stands. The scene is brightly lit, and the overall atmosphere is professional and collaborative.

Regional Food + Ag Task Force

A photograph of a long table of people dining outdoors at night. The scene is illuminated by warm, glowing string lights hanging above the table. People are seated along the table, engaged in conversation and eating. The table is set with various dishes, glasses, and a centerpiece of flowers. The overall atmosphere is warm and social.

CRD Hosts



Reinforce what works

ID + remove what doesn't

Identify new strategies



A photograph of four people standing in a lush green field, possibly a farm or garden. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The person on the far left is a man with a beard and a white cap, wearing a brown t-shirt. Next to him is a woman in a blue denim shirt and a white cap. The third person is a woman in a red and white plaid shirt and a blue scarf. The person on the far right is a woman in a light blue floral shirt and a blue cap. They are holding long wooden poles or tools. The background is a dense line of green trees under a bright sky. A semi-transparent dark grey box is overlaid on the image, containing white text.

“The Capital Region has a vibrant, valued & evolving local food & agricultural economy that is rooted in the principles of interdependence, reciprocity & respect.

It recalls & re-establishes the intimate & important relationships between our land & waters, our food, & our community.”

The Opportunity





**REPORT TO PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2016**

SUBJECT **Community Health and Wellbeing Pilot Project**

ISSUE

To obtain Capital Regional District (CRD) Board approval on the recommended use of grant funding received from the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA).

BACKGROUND

While the primary responsibility for the funding and delivery of health services lies with the provincial government and with health authorities, local governments – including regional districts – have an essential role to play in improving community health and wellbeing through their impact on the social determinants of health. In recognition of this role, VIHA awarded grants to the CRD in 2011 and 2012 to support work related to community health and wellbeing. In June 2012, the CRD Board approved a work plan for the Health and Capital Planning Strategies Division to utilize these funds to advance the Community Health portfolio and contribute to a more socially sustainable region.

Over the past four years, the CRD used these funds to partner with VIHA and community organizations to share knowledge and explore the most effective role for the CRD in improving health and wellbeing outcomes for residents of the region. These partnerships resulted in the development of a draft Community Health and Wellbeing (CHW) Plan for the region (Appendix A); a draft Equity Lens Framework and equity planning workshop; ongoing participation on numerous regional committees and networks, and; development of a draft strategy to support the social connectedness of older adults in the region. The funding was also used to establish and coordinate the Regional Outcomes Monitoring (ROM) Collaborative, which aims to track progress towards achieving desired health and wellbeing outcomes in the region through data collection and analysis. Membership in the ROM Collaborative currently consists of representatives from the CRD, VIHA, Victoria Foundation, United Way, Community Social Planning Council, University of Victoria, Eldercare Foundation, Horner Foundation, and the Children’s Health Foundation.

Most recently the CRD received additional VIHA grant funding in the amount of \$186,667 (Appendix B) for the purpose of developing population-level interventions that address modifiable risk factors (unhealthy weight, physical inactivity, unhealthy eating, tobacco use, and harmful alcohol use), support frail seniors, and address mental health and substance abuse issues either directly or in partnership with other local community organizations. These issues continue to fall under the Community Health portfolio of the Health and Capital Planning Strategies Division.

Draft CHW Plan

Following consultation with health and social planning experts, including VIHA, the CRD’s draft CHW Plan makes recommendations for five ongoing commitments and eight specific actions the CRD could undertake to improve the following social determinants of health and wellbeing in the region:

- Economic Security
- Affordable and Appropriate Housing
- Food Security

- Thriving Children and Youth
- Lifelong Learning
- Inclusive, Connected Communities
- Healthy and Safe Environments
- Accessible Human Services
- Strong Connection to Arts, Culture and Recreation

In order to determine the efficacy of a CHW Plan it is recommended that the most recent installment of VIHA grant funding be utilized to pilot the following five commitments outlined in the Plan:

1. Developing an Equity Lens Framework
2. Expanding Regional Information Services
3. Building on Partnerships
4. Creating Internal Linkages
5. Tracking Regional Progress

The pilot project would also explore the implications of adopting the eight actions of the CHW Plan. Following the pilot staff would amend the Plan and report back to the Board on the outcomes. This project would satisfy the requirements of the VIHA grant by supporting regional efforts to improve the determinants of health and wellbeing (Appendix C).

ALTERNATIVES

That the Planning, Transportation and Protective Services Committee recommend to the Capital Regional District Board:

1. That the Health and Capital Planning Strategies Division be authorized to expend the Vancouver Island Health Authority grant funding for the purposes of piloting the five commitments of the draft Community Health and Wellbeing Plan.
2. That the Health and Capital Planning Strategies Division not be authorized to expend Vancouver Island Health Authority grant funding to pilot the five commitments of the draft Community Health and Wellbeing Plan, and that staff be provided with further direction.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications to the CRD for either alternative; however, the grant funding was received too late to be included in the most recent Financial Plan. The 2016 Financial Plan will be amended at a later date to incorporate this project.

COMMUNITY IMPLICATIONS

These funds would allow the CRD to build on the partnerships that have been developed as a result of previous VIHA grant funding and would strengthen community capacity to develop population-level interventions that address modifiable risk factors and improve health for all. Over the past four years the CRD has become a significant contributor to regional health and wellbeing and these funds would allow this work to continue.

CONCLUSION

VIHA grant funding provides an opportunity for the CRD to continue addressing health and social issues with its stakeholders, partners and the broader community with no financial impact to the CRD. Utilizing these funds for the purpose of piloting the CHW Plan would not only improve the capacity of the CRD to do this work, but would support the efforts of member municipalities and community organizations to improve health and wellbeing in the region.

RECOMMENDATION

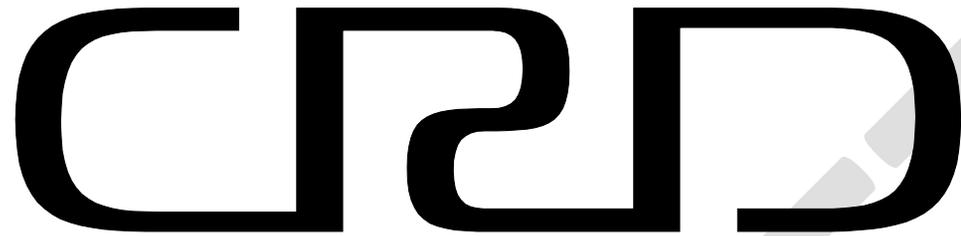
That the Planning, Transportation and Protective Services Committee recommend to the Capital Regional District Board:

That the Health and Capital Planning Strategies Division be authorized to expend the Vancouver Island Health Authority grant funding for the purposes of piloting the five commitments of the draft Community Health and Wellbeing Plan.

Submitted by:	Kevin Lorette, P.Eng., MBA, General Manager, Planning and Protective Services
Concurrence:	Rajat Sharma, MBA, CPA, CMA, Acting Chief Financial Officer
Concurrence:	Robert Lapham, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

KL:sc

Attachments: Appendix A – Draft Community Health & Wellbeing Plan
Appendix B – CRD/VIHA Grant Funding Agreement
Appendix C – Addressing the Purpose of the CRD/VIHA Grant



Making a difference...together

Capital Regional District
Community Health & Wellbeing Plan

Prepared by: Health and Capital Planning Strategies Division

Table of Contents

1.0	Introduction	4
2.0	The Role of Local Governments.....	5
3.0	Identifying Key Issues	11
4.0	Responding to Regional Needs	13
	<i>Commitment 1: Developing an Equity Lens Framework.....</i>	<i>14</i>
	<i>Commitment 2: Expanding Regional Information Services</i>	<i>14</i>
	<i>Commitment 3: Building on Partnerships</i>	<i>14</i>
	<i>Commitment 4: Creating Internal Linkages.....</i>	<i>15</i>
	<i>Commitment 5: Tracking Regional Progress.....</i>	<i>15</i>
5.0	Acting on the Determinants of Health & Wellbeing.....	16
6.0	Conclusion	20
	Appendix A.....	21
	What is equity?	21
	Why is it important to health and wellbeing and sustainability?	21
	What is an Equity Lens Framework?	22
	Appendix B.....	23
	CRD Mandate & Role	23
	Statutory Authority and Policy Direction	24

Appendix C 26

 Table C1. Current CRD services and initiatives related to health and wellbeing. 26

 Table C2. Implications of suggested CRD commitments..... 29

DRAFT

1.0 Introduction

The capital region is home to more than 378,000 residents¹ representing 10 First Nations and over 200 cultures and ethnicities². Spanning the traditional territories of the Coast Salish and Nuu-chah-nulth peoples, this diverse and naturally beautiful region is a place where more and more people are choosing to call home. Adapting to the needs of a diverse and growing population is at the forefront of local government planning and a shift in attention toward the health and wellbeing of residents has become vital.

Health and wellbeing is created in the environments where people live, learn, work, play and love. More than just the absence of illness or disease, it represents the attainment of physical, mental, spiritual, cultural and social wellness. Achieving such a state requires equitable³ access to resources and opportunities; sufficient income and affordable housing; quality learning; caring, inclusive communities; social and civic participation; safe and sustainable environments; and engagement in arts, culture and recreation. These social, physical and economic environments are known as the social determinants of health and wellbeing.

The Capital Regional District (CRD) recognizes the influence it has on these determinants and envisions communities striving to achieve exemplary environmental stewardship; a dynamic, vibrant economy; and an inclusive, caring society. Through a strong commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of residents - one of the CRD's corporate priorities for 2015 to 2018⁴ - the CRD will be better able to realize its vision. This Community Health & Wellbeing (CHW) Plan serves as a strategy for action.

¹ Based on population growth estimates calculated by the Regional and Strategic Planning Division of the CRD, <https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/regional-planning-pdf/Population/Population-PDFs/population-estimates-2013-.pdf?sfvrsn=4>

² Based on Statistics Canada, 2011 estimates.

³ The term 'equity' refers to social justice and fairness: fairness and equality of rights, opportunities, access, and participation. See Appendix A for full overview of the principle of equity.

⁴ Capital Regional District Corporate Plan 2015-2018, <https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/corporate-communications-pdf/crd-corporateplan2015-2018.pdf?sfvrsn=4>

2.0 The Role of Local Governments

Achieving health and wellbeing for all requires collaborative action by all levels and sectors of government, private and non-profit sectors, and residents themselves. While the primary responsibility for the funding and delivery of health services lies with the provincial government and with health authorities, local governments – including regional districts – have recognized the essential role they play in improving community health and wellbeing through their impact on the social determinants. This recognition is evidenced by the emergence of social and community planning positions within many of these agencies. Health and wellbeing cannot be achieved by the efforts of one sector or level of government on its own. It requires a coordinated response by all.

To better address the diverse needs of their residents, local governments across Canada and around the world are building partnerships within their communities to take action in a more collaborative way. A few of the most notable health and wellbeing initiatives that are currently leading the way in Canada include:

- City of Vancouver 'Healthy City Strategy'⁵
- City of Richmond 'Building Our Social Future'⁶
- City of Ottawa 'Equity & Inclusion Lens Handbook'⁷
- Metro Vancouver 'Health Impact Assessment' Guidebook⁸ and Toolkit⁹

⁵ City of Vancouver 'Healthy City Strategy', <http://vancouver.ca/people-programs/healthy-city-strategy.aspx>

⁶ City of Richmond 'Building Our Social Future', http://www.richmond.ca/_shared/assets/socialdevstrategy34917.pdf

⁷ City of Ottawa 'Equity & Inclusion Lens Handbook',
http://documents.ottawa.ca/sites/documents.ottawa.ca/files/documents/El_Lens_Handbook_2015_FINAL_EN_WEB_2.pdf

⁸ Metro Vancouver 'Health Impact Assessment Guidebook', <http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/regional-planning/PlanningPublications/HIA-Guidebook.pdf>

⁹ Metro Vancouver 'Health Impact Assessment Toolkit', <http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/regional-planning/PlanningPublications/HIA-Toolkit.pdf>

- City of Kelowna 'Social Framework'¹⁰

As a regional district the CRD has the opportunity to build on the strengths and successes of the strategies listed above through the development and implementation of this CHW Plan (see Appendix B for CRD mandate and statutory authority to complete this Plan). The programs and services of the CRD already have a tremendous impact on the health and wellbeing of residents through cleaner air and water, management of waste, access to nature, protection of ecosystems, provision of affordable housing, thoughtful land use and transportation planning, strategies to support sustainable food systems, development of healthcare facilities, and opportunities to be engaged in arts, culture and recreation (see Figure 1 below for CRD divisions with an impact on health and wellbeing). This CHW Plan offers strategies for the CRD to build on its strengths, identify opportunities for improvement, and be part of a more coordinated, comprehensive response to improving health and wellbeing in the capital region.

¹⁰ City of Kelowna 'Social Framework',

<http://apps.kelowna.ca/CityPage/Docs/PDFs/Community%20Planning/Sustainability%20Directory/Social%20Framework.pdf>



Figure 1. CRD Divisions with an Impact on Community Health and Wellbeing.

Social Determinants of Health & Wellbeing

In order to identify the social determinants of health and wellbeing in the capital region, health and social planning experts were engaged in a facilitated planning session.¹¹ Through guided discussions, participants agreed on the following nine determinants of health and wellbeing:

1. Economic Security

Economic security includes access to meaningful work or income support and the removal of barriers to employment, such as through job skills training, affordable transportation and childcare. The level of income an individual or family is able to attain is inextricably linked to their health and wellbeing. A sufficient level of income enables residents to obtain safe, high quality housing; purchase nutritious and sufficient food; access healthcare and other services; access arts, culture, or recreational opportunities; and be engaged in social and civic opportunities. Sufficient income also enables at-risk residents to leave abusive relationships and access support. In turn, residents are better able to positively contribute to the economy when they are experiencing health and wellbeing.

2. Affordable & Appropriate Housing

Safe, secure, quality housing is a basic human need which contributes significantly to positive mental and physical health outcomes. Affordable housing allows for more family income to be spent on nutritious food, childcare, recreation and community services, transportation, clothing, personal hygiene items, and advanced training and educational opportunities. A range of housing options adaptable to changing needs and built within compact, complete communities allows residents to better age in place and stay close to their social networks and supports. Safe, affordable housing with supports also helps to protect those who are fleeing domestic violence, struggling with mental health and addictions or in short-term economic distress.

¹¹ This session was held in January, 2015 and participants included representatives from the CRD, Island Health, United Way of Greater Victoria, Community Social Planning Council, University of Victoria, Success by Six, City of Victoria, District of Saanich, and the Township of Esquimalt.

3. Food Security

Access to safe, sufficient, nutritious and culturally acceptable foods is a basic need and a right that all people share. For Coast and Strait Salish peoples food is a vital and inseparable part of health, culture and spirituality. A secure, healthy and accessible food system recognizes the diversity of culinary traditions among residents of the region and enables them to meet their nutritional needs with dignity.

4. Thriving Children & Youth

The experiences children have during their early years form the foundation upon which they build their lives. Early experiences influence brain development, school success, physical and mental health, as well as later economic, social and civic participation. Ensuring children and youth are connected to their families, peers, schools and communities supports healthy developmental trajectories, builds resilience and promotes health and wellbeing even in the presence of adversity. Supporting the physical, social, cultural, emotional and cognitive development of children and youth helps them to achieve their full potential, mitigates their future burden of disease, and is an investment in the health and wellbeing of communities.

5. Lifelong Learning

Lifelong learning is the voluntary and self-motivated pursuit of knowledge throughout one's lifetime. It can be formal, taking place within educational institutions, or it can be experienced more informally through libraries, community organizations, or daily activities of living. Engaging in lifelong learning enhances social inclusion, personal development, resiliency, civic engagement and economic growth.

6. Inclusive, Connected Communities

Inclusive and connected communities serve as a cornerstone to creating healthy and sustainable communities. They support inter-cultural and inter-generational interaction and are welcoming, safe, engaged places for all people. Inclusive communities have strong social capital and ensure all residents, particularly those who may be at-risk, are valued, have a voice, are engaged in community, and feel a strong sense of belonging.

7. Healthy & Safe Environments

Strong, resilient, natural environments are the foundation of sustainable communities. Human activity and development can have a profound impact on the natural environment, however respecting environmental limits and preserving ecological functions and services will support healthy communities now and into the future. Protecting residents from criminal activity and physical and emotional abuse, as well as ensuring safe built and natural environments, can support residents to access employment, education, opportunities for social and civic engagement, and recreation. In turn, equitable access to these opportunities can mitigate the impacts of violence and crime and foster trust within communities.

8. Accessible Human Services

Human services include healthcare; educational services; 911, fire and other emergency services; public libraries and community centers; and financial and legal services. Physical and economic access to these basic services for everyday living allows residents to maintain good health, treat illness, respond to emergencies, and be resilient to economic and personal crises.

9. Strong Connection to Arts, Culture & Recreation

A strong connection to arts and culture has the ability to provide residents with a sense of identity, shared pride and way to communicate across cultures. Engagement in the arts has the power to mobilize diverse communities and creates opportunities for residents to feel valued. Regular engagement in recreational activities provides opportunities to become socially engaged with others who share the same interests, to participate in physical activities that are enjoyable, to interact with nature, and to learn new skills for personal interest. Thus a strong connection to arts, culture and recreation is essential for health and wellbeing of the body, mind and spirit.

Although presented separately it is important to note that these determinants are all interconnected and that the principle of equity needs to be applied in efforts to achieve positive impacts within each distinct area. Use of an equity lens is therefore identified as crucial to the overall efficacy of this plan and its ability to support health and wellbeing for all populations within the region; not simply for those who are already experiencing positive outcomes. If health and wellbeing is the measure of a sustainable region, then equity is the tool (see Appendix A for a full overview of the principle of equity and use of an equity lens).



3.0 Identifying Key Issues

According to the CRD residents who took the 2015 Victoria Vital Signs Survey¹² the top five best things about the capital region are its natural environment, climate, air quality, walkability and parks. The CRD is a key contributor to these five features and overall the survey results suggest that the region is doing well in many areas when it comes to improving determinant number seven, *Healthy & Safe Environments*. However, survey participants also indicated a number of needs, which focus more on social conditions and standards of living (related determinants of health in bracketed text beside):

- More youth-friendly employers and better job training [*Economic Security; Thriving Children & Youth*]
- Improved income through adoption of living wage policies¹³ [*Economic Security*]
- Housing for people who are homeless and more affordable rental housing and home ownership [*Affordable & Appropriate Housing*]
- Access to sufficient and high quality food and support for local food production [*Food Security*]
- Literacy programs for vulnerable populations and affordable post-secondary education [*Lifelong Learning*]
- Access to affordable childcare and early childhood development initiatives [*Economic Security; Thriving Children & Youth*]

¹² Victoria's Vital Signs, 2015 http://www.victoriafoundation.bc.ca/sites/default/files/vital_signs/VS%202015/2015_VitalSigns_LR_WEB.pdf

¹³ A 'living wage' is the minimum income a family requires to cover basic expenses, such as food, clothing, shelter and transportation. A living wage does not cover additional expenses, such as credit cards, loans or interest payments; savings for retirement or for a child's university education; home ownership; the cost of caring for a disabled, ill or elderly family member; or savings for emergencies. Based on a two-parent family with two children and two family members working full-time, the Community Social Planning Council of Greater Victoria calculated a 2015 living wage of \$20.05 per hour per parent.

- Equitable opportunities for social and civic engagement [*Inclusive, Connected Communities*]
- Adequate transportation options, particularly for low-income or isolated seniors [*Inclusive, Connected Communities; Accessible Human Services*]
- Accessible healthcare and mental health services [*Accessible Human Services*]
- Affordable access to the arts and cultural and recreational opportunities [*Strong Connection to Arts, Culture & Recreation*]

A number of regional data sources support the need for many of these actions as they indicate high rates of poverty throughout the region¹⁴; limited affordable housing options¹⁵; lower educational attainment among traditionally marginalized groups¹⁶ and unaffordable educational opportunities¹⁷, and; lack of access to affordable arts, cultural and recreational opportunities¹⁸. Testimonials from members of the Child & Youth Health Network of the capital region also support a need for affordable, high quality childcare services in the region.

Another opportunity for feedback on regional issues was provided when CRD residents were asked to comment on an early version of the CRD's draft Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) update. Residents who responded to survey questions identified the following as the top five actions to increase sustainability¹⁹ in the capital region:

- Improve transit & active transportation [*Healthy & Safe Environments; Accessible Human Services*]

¹⁴ Statistics Canada, 2013: <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a47>

¹⁵ CRD Housing Data Book & Gap Analysis: <https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/regional-planning-pdf/capital-region-housing-data-book-and-gap-analysis-2015.pdf?sfvrsn=0>

¹⁶ BC Ministry of Education: <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/abed/perf2015.pdf>

¹⁷ Victoria Capital Region Community Wellbeing Survey: <https://uwaterloo.ca/canadian-index-wellbeing/sites/ca.canadian-index-wellbeing/files/uploads/files/ciw-victoria-communitywellbeingsurvey-report1-residentprofile-august2014.pdf>

¹⁸ Victoria Capital Region Community Wellbeing Survey: <https://uwaterloo.ca/canadian-index-wellbeing/sites/ca.canadian-index-wellbeing/files/uploads/files/ciw-victoria-communitywellbeingsurvey-report1-residentprofile-august2014.pdf>

¹⁹ As feedback was being gathered under the context of developing a Regional Growth Strategy, it is important to acknowledge that environmental sustainability was likely the primary lens through which most of these residents provided their feedback. Lack of priority given to social issues in this particular survey does not necessarily indicate a lack of importance; particularly when results of the Vital Signs Survey give high priority to social issues.

- Preserve rural areas and farm/food security [*Food Security; Healthy & Safe Environments*]
- Avoid sprawl and create compact complete communities [*Healthy & Safe Environments; Accessible Human Services*]
- Manage climate change and energy GHG and reduce fossil fuels [*Healthy & Safe Environments*]
- Protect ecosystems, green space, and natural habitats [*Healthy & Safe Environments*]

It is clear from the results of both the Vital Signs Survey and RGS Survey that environmental sustainability is a high priority for the region's population and the CRD. Efforts to support the attainment of this goal could be strengthened through greater equity (see Appendix A); an endeavor that should resonate with the diverse residents of the capital region. Those living in poverty, with lower educational attainment or without homes or sufficient food face greater barriers to becoming stewards of the environment and participating in a dynamic, vibrant economy. Through improving the social conditions for residents of the capital region across the social gradient, greater environmental and economic sustainability can be achieved.

4.0 Responding to Regional Needs

The CRD is already committed to working to address a number of the aforementioned determinants of health and wellbeing, most notably through initiatives related to *Affordable & Appropriate Housing, Food Security, Healthy & Safe Environments, and Accessible Human Services* (see Appendix C, Table C1 for a full list of CRD initiatives and their related determinants of health). However, adapting to growth in the region requires a response to those issues identified by residents in the Vital Signs Survey that contribute to the remaining social determinants.

Municipalities and community agencies throughout the region are working to improve the health of their residents; however, there is fragmented action and a need for greater coordination between efforts and initiatives. To more comprehensively address regional health and wellbeing priorities, the CRD could serve a coordinating role to support municipalities and community through the following five commitments (see Appendix C, Table C2 for the implications of these commitments):

Commitment 1: Developing an Equity Lens Framework

A draft Equity Lens Framework was developed by the CRD's Health and Capital Planning Strategies Division in the spring of 2015 and was reviewed with a number of stakeholders, including planners from the CRD, member municipalities, local planning agencies and Island Health. In order to be the best resource for local planners and partner agencies, the CRD could continue the development of this framework through further consultation with its partners. Once finalized, this framework can be used to inform equitable decision-making within the CRD as an agency and throughout the capital region. This will contribute to the creation and operation of policies, programs and services that better meet the needs of all residents. This commitment would help improve outcomes related to all determinants of health and wellbeing (see Appendix A).

Commitment 2: Expanding Regional Information Services

Through the Regional and Strategic Planning Division the CRD currently provides Census and transportation data to its member municipalities. Consultation with local planners in December 2013 brought to light an interest in the CRD expanding this role and acting as a social planning resource for municipalities and other partners. To support this interest, the CRD could offer Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping and analysis of regional demographic and social data to assist municipalities and community agencies in achieving improved health and wellbeing outcomes. An example of this role could include highlighting the locations where at-risk populations are living within the various municipalities and electoral areas and suggesting strategies to mitigate risks and improve circumstances through creative land use and transportation planning. The CRD could also support municipalities through the provision of social planning tools, such as the Equity Lens Framework, and professional development opportunities related to health and wellbeing (i.e., workshops and forums). This commitment would help the CRD and its partners to act across all determinants of health and wellbeing.

Commitment 3: Building on Partnerships

The CRD engages dozens of organizations and networks in the region for input on various programs, services and initiatives. To build on existing relationships and establish new ones, the CRD could proactively engage its partners to identify mutual benefits and opportunities for collaboration to improve community health and wellbeing. Participating on committees, hosting forums and

workshops, sharing knowledge and ideas, and identifying best practices would not only lend value to the work of CRD partners, but would also inform decision-making at the CRD. Staff would have a better understanding of what is happening throughout the region, what work is being done in different areas by different partners, and where potential overlaps or gaps in service exist. An inventory of regional health and wellbeing programs, services and initiatives could be developed and made accessible to municipal and community partners. This commitment would help to enhance existing partnerships, build new ones, identify regional gaps in service and will provide opportunities to improve those determinants of health and wellbeing that require a greater focus.

Commitment 4: Creating Internal Linkages

Every program, service and initiative of the CRD has an impact on the health and wellbeing of residents; however, the linkages between them and how they jointly contribute to a more equitable and healthy region is often unclear. Coordination between the works of diverse divisions can be strengthened and opportunities to identify connections and share knowledge can be increased. Through an internal Linkages Committee, the CRD could look more closely at how each division is interconnected, how progress and outcomes are measured or how they could be measured, and how each unique program or service contributes to the CRD's vision. This would also provide an opportunity for CRD staff to learn about tools such as the proposed Equity Lens Framework; including how to utilize these tools to inform or support their work. This commitment would provide coordination within the CRD as an agency and would help to identify strengths and potential weaknesses in services and initiatives related to all determinants of health and wellbeing.

Commitment 5: Tracking Regional Progress

Many regional initiatives are underway to improve community health and wellbeing; however, a significant challenge lies in tracking the progress these initiatives make towards a regional vision. Reliable regional data is limited and what is currently being measured is often insufficient or challenging to access. To fill this gap, a multi-sectoral collaborative known as the Regional

Outcomes Monitoring (ROM) Collaborative²⁰ - in which the CRD is currently a member - is working to develop a comprehensive profile of community health and wellbeing. This profile will be used to inform policy and funding decisions, establish priority areas in need of attention, and report out on progress made toward a shared vision of equitable and healthy communities in the region. Once metrics have been identified, the Collaborative plans to create a database where all health and wellbeing data for the region can be stored and accessed by partner agencies. The Collaborative will then analyze this data and report out on regional progress toward each health and wellbeing outcome. This commitment – continued participation in ROM - would help to highlight regional strengths, but also identify gaps or areas in need of greater attention across all determinants of health and wellbeing.

5.0 Acting on the Determinants of Health & Wellbeing

In addition to the five commitments above, which contribute to all social determinants of health and wellbeing, the CRD could also take action through more specific policies and initiatives. The table below outlines suggested actions as they relate to the social determinants not yet comprehensively addressed by the CRD. These are a selection of potential CRD actions that were developed in consultation with members of the ROM Collaborative.

²⁰ While the primary coordination and administrative support for the ROM Collaborative comes from the Health and Capital Planning Strategies Division of the CRD, other ROM members include representatives from Island Health, United Way of Greater Victoria, University of Victoria, Community Social Planning Council, Children’s Health Foundation of Vancouver Island, Victoria Foundation, Eldercare Foundation and the Horner Foundation.

Table 1. Suggested CRD actions, implications and the associated determinant of health they most influence.

Determinants of Health & Wellbeing	CRD Actions	Implications
<i>Economic Security</i>	Action 1.1: Adopt a living wage policy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Requires that all CRD employees and service providers to the CRD earn, at a minimum, a living wage. Based on the 2015 Living Wage calculated by the Community Social Planning Council, this would cost the CRD approximately \$21,000 per year in additional staff wages. There is also the potential for contractors to raise their prices if they are paying their staff a living wage while working on CRD property; this could result in a higher cost to the CRD for these services.
<i>Affordable & Appropriate Housing</i>	Already have a strong role here – See Appendix C, Table C1 for detailed services and initiatives.	
<i>Food Security</i>	Already have a strong role here – See Appendix C, Table C1 for detailed services and initiatives.	
<i>Thriving Children & Youth</i>	<p>Action 1.2: Establish a Child and Youth Health Commission of the CRD.</p> <p>Action 1.3: Conduct a regional childcare review and gap analysis.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To conduct research and make evidence-informed recommendations to the CRD Board and the wider community for the purpose of improving the health and wellbeing of young people in the region. Approximate annual operating cost of \$70,000. ○ To identify childcare needs within each municipality and to review municipal policy tools available to improve access to childcare. Approximate cost of \$30,000. Update every two years at a cost of \$10,000 per update.

<p><i>Lifelong Learning</i></p>	<p>Action 1.4: Develop guidelines which ensure ongoing opportunities for diverse residents to learn about the CRD and regional governance, participate in community engagement processes and be involved in decision-making.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Suggest hiring a consultant to develop public engagement guidelines that will be more inclusive of diverse, often excluded, populations.
<p><i>Inclusive, Connected Communities</i></p>	<p>Action 1.5: Develop guidelines around using plain language and provide interpretation services during service delivery and public engagement processes.</p> <p>Action 1.6: Work with community agencies to publicize CRD employment and volunteer opportunities to immigrant groups and other traditionally excluded groups.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Existing staff time to develop guidelines. Plain language consultant on retainer (if no capacity within existing staff time) to review public engagement materials prior to events. Approximate cost of \$75/hour. ○ Continue to participate on the Community Partnership Network (CPN) and use as a forum for sharing job opportunities with partner agencies such as the Inter-Cultural Association.
<p><i>Healthy & Safe Environments</i></p>	<p>Action 1.7: Adopt a Municipal Alcohol Policy (MAP) to regulate alcohol use at CRD recreational facilities and any CRD events which serve alcohol.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Implementing a MAP requires public engagement and Board support. Having a MAP facilitates community education about alcohol and its associated issues. Specific guidelines for developing a MAP have been prepared by the Ministry of Health in collaboration with BC Health Communities. Grant funding of up to \$7000 is available through BC Healthy Communities to develop and implement a MAP.
<p><i>Accessible Human Services</i></p>	<p>Already have a strong role here – See Appendix C, Table C1 for detailed services and initiatives.</p>	

<p><i>Strong Connection to Arts, Culture & Recreation</i></p>	<p>Action 1.8: Develop and adopt a Corporate Public Art Policy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Existing staff time to research and develop policy. Such a policy would contribute to accessible art opportunities, diverse cultural character and celebration of heritage, employment opportunities, a more culturally informed public and visually appealing environments.
---	--	--

DRAFT

6.0 Conclusion

The CRD plays a prominent role in improving many social determinants of health and wellbeing, including but not limited to the provision of affordable housing; strategies to increase the use of active modes of transportation; initiatives aimed at protecting ecosystems, and; the development of strategies to improve food security and promote local food production. In these and other areas the CRD continues to be a leader. However, resident voices and regional data have indicated a need for a more comprehensive approach to improving the social conditions of diverse residents and supporting improved health and wellbeing outcomes.

A truly sustainable region is one that is socially, environmentally and economically sustainable. Putting people first, that is focusing on the social pillar of sustainability, serves not only to improve health and wellbeing but also to protect the environment and support a vibrant and diverse economy. Through the five long-term commitments and eight specific actions of this CHW Plan the CRD has the opportunity to create lasting partnerships with diverse sectors, build on its strengths, and contribute to improved health and wellbeing outcomes for all residents of the capital region.

Appendix A

What is equity?

Equity can be defined as fairness and equality of rights, opportunities, access and participation in community. It is the equal distribution of power, income, goods and services. In contrast, inequities are differences which are unethical, systemic, unfair, and avoidable. In less equitable societies resources and opportunities are differentially distributed on the basis of gender, income, educational attainment, race, and other measures of disadvantage.²¹ Peoples' abilities to fulfill their basic needs and live a healthy and fulfilling life are affected by these inequities, which then have significant impacts on sustainability.

Why is it important to health and wellbeing and sustainability?

Inequitable societies face serious health consequences, not just for the most disadvantaged groups. Looking specifically at income differences, a growing body of research shows decreased life expectancy and higher rates of adult and infant mortality, mental illness and obesity in more inequitable societies.²² High levels of income inequality can also decrease economic stability and increase debt and inflation, all damaging to developed economic and social systems. Income inequality can also result in low levels of social mobility, which means that children are more likely to follow in the socioeconomic footsteps of their parents (i.e., the children of high earners are more likely to be highly paid and the children of low earners are more likely to be poorly paid).²³ Greater inequity is also associated with higher crime rates and lower levels of trust, less social and civic participation, and less engagement in cultural activities.

The root causes of inequities are outside the reach of the healthcare system alone, requiring that other relevant sectors take action on the social determinants to ensure health and wellbeing for all. Achieving, or at minimum improving, equity is not only socially

²¹ Health Disparities Task Group of the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Advisory Committee on Population Health and Health Security, 2005

²² Equality Trust, 2014; Wilkinson & Pickett, 2009 "The Spirit Level"

²³ Wilkinson & Pickett, 2009 "The Spirit Level"

sustainable, but it allows for greater economic participation and productivity. To promote positive action it is helpful to apply an equity lens during policy, service and program development and evaluation to mitigate or even eliminate inequities.

What is an Equity Lens Framework?

An Equity Lens Framework is a guide that would summarize what equity means, why it is important, and how it can be applied across all aspects of planning. It would identify the at-risk population groups that need to be considered during planning and would encourage policy-makers and program planners to consider the unintended consequences of their decisions. The best intentions can often have detrimental impacts on vulnerable people in society; when programs or policies are developed to improve the health or social conditions for people who are already doing well, the social gradient is made steeper and vulnerable populations suffer. This is not the intention of such programs or policies; this is the unintended consequence. An Equity Lens Framework would provide the tool to help mitigate these consequences and develop policies and programs that benefit all members of society; particularly those who may be marginalized.

Appendix B

Capital Regional District (CRD) Mandate & Role

The CRD addresses community health and wellbeing through the explicit mandate of the Capital Regional Hospital District and the CRD's Public Health Letters Patent. The Health and Capital Planning Strategies Division is responsible for planning, operational and administrative support in each of these areas.

Capital Regional Hospital District (CRHD)

As a subsidiary of the CRD, the CRHD is responsible for the following program areas:

- *Healthcare Facilities* – Working with Island Health to plan improvements or expansion to the region's acute care facilities and related services, and share the cost with the provincial government of resulting capital projects; and
- *Community Health* - Working with a cross-section of government and community agencies to ensure the most vibrant and healthy region possible.

Public Health

Through Section 16 of its Health Letters Patent, the CRD is granted the exclusive jurisdiction by its municipalities to regulate public health matters by bylaw. Public Health bylaws promote and protect the health of the people within the CRD by regulating health hazards or health impediments. In delivering these services, the CRD Board adopts public health-related bylaws and coordinates education and enforcement with Island Health.

Health and Capital Planning Strategies (HCPS) Division

CRD community health and wellbeing policies and services are developed and implemented through the CRD's HCPS Division. The Division works to strengthen the wellbeing of at-risk populations in a number of ways including:

- Research and policy development in areas related to healthcare infrastructure and social and community wellbeing;
- Planning and implementing public health bylaws under the CRD's powers to legislate public health measures;
- Providing policy and funding coordination between the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness, Island Health, CRD Regional Housing and other community partners around issues related to mental health, addictions, social services and affordable housing;
- Monitoring the broader healthcare system and the healthcare needs of the region's residents, and advocating for equitable healthcare and facility funding; and,
- Providing policy advice and information to the Board on the implications of provincial and Island Health policies and plans.

Statutory Authority and Policy Direction

The following provincial legislation and policy frameworks provide the statutory authority and broad policy direction for the CRD in the area of community health and wellbeing:

- Health Letters Patent (1974) – exclusive jurisdiction to regulate public health matters
- *Recreational Facility Act* (1996)
- *Local Government Act* (2004), section 523 – public health bylaw making authority
- Community Charter (2004), section 9
- Public Health Bylaws Regulation [BC Reg. 42/2004]
- *Public Health Act* (2008)
- *Hospital District Act* (1967)

- *Municipal Finance Authority Act (1970)*
- *Hospital Act (1996)*

DRAFT

Appendix C

Table C1. Current CRD services and initiatives related to health and wellbeing.

	Determinants of Health & Wellbeing	Public Services	Policies	Programs & Initiatives	External Partnerships	Capital Infrastructure	Funding
1	Economic Security		Regional Growth Strategy; Towards a Resilient Salt Spring Plan	Traditional Shellfish Harvesting Motion; Regional Parks	Regional Parks/T'Sou-Ke First Nation (Sooke Potholes); Regional Parks Elk/Beaver Lake Recreational Use Advisory Group; SSI Community Economic Development Commission; SGI Economic Development Commission		
2	Affordable & Appropriate Housing	Building Permits & Inspections	Secondary & detached accessory suites in Juan de Fuca OCP	Regional Housing First Strategy; Regional Housing Affordability Strategy	Homelessness Partnering Strategy; Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness	Capital Region Housing Corporation	Regional Housing Trust Fund
3	Food Security		Regional Growth Strategy (TBD)	CRD Food & Agriculture Strategy; Southern Gulf Islands Food & Agriculture Strategy; Traditional Shellfish Harvesting Motion; Promotion of Keyline rainwater management	Traditional Shellfish Harvesting Motion		
4	Thriving Children & Youth	Event Booking	Public Health and Environmental Bylaws	Regional Parks programs; SEAPARC & Panorama; SSI Parks & Recreation Service; Watershed curriculum and activities for schools; Watershed education; Climate action education in regional elementary schools; Climate Action Program; Active & Safe Routes to School Project	Child & Youth Health Network of the Capital Region; Regional Parks/Saanich Parks & Recreation Nature Preschool	SSI Library; SGI Parks & Recreation; SSI Parks & Recreation Service; Regional Parks	SGI Parks & Recreation; SGI Public Library
5	Lifelong Learning	Public Tours; Event Booking; Arts Funding		Regional Parks environmental interpretive public and school programs; SEAPARC & Panorama; SSI		SSI Public Library; SGI Parks & Recreation; SSI	Arts Development Service; Sooke

DRAFT CRD Community Health & Wellbeing Plan - 2016

	Determinants of Health & Wellbeing	Public Services	Policies	Programs & Initiatives	External Partnerships	Capital Infrastructure	Funding
				Parks & Recreation Service; Watershed curriculum and activities for schools; Watershed education; Climate action education in regional elementary schools; Climate Action Program		Parks & Recreation Service; Regional Parks	Region Historical Society; SGI Public Library; SSI Public Library; SGI Parks & Recreation
6	Inclusive, Connected Communities		Regional Growth Strategy	Aboriginal Initiatives; Active Transportation & Healthy Communities Program; Traditional Shellfish Harvesting Motion; Climate Action Program; Resilient Regional Breakfast Series; Regional Parks	Active Transportation & Healthy Communities Program; Traditional Shellfish Harvesting Motion; Regional Parks/T'Sou-Ke First Nation Partnerships; Member of Community Partnership Network; Observer for the BC Healthy Living Alliance; Participant in BC Healthy Communities Network		
7	Healthy & Safe Environments	Waste & Recycling; Fire & Emergency Programs; Sewers, Wastewater & Septic; Building Permits & Inspections; Drinking Water; Animals & Pets; Community Clean-Up Program; Commuting & Cycling; Transit & Transportation (SSI)	Public Health and Environmental Bylaws; Regional Growth Strategy; Regional Trails Management Plan; Island View Beach Management Plan; Brooks Point Management Plan; DRAFT SGI and SSI Regional Trails Planning; Pedestrian & Cycling Master Plan; North Ganges Transportation Management Plan	Active Transportation & Healthy Communities Program; DRAFT Community Climate Action Strategy; Regional Parks Bylaw Enforcement Program; Regional Parks Fire Suppression Program; Cross Connection Control Program; Regional Source Control Program; Onsite Waste Management Program; Climate Action Program; Watershed monitoring; Integrated Watershed Management Program	Cross Connection Control Program; Regional Source Control Program; Onsite Waste Management Program; Capital Regional Invasive Species Partnership; Municipal and Community watershed management groups; Area-based initiatives for watershed and harbours; Regional Parks Bylaw Enforcement Program; Observer for the BC Healthy Living Alliance; Participant in BC Healthy Communities Network	Juan de Fuca Land Use Planning; Regional Parks Infrastructure Upgrade Program	Parkland Acquisition Fund

DRAFT CRD Community Health & Wellbeing Plan - 2016

	Determinants of Health & Wellbeing	Public Services	Policies	Programs & Initiatives	External Partnerships	Capital Infrastructure	Funding
8	Accessible Human Services	Transit & Transportation (SSI); Commuting & Cycling; Docks & Moorage; Fire & Emergency Programs; Animals & Pets	Regional Transportation Plan; Regional Trails Management Plan; DRAFT SGI and SSI Regional Trails Planning; DRAFT SGI Cycling & Pedestrian Trail Plan; North Ganges Transportation Management Plan; Pedestrian & Cycling Master Plan; Pedestrian & Cycling Master Plan: SSI Edition	2016 Traffic & Bicycle Count Program; Active Transportation & Healthy Communities Program	Active Transportation & Healthy Communities Program; Facilitator of Inter-Municipal Transportation Network; Observer for the BC Healthy Living Alliance; Participant in BC Healthy Communities Network; SSI Transportation Commission	Acute Care Facilities; Residential Care Facilities; Non-Traditional Health Capital; Juan de Fuca Land Use Planning; Regional Trails; Regional Docks	Health Capital Equipment; Acute Care Facilities; Residential Care Facilities; Non-Traditional Health Capital
9	Strong Connection to Arts, Culture & Recreation	Arts Funding; Parks & Recreation		Aboriginal Initiatives; Traditional Shellfish Harvesting Motion; SSI Parks & Recreation Service; Regional Parks; SEAPARC & Panorama	Aboriginal Initiatives; Traditional Shellfish Harvesting Motion; harbours and shoreline environmental monitoring and coordination of restoration/remediation projects; Regional Parks Elk/Beaver Lake Recreational Use Advisory Group; Regional Parks and Saanich Parks & Recreation Nature Preschool; SSI Parks & Recreation Commission	SSI Library; SGI Parks & Recreation; SSI Parks & Recreation Service; Regional Parks	Arts Development Service; Sooke Region Historical Society; SSI Arts; SSI Library; McPherson Playhouse & Royal Theatre; SSI Parks & Recreation Service

Table C2. Implications of suggested CRD commitments.

Commitment	Timeline	Cost	Updates & Reporting
<i>1. Developing an Equity Lens Framework</i>	Six months to develop and consult on the draft framework; Ongoing training on use of the framework.	Estimated \$50,000 including consulting staff time and consultation forums. Or % of new FTE plus \$10,000 for consultation.	Evaluation of Framework will be ongoing; updates will be considered every five years.
<i>2. Expanding Regional Information Services</i>	Ongoing	\$7000 annually for GIS support and data purchasing; \$15,000 annually for events, workshops and forums.	Every five years (based on Census data) or sooner if other data is made available.
<i>3. Building on Partnerships</i>	Ongoing	No additional cost. Staff person to participate on committees, plan forums, and create and maintain inventory of regional initiatives and tools.	As needed. Likely on an annual basis.
<i>4. Creating Internal Linkages</i>	Bi-monthly meetings; Ongoing	No additional cost. Existing staff time to participate on internal working group and attend bi-monthly meetings. % staff time to coordinate and facilitate meetings.	TBD. Committee members will develop a method for reporting out on outcomes and progress towards them. Likely annual updates.
<i>5. Tracking Regional Progress</i>	Quarterly meetings; Ongoing	Cost of data-purchasing TBD. Staff time to coordinate and facilitate meetings and contribute to actions of the ROM Collaborative.	ROM will likely report out every two to five years based on available new data.

*Cost of these commitments does not include staff time. If beyond the capacity of existing staff, a requirement for a new FTE may need to be addressed in future service planning.

Grant Funding Agreement

Between: Vancouver Island Health Authority ("Island Health")
1952 Bay Street
Victoria BC V8R 1J8

OF THE FIRST PART

And: Capital Regional District
625 Fisgard Street
Victoria BC V8W 1R7

OF THE SECOND PART

WHEREAS:

Island Health wishes to provide a grant to the Recipient, based on the terms and conditions hereinafter set forth.

The Recipient is eligible for the grant as determined by Island Health.

The Recipient is a Regional District in the province of British Columbia

NOW THEREFORE in consideration of the premises and covenants and agreements set out in this Agreement and for other good and valuable consideration (the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged by the parties), the parties agree as follows:

PAYMENT OF FUNDS

Island Health will disburse \$186,667.00 (the "Grant") in one-time funding to the Recipient upon signing of this Agreement, on or before March 8, 2016.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, in no event will Island Health be or become obligated to the Recipient pursuant to this Agreement for an amount exceeding, in the aggregate, \$186,667.00.

The provision of the Grant pursuant to this Agreement is for the purposes outlined below.

PURPOSE

Island Health will provide funding to the Recipient for the purpose of developing population level interventions that address the five modifiable risk factors (Unhealthy weight - overweight/obesity; Physical inactivity; Unhealthy eating; Tobacco use; and Harmful alcohol use), frail seniors, and mental health and substance use either directly or in partnership with other local community organizations, including Community Health Networks (the "Purpose").

The Recipient acknowledges that it is solely liable for the carrying out of the Purpose and will indemnify and save harmless Island Health from and against all claims, demands, losses, damages, costs of any kind based upon any injury or death of a person or damage to or loss of property arising from any willful or negligent act, omission or delay on the part of the Recipient or any of its employees, directors, officers, agents or parties with whom it has contracted, in carrying out the Purpose.

The Recipient acknowledges that, except as expressly set out herein, nothing in this Agreement will oblige Island Health to provide any future funding for the Purpose.

PUBLICITY

The Recipient will not make a public announcement concerning the Purpose without the prior consent of Island Health. Island Health may make a public announcement concerning the giving of the grant for the Purpose with or without the prior consent of the Recipient.

TERMINATION/REFUNDING

If the Grant is to be paid in more than one installment, Island Health reserves the right to cancel future installment payments upon [60] days' prior written notice to the Recipient in the event that in the opinion of Island Health, cancellation of future installment payments are necessary due to: (a) a material breach of this Agreement by the Recipient; (b) any Ministerial directive or change to funding available to Island Health which necessitates termination of future payments.

If the Recipient determines that it does not require the entire amount of the Grant in order to carry out the Purpose, the Recipient shall notify Island Health with 14 days of such determination and the parties will negotiate in good faith to determine how the remaining balance of the Grant shall be deployed. If the Recipient and Island Health are unable to reach such agreement within 60 days of the date the Recipient notifies Island Health of its determination, the Recipient will deliver the remaining balance of the Grant to Island Health and Island Health shall have no further liability to the Recipient in respect thereof.

NOTICE

Any notice contemplated by this agreement, to be effective, must be in writing and be:

- (a) sent by fax to the addressee's fax number specified in this Agreement,
- (b) delivered by hand to the addressee's address specified in this Agreement, or
- (c) mailed by prepaid registered mail to the addressee's address specified in this Agreement.

If there is no postal strike either pending or in existence at the time of mailing any notice mailed in accordance with sub-paragraph (c) is deemed to be received 48 hours after mailing. Either of the parties may give notice to the other of a substitute address of fax number from time to time.

If to the Recipient:

Capital Regional District
625 Fisgard Street, Victoria BC V8W 1R7
Fax number: 250-360-3130
Attention: Robert Lapham, Chief Administrative Officer

If to Island Health:

Vancouver Island Health Authority
1952 Bay Street
Victoria, BC V8R 1J8
Fax number: 250-740-2669
Attention: Antoinette O'Keeffe, VP Communications & Public Relations

REPORTING

At any time and from time to time, within 14 days of a request by Island Health, the Recipient will provide to Island Health, a report in the form and manner prescribed by Island Health, showing the expenditures made to date and the estimated future expenditures, from the Grant.

The Recipient will:

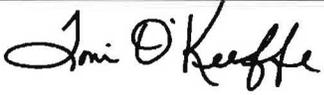
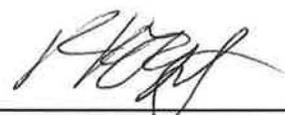
- (a) permit Island Health or its nominee, at all reasonable times and upon reasonable prior notice, to inspect the records and accounts of the Recipient required to be maintained pursuant to this Agreement;
- (b) permit Island Health or its nominee, at any reasonable time, to have access to the site of any work undertaken pursuant to the Purpose; and
- (c) ensure that proper and accurate accounts and records are maintained in respect of the Grant, including the ability to account for all such funds separately from the Recipient's other revenue and spending, and, upon reasonable notice, will make such accounts and records available for inspection by Island Health, or its nominee, at all reasonable times.

Island Health may, at its own expense, appoint an auditor to undertake an audit of the Recipient's accounts, records, documents and other relevant information, to prepare, to determine if Recipient's use of the Grant is for the Purpose and in accordance with the requirements of this Agreement. The Recipient must make available to the auditors all relevant accounts, records, documents and other information the auditors request from time to time for the completion of such audits within 7 days of receiving a request.

If an audit reveals an error in documenting the expenditures, the Recipient must repay any portion of the Grant which was not used for the Purpose or in accordance with the requirements of this Agreement.

COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS

The Recipient will comply with the laws of British Columbia and the federal laws of Canada applicable therein, including, without limitation, all statutes and regulations relating to or concerning environmental or human rights matters.

SIGNED AND DELIVERED by VANCOUVER ISLAND HEALTH AUTHORITY by its authorized signatory:	SIGNED AND DELIVERED by [RECIPIENT] by its authorized signatory:
	
Name: Antoinette O'Keeffe	Name: <u>ROBERT LATHAM, CAU</u>
Date: February 19, 2016	Date: <u>FEBRUARY 7, 2016</u>

Addressing the Purpose of the CRD/VIHA Grant

Grant Requirement to Contribute to Addressing:	Commitments & Actions of the CHW Plan that Address the Purpose
Modifiable Risk Factors:	
<i>Unhealthy weight</i>	Living with an unhealthy weight can be the result of many factors, including but not limited to physical inactivity, unhealthy eating, alcohol use, high levels of stress and insufficient sleep. Addressing the modifiable risk factors through more equitable planning practices internally and externally (Commitments 1 & 4), partnership building (Commitment 3), and provision of demographic data for more informed social planning (Commitment 2) could serve to mitigate this risk factor at a more upstream level while supporting community efforts downstream. Establishing a Child & Youth Health Commission (Action 1.2) would help to protect the health and wellbeing of children and youth in the region.
<i>Physical inactivity</i>	Much of the capital region is reliant on automobiles, reducing opportunities for informal physical activity. Expanding Regional Information Services (Commitment 2) would allow for the identification of neighbourhoods that lack active transportation infrastructure or access to frequent public transit. Building on partnerships (Commitment 3) would ensure regional information is relayed to the appropriate people for collaborative action. An Equity Lens Framework (Commitment 1) would ensure regional policies, programs and services are reaching those who are often excluded from opportunities for healthy activity. Implementing a Living Wage Policy (Action 1.1) would help more people to be able to afford diverse recreational opportunities. Establishing a Child & Youth Health Commission (Action 1.2) would help to protect the health and wellbeing of children and youth in the region.
<i>Unhealthy eating</i>	Eating unhealthy foods on a regular basis is often the result of two things: insufficient income to purchase healthier choices, and poor food literacy (many people lack the knowledge of what foods to buy and how to prepare them in a nutritious, flavourful way). Improving economic security through the adoption of a living wage policy (Action 1.1) would increase incomes for many and could encourage other organizations to follow suit and adopt similar policies. An Equity Lens Framework and Internal Linkages Committee (Commitments 1 & 4) would help to ensure CRD programs and services are supporting vulnerable, often excluded population groups. Expanding Regional Information Services (Commitment 2) would allow for GIS mapping of food venues in the region layered with demographic data; highlighting food desserts and areas in need of greater support. Implementing a Living Wage Policy (Action 1.1) would allow more people to purchase healthier, often more expensive, food options. Establishing a Child & Youth Health Commission (Action 1.2)

	would help to protect the health and wellbeing of children and youth in the region.
<i>Tobacco use</i>	Prevalence of smoking remains highest among those who are marginalized, particularly people living with low-income and those with mental health issues. Reducing inequities and improving social conditions of those who are marginalized (all Commitments & Actions) will support residents to make healthier choices and seek supports to quit smoking. Establishing a Child & Youth Health Commission (Action 1.2) would help to protect the health and wellbeing of children and youth in the region and lessen the chance that they will use tobacco in the future.
<i>Harmful alcohol use</i>	Action 1.7 of the Plan speaks directly to the issue of alcohol abuse and suggests a clear role for the CRD. The Plan calls for the development of a Municipal Alcohol Policy (MAP) to reduce alcohol use at CRD recreation facilities and events and to educate the public about the risks associated with alcohol consumption. Abuse of alcohol can also be associated with mental health issues and poor standards of living so increasing equity in the region could serve to mitigate this risk over the long term (Commitment 1).
Frail Seniors	The CRD is currently engaged in activities to mitigate the social isolation of older adults. However, expanding regional information services (Commitment 2) would help CRD and its partners to identify neighbourhoods with a high proportion of older adults and allow them to better plan for this often vulnerable population. Continuing to build partnerships (Commitment 3) with community organizations will ensure older adults stay healthy for longer and have the supports they need when their health does start to decline.
Mental Health & Substance Use Issues	Mental health and substance use issues are linked to all social determinants of health and wellbeing. More comprehensively addressing these determinants through partnerships (Commitment 3), equitable planning practices (Commitments 1 & 4) and monitoring of regional health and wellbeing outcomes (Commitment 5) will support mental wellness and reduce substance use among all residents. Establishing a Child & Youth Health Commission (Action 1.2) would help to protect the mental health of children and youth in the region and prevent their future substance use.



**REPORT TO PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2016**

SUBJECT **Draft Regional Food and Agriculture Strategy**

ISSUE

To receive the draft Regional Food and Agriculture Strategy and provide direction on the process for finalizing recommendations.

BACKGROUND

In response to community interest in food issues, the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board, on July 13, 2011, directed staff to develop a Strategy that would, as part of the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) update process, explore regional issues relating to food security.

On March 9, 2016, the Board directed staff to develop food systems content for the Board's consideration for inclusion in the draft 2016 RGS. That content will be advanced for Committee of the Whole discussion following informal municipal referral of the RGS. The draft Regional Food and Agriculture Strategy will inform development of the proposed content.

DISCUSSION

The draft Regional Food and Agriculture Strategy (Appendix 1) identifies stakeholder perspectives on how the CRD can, along with its partners, work towards creating a healthier and more resilient local food system.

Stakeholders involved in the process of developing the Strategy included representatives from: Island Health, municipalities, First Nations communities, CR-FAIR, rural farmers, urban farmers, and the Victoria Foundation.

The vision for the region's food system is a *vibrant, valued and evolving local food and agricultural economy that is rooted in the principles of interdependence, reciprocity and respect; that recalls and re-establishes the intimate and important relationships between our land and waters, our food, and our community.*

The Strategy is intended to complement municipal agricultural plans and provincial legislation/policy. Regional districts, municipalities and electoral areas do not have a specific mandate over food and agriculture. Having said that, the food and agriculture sector is impacted by CRD services such as water delivery, environmental protection and conservation, watershed education and drinking watershed protection and management, liquid and solid waste management (including rural septic programs), invasive species eradication, native plant restoration, and more recently, wildlife (deer, geese, beaver, bullfrog) management. The draft Strategy identifies how these services relate to food and agriculture.

The draft Strategy recommends:

1. Support for regional, cross-sector relationships;
2. Improvement of the CRD's ability to address regional food and agriculture issues;
3. Development of regional organic-matter recycling approaches that benefit food and agriculture;

4. Addressing chronic drainage issues;
5. Establishment of programs to address existing and emerging regional wildlife and invasive species issues;
6. Maintaining and improving access to irrigation water;
7. Encouragement of a place-based regional food culture;
8. Support for Aboriginal food and agriculture-related activities, projects and events;
9. Increase access to agricultural and food lands; and
10. Support for regional food and agriculture economic development strategies.

The recommendations are intended to respond to the most pressing regional issues and opportunities identified through the consultation process. Recommendations have also been selected on the basis that they build on existing initiatives. The strategy considers both urban and rural agriculture with a specific focus on actions that have immediate and significant impacts on the ability of farmers to produce food and for consumers to access local food.

Staff have reviewed the recommendations and have, within the context of the Strategy (Appendix 1, Implementation Section 6) noted the potential role of the CRD with respect to each of the proposed actions.

The recommendations within the Strategy are as submitted by the consultants on the basis of stakeholder input. Further deliberations will likely be required by the Board to determine how the recommended actions relate to Board priorities and/or other initiatives underway.

ALTERNATIVES

That the Planning, Transportation and Protective Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board:

1. That the draft Regional Food and Agriculture Strategy be:
 - a. Received for information;
 - b. Used by staff to inform content for the Regional Growth Strategy food systems section that the Board on March 9, 2016 requested staff bring forward for Committee of the Whole consideration; and
 - c. Advanced for further discussion at a Forum of Councils targeted for fall 2016.
2. That the draft Regional Food and Agriculture Strategy be approved and used by staff to inform content for the Regional Growth Strategy food systems section that the Board on March 9, 2016 requested staff bring forward for Committee of the Whole consideration.
3. That the report be referred back to staff for further review based on Committee direction.

IMPLICATIONS

Strategic Priorities Implications

The Strategy relates to six strategic priorities identified in the Board's 2015-2018 CRD Strategic Plan:

1. Establish educational programming to promote local food and its benefits.
2. Enable others and advocate for supportive agricultural programs and policies by provincial and federal governments.

3. Work with partners to find a solution to the lack of an abattoir and other related farming infrastructure in the region or on the Island.
4. Develop a regional agricultural land banking solution.
5. Establish additional incentives and new policies to promote and encourage farming in the region.
6. Develop policies to support agri-tourism.

Municipal Implications

Municipal zoning bylaws, Official Community Plans (OCPs) and Agricultural Area Plans (AAPs) were reviewed during the Strategy process. The Strategy is intended to complement existing municipal initiatives, not supplant them. Municipal staff involved in the process were supportive of strategy recommendations. A Forum of Councils would provide an opportunity for municipal Council input prior to the Board determining how the Strategy would be implemented and prior to formal referral of the RGS.

Social Implications

The Strategy recommendations aim to improve food literacy and create a more sustainable food system where local food can be accessed by all residents. CRD staff worked with the Victoria Foundation on their food system approach which focuses on community scale food systems such as skill building, food programs, school programs, food connections, food availability, food adequacy and affordability. The exchange of information informed Strategy recommendations relating to education and community health and wellbeing.

Environmental Implications

Flooding is an ongoing issue for farms in low lying areas, especially on the Peninsula. Flooding limits planting, creates habitat for unwanted wildlife such as geese and washes away soil nutrients. The Strategy recommends increasing drainage in the flood prone areas to reduce flooding.

Run-off from urban areas can contaminate soils and create undesirable growing conditions. Storm water runoff can also contaminate inter-tidal areas that First Nations communities use to harvest food. The Strategy recommends increased effort to address these issues.

Soil betterments are of ongoing farmer concern. Farmers continue to ask that recycled organic matter be returned to them so that it can be used to maintain soil quality and enhance food production. The Strategy responds by recommending that the food and agriculture sector's perspective be considered in future planning for organic matter recycling.

Climate Change Implications

Climate change will likely result in fluctuation of energy costs, water availability and agricultural production. Those changes will draw attention to regional food system resilience. The Strategy responds by recommending protection of farm and food lands. Farm and food lands sequester carbon and reduce reliance on imported food. Local food reduces greenhouse gas emissions resulting from transportation and increases resilience in the case of a natural disaster. Increasing water demands from population growth coupled with the effects of climate change will stress the water supply. Agricultural producers recognize the importance of water conservation and continue to invest in efficiency measures.

Economic Implications

The local agricultural sector is impacted by provincial, national and global economic influences that extend beyond regional boundaries. Vancity recently commissioned a report that speaks to some of these and their impacts on the Metro Vancouver region (Appendix 2). Local issues are similar in nature, although not necessarily in scale. The Regional Food and Agriculture Strategy considered experience from elsewhere while providing recommendations tailored to the local situation.

The Strategy recommends that the CRD build partnerships with economic development organizations to address fragmentation of economic development initiatives in the agricultural sector. The CRD could play a role by continuing to build partnerships and facilitate conversations between the agricultural sector and economic development organizations such as the Southern Vancouver Island Economic Development Association.

Service Implications

The Strategy recommends consideration of initiatives (e.g., a land bank and organics recycling) that may require expansion of existing CRD services. It is recognized that there are complexities to each of these matters that go beyond what can be resolved through an agriculture strategy. The Strategy therefore suggests that the “if and how” of implementation be further assessed by a Regional Food and Agriculture Task Force for input on the most cost effective and efficient method to advance each initiative.

Financial Implications

A Forum of Councils would allow for Board and municipal Council discussion of the financial, human resource and service implications of the Strategy recommendations and related Board Strategic Priorities. An outcome of that discussion could include vetting/prioritization that could inform finalization of the Plan and Board deliberations regarding implementation. Staff are recommending that the Forum of Councils discussion take place *before* the Strategy is approved because that will allow the Board to make changes to the Strategy in response to the Forum discussion.

Should the Board choose to approve the Strategy now (Alternative 2), there could still be a Forum of Councils (if that was tagged on to the Alternative 2 wording), but then the Forum of Councils discussion would be focussed more on implementation planning than on prioritization (since the Plan would already have been approved).

A Forum of Councils can be funded using existing departmental resource allocations.

CONCLUSION

The CRD Food and Agriculture Strategy aims to build collaborative partnerships to implement actions supportive of a resilient, sustainable and healthy local food system. A draft has been developed in consultation with stakeholders. Staff have identified potential roles for the CRD. Board input is now required to determine next steps. A fall Forum of Councils is recommended to provide for Board/municipal Council deliberation.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Planning, Transportation and Protective Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board:

That the draft Regional Food and Agriculture Strategy be:

- a. Received for information;
- b. Used by staff to inform content for the Regional Growth Strategy food systems section that the Board on March 9, 2016 requested staff bring forward for Committee of the Whole consideration; and
- c. Advanced for further discussion at a Forum of Councils targeted for fall 2016.

Submitted by:	Jeff Weightman, MCIP, RPP, PMP, Planner, Regional & Strategic Planning
Concurrence:	Signe Bagh, MCIP, RPP, Senior Manager Regional and Strategic Planning
Concurrence:	Kevin Lorette, P.Eng., MBA, Acting Chief Administrative Officer
Concurrence:	Robert Lapham, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

JW/SB:lc

Attachments: Appendix 1 Draft Regional Food and Agriculture Strategy
Appendix 2 Vancity Agricultural Land Report

Setting Our Table

Capital Regional District Food & Agriculture Strategy



2016



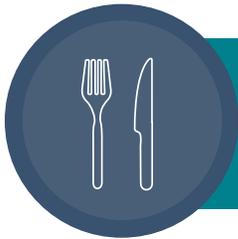


TABLE OF CONTENTS



- Acknowledgments iii
- 1 | GUIDING VISION & EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 1**
 - Setting Our Table Summary Infographic..... 2
- 2 | CONTEXT 4**
 - Why are Food and Agriculture Important to the CRD? 5
 - Applicability 6
 - Process 7
- 3 | CURRENT REALITIES 10**
 - Aboriginal Interests 11
 - Role of the CRD 12
 - Support and Leadership Gap 14
 - Environmental Restoration and Repair 14
- 4 | ISSUES & OPPORTUNITIES 14**
 - Land Protection 15
 - Secure Agricultural Land Base..... 16
 - Economic Opportunities 16
- 5 | RECOMMENDATIONS 17**
- 6 | ACTION PLAN 29**
- 7 | APPENDICES 38**
 - Glossary of Terms 38
 - Regional Food & Agriculture Organizations..... 42
 - Food & Agriculture Interests..... 43
 - Local Oversight 44

Acknowledgments

We would like to acknowledge the extensive time and efforts provided by agencies and stakeholders in the development of the Regional Food and Agriculture Strategy over the past three years. In particular we would like to thank and acknowledge the involvement of the following individuals:

Alistair Bryson, Farmer, Chair of CRD Board (2013-2014)

Bob Maxwell, Farmer, Steering Committee Member

Earl Claxton Jr, Elder, W̱SÁNEĆ

Fiona Deveraux, Dietitian, Island Health, Steering Committee Member

Gabe Epstein, Community Organizer, Urban Farmer, Steering Committee Member

Gwen Underwood, Lands Manager Tsawout Nation

JB Williams, Knowledge Keeper, W̱SÁNEĆ

Linda Geggie, Steering Committee Member, CR-FAIR

Rob Buchan, CAO, North Saanich, Steering Committee Member, North Saanich

Rob Kline, Regional Agrologist, Ministry of Agriculture, Steering Committee Member

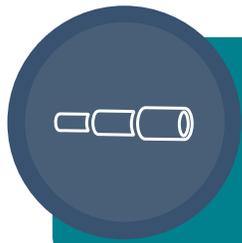
Selilye Claxton, Elder, W̱SÁNEĆ

Skye Augustine, Consultant, Aboriginal Initiatives, Steering Committee Member

Terry Michell, Farmer, Peninsula Agriculture Commission Member, Steering Committee Member

Tracy Cullen, Victoria Foundation, Steering Committee Member

Page left blank for double-sided booklet printing



1 | GUIDING VISION & EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Guiding Vision for food and agriculture recognizes the importance and centrality of food and agriculture to us as individuals, to our families and our communities.

The Capital Region has a vibrant, valued and evolving local food and agricultural economy that is rooted in the principles of interdependence, reciprocity and respect; it recalls and re-establishes the intimate and important relationships between our land and waters, our food, and our community.

Food and agriculture are important aspects of the Capital Regional District's (CRD) history, visual identity and ongoing sustainability. Public appreciation and concern for the health and well-being of the region's food and agriculture systems is rising. Predicted changes in climate, energy costs, water availability and agricultural production have drawn attention to resilience of the region's food system.

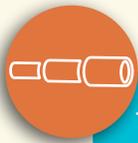
The principal purpose of the Regional Food and Agriculture Strategy (RFAS) is to guide action and foster leadership. The RFAS identifies a continued role for the CRD in food and agriculture. The RFAS recommendations are intended to support the development and future success of food and agriculture in a way that is collaborative, strategic, systemic, and economically viable.

The RFAS can inform CRD initiatives such as the Regional Growth Strategy now under development, as well as the Integrated Water Services Master Plan, Environmental Resource Management Planning process, CRD Corporate Strategic Plan, and Aboriginal Initiatives planning. Consistent regional direction will strengthen the food and agricultural sector.

The document sets out a strategic approach with clearly articulated recommendations, associated actions, and resourcing requirements. The following infographic summarizes the ten RFAS recommendations, and their anticipated outcomes.

Setting Our Table

Capital Regional District Food & Agriculture Strategy

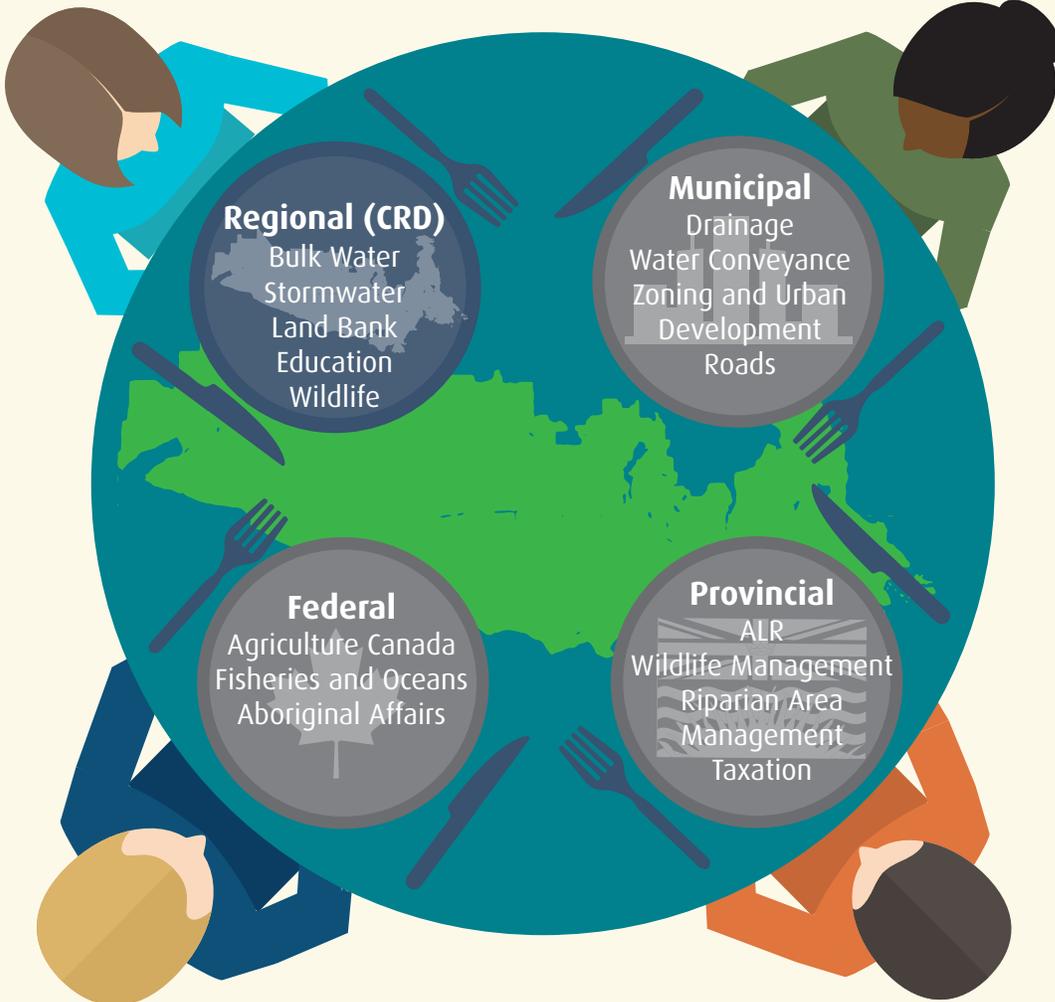


VISION

The Capital Region has a vibrant, valued and evolving local food and agricultural economy that is rooted in the principles of interdependence, reciprocity and respect; it recalls and re-establishes the intimate and important relationships between our land and waters, our food, and our community.



ROLES





OUTCOMES

-  Cleaner environment
-  Reintroduction of traditional plants
-  Improved population health
-  Strengthened relationships and partnerships
-  Broad participation
-  Engaged citizens
-  Increased knowledge of and access to traditional foods

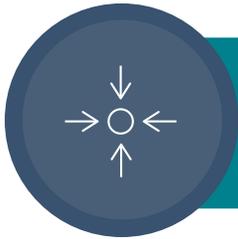


-  Economic viability
-  Sector revitalization
-  Reduced crop loss
-  Increased sustainable harvest of traditional foods



RECOMMENDATIONS

-  1 Support regional, cross-sector relationships, including a food and agriculture task force.
-  2 Improve the CRD's capacity to address regional food and agriculture issues
-  3 Support regional organic-matter recycling approaches that benefit food and agriculture
-  4 Address chronic drainage issues across the region
-  5 Continue to consider approaches to effectively address existing and emerging regional wildlife and invasive species issues
-  6 Maintain affordability and improve access to irrigation water for food and agricultural operations
-  7 Encourage a place-based regional food culture by building relationships between Aboriginal and non-aboriginal communities.
-  8 Support Aboriginal food and agriculture-related activities, projects and events.
-  9 Increase access to agricultural and food lands.
-  10 Support regional economic development strategies for food and agriculture



2 | CONTEXT

The Capital Regional District (the CRD or ‘Region’) is updating its 2003 Regional Growth Strategy (RGS). As a ‘parent’ document, the RGS-Update articulates a broad vision and provides a high-level strategic direction on regional matters.

During the engagement phase of the RGS-Update, food and agriculture was of high and growing public interest and concern. Food and food systems received the greatest amount of interest of the nine sustainability policy brief topics from participating stakeholder groups and members of the public. Initially treated as two separate topics, food and agriculture were brought together as inextricably connected elements for the on-going planning process.

As a sub-strategy of the RGS - Update, the Regional Food and Agriculture Strategy (RFAS) provides a more in-depth

exploration of regional food and agricultural objectives, issues and opportunities than is possible in the high-level RGS. The principal purpose of the RFAS is to guide action and foster leadership. The RFAS identifies a continued role for the CRD in food and agriculture. The document sets out a strategic approach with clearly articulated recommendations, associated actions, and resourcing requirements. The RFAS is intended to be a living document, to be regularly monitored, reviewed and updated.

The RFAS acknowledges that food and agriculture are part of a food ‘system’. The Strategy therefore needs to consider all aspects of that system, including planting, irrigation, harvesting, processing, distributing, preparing and marketing, as well as consumption. Food waste management and soil nutrient management are part of the cycle.





Why are Food and Agriculture Important to the CRD?

Food and agriculture are important aspects of the Capital Regional District's (CRD) history, visual identity and ongoing sustainability. Public appreciation and concern for the health and well-being of the region's food and agriculture systems is rising.

Predicted changes in climate, energy costs, water availability and agricultural production have drawn attention to the ongoing resilience of the region's food system.

The CRD is engaged in activities connected to food agriculture, including:

- ▶ Management of problem wildlife and invasive species (on CRD lands)
- ▶ Support of local government work on watershed management and drainage
- ▶ Provision of water services across the region and maintaining agricultural water rates to rural producers
- ▶ Collection and maintenance of agriculture information¹
- ▶ Collection and distribution of climate related indicator data
- ▶ Provision of organic matter collection and recycling services
- ▶ Support for and administration of agriculture-related planning processes and policies for a number of Electoral Areas

Applicability

The RFAS applies to those areas of the CRD that fall within the Growth Management Plan Area of the RGS (the 13 municipalities and the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area). The RFAS does not apply to the Salt Spring Island and Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Areas. The RFAS framework anticipates and allows for potential future expanded coverage and collaboration.

The RFAS builds on and supports the approaches and recommendations articulated in existing and proposed municipal Agricultural Area plans,² as well as the work of the many agencies and organizations focused on building a vibrant and vital regional food and agriculture sector.³

- 1 The CRD current collects and maintains Statistics Canada Agricultural Census data, and associated with agricultural land use inventories (ALUI).
- 2 The District of North Saanich Ag Plan (2008) the District of Central Saanich Ag Plan (2007); Districts of Metchosin and Saanich, and Juan de Fuca Electoral Area (in progress).

The region spans the traditional territories of 22 First Nations of which 10 have Reserves within the CRD's defined growth management planning area (GMPA), which represents the scope of the catchment area for this strategy. Although First Nations governments are not signatories to the RGS bylaw, the RFAS as a separate planning document provides a vehicle for practical collaboration and relationship building. First Nations participation in the RFAS process is not contingent on being participants in the RGS process.

- 3 A comprehensive list of agencies and organizations involved in regional food and agriculture issues and activities is available in the Appendix.

Map 1: Agricultural Land Reserve

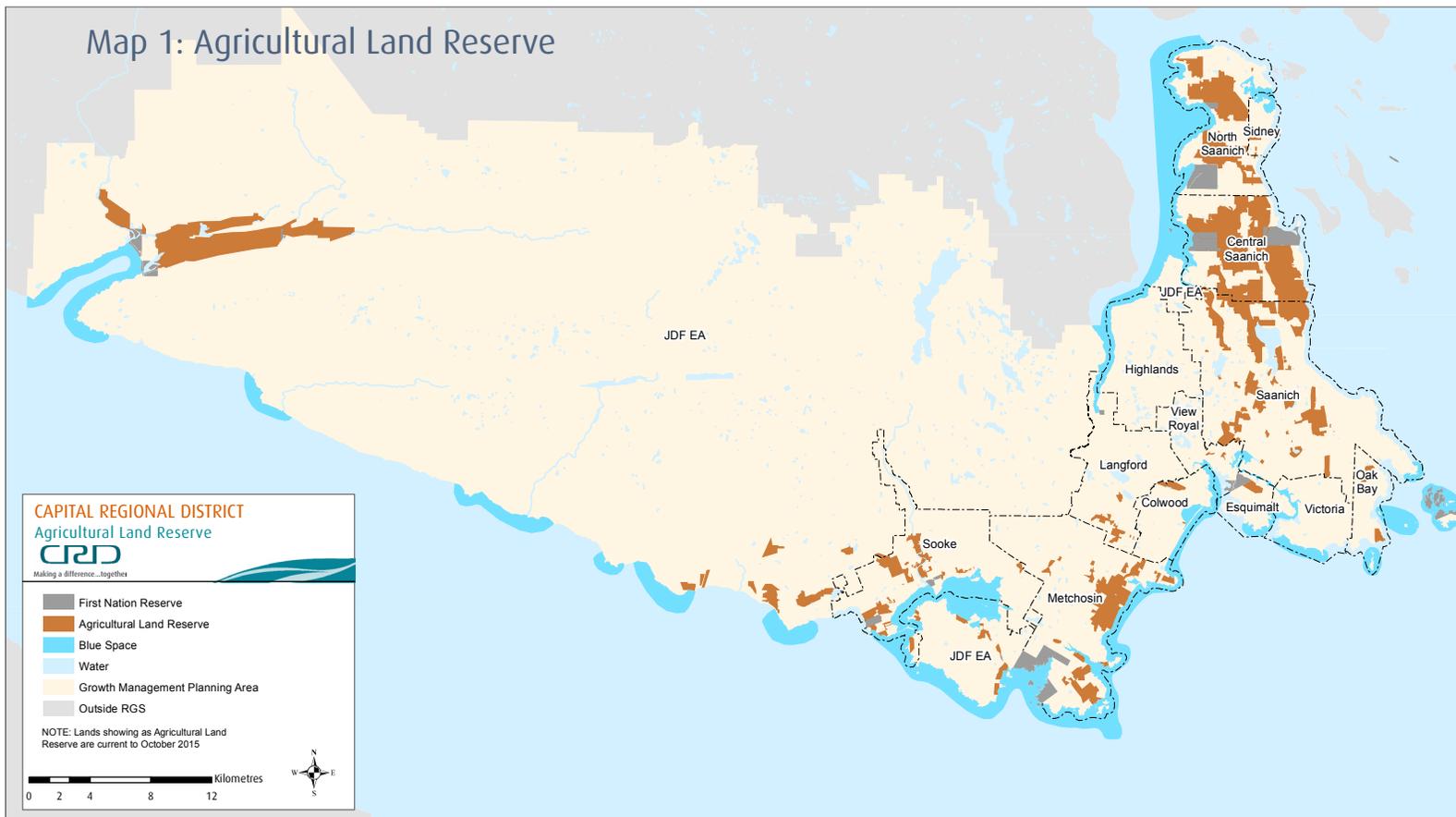




Photo: Sophie Wood

Process

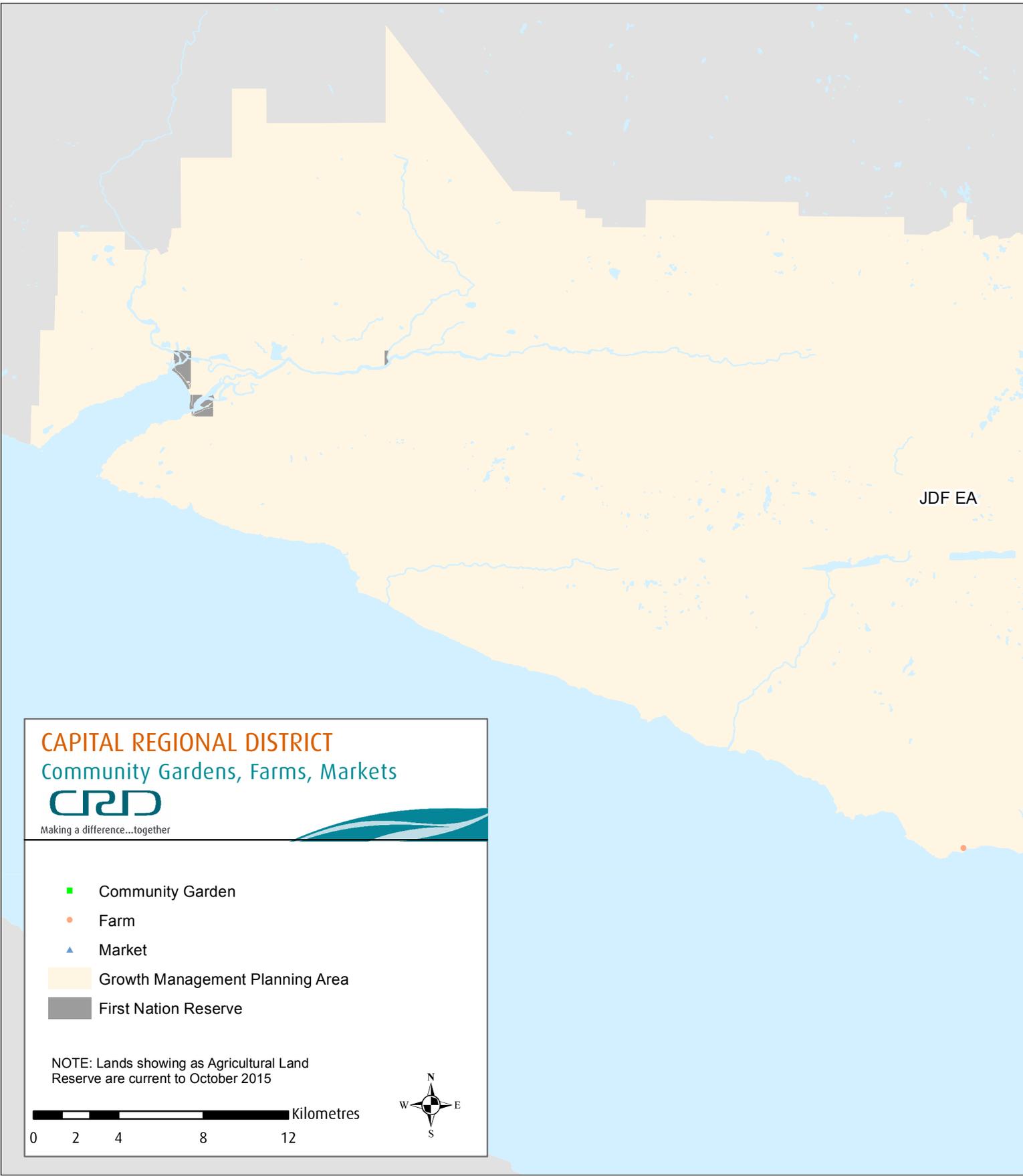
The RFAS was informed by early RGS consultation undertaken in 2010. A policy brief was developed in response to interest in food security. The brief provided a snapshot of information gathered from various perspectives in the local food and farming sector and identified potential policy interventions.⁴ A Food Policy Options Paper was presented to the CRD Board, in parallel with briefs on other sustainability topics. The Board directed staff to further explore the regional interest in food security by way of a sub-strategy.

The capital region's agricultural community includes numerous organizations, agencies and individuals who, while focusing on different aspects of food and agriculture, share a common appreciation for the role food and agriculture plays in achieving social, environmental and economic health and resiliency. The RFAS process launched conversations and workshops with community leaders to establish a collaborative approach reflecting diverse interests.⁵

An informal Advisory Group embraced a flexible solution-focused process to identify and generate practical actions promising sustained and long-term success. The Advisory Group refined recommendations and the action plan based on relative and systemic impact of alternatives.

⁴ Workshops, surveys and research.

⁵ See the Appendix for list of participants.



JDF EA

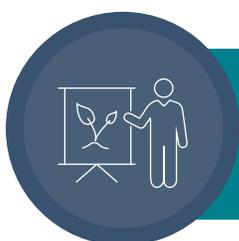
CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT
 Community Gardens, Farms, Markets
CRD
 Making a difference...together

- Community Garden
- Farm
- ▲ Market
- Growth Management Planning Area
- First Nation Reserve

NOTE: Lands showing as Agricultural Land Reserve are current to October 2015







3 | CURRENT REALITIES

Regional food and agriculture is impacted by realities that influence the current situation and/or recommended actions. These realities include:

- ▶ Food and agriculture is fundamental to the long-term sustainability, resilience and health of the region and its human communities.
- ▶ Food and agriculture require a supportive system from production to transformation and distribution to waste recovery.
- ▶ The global food system preferences cheap food over local and healthy food.
- ▶ Many food and agricultural enterprises, and the lands and families that create and support them are economically tenuous.
- ▶ The current provincial agricultural policy framework is unable to preference food production over other forms of agriculture.
- ▶ The Province and local governments have only limited ability to undertake regional approaches benefiting food and agriculture such as the acquisition and management of agricultural land, economic development, management of problem wildlife and invasive species, watershed management, provision of affordable water services and local economic development approaches.
- ▶ First Nations continue to assert their Douglas Treaty rights “to hunt and fish as formerly” on unoccupied lands throughout the region.⁶
- ▶ Predicted changes in climate, energy costs, water availability, and agricultural production have drawn attention to the ongoing resilience of the region’s food system.

⁶ <http://royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/assets/FortVictoriaTreaties.pdf>

Aboriginal Interests

The First Peoples of this region have a 14,000-year relationship with food, land and sea. For hundreds of generations, local Indigenous communities have looked after the lands and waters of this territory, and in return, food was and continues to be a vital and inseparable part of Nuu-cha-nulth and Coast and Strait Salish health,⁷ culture and spirituality.

The last 150 years have seen the systematic disruption of a powerful and healthy connection to the area's food, lands and waters. Colonial and government policies limited access and ownership of land and waters and disrupted traditional harvesting practices, resulting in dramatic dietary changes and negative impacts on the health of Aboriginal communities. Settlement patterns, associated infrastructure and pollution rendered many local foods unharvestable. Many traditional land management practices were made illegal, gathering areas were converted to modern

uses, and wetlands were drained.⁸ Establishment of reserves changed harvesting and access to foods. Communities were supplied with non-traditional foods that created dependence. Residential schools disrupted and undermined the relationship to place, limited access to indigenous foods and medicines, reduced food literacy, and brought about shame regarding culture, language, and traditional foods. Whereas food was once plentiful, healthful, free and commonly traded, it is now commercialized, processed and shipped from far away.

First Nations have growing interests in and concerns regarding access to healthy and safe food sources. The WSÁNEĆ people (Saanich) have a teaching that, "when the tide is out, the table is set." For the Strait Salish and Coast Salish people, whose territory the CRD sits within, "lands and food are at the center of what it is to be indigenous."⁸ From cultivation, through to harvesting, processing, preparation and consumption, Indigenous communities recognize the important role

⁷ The majority of the region falls within the traditional territory of the Salish people, with the exception of the north-west part of the region in the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area, from Jordon River to Port Renfrew, which is the Territory of the Nuu-cha-nulth people.

⁸ Krohn 2007 8 PFPP, 2011a, p. 1



of traditional foods in fostering a strong connection between the land and the people.⁹ The majority of Indigenous communities regard the health and quality of food as inseparable from the environment in which it is located.¹⁰ Traditional foods are a central part of Aboriginal communities' culture and ceremony. First Nations have Douglas Treaty rights "to hunt and fish as formerly" over much of the region and have important traditional knowledge to share.

"If you lose your food, you lose part of your culture and it has a devastating effect on your psyche."¹¹ The current food system challenges principles of interrelatedness and reciprocity. Today, for Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals alike, food comes to the region from elsewhere. We have broken our relationship to this place. Throughout the region, Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals are beginning to re-establish their connection to food and culture, re-connecting people with the environment that supports life. The principles of interdependence, reciprocity and respect derived from thousands of years of living sustainably on this land, suggest a way forward that will allow all to live together sustainably.

The intent of this strategy is to help connect food, culture, people and the land and to create opportunities for inter agency partnerships to address barriers to increasing food production. This strategy focuses on how regional scale action can help achieve a productive, healthy food system in the context of global scale influences.

Role of the CRD

The Capital Regional District (CRD) is a federation of 13 municipalities and three electoral areas on southern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. The CRD is a local government for three electoral areas and a service provider for its local municipalities, delivering over 200 local, regional and sub-regional services for the 375,000+ residents of the region. A 24 member Board of Directors, made up of municipal and local area politicians, governs the CRD. The geographical area of the CRD (the 'region')



Photo: Sophie Wood

⁹ NWIC, 2014, para 1

¹⁰ Rudolph & McLachlan, 2013

¹¹ Yakama Tribal Nurse

encompasses 237,000 hectares, including 70 Gulf Islands – a vibrant, large and diverse area renowned for its mild Mediterranean-like climate, beautiful and productive coastlines and natural ecosystems.

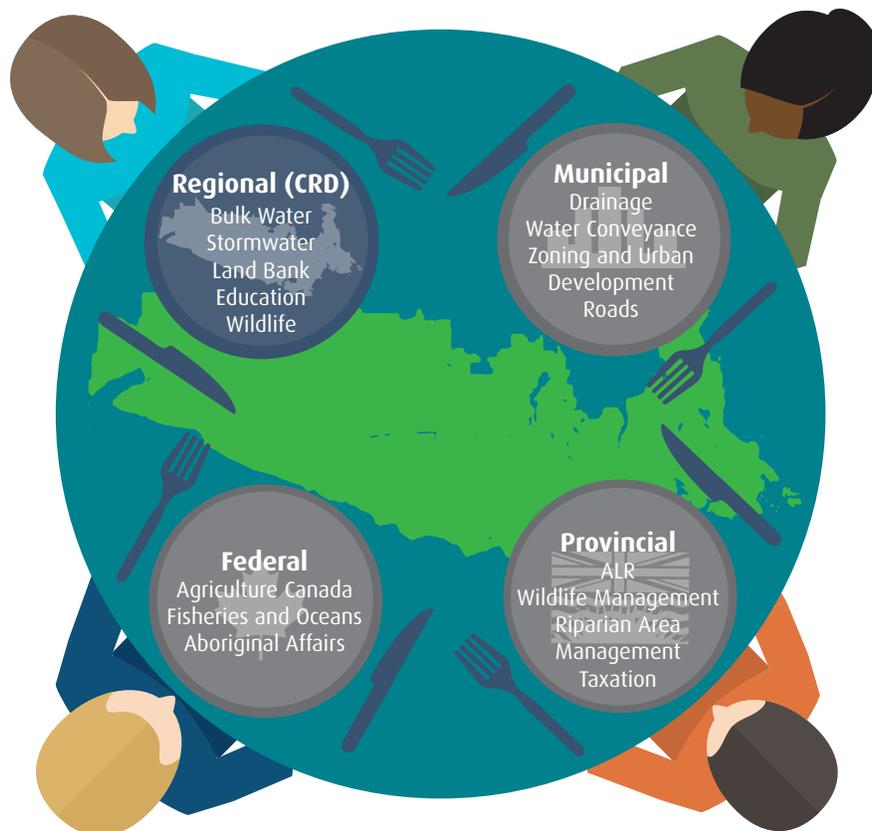
While regional districts, municipalities and electoral areas do not have a specific mandate over food and agriculture, many aspects of local government operations have an impact on the sector. Food and agriculture are impacted by CRD services such as water delivery, environmental protection and conservation, watershed education and drinking watershed protection and management, liquid and solid waste management (including rural septic programs), invasive species eradication / native plant restoration, and more recently, wildlife (deer, geese, beaver, bullfrog) management.

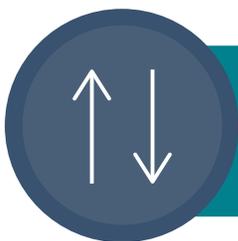
Food and agriculture are generally considered to be the sole responsibility of the Province and the Federal government. However, the Province and the Federal government have been unable to provide the level of attention and support required to see the integration and growth of a healthy, place-based local

food and agricultural economy within a developing region like the CRD. There also appear to be gaps in the current responsibility framework in areas such as the management of wildlife within developed areas, locally focused economic development, and long-term agricultural land protection.

A healthy, place-based local food and agricultural economy is a matter of regional interest. Food and agriculture, as a fundamental human endeavour, is critical for the future health and wellbeing of our community. The cultivation and provision of healthy food and the long-term development and care of local farms and farmland - regardless of whether farmland is currently used to grow food - contributes to the development of a healthy culture and a liveable, resilient, secure and sustainable community.

There is growing expectation and interest for more CRD involvement. Issues involving or affecting food and agriculture are predicted to increase and will continue to demand a regional approach.





4 | ISSUES & OPPORTUNITIES

Achievement of the food and agriculture vision will require addressing issues and seizing opportunities.

Support and Leadership Gap

While a number of informal and formalized networks and associations exist, there is currently no overarching organization or structure that has the mandate or resources to convene and work across the diverse and expanding food and agriculture sector. Following a provincial trend, issues and opportunities connected to the food and agriculture sector are increasing - and the Region's municipalities and electoral areas are currently ill equipped to tackle them effectively¹² due in part to a lack of capacity but also because of their regional and cross-jurisdictional nature. The provincial government has not filled the gaps. There is a need and a desire

for a regional approach – appropriately resourced and managed – designed to achieve outcomes that demonstrate value and build capacity for food and agriculture in the region.

Environmental Restoration and Repair

The deep cultural connection to local food and to the waters and lands that support its production offer a remarkable opportunity to come together to address the harms and health impacts that have been committed in the name of progress. Some foods are increasingly unsafe to eat – particularly those foods harvested along the Region's shores. Access to food lands is limited.

¹² Three out of five municipal agriculture plans completed in the capital region recommended the establishment of some kind of support or extension service for food and agriculture.



This has greatly impacted the economic, social and environmental health of residents. There needs to be improved food access, affordability and adequacy so people can be nourished by food grown, harvested and produced in the CRD. There is an opportunity for healing at a variety of levels, including restoring access to culturally important food, supporting residents' food literacy, as well as encouraging the development of agriculture-related activities that build collaborative and constructive relationships among Aboriginal and non-aboriginal communities.

The lands and waters that produce the Region's diverse and growing array of food and agricultural crops are increasingly impacted by factors including: the direct and indirect (pollution, flooding, etc.) effects of development; changing regulatory environments; increasing rural-urban and farmer-neighbour conflicts; rising cost of farmland and farm activities; increasing age of farmers and agricultural land owners; and the limited economic viability of farming and lack of food literacy in the region. Together these are contributing to the gradual loss of productive farmlands, foodlands, shorelines and waters within the CRD, and greatly impacting the physical, mental and spiritual health of residents. Also impacted are the communities, groups and individuals responsible for resource stewardship and productivity.

Land Protection

While the provincial Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) (Map 1) has significantly reduced the rate at which farmland is converted to non-farm uses within the CRD, it is a type of land use zone and has a mandate to protect agricultural land, but not necessarily to enhance food and farmlands.¹³ There is an absence of organizations or agencies dedicated to the effective protection and management of operating farmland. There is strong interest and rationale for the establishment of a regional

¹³ The ALR is a provincial land use zone in which land cannot be used for non-farm uses without provincial permission as a result its utility is limited. The powers of its governing body the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) are also limited. The ALC is not a trust and cannot directly hold or own land. It does not provide economic development or management support to ALR property owners.

While ALR has significantly reduced the rate at which farmland is converted to non-farm or urban uses in BC (since its inception in 1973 over 3000 ha of ALR land have been lost from the CRD), its ability to proactively protect and enhance food and farmlands is limited.

farmland trust and supporting trust fund.¹⁴ The regional farmland trust could begin to address current barriers to farmers entering the sector such as agricultural land availability, high land costs, high startup costs and the long term preservation of agricultural land.

Secure Agricultural Land Base

The protection and enhancement of productive areas is important to the future sustainability and resilience of the region, as are the cultivation and harvesting opportunities that they afford the farmers, fishers and Indigenous peoples responsible for their ongoing stewardship. The deliberate protection, integration and valuing of these areas is seen as an act of leadership that can bring much needed attention to and appreciation of the region's working landscape.

Economic Opportunities

As the region's food and agriculture sector grows and matures it is becoming an increasingly important

part of the local economy. Consequently, food and agriculture would benefit from being more deliberately considered by local economic development initiatives and programs. In particular, new and emerging food and agriculture initiatives and ideas would benefit from such support. Economic development support could also help create the conditions necessary for innovation—encouraging regional partnerships and synergistic relationship opportunities while ensuring the effective and equitable distribution of limited resources.

The need for economic development in food and agriculture through regional support has been identified by a number of food and agriculture organizations. There are only a handful of organizations doing economic development work, and only one currently that is exploring economic development specifically pertaining to food and agriculture.

Acting on the issues and opportunities that promise positive and sustained systematic impact will connect and unite the region's food and agriculture community. The RFAS provides a regional framework and approach to reinforce current efforts and connect the region's expanding food and agriculture network.

¹⁴ In 2014, the Districts of Saanich and North Saanich passed resolutions supporting a regional consideration of this issue. A 2015 study by CR-FAIR recommended that a regional farmland trust and trust fund be established.



Photo: Sophie Wood



5 | RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations below respond to identified issues and opportunities. The recommended actions are regional in nature and scope, broadly supported, have the potential to have a significant and systematic impact on the region's food and agriculture, and build on or support existing CRD activities or initiatives.

1. Support regional, cross-sector relationships, including a food and agriculture task force.
2. Improve the CRD's capacity to address regional food and agriculture issues.
3. Develop regional organic-matter recycling approaches that benefit food and agriculture.
4. Address chronic drainage issues across the region.
5. Consider establishing programs to address existing and emerging regional wildlife and invasive species issues.
6. Maintain and improve access to irrigation water for food and agricultural operations.
7. Encourage a place-based regional food culture by building relationships between Aboriginal and non-aboriginal communities.
8. Support Aboriginal food and agriculture-related activities, projects and events.
9. Increase access to agricultural and food lands.
10. Support regional economic development.



1 Support regional, cross-sector relationships, including a food and agriculture task force.

As a regional agency, the CRD is arguably in the best position to help convene a network of key stakeholders to realize the guiding vision and help with the delivery and outcome of the CRD's services and activities connected to food and agriculture.

ASSOCIATED ACTIONS



Establish a Regional Food and Agriculture (RFA) Task Force to develop an organizational structure that supports regional collaboration and strategic decision-making.

- ▶ Provide Board oversight/support mechanism and determine service support for RFA task force.
- ▶ Develop the interim governance structure, reporting procedures, responsibilities, and timeline, staffing and resource arrangements.
- ▶ Re-constitute and convene the RFAS Advisory Group as part of the RFA Task Force membership.



DESIRED OUTCOME

A cross-sectoral structure that can provide effective guidance for regional food and agriculture efforts and help with the implementation and development of the RFAS.



2 Improve the CRD's capacity to address regional food and agriculture issues

Incrementally improving capacity will help the CRD become a more effective and proactive participant in the emerging food and agriculture area. It will help the CRD be more strategic and prudent in its response to issues and opportunities, and to support the public awareness that is critical to a healthy, place based food system.

ASSOCIATED ACTIONS



Develop food and agricultural education, experience and expertise.

- ▶ Identify divisions of the CRD that would benefit from the addition of food and agricultural expertise.
- ▶ Work to build an appreciation and understanding of food and agriculture and its links to public health with existing resources.
- ▶ Solicit support, partnership and input from the proposed RFA Task Force, local food, agriculture and health organizations and agencies, and interested local municipalities and electoral areas.



Embed food and agricultural experience and expertise within the CRD.

- ▶ Consider increasing in-house knowledge and expertise to deliver services that meet the needs of farmers and respond to growing interest and policy work associated with the food and agriculture sector, resources permitting.

- ▶ Support the proposed RFA Task Force and help the CRD more effectively address increasing food and agriculture-related issues and opportunities connected with existing service centres (Planning, Parks and Recreation, Environmental Services, Integrated Water, etc.).



- Improved ability and capacity to effectively respond to regional food and agriculture-related issues and opportunities within existing departmental mandates.
- Improved ability for municipalities to support the of the regional vision for food and agriculture.
- Engaged, food literate citizens.
- Improved population health.
- Revitalized agricultural sector.



Maintain and improve regional food and agriculture data.

- ▶ Determine what information is required (with recommendations from the RFA Task Force), identify information gaps, and build a more complete and accurate food and agriculture-related database.
- ▶ Continue to work with and pursue partnerships with agencies and organizations such as the Victoria Foundation, Peninsula Agriculture Commission (PAC), Island Health, First Nations Health Authority (FNHA), Capital Region Food and Agriculture Initiatives Roundtable (CR-FAIR), Ministry of Agriculture, First Nations, Greater Victoria Economic Development Authority, and others to realize efficiencies and improve the relevancy and application of the data.
- ▶ Establish and update agreements and protocols with relevant agencies and organizations to effectively and affordably acquire, maintain and share data.
- ▶ Identify measurable indicators to assess impact of implementing the RFAS recommendations.





3

Support regional organic-matter recycling approaches that benefit food and agriculture

Local urban and rural food and agricultural producers would benefit from access to clean, affordable organic matter. There is a desire to assist the CRD with its organic matter recycling responsibility to:

- ▶ Increase the fertility of the region's soils (increased security and sovereignty)
- ▶ Reduce imported soil inputs (increased sustainability)
- ▶ Sequester carbon (mitigate climate change)

ASSOCIATED ACTIONS



Consider food and agriculture interests with a goal of improving the region's soils.

- ▶ Continue to work with the food and agriculture sector – via the proposed RFA Task Force – to develop an appropriate long-term solution for the recycling and integration of the region's organic waste stream.
- ▶ Develop an approach that meets the needs of the CRD and the interests of the region's food and agriculture sector.





4 Address chronic drainage issues across the region

Chronic drainage issues were identified through the RFAS process and continue to negatively impact the following eight high fertility agricultural areas in the CRD:

- ▶ Blenkinsop Valley
- ▶ Durrell Creek
- ▶ Maber Flats
- ▶ Martindale Flats
- ▶ O’Donnell Creek
- ▶ Panama Flats
- ▶ Quick’s Bottom
- ▶ Wilkinson/Hastings area of Saanich
- ▶ Tod Creek

Farms are impacted by seasonal inundation and flooding, exacerbated in recent years by upland development. Increasing environmental regulations designed to protect riparian and wetland areas are also having an impact.

Drainage issues are negatively affecting the ability of local producers to farm. Producers who have experienced flooding are feeling discouraged by local governments’ apparent inability to improve the situation. Addressing this issue would improve the productivity of affected areas, enhance the livelihoods of associated producers and help re-establish positive relationships between the farming community and local government.

ASSOCIATED ACTIONS:



Where possible, support municipal efforts towards watershed management with a goal to address drainage issues impacting the region’s most fertile soils.

- ▶ Work with municipalities and stakeholders to identify effective approaches to address drainage issues within areas prone to flooding.



DESIRED OUTCOMES

- Reduced planting and crop loss due to chronic drainage issues across the region.
- Stronger partnerships with municipalities, provincial and federal government agencies, First Nations, and community and environmental organizations regarding flooding on agricultural land.



5 Continue to consider approaches to effectively address existing and emerging regional wildlife and invasive species issues.

Problem wildlife is an increasing burden for municipalities, residents and farmers across the region. In response, the CRD, in collaboration with municipalities, electoral areas, provincial ministries, stakeholders and farmers has developed and piloted a number of management strategies.¹⁵ This work is highly valued by local food and agricultural producers.

There is a desire to see wildlife management practices continued and expanded across the Region – including in the Electoral Areas and within urbanized communities. Opportunities exist to partner with members of the Aboriginal community, who have treaty rights and cultural connections to these animals for food and ceremonial purposes. There is also a need to expand existing programs to manage invasive plant and animal species and encourage endangered and beneficial wildlife (e.g. pollinators) which can have a positive impact on food and agricultural systems and their associated habitats.

ASSOCIATED ACTIONS:



i Continue to consider food and agriculture interests in regional wildlife management discussions and projects.

- ▶ Continue to provide information and tools to the food and agriculture sector.
- ▶ Facilitate First Nations access to wild game on private property through hunting and organized programs for humane wildlife management.

¹⁵ For example: deer (<https://www.crd.bc.ca/project/regional-deer-management-strategy>); geese (<https://www.crd.bc.ca/project/goose-management>); bullfrog; and beaver.

- ▶ Continue to consider establishing a wildlife management program as a service.
- ▶ Expand wildlife programs to adjacent Electoral Areas who are also dealing with these issues.



ii Consider emerging wildlife and environmental issues e.g. beneficial species (pollinators), invasive and problematic species.

- ▶ If a wildlife program is established as a permanent service, consider also providing for the ability to respond to other important wildlife and environmental issues such as reducing the impact of invasive species on CRD lands (currently a CRD role) and providing educational support for residents dealing with invasive species on non-CRD lands.



DESIRED OUTCOMES

- A comprehensive consideration of wildlife issues that addresses the impact of wildlife on regional food and agriculture activities by the CRD Board.
- Increased access by First Nations to traditional food sources.



6 Maintain affordability and improve access to irrigation water for food and agricultural operations.

Access to clean, affordable irrigation water is critical to the maintenance and expansion of food and agricultural activity. The exemplary management of the region’s drinking water resource under the guidance of the Regional Water Supply Commission and the citizens’ Water Advisory Committee, has maintained an agricultural water rate for agricultural uses.

Growing water demands from population growth, coupled with the effects of climate change on the current (Sooke Lake) water supply for greater Victoria over the next 30-50 years, are expected to stress the water supply. The food and agriculture community hopes that despite these pressures, the agricultural water rate now provided to rural produces (i.e. the Agricultural Water Rate) can be continued and potentially expanded to urban agricultural producers. The application of the Agricultural Water Rate to Urban Agriculture would require direction and approval from CRD water commissions and in some cases, municipalities. Agricultural producers recognize the importance of water conservation and are committed to investing in efficiency measures.

ASSOCIATED ACTIONS



Continue to provide affordable water rates for rural farm operations, and through direction from the water commissions, consider extending them to urban agriculture operations.

- ▶ Continue to provide access to irrigation water and affordable agricultural water rates.
- ▶ Continue to consult and involve the food and agriculture community.

- ▶ Encourage innovation in water-conservation techniques, facilitate access to funds for investment in infrastructure (retention ponds, drip irrigation), and encourage conservation activities.
- ▶ Explore the possibility of extending agricultural water rates to urban producers.
- ▶ Encourage increased investment and innovation by producers in water conservation technologies and techniques resulting in lower water use.
- ▶ Continue to promote workshops for farmers on low-impact drainage design to capture nutrients, runoff and recharge groundwater.



DESIRED OUTCOMES

- Stable cost and availability of adequate irrigation water supply to urban and rural agricultural producers.





7

Encourage a place-based regional food culture by building relationships between Aboriginal and non-aboriginal communities.

The RFAS process has provided an opportunity to foster meaningful relationships with the First Nations, leading to a greater appreciation and understanding of indigenous perspectives on local foods and medicines. The Aboriginal community shares many concerns with non-aboriginals regarding food and agriculture. The phrase “we are all indigenous to planet earth” captures the concept of “indigeneity” – whereby every citizen in this region, regardless of whether they descend from settlers or the first people, has a responsibility to understand, respect and live in harmony with this place.

ASSOCIATED ACTIONS



Continue to develop meaningful relationships with Aboriginal communities through regional food and agriculture discussions and activities.

- ▶ Continue to support and participate in Aboriginal food issues and agricultural activities.
- ▶ Work with local organizations, government agencies and First Nations groups to develop new initiatives.

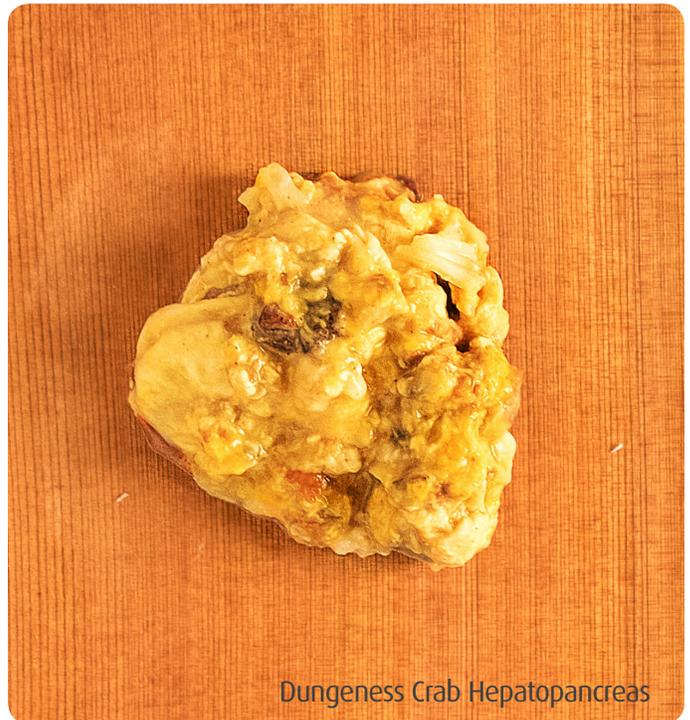


DESIRED OUTCOMES

- Improved relations with Aboriginal communities.
- Improved understanding and appreciation of traditional food knowledge.
- Greater number of successful Indigenous food and agriculture initiatives and activities.



Sea Urchin Roe



Dungeness Crab Hepatopancreas



8 Support Aboriginal food and agriculture-related activities, projects and events.

Build on existing food-related collaborative partnerships and activities occurring between Aboriginal communities, government agencies and community groups in the region.

ASSOCIATED ACTIONS



Pursue regional food and agriculture-related partnerships and activities between Aboriginal and non-aboriginal communities, agencies and groups.

- ▶ Participate in and support existing festivals, celebrations, feasts and ceremonies.
- ▶ Explore ways to support First Nations initiatives that aim to revive, reintroduce and restore access to traditional foods.
- ▶ Explore ways and means to accommodate access to Regional Parks for traditional and cultural uses.



DESIRED OUTCOMES

- Increased and consistent access to sustainably harvested traditional foods from the land and the sea.
- Cleaner environment e.g. reduced shellfish closures, improved monitoring results (marine and stormwater).
- Renewal of cultural practices around food harvesting and knowledge transfer to youth.
- Increased attendance by non-aboriginal community to First Nations feasts and celebrations.
- Re-introduction of rare or endangered traditional plants on public lands.



Dungeness Crab Muscle



9 Increase access to agricultural and food lands.

Building on the leadership work initiated by a number of local municipalities, a regional process to establish a food and farmland trust and associated trust fund could result in a mandate to protect and steward food and farmlands in a manner that:

- ▶ Reflects and responds to regional issues and interests, benefiting rural, urban, suburban and exurban communities
- ▶ Considers and manages a wide array of food and farm areas including those lands currently not covered by Provincial legislation and services
- ▶ Maintains and enhances farmland productivity
- ▶ Connects farmlands with appropriate stewards (food producers and harvesters)

Advancing the above would require additional study.

ASSOCIATED ACTIONS



Initiate a process to establish a regional food and farmland trust.

- ▶ Establish a regional process to establish a regional food and farmland trust. This could be considered by the proposed RFA Task Force or a dedicated sub-committee.
- ▶ Complete a feasibility strategy addressing the following and other items identified by the task force:
 - Determine and establish the appropriate legal structure to acquire, hold and administer food and farmland that would effectively

protect and put more farmland into production.

- Explore alternative finance models and partnerships to secure and sustainably manage lands within the trust framework.
- ▶ Establish a legal structure and supporting fund.



DESIRED OUTCOMES

- Farmland trust participation and support from local municipalities, community groups, financial institutions and investors, government agencies and First Nations.



Photo: Sophie Wood

10



Support regional economic development strategies for food and agriculture.

ASSOCIATED ACTIONS



Work with community and business groups to develop a regional food and agriculture economic development strategy.

- ▶ Consider involvement of the proposed RFA Task Force.
- ▶ Develop a regional agricultural economic development plan in partnership with external agencies.



Support strategic business development initiatives for the region's food and agriculture sector including agri-tourism.

- ▶ Incorporate the results of the regional food and agriculture economic development strategy.
- ▶ Support the work of community and business groups and government agencies to find a solution to the lack of an abattoir, and other related farming infrastructure, in the region or on the Island.
- ▶ Review proposals with the pending RFA Task Force.
- ▶ Develop impactful economic development initiatives and regional food and agriculture infrastructure such as agri-tourism.



DESIRED OUTCOMES

- Increased economic viability for the food and agriculture sector.
- Increased cross-sectoral collaboration and cooperation resulting in better and more sustainable outcomes.



Photo: Sophie Wood

Page left blank for double-sided booklet printing



6 | ACTION PLAN

In keeping with the action-oriented approach of the Regional Food and Agriculture Strategy, Table 1 identifies the potential participants, general funding and resource requirements, relative timing and associated CRD service areas for each of the 10 recommendations and their associated actions.

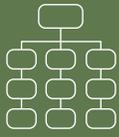
The table categorizes each action according to whether the action can be completed using existing resources, requires additional funding or whether it requires external funding.

- ▶ **Utilize Existing Resources** requires a reallocation or can be completed by divisions under their existing mandate.
- ▶ **Requires Additional Funding** needs a moderate increase in CRD resources in order to be completed.
- ▶ **Requires External Funding** needs grant funding or program fundraising from external (non-CRD) sources in order to be completed.

The Strategy was developed in such a way as to build consensus on a shared path forward. Implementation can be facilitated with working relationships that honour and support participant interests and concerns and that foster innovation and trust. It will be important to target actions, given financial and human (stakeholder time and energy) resource limitations. The recommendations in the RFAS can be implemented within current CRD mandates and provide for a targeted, flexible and responsive approach that will allow for the testing and rapid assessment of identified actions prior to scaling up and investing more resources.

ACTION PLAN TABLE

 	 ASSOCIATED ACTIONS	 CRD ROLE
<p>1 </p> <p>Support regional cross-sector relationships with regards to food and agriculture</p>	<p>Establish a Regional Food and Agriculture (RFA) Task Force to develop an organizational structure that supports regional collaboration and strategic decision-making.</p>	<p>CRD would host and provide staff and administration support. The RFAS Core Team, Capital Region Food and Agriculture Initiatives Roundtable and the Peninsula Agriculture Commission could be invited to participate on the Task Force.</p>
<p>2 </p> <p>Improve the CRD's ability to address regional food and agriculture issues</p>	<p>Develop food and agricultural education, experience and expertise within the CRD.</p>	<p>CRD would identify staff in applicable divisions and departments and create an internal departmental working group to share information on local food and agriculture activities. Local municipalities, BC Ministry of Agriculture and the proposed RFA Task Force would be invited to provide input and advice.</p>
<p>Embed food and agricultural experience and expertise within the CRD.</p>	<p>CRD would provide information to staff in applicable divisions and departments and set up an internal departmental working group to discuss agriculture issues and concerns. The CRD would seek input and advice from local municipalities, BC Ministry of Agriculture and the proposed RFA Task Force.</p>	
<p>Maintain and improve regional food and agriculture data.</p>	<p>CRD would work with local municipalities, Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Food and Agriculture Strategy, Peninsula Agriculture Commission, Capital Region Food and Agriculture Initiatives Roundtable and other agencies with links or interests in the aggregation, improvement and sharing of food and agriculture data.</p>	

 TIMING	UTILIZE EXISTING RESOURCES 	REQUIRES ADDITIONAL FUNDING 	REQUIRES EXTERNAL FUNDING 	 SERVICE AREAS
2016 / 2017	X	X		Legislative & Information Services Regional and Strategic Planning

2017 / 2018	X	X		Environmental Protection Regional and Strategic Planning Integrated Water Services Regional Parks
-------------	---	---	--	--

2017 / 2018	X			Regional and Strategic Planning
-------------	---	--	--	---------------------------------

2017 / 2018	X			Legislative & Information Services database Regional and Strategic Planning
-------------	---	--	--	--

ACTION PLAN TABLE (CONTINUED)

 <p>RECOMMENDATIONS</p>	<p>ASSOCIATED ACTIONS</p> 	<p>CRD ROLE</p> 
<p>3 </p> <p>Support regional organic-matter recycling approaches that benefit food and agriculture</p>	<p>Support regional organic-matter recycling approaches that benefit food and agriculture ¹⁶</p>	<p>CRD would continue to consider organic matter recycling under the existing process and receive input from members of proposed RFA Task Force.</p>
<p>4 </p> <p>Address chronic drainage issues across the region</p>	<p>Consider food and agriculture interests in regional watershed management discussions with a goal to address drainage issues impacting the region's most fertile soils</p>	<p>CRD staff would continue to provide data and information to the Districts of Saanich and Central Saanich regarding flooding that affects low lying agricultural areas.</p>
<p>5 </p> <p>Continue to consider approaches to effectively address existing and emerging regional wildlife and invasive species issues</p>	<p>Continue to consider food and agriculture interests in regional wildlife management discussions and projects.</p> <p>Consider emerging wildlife and environmental issues e.g. beneficial species (pollinators), invasive and problematic species.</p>	<p>CRD would continue to consider providing ongoing support and information gained through the Regional Deer Management Strategy process.</p> <p>CRD would further consider a wildlife service.</p> <p>CRD would consider invasive species and species that affect environmental issues under the existing mandate of its current programs.</p>

TIMING 	UTILIZE EXISTING RESOURCES REQUIRES ADDITIONAL FUNDING REQUIRES EXTERNAL FUNDING			SERVICE AREAS 
Now	X	X		Environmental Resource Management (through organics recycling)

¹⁶ This recommendation needs to be considered in the context of other Board deliberations currently underway.

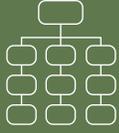
Now	X			Environmental Protection (through drainage and watershed management)
-----	---	--	--	--

Now	X			Regional and Strategic Planning
-----	---	--	--	---------------------------------

Now	X			Environmental Protection
-----	---	--	--	--------------------------

ACTION PLAN TABLE (CONTINUED)

 RECOMMENDATIONS	 ASSOCIATED ACTIONS	 CRD ROLE
<p>6 </p> <p>Maintain affordability and improve access to irrigation water for food and agricultural operations.</p>	<p>Continue to provide affordable water rates for rural farm operations and consider extending them to urban agriculture operations.</p>	<p>CRD will maintain the cost of agricultural water rate and consider extending or encouraging municipalities to extend an agricultural water rate to municipalities.</p>
<p>7 </p> <p>Encourage a place-based regional food culture by building relationships between Aboriginal and non-aboriginal communities</p>	<p>Continue to develop meaningful relationships with Aboriginal communities through regional food and agriculture discussions and activities.</p>	<p>CRD will continue to develop relationships with Aboriginal communities through food and agriculture discussions in partnership with Island Health and First Nations Health Authority.</p>
<p>8 </p> <p>Support Aboriginal food and agriculture-related activities, projects and events</p>	<p>Pursue regional food and agriculture-related partnerships and activities between Aboriginal and non-aboriginal communities, agencies and groups.</p>	<p>CRD staff will continue to pursue partnerships with Aboriginal communities and non-aboriginal communities and agencies regarding food and agriculture.</p>

 TIMING	UTILIZE EXISTING RESOURCES \$	REQUIRES ADDITIONAL FUNDING \$	REQUIRES EXTERNAL FUNDING \$	 SERVICE AREAS
Now	X	X*		Integrated Water Services *for urban water provision and improved access

Now	X			Aboriginal Initiatives (through relationship building) Regional and Strategic Planning (through education)
-----	---	--	--	---

Now	X			Aboriginal Initiatives (through partnerships) Legislative & Information Services (through RFA Task Force) Regional and Strategic Planning (through education)
-----	---	--	--	---

ACTION PLAN TABLE (CONTINUED)

		
<p>9</p>  <p>Support the establishment of a regional food and farmland trust</p>	<p>Initiate process/conversation to establish a regional food and farmland trust and fund.</p>	<p>CRD would convene a process/conversation with RFA Task Force, municipalities, local land trusts, Capital Region Food and Agriculture Initiatives Roundtable, Peninsula Agriculture Commission, financial institutions and Ministry of Agriculture to discuss a regional food and farmland trust, leading to the preparation of a feasibility study.</p>
<p>10</p>  <p>Support regional economic development strategies for food and agriculture</p>	<p>Work with community and business groups to develop a regional food and agriculture economic development strategy.</p>	<p>CRD staff would convene an ongoing conversation with the RFA Task Force and the Southern Vancouver Island Economic Development Association, with input from the Capital Region Food and Agriculture Initiatives Roundtable, Peninsula Agriculture Commission and the Ministry of Agriculture to discuss a regional food and agriculture economic development strategy.</p>
<p>Support strategic business development initiatives for region's food and agriculture sector including agri-tourism.</p>	<p>Support strategic business development initiatives for region's food and agriculture sector including agri-tourism.</p>	<p>CRD staff would convene an ongoing conversation with the RFA Task Force and the Greater Victoria Economic Development Agency (GVEDA), with input from the Capital Region Food and Agriculture Initiatives Roundtable, Peninsula Agriculture Commission and the Ministry of Agriculture to support business development initiatives for food and agriculture including agri-tourism.</p>

 TIMING	UTILIZE EXISTING RESOURCES 	REQUIRES ADDITIONAL FUNDING 	REQUIRES EXTERNAL FUNDING 	 SERVICE AREAS
2016 / 2017		X	X	Regional and Strategic Planning (feasibility study) Real Estate (land bank)

2018 / 2019	X		X**	Regional and Strategic Planning (through education) ** RSP would be support (using existing resources) – lead presumed to be external
-------------	---	--	-----	--

2018 / 2019		X		Regional and Strategic Planning
-------------	--	---	--	---------------------------------



7 | APPENDICES

Glossary of Terms

Aboriginal communities: Located in urban, rural and remote locations across Canada. They include: First Nations or Indian Bands, generally located on lands called reserves; Inuit communities located in Nunavut, NWT, Northern Quebec (Nunavik) and Labrador; Métis communities; and communities of Aboriginal people (including Métis, non-status Indians, Inuit and First Nation individuals) in cities or towns which are not part of reserves or traditional territories.

Aboriginal peoples: The descendants of the original inhabitants of North America. The Canadian Constitution recognizes three groups of Aboriginal people — Indians, Métis and Inuit. These are three separate peoples with unique heritages, languages, cultural practices and spiritual beliefs.

Agricultural land: agricultural land (farm land) is the area that supports the growing, producing, raising or keeping animals and plants allowed by British Columbia's various Acts and Regulations in BC this refers to land designated as agricultural land under the Agricultural Land Commission Act or by municipal or regional governments within the land use bylaws.

Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) and Agricultural Land Commission (ALC): In 1973, in response to development pressures that were seen as eroding the province's food and farmlands, the Province established the Agricultural Land Reserve along with an independent governing body, the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC). The ALR is a provincial land use zone in which land cannot be used for non-farm uses without provincial permission. Local government regulation of land in the ALR is circumscribed by the ALR regulations

and right-to-farm legislation, which together provide significant protection for designated farm activities and the agricultural land base. The ALR regulations set out what activities and uses local governments may regulate from a land-use perspective on farmland. The right to farm legislation provides that a farmer is not liable in nuisance for any noise, odour, dust or other disturbance resulting from normal farm practices. It also exempts agricultural operations from local government nuisance bylaws.

Agricultural Extension: A general term meaning the application of scientific research and new knowledge to agricultural practices through farmer education. The field of 'extension' now encompasses a wider range of communication and learning activities organized for rural people by educators from different disciplines, including agriculture, agricultural marketing, health, and business studies.

Agriculture: The cultivation of animals, plants, fungi, and other life forms for food, fiber, biofuel, medicinal and other products used to sustain and enhance human life.¹⁷

Agri-tourism: As it is defined most broadly, involves any agriculturally based operation or activity that brings visitors to a farm or ranch. It is a form of niche tourism that is considered a growth industry in many parts of the world, including Canada. Agri-tourism has different definitions in different parts of the world. In general agri-tourism includes a wide variety of activities, including buying produce direct from a farm stand, navigating a corn maze, picking fruit, feeding animals, or staying at a B&B on a farm.

¹⁷ Safety and health in agriculture. International Labour Organization. 1999. pp. 77.

Capital Regional District (CRD): A local government established under provincial legislation, providing coordinated regional services to both urban and rural areas on southern Vancouver Island, comprised of a federation of municipalities and electoral areas managed by a board of directors appointed from the local municipalities and directly elected from electoral areas.

Capital Region Food and Agriculture Initiative Roundtable (CR-FAIR¹⁸): Formed in 1997, CR-FAIR is a coalition of organizations working to strengthen regional food security and our local food system, from farm gate to dinner plate. CR-FAIR's mission is to increase knowledge of and bring about positive change in the food and agriculture system within the Capital Region. CR-FAIR is the regional Island Health Food Hub, and supports the Connecting for Healthy Food in Schools Network, the Food Policy Working Group, the Food Literacy Project, Farmer2Farmer, the Flavour Trail, Incubator Farms, the Foodlands and Farmlands Trust initiative.

Community of Interest or Practice: A gathering of people assembled around a topic of common interest. Its members take part in the community to exchange information, to obtain answers to personal questions or problems, to improve their understanding of a subject, to share common passions or to play. In contrast to a spatial community, a 'community of interest' is defined not by space, but by some common bond (e.g. feeling of attachment) or entity (e.g. farming, church group). A Community of Practice is a group of people who are active practitioners.

Farmland: An alternative term for agricultural land.

Farmland Trust: A type of land trust that focuses specifically on preservation of agricultural land.

Feasting for Change¹⁹: Since May 2007, Aboriginal communities across southern Vancouver Island have sought to revive their traditional food practices through Feasting for Change activities, which have included a traditional salmon barbecue, pit cooking, berry picking, cleaning fish and crab, plant walks, making tea and so much more. One of the goals of the Feasting for Change

movement is to model ancestral Aboriginal stewardship to ensure food resources that nourish bodies and revitalize spirits are sustainable.

Field to Freezer: This Tseycum First Nation program consists of two comprehensive community food security projects aimed at providing life-long skills to sow and harvest produce in the community box gardens and green house and to also train members to harvest and process wild game such as deer, elk, and moose.

First Nations: A term that came into common usage in the 1970s to replace the word "Indian," which some people found offensive. Although the term First Nation is widely used, no legal definition of it exists. Among its uses, the term "First Nations peoples" refers to the Indian peoples in Canada, both Status and non-Status. Some Indian peoples have also adopted the term "First Nation" to replace the word "band" in the name of their community.²⁰

Foodlands: An alternative term for agricultural land that specifies the ability of producing food. During the establishment of the ALR, foodlands was used to highlight and connect the importance and value of these lands to BC residents. Today the term helps encompass those areas designated as agricultural lands as well as lands that support traditional and Indigenous harvest and gathering and therefore can include urban areas, as well as marine areas, shorelines, rivers and lakes.

Food Literacy: Food literacy is the ability to understand food and to develop positive relationships, food skills and practices across the lifespan in order to navigate, engage and participate within a complex food system, making decisions to support the achievement of personal health and to support a sustainable food system considering environmental, social, economic, cultural and political components" (Cullen et al., 2015).

Food literacy involves having the knowledge, skills and attitudes to make food decisions that support one's own health as well as the health of the community and the environment.

¹⁸ <http://crfair.ca>

¹⁹ <https://www.vancity.com/AboutVancity/InvestingInCommunities/StoriesOfImpact/Food/FeastingforChange>

²⁰ Terminology, Indigenous and Northern Affairs. 2012-10-01 <http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100014642/1100100014643> Retrieved: 2016-01-06.

Food security: Having access to safe, culturally acceptable, and nutritional food. The principles of food security are sustainability, self-reliance and social justice. A sustainable community food system improves the health of the community, environment and individuals over time. Food insecurity may be caused by the unavailability of food, insufficient purchasing power, inappropriate distribution, or inadequate use of food at the household level.

Food System Infrastructure: Physical, social and economic elements necessary to support food production, processing, distribution and waste management in a given area, such as abattoirs, warehouses, vehicles, veterinarians, seed distributors and grazing pasture.

Foodshed: The geographical area between where food is produced and where that food is consumed. The concept is similar to a watershed—both encompass the flow of a substance from its origin to its ultimate destination. An alternative definition is a geographic area that supplies a population center with food. Both definitions emphasize the geographical context of food—where it comes from and where it ends up.²¹

Food sovereignty: The right of peoples to define their own food and agriculture; to protect and regulate domestic agricultural production and trade in order to achieve sustainable development objectives; to determine the extent to which they want to be self-reliant; to restrict the dumping of products in their markets; and to provide local fisheries-based communities the priority in managing the use of and the rights to aquatic resources. Food sovereignty does not negate trade, but rather, it promotes the formulation of trade policies and practices that serve the rights of peoples to safe, healthy and ecologically sustainable production.

Indigeneity²²: Is a way of being in the world: being indigenous to a place means having a depth of knowledge, understanding and connection to that place. Indigeneity also includes a sense of stewardship and responsibility for managing that place and working respectfully with its non-human inhabitants. Prior to

that shift away from agrarian society that took place with the Industrial Revolution, most people on this planet retained some degree of Indigeneity under this definition.

Indigenous foods: Categorized as plant foods, animal foods, earth elements such as salts, and water.²³

Island Chef Collaborative (ICC)²⁴: A community of liked-minded chefs and food and beverage professionals with a common interest in regional food security, the preservation of farmland and the development of local food systems. Largely through fundraising activities, ICC has generated microloans that enable local farmers to grow more food and connect with local merchants. Funds go to growers, harvesters and processors to invest in equipment and materials that allows them to increase the supply of food in the region.

Land trust: A land trust is a non-profit, non-governmental organization, usually with charitable status, that focuses specifically on land preservation.

Peninsula and Area Agriculture Commission (PAC)²⁵: An advisory committee with a mandate to advise the Municipalities of Central Saanich, Metchosin, North Saanich, Saanich, Sidney and the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area on matters involving agriculture, and, to facilitate the development of programs for implementation of the Saanich Peninsula Agricultural Strategy objectives and keep the Municipalities advised of these programs. The commission operates under the guidelines of the Local Government Act. PAC is made up of 10 voting citizens appointed by the member councils plus up to 10 non-voting members. PAC's clearly defined role under the Local Government Act limits their ability to undertake and direct work. PAC is often the place where issues affecting local agricultural and food producers are identified and discussed.

Place-based foods: Foods with a distinctive social and geographical identity whose unique tastes can be traced to the growing conditions and cultural practices of production.

²¹ http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/what_is_a_food_shed

²² <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/new-way-stewardship-mother-earth-indigeneity-180952855/?no-ist>

²³ <http://www.fao.org/wairdocs/other/ai215e/AI215E04.htm>

²⁴ <http://www.iccbc.ca>

²⁵ <http://www.saanich.ca/living/mayor/boards/pac.html>

Region: The political, government entity that is the Capital Regional District (CRD).

region: The geographic area generally from Port Renfrew through to the Southern Gulf Islands including the Victoria Metropolitan Area, that comprises the jurisdiction of the Capital Regional District.

Southern Vancouver Island Direct Farm Marketing Association²⁶: A non-profit association of more than 70 growers and producers on Southern Vancouver Island, British Columbia, who sell their farm and vineyard products directly to consumers. Many of our members also participate in agri-tourism, including farmers' markets, fall fairs, farm festivals, farm tours and bed & breakfasts. The major activities of the association include publication of the annual "Farm Fresh" consumers guide in April, management of the Farm Fresh website and participation in a special Farmers' Market at the historic Saanich Fair on the Labour Day weekend.

Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities Indigenous Food Network²⁷: A collective with a shared vision of a healthy future based upon reconnecting with First Nations cultural teachings and practices. Members include culturally knowledgeable food harvesters and gatherers, health professionals, community development workers and members of the scientific community. VICCIFN is building collaborative approaches in addressing issues of traditional food access and security, and intends to research, document and share the ancestral strengths that are deeply rooted throughout Vancouver Island for the preservation for future generations.

Victoria Food Funders Network: There are many agencies that fund food systems, health, and agriculture initiatives in the Region. In an effort to better understand the issues, increase efficiency, decrease duplication, and support more strategic and coordinated investment in the Region many of these funders are coming together to develop a food funder network.

Victoria Foundation Vital Signs²⁸: An annual community check-up that evaluates the Capital Region as a place to live, learn, work and grow. It measures the health of our city and assigns grades in a number of areas that are critical to Victoria's vitality. Information included on this site has been gathered in cooperation with numerous sources that are researching and collecting data on Victoria. Community Foundations of Canada retains the Centre for the Study of Living Standards to develop common indicators for Vital Signs communities and obtain data from Statistics Canada and other institutional sources. Greater Victoria is an umbrella term that applies to different geographical areas, depending on the indicator. It can refer to the Capital Regional District, Victoria Census Metropolitan Area or South Vancouver Island Health Service Delivery Area.

Urban agriculture: The range of activities involved in growing, raising, processing, marketing and distributing food and non-food products in an urban area. These activities include backyard gardens, community gardens, beehives, orchards, greenhouses, market gardens, livestock production (chickens and other animals) and even small-scale aquaculture, hydroponic greenhouses and closed-loop buildings.

²⁶ <http://www.islandfarmfresh.com>

²⁷ <http://www.indigenousfoodsvi.ca>

²⁸ <http://www.victoriafoundation.bc.ca/vital-signs/victoria>

Regional Food & Agriculture Organizations

There are an increasing number of agriculture, food security and food system programs run by a host of organizations, businesses and individuals in the CRD. Many organizations do creative and effective work on increasing food access, supporting urban agriculture and strengthening communities. Regional food security work is implemented through informal partnerships between the CRD Roundtable on the Environment, BC Healthy Communities Subcommittee (BCHCSC), Island Health (IH) and Capital Region Food and Agriculture Initiatives Roundtable (CR-FAIR). Examples of this collaboration include pilot projects for local food procurement and urban agriculture initiatives at a number of municipalities.

The following organizations and agencies have played a critical role in the development of the RFAS. Their continued involvement is critical to the successful implementation of the RFAS and development of the sector.

CR-FAIR

Established in 1997, Capital Region Food and Agriculture Initiatives Roundtable is a coalition of organizations and individuals working to strengthen regional food security and our local food system, from farm gate to dinner plate. The Community Social Planning Council is the legal sponsor of CR-FAIR. CR-FAIR's mission is to increase knowledge of and bring about positive change in the food and agriculture system within the capital region. CR-FAIR three areas of focus include the food economy, food literacy and food access and health. They have been a driving force behind the establishment of a regional food and farmland trust.

PENINSULA AND AREA AGRICULTURE COMMISSION (PAC)

Established in 1998 as an advisory committee to the Municipalities of Central Saanich, Metchosin, North Saanich, Saanich, Sidney and the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area on matters involving agriculture, and, to facilitate the development of programs for implementation of the Saanich Peninsula Agricultural Strategy objectives and keep the Municipalities advised of these programs. PAC is made up of 10 voting citizens appointed by the

member councils plus up to 10 non-voting members including: one member of council from each of Central Saanich, Metchosin, North Saanich, Saanich and Sidney and one representative of the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area; and one member each from the Agricultural Land Commission, the Saanich Peninsula Water Commission, Agriculture Canada, and the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food. PAC operates under the guidelines of the Local Government Act. As a commission, defined under the Act, they are limited in their ability to undertake and direct work related to agriculture and food. They are one of the few regional bodies with members from the farming community.

VICTORIA FOOD FUNDERS NETWORK

There are many agencies within the region that fund local food systems, health, and agriculture initiatives. In an effort to better understand the issues, increase efficiency, decrease duplication, and support more strategic and coordinated investment in the region many of these funders are coming together to under the umbrella of a local food funder network.

ISLAND HEALTH (IH)

Island Health provides health care to more than 765,000 people on Vancouver Island, the islands of the Georgia Strait, and in the mainland communities north of Powell River and south of Rivers Inlet. In addition to overseeing food safety regulations, Island Health is involved in many food-related activities and issues as they pertain to individual and community health, and community food security on Vancouver Island.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (MA)

The Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for the production, marketing, processing and merchandising of agricultural products and food; the institution and carrying out of advisory, research, promotional or education extension programs, projects or undertakings relating to agriculture and food; and the collection of information and preparation and dissemination of statistics relating to agriculture and food.

FIRST NATIONS

The traditional territories of 22 First Nations span portions of the CRD. 11 of these Nations hold reserve lands throughout the region. Eight of these First Nations are signatories to the Douglas Treaty. First Nations interest in traditional foods and associated cultivation and harvesting practices is increasing. They are an important and powerful interest with inherent rights and title to the landscape and many local food sources. Their perspective and deep understanding of the region will help expand the understanding and appreciation of local food and agriculture.



Food & Agriculture Interests

Of the 13 municipalities in the CRD, municipalities with substantial rural and agricultural areas include the Districts of Metchosin, Sooke, Saanich, Central Saanich, and North Saanich.²⁹ Colwood and Esquimalt have smaller ALR holdings. The District of Highlands, while not having any ALR land still has significant agricultural activities and land use bylaws that reference agriculture and agricultural uses. The Electoral Areas have significant ALR holdings, although only the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area is covered by this plan. And while Oak Bay, the City of Victoria and the Town of Sidney do not have any ALR holdings, all three support increasing urban agriculture and food production activities as do the other local municipalities and Juan de Fuca electoral area.

The 2011 Agriculture Census shows that the area of farmland in some form of production has stayed relatively steady at 13,606 ha (43 ha more than 2006) out of the total 16,382 ha of land in the ALR. Since the inception of the ALR in 1973, approximately 1500 ha of the ALR have been removed within the CRD, representing an approximate decrease of 8% between 1973 and 2009 (Capital Regional District, 2010).

Over the past three decades, nearly 1,500 hectares of productive agricultural land have been removed from the region's Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) areas. As of 2009, 10,600 hectares of ALR land remained in the Region's Growth Management Planning Area (excluding the Gulf Islands or Indian Reserve lands). In 2013, there were 1,093 farms reporting farm-related income in the CRD (excluding the Gulf Islands) (Ministry of Agriculture, 2013). In total, they produced over \$50 million in gross farm receipts, up 10% from the 2006 Census. There are approximately 34 community gardens with approximately 1,000 plots throughout the CRD, some of which were established as far back as the 1970s.

²⁹ >100 hectares of ALR.

Local Oversight

There are currently seven Agricultural Advisory Committees or Commissions in the CRD.³⁰ Agricultural Advisory Committees (AACs) can be an effective way for local governments to connect with their farming communities. An AAC is appointed and functions similarly to other advisory committees of municipal councils or regional boards. Their members are predominantly drawn from the farming community and the committee focuses on agricultural issues.³¹

Agricultural Area Plans (AAPs) allow communities to develop practical solutions to issues and identify opportunities to strengthen farming and ultimately to contribute to agriculture and the community's long-term sustainability. Five communities within the CRD have completed agriculture plans³² and one has completed a food system plan.³³ Agriculture plans are currently being developed for the District of Saanich and the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area. Associated Agricultural Land Use Inventories (ALUIs) have been completed for all six of the CRD municipalities with rural lands and for each of the three Electoral Areas.³⁴

The Local Government Act makes provisions for municipalities and regional districts to develop official plans for portions of their jurisdictions - often referred to as neighbourhood or local area plans. The Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) and Ministry of Agriculture actively support local government initiatives to develop Agricultural Area Plans.

³⁰ District of Central Saanich, District of Metchosin, District of North Saanich, Langford, Juan de Fuca Electoral Area, Salt Spring Electoral Area, and the Peninsula Agricultural Commission.

³¹ <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/agricultural-land-and-environment/strengthening-farming/agricultural-advisory-committees>

³² Salt Spring Island Electoral Area (2008), District of North Saanich (2010), District of Central Saanich (2011), Sooke (2012), District of Metchosin (2013)

³³ City of Victoria (2010).

³⁴ Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area (2014); Districts of Central Saanich and North Saanich, and Juan De Fuca Electoral Area (2009); Salt Spring Island Electoral Area; and District of Saanich, Colwood and Langford (2005).

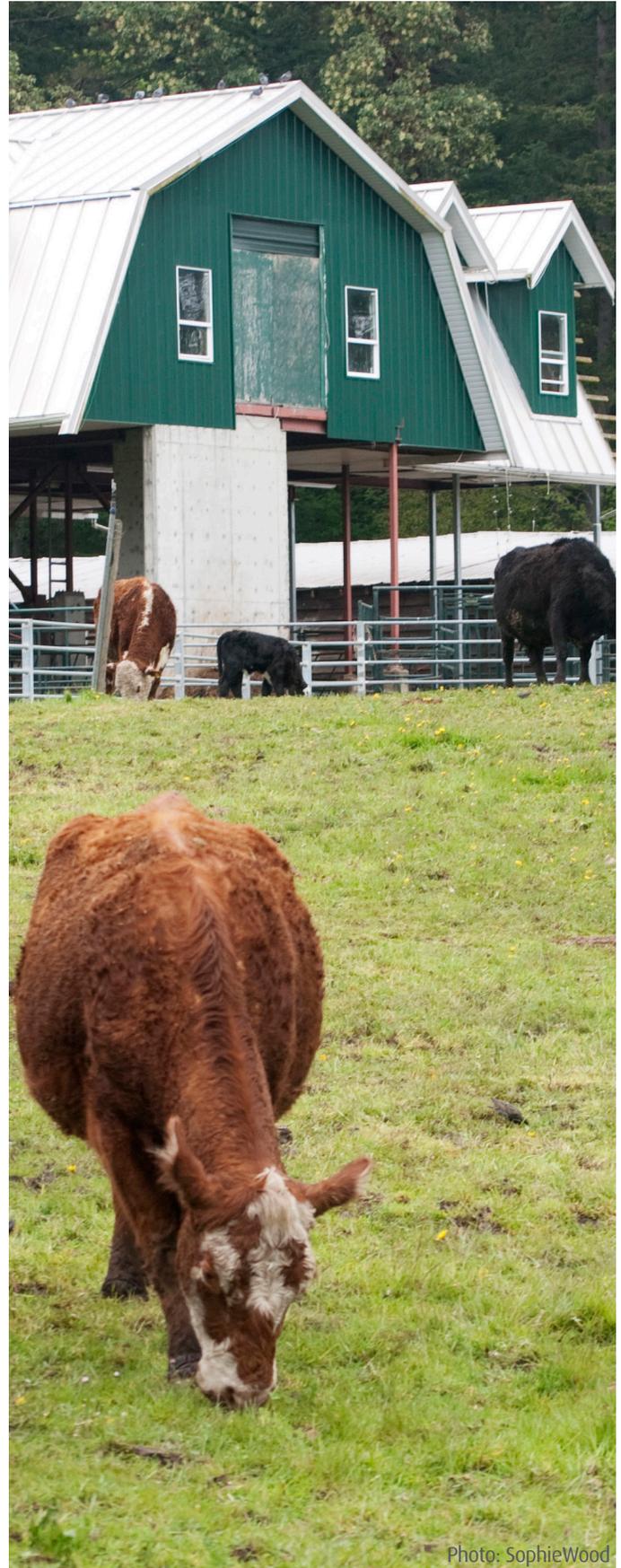


Photo: SophieWood

Page left blank for double-sided booklet printing

CRD

Making a difference...together





Home on the Range: Cost pressures and the price of farmland in Metro Vancouver

Highlights

- B.C. is highly dependent on food imports and vulnerable to global food price increases.
- Price increases of 26.2% for fresh vegetable and 9.0% for fresh fruits have been documented between January 2015 and January 2016.
- A food system that increases B.C.'s food self-reliance would decrease dependence on food imports and improve resilience against global food supply and price shocks. However, the high price of farmland in Metro Vancouver currently threatens the viability of such a system.
- Farmland prices in Metro Vancouver range from \$150,000 to \$350,000 per acre for parcels less than 5 acres, and from \$50,000 to \$80,000 per acre for parcels more than 40 acres. The financial viability of many farm businesses in B.C. becomes questionable when land prices reach \$80,000 per acre.
- New or established farmers who purchase land in Metro Vancouver at prevailing farm prices – and who carry a mortgage to do so – face production costs that would result in anywhere from 10 to 70% higher food prices if they were passed on to consumers.
- Almost one-third of Metro Vancouver's actively farmed land in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) is accessed by farmers through leases from non-farmer landowners.
- Of the total leased farmland in Metro Vancouver, 35% is owned by businesses, many of which are "holding companies."
- The price of small agricultural parcels is influenced by their proximity to urban centres, the cost of residential land in those urban centres, and property tax advantages.
- Upward pressure on the price of larger parcels of agricultural land may result from the infrequency with which they come on the market and their possible appeal to investors.
- Only a small number of landowner applications for removal of farmland from the ALR are successful, but the hope of success may still encourage speculation and be a factor affecting the price of larger parcels of farmland.
- To develop a robust local food system, we need strong policy solutions to address the high price of farmland, to increase the amount of actively farmed land and to discourage the non-farm use of ALR land.

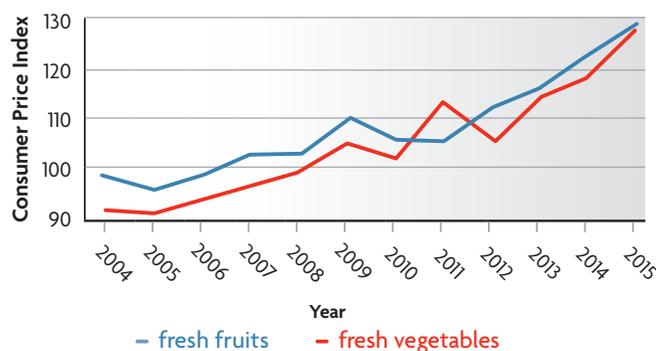
B.C. is vulnerable to global food price increases

B.C. is highly dependent on food imports.¹ We currently source 67% of imported vegetables and 44% of imported fruits from the United States. Over half of these come from California, an area that has seen reduced supply and increased prices due to drought over the past four years.² This dependence leaves us vulnerable to global food price increases, which are driven by factors such as climate change-related events,³ a fluctuating Canadian-US dollar exchange rate,⁴ and other global economic and political factors.

The B.C. consumer price index illustrates the rising price of fresh fruits and vegetables in our province (see graph below). Price increases of 26.2% for fresh vegetable and 9.0% for fresh fruits have been documented between January 2015 and January 2016.⁵ There is increasing concern that this trend will continue; food price increases of anywhere from 25 to 50% over the next five years have been predicted.⁶

The throne speech delivered to open B.C.'s 2016 legislative session recognized the same complex nexus of issues: "Climate change and increasing demands on water are challenging global agricultural production, in particular in the United States and Mexico where much of our fresh produce is grown. Combined with the current low Canadian dollar, this creates rising food prices, which are putting a strain on B.C. families."⁷ Calls for a more resilient, self-reliant food system are increasing and it is clear that action is needed.

B.C. Consumer Price Index for fresh fruits and vegetables



Source: CANSIM Table 326-0020 (Statistics Canada, 2015)

Developing a stronger local food system in Metro Vancouver

A food system that increases B.C.'s food self-reliance (the capacity to meet its own food needs with food grown locally) would decrease our dependence on food

imports. In doing so, the food system would become more resilient to global food supply and price shocks. Increasing self-reliance could provide additional benefits such as contributing to the local economy and creating more jobs and economic opportunities. A recent report found that if currently unfarmed agricultural land in Surrey was brought into agricultural production, it could almost double the economic contribution of that municipality's agriculture sector and create more than 1,500 jobs.⁸

Metro Vancouver has many of the elements necessary to grow a resilient, more self-reliant food system, including:

- experienced and aspiring farmers who want to sell food to local buyers
- universities that train and support farmers
- some of Canada's most fertile farmland and
- local government and community interest.⁹

Furthermore, B.C. has strong legislation, the Agricultural Land Commission Act, intended to protect land for farming. This Act is enforced by the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC), an independent administrative tribunal that governs the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR). The ALR is a provincially legislated zone in which agriculture is recognized as the priority use, farming is encouraged, and non-agricultural uses are controlled.¹⁰

However, farmers in Metro Vancouver, like farmers across North America, are challenged to operate financially viable businesses under the current global food system structure.

High price of farmland and small share of food dollar challenge the viability of Metro Van farming

Despite the fact that Metro Vancouver has many of the elements for a thriving local food system, there are a number of significant challenges for farmers. If Metro Vancouver farmers are anything like their American counterparts, they typically take home less than 18% of the grocery store price of food.¹¹ For many farmers, this take-home amount is not enough to cover costs of production. Statistics Canada reported that, collectively, B.C. farmers experienced a net loss of \$100 million in 2014.¹²

In addition to the financial pressure resulting from the global food system structure, farmers in Metro Vancouver face a unique challenge: the high price of the region's farmland. For agricultural parcels under five acres, prices range from \$150,000 to \$350,000 per acre. For parcels over 40 acres, prices range from \$50,000 to \$80,000 per acre. Farm Credit Canada recognizes that the financial viability of many farm businesses

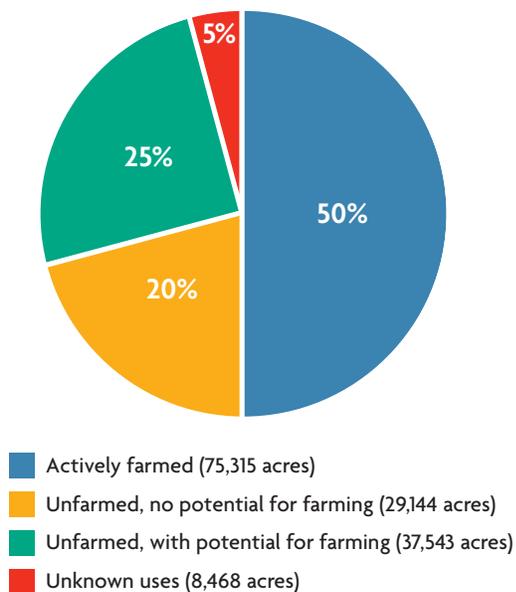
becomes questionable when land prices reach \$80,000 per acre.¹³ Without addressing the high price of farmland in Metro Vancouver, the ability to grow a resilient, more self-reliant food system in this region is severely challenged.

So, what is happening on Metro Vancouver’s farmland and what is driving up its price? What are the implications for farmers, consumers and the food system, and what must be done?

The use of Metro Vancouver’s Agricultural Land Reserve

Known as both an agricultural and urban centre, Metro Vancouver is one of B.C.’s fastest growing regional districts¹⁴ and includes more than 150,000 acres of ALR land, comprising 22% of the regional district’s total land base¹⁵ and almost all of its farmland. About 3,000 non-ALR acres are currently farmed in Metro Vancouver.¹⁶

Uses of Metro Vancouver ALR Land¹⁷



Source: Province of British Columbia – Ministry of Agriculture

The Agricultural Land Commission plays an important role, in partnership with local governments, to preserve Metro Vancouver’s ALR and to encourage policy and planning that support farm use. Although farming is identified by the ALC as the encouraged priority use for ALR land,¹⁸ a 2010 survey of Metro Vancouver’s ALR found that only about 50% of it is actively farmed or used in support of farming.¹⁹ Of the actively farmed land, roughly half is used for pasture or to grow livestock feed. Other major uses are for berry and vegetable production.

About 20% of Metro Vancouver’s ALR is described as having little to no potential for farming, either due to natural

limitations such as a tendency for flooding or because the land’s current use is incompatible with farming.²⁰ Examples of incompatible uses include parks or protected areas, golf courses, bodies of water and roadways. About 5% has unknown uses. This leaves about 25% of Metro Vancouver’s ALR available and suitable for farming. Much of this land is covered by forest, shrubs or grasslands. To bring this land into farming, the natural vegetation would have to be removed. Much of the unused farmland with potential for farming is on small parcels; 39% is on parcels under 10 acres.

The prohibitive cost of farmland

It is an understatement to say that farmland in Metro Vancouver is expensive and that these high prices are a significant challenge to developing a more resilient, self-reliant local food system. A December 2015 review of properties advertised on the B.C. Farm & Ranch Realty Corporation website revealed prices ranging from \$1.2 million for an undeveloped 4.5-acre ALR parcel in Delta to \$2.35 million for a 20-acre blueberry farm in Surrey to \$5.1 million for a 63-acre cranberry and carrot farm in Delta.²¹ These values were corroborated through interviews with employees at B.C. Farm & Realty Corp and Farm Credit Canada, who identified the following general price structure based on parcel size (table below). Farmland prices in the Fraser Valley, presented for comparison, are only slightly lower.

Parcel Size	Typical Farmland Price per Acre	
	Metro Vancouver	Fraser Valley
5 acres	\$150,000 - \$350,000	\$80,000 - \$110,000
20 acres	\$110,000 - \$120,000	\$70,000 - \$80,000
40 - 60 acres	\$50,000 - \$80,000	\$50,000 - \$70,000

According to Farm Credit Canada, the financial viability of farm businesses becomes questionable when land prices reach \$80,000/acre. The exceptions to this generalization are farms that produce supply-managed commodities. Given this criterion, Metro Vancouver and Fraser Valley farmland would not be attractive to prospective farmers. Existing farmers are challenged to come up with enough money to expand their operations and new farmers are all but shut out of farmland purchases. Some local vegetable and fruit crop farmers have purchased land in the United States and are looking at other provinces for less expensive land than that available in Metro Vancouver.²²

The high price of agricultural land in Metro Vancouver is not conducive to expanding and developing our local food system.

Farmland prices impact the costs of production

To illustrate how farmland prices in Metro Vancouver impact farmers and their costs of production, consider the example of two hypothetical carrot farms.

Both are 20-acre farms, using organic production methods. Carrots are grown on 18 acres as the remaining two acres are needed for the family home, crop rotation and barns. Using data specific to this region, each carrot farm incurs an estimated \$226,000²³ in annual costs of production, not including the cost of land.

On the first farm, the land is purchased by the farm family while on the second farm the land is leased.

On the first farm, the farmer purchases her 20-acre parcel at the price of \$2.2 million (\$110,000/acre). A financial institution will lend the farmer a maximum of \$1.65 million (75% of the parcel's price). The farmer therefore needs a minimum down payment of \$550,000. Assuming a 3.5% interest rate and a 25-year term, the down payment works out to \$22,700/year if amortized over 25 years and the annual mortgage payment on the \$1.65-million loan is about \$99,000. Annual property taxes of about \$9,500 are also incurred.²⁴ For this farm, the total annual cost of production including land is therefore \$357,200.

On the second farm, the farmer leases his 20-acre ALR parcel for \$8,000 per year (\$400/acre/year).²⁵ For this farm, the total annual cost of production including land is therefore \$228,000.

Comparing these two farms, we see that in this example the farm family that purchased its property incurs annual costs that are 50% higher than those incurred by the family

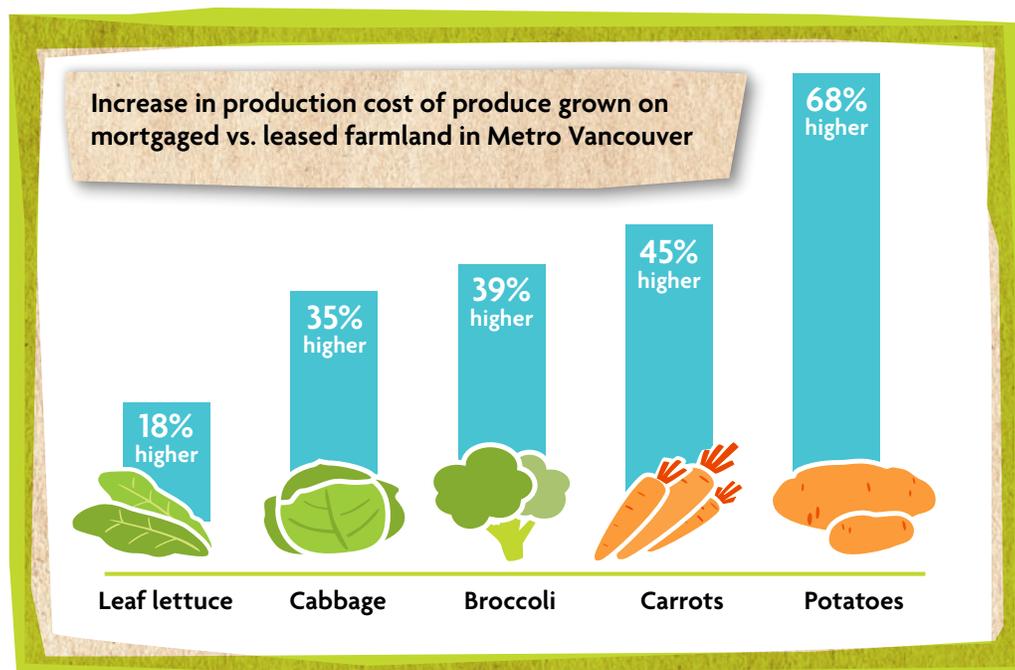
that leases its property (see table). This financial burden is in addition to the challenge of coming up with the \$550,000 down payment necessary to make a farmland purchase in the first year of their operation.

Annual Cost Category	Farm 1 (Purchased)	Farm 2 (Leased)
Producing carrots on 20 acres	\$226,000	\$226,000
Mortgage or lease	\$99,000	\$8,000
Property tax	\$9,500	N/A
Down payment amortized over 25 years	\$22,700	N/A
Total	\$357,200	\$234,000

If both farm families in our example would like to stay above the 2012 low-income cut-off line for a four-person household, each would need to generate a net annual income of about \$37,000.²⁶ Given that the farm family that purchased its property has higher annual costs of production, to achieve this income it must sell carrots at a wholesale price that is about 45% higher than the farm family that leases its land.

Similar wholesale price differences required to cover costs would apply if the farmers in our example grew other crops such as potatoes (68% higher); cabbage (35% higher); broccoli (39% higher) and leaf lettuce (18% higher).

But farming on leased farmland is by no means a long-term solution.

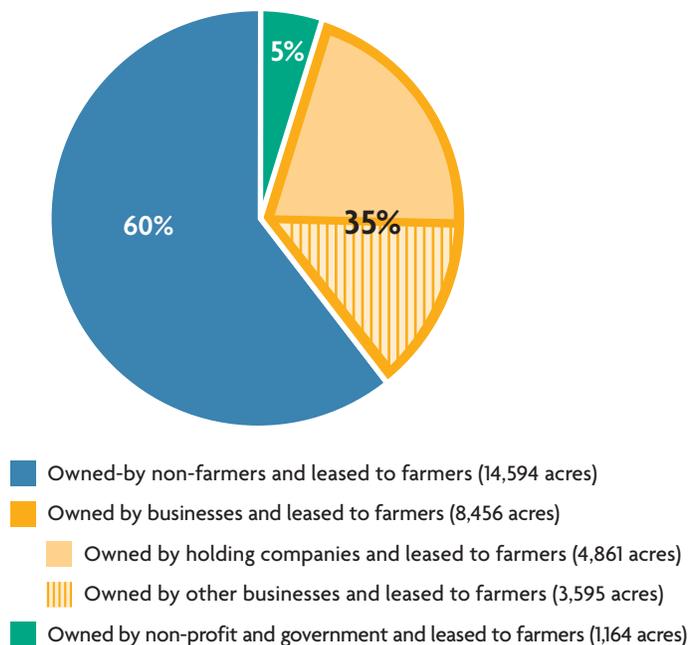


Leasing farmland: a flawed option

Due to the high price of farmland, an increasing number of farmers are leasing farmland to start or expand their farm businesses.²⁷ Although leasing is more financially feasible than purchasing land, most farmers do not see it as a long-term business strategy. In a recent survey of prospective farmers, 100% of respondents indicated that their long-term goal is to own rather than lease farmland.²⁸ Leasing is often seen as an important option for new farmers who have difficulty finding affordable land near urban markets. The challenge that leasing presents to establishing sustainable farming businesses is that fewer capital investments and land stewardship practices are made on leased farmland because of the short-term tenure of agreements as well as the risk of losing any financial investment in buildings, irrigation or drainage infrastructure. Given these limitations, a food system built around the practice of farmland leasing is not sustainable.

Almost one-third of Metro Vancouver's actively farmed ALR land is accessed by farmers through leases from non-farmer landowners.²⁹ Of this non-farmer-owned land, 60% (14,594 acres) is owned by individuals and 35% (8,456 acres) by businesses. The remaining 5% is owned by government and non-profits. The predominant businesses (57%) leasing farmland are holding properties, which according to Metro Vancouver are "distinguished by having terms such a holding, investment, estate, property, land or development in their name".³⁰ These businesses collectively own 20% of all leased land (4,860 acres).

Actively farmed land that is owned by non-farmers³¹



Source: Metro Vancouver 2015

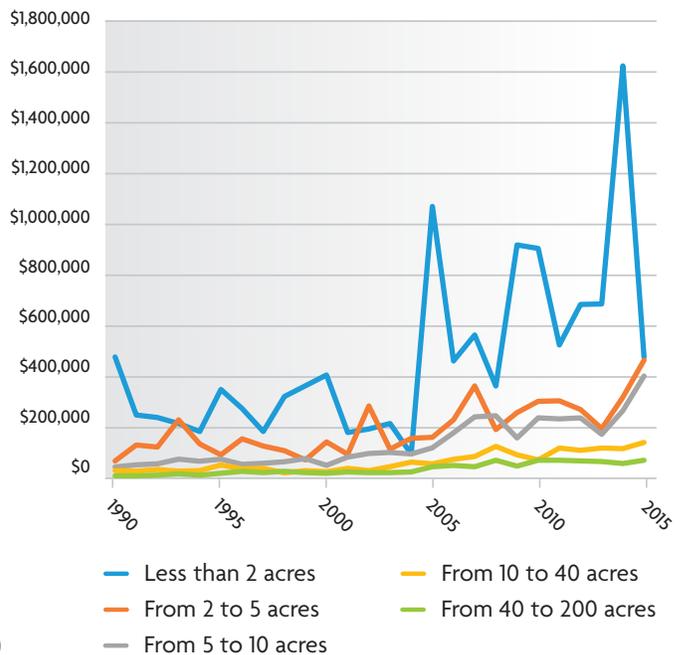
The significant non-farmer ownership of leased agricultural land raises concerns that land is potentially being purchased on speculation for future estate homes or development.

Real-estate pressures influence farmland prices

Farmland prices should reflect the capacity of the land to support a financially profitable agricultural business. This is not currently the case in Metro Vancouver.³² Rising residential land prices in urban centres have a spill-over effect on nearby parcels of agricultural land, particularly those under 10 acres. Non-farmers who purchase land for long-term investments are sometimes willing to pay premium prices. This is illustrated by farmland sales data from 1990 to 2015 provided by Landcor Data Corporation (below), which shows a marked difference between both the price per acre and the price volatility for smaller versus larger parcels of farmland. Over this 25-year period, larger parcels have seen a steady increase in value, while the cost per acre for smaller parcels has fluctuated wildly and increased exponentially for select properties.

Non-farm residential and commercial use of agricultural land likely plays a role in raising land prices because it contributes to scarcity of land available for farming. How much any one factor influences prices is unknown. Given the high cost of land relative to farm business income potential, it is clear that the one factor that should dictate agricultural land prices – farm business viability – is not.

Farmland sales – average price per acre, Greater Vancouver³³



Source: Landcor Data Corporation

Factors affecting the price of small parcels of farmland

Three factors putting pressure on the price of one- to 10-acre agricultural parcels are: proximity to urban centres, the cost of residential land in those urban centres and property tax advantages. Small agricultural parcels close to urban centres are ideal for farmers building businesses based on mixed crops sold through alternative markets such as community supported agriculture, farmers markets and food co-operatives. However, prospective farmers are in competition for prime agricultural land with developers and purchasers of estate homes (larger than average residences on agricultural land) seeking to avoid the high cost of residential land. In Richmond, Surrey and Delta, for example, residential land prices hover around \$500,000 per acre³⁴ (roughly twice the price of agricultural land). Small agricultural parcels in Metro Vancouver are becoming increasingly appealing to non-farmer buyers.

In addition to lower land prices, owners of estate homes built on land where agriculture is permitted (such as ALR) can gain property tax advantages.³⁵ To qualify for reduced property tax, an owner must report a minimum annual farm income (earnings derived from the production and sale of qualifying agricultural products). For properties smaller than 1.98 acres, the minimum required farm income is \$10,000, and for parcels between 1.98 and 10 acres, the minimum is \$2,500.³⁶ Sufficient farm incomes can be generated with minimal farming activities, for example, producing hay or providing pasture for rent. Anecdotal reports suggest that most estate home owners are achieving these minimums from non-food agricultural products such as hay, pasture and trees, rather than from food produced for local consumption. Non-food products play a part in farm viability, but a balance should be encouraged to support local food production.

There is little information about the number of estate homes that have been developed on agricultural parcels in Metro Vancouver or of their influence on agricultural land prices. It has been suggested that each time a parcel of land is sold for estate-home development it sets a new, higher benchmark for the price of similar agricultural parcels, a benchmark based on its value as a luxury residential property instead of as a working farm.³⁷

Factors affecting the price of larger parcels of farmland

Upward pressure on the price of larger parcels of agricultural land (more than 20 acres) may result from the infrequency with which they come on the market and their possible

appeal to investors. A realtor with B.C. Farm & Ranch Realty Corp. reported that the majority of parcels over 20 acres purchased in Metro Vancouver are bought for the purpose of farming.³⁸ Once purchased, properties typically do not come back on the market for 20 years or more. When they do appear, new benchmark prices are set by farmers looking to start or expand their businesses. Many buyers are existing farmers or members of farm families, and have non-farm earnings that supplement their annual incomes.

Although less common, another reason for the upward pressure on larger parcels may be that historic price increases make them appealing as long-term investments to buyers who are not farmers.³⁹ Non-farmer investors generally lease their land to local farmers while holding it for future resale. Depending on its location, land removed from the ALR may see a dramatic increase in price as removal makes it available for non-agricultural uses such as housing development. Only a small number of landowner applications for removal are successful, however the possibility of success may still encourage speculation and be a factor affecting the price of larger parcels of farmland.

Recommendations to address the price of farmland and improve the viability of farming

To develop a resilient and secure food system that buffers against factors such as climate change, a fluctuating Canadian-US dollar exchange rate and reliance on food imports, farming needs to be financially viable. The high price of farmland in Metro Vancouver is a challenge to the financial viability for existing and new farmers and needs to be addressed.

The extent to which non-farm uses, estate home development, exclusions from ALR, and un-farmed agricultural land impact land price has not fully been determined. However, in an environment where agricultural land prices per acre do not reflect the farm business potential of the land, these activities do not improve conditions for prospective and existing farmers. Nor do they encourage the development of a local food system in which local products can be purchased at affordable prices.

What is needed are stronger policy solutions and partnerships at the municipal, regional and provincial level to address the high price of farmland, increase the amount of actively farmed land and discourage non-farm uses of ALR land.

- **Bringing unfarmed ALR land that is available and suitable for farming into production is one way to increase local food production and encourage a more self-reliant local food system.** Metro Vancouver's regional and municipal governments have been pursuing policies aimed at ensuring ALR land is farmed. Corporation of Delta zoning bylaws discourage the development of estate homes on ALR by limiting the maximum size of residential dwellings and specifying their location on the property to minimize intrusion onto farmable land.⁴⁰ City of Surrey policy severely restricts the ability of landowners to have their land excluded from the ALR by requiring that any exclusion is offset by the inclusion of an area within the City of Surrey that is twice as large.⁴¹
- **Innovative partnerships that support new farmers to develop farming and business skills, and assist them in accessing available land, have an important role to play in increasing our local food supply and creating new jobs.** Several such initiatives already exist across Metro Vancouver but their reach and scale should be expanded. For example, The City of Richmond has partnered with Kwantlen Polytechnic University in the development of the Richmond Farm School and incubator farm, where eligible students can access up to a half acre of municipally owned land for three years to begin their agricultural enterprises. The City of Surrey is exploring a virtual farm incubator project to support new farmers to develop their businesses and assist them in locating farm sites.
- **Taxation can provide a powerful incentive and/or disincentive for increasing actively farmed land and discouraging non-farm use of ALR land.** Metro Vancouver has been leading important work to identify the most effective taxation policy options to protect agricultural land for farming, increase the amount of actively farmed land and discourage non-farm use of ALR land. Options include reconsidering how land in the ALR is classified and valued related to taxation, and changing the minimum annual farm income required to achieve farm class tax status. This is being done in consultation with municipalities, provincial agencies and the private sector. It is critical that all these actors work together to ensure that eventual policy changes are supported and enforced by local and provincial governments.
- **Register long-term leases on the title of the property.** This can minimize the risk associated with investing in farm infrastructure and soil fertility because it ensures the lease is transferred to a new owner if the land is sold.

- **Gather additional information on farm ownership and land use in the ALR.** There is a relative lack of data about what is happening on the ground. Provincial and local governments need to partner with researchers. Adequate data and information are required to understand the issues facing farmers.
- **Local policies and initiatives must be complemented by provincial policies aimed at moderating the price of agricultural land.** Bold, forward-thinking examples include an outright end to applications for ALR exclusion or non-farm use, and a formal requirement that ALR land is farmed. Perhaps ALR should only be owned by appropriately trained or skilled professional farmers.
- **There needs to be a strong and well-resourced Agricultural Land Commission that is backed and equipped to fulfil its mandate to preserve agricultural land, encourage farming, and support farm use of agriculture land in policy and planning at all levels.** The most recent provincial budget⁴² announced additional resources for the Agricultural Land Commission. This is an important step in ensuring the resources for the commission to fulfill its mandate to ensure agricultural land is being protected and actively farmed.

Without strong policy solutions and efforts to improve the viability of farming, forces driving the high price of farmland may foreclose the possibility of a robust local food system in Metro Vancouver.

Methodology and Authorship

This report was commissioned by Vancity and written by members of the Institute for Sustainable Food Systems at Kwantlen Polytechnic University (Dr. Cornelia Sussmann, Caitlin Dorward, Dr. Wallapak Polasub, Dr. Kent Mullinix) and the BC Food Systems Network (Brent Mansfield). Data and information were gathered between September 2015 and March 2016. In addition to secondary data sources, telephone and email interviews were conducted with representatives from financial and real estate agencies as well as local governments. Information not attributed to a written source was obtained from these interviews.

References

1. Mansfield, Brent. 2014. "Wake up Call: California Drought & B.C.'S Food Security." Vancouver, British Columbia: Vancouver City Savings Credit Union; Ostry, Aleck, and Kathryn Morrison. 2010. "A Health and Nutritional Evaluation of Changes in Agriculture in the Past Quarter Century in British Columbia: Implications for Food Security." *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* 7 (6): 2653–65. doi:10.3390/ijerph7062653.
2. Agriculture and Agri-food Canada, A Snapshot of the Canadian Vegetable Industry 2010; Agriculture and Agri-food Canada, A Snapshot of the Canadian Fruit Industry 2009.
3. Mansfield, Brent. 2014. "Wake up Call: California Drought & B.C.'S Food Security." Vancouver, British Columbia: Vancouver City Savings Credit Union.
4. Charlebois, S, M Von Massow, and Paul Uys. 2015. "Food Price Report 2015." Guelph, Ontario: The Food Institute of the University of Guelph.
5. Statistics Canada, Consumer Price Index, food, by province (monthly; British Columbia). Retrieved February 21, 2016. www.statcan.gc.ca/tables-tableaux/sum-som/l01/cst01/cpis08k-eng.htm
6. Ibid.
7. Legislative Assembly of British Columbia. 2016. Throne Speech, 2016 Legislative Session: 5th Session, 40th Parliament. www.leg.bc.ca/parliamentary-business/legislation-debates-proceedings/40th-parliament/5th-session/throne-speech
8. Mullinix K, Dorward C, Shutzbank M, Krishnan P, Ageson K, Fallick A. Beyond protection: Delineating the economic and food production potential of underutilized, small-parcel farmland in metropolitan Surrey, British Columbia. *J Agric Food Syst Community Dev.* 2013; 1–18.
9. Fortin, Sofia. 2014. "SWBC Bio-Region Food System Design Project: Phase I Stakeholder Engagement Report." Richmond, BC: Institute for Sustainable Food Systems, Kwantlen Polytechnic University.
10. Sussmann, Cornelia, and Caitriona Feeney. 2015. "Local Food Futures for British Columbia: Findings from Regional Dialogues." Vancouver, British Columbia: Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia.
11. Metro Vancouver. 2011. "Metro Vancouver Regional Food System Strategy." Burnaby, British Columbia: Metro Vancouver.
12. Provincial Agricultural Land Commission. 2013. "Annual Report 2013-14." Burnaby, British Columbia: Provincial Agricultural Land Commission. www.alc.gov.bc.ca/assets/alc/assets/library/commission-reports/2013-14_alc_annual_report_final_revised.pdf
13. United States Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service. 2015. "USDA Economic Research Service - Food Dollar Application." *Food Dollar Series.* www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-dollar-series/food-dollar-application.aspx
14. Statistics Canada. 2014. "Table 002-0009 - Net Farm Income, Annual (dollars)." Ottawa, Ontario: Statistics Canada CANSIM (database). *Net losses were determined by subtracting operating costs and depreciation charges from gross income.*
15. The exception to this generalization is farms producing supply-managed commodities Canadian supply managed commodities include dairy, poultry, and eggs. Under the supply management system, production targets and prices for these products are set by government agencies. This system is credited with improving the financial success of farm businesses producing these products.
16. Statistics Canada. Table 051-0062 - Estimates of population by census division, sex and age group for July 1, based on the Standard Geographical Classification (SGC) 2011, annual (persons). Ottawa, Ontario: Statistics Canada CANSIM (database).
17. Province of British Columbia - Ministry of Agriculture. 2014. "Land Use Inventory Report: Metro Vancouver Regional Report Summer 2010 & 2011." Abbotsford, British Columbia: Government of British Columbia – Ministry of Agriculture.
18. Ibid.
19. Ibid.
20. Province of British Columbia - Provincial Agricultural Land Commission. 2013. "About the ALR." www.alc.gov.bc.ca/alr/alr_main.htm
21. Province of British Columbia - Ministry of Agriculture. 2014. "Land Use Inventory Report: Metro Vancouver Regional Report Summer 2010 & 2011." Abbotsford, British Columbia: Government of British Columbia - Ministry of Agriculture.
22. Ibid.
23. "BC Farm & Ranch Realty Corp." 2015. www.bcfarmandranch.com/
24. Penner, Derrick. 2008. "Land Prices Outstrip Economics of Farming." Vancouver Sun, May 24.; Farm Credit Canada staff, interview with Kent Mullinix, October 5, 2015.

23. Afeworki, E, Polasub, W, Chiu, C, and Kent Mullinix. 2015. Southwest British Columbia Small-Scale Farm Enterprise Budgets. Institute for Sustainable Food Systems. <http://www.kpu.ca/isfs/enterprise-budgets>.
24. The enterprise budget is based on 0.5 acre area of production. We assume that the cost of production per acre decreases by one-third as the area of production increases due to the economy of scale in production.
25. Afeworki, E, Polasub, W, Chiu, C, and Kent Mullinix. 2015. Southwest British Columbia Small-Scale Farm Enterprise Budgets. Institute for Sustainable Food Systems. www.kpu.ca/isfs/enterprise-budgets
26. Statistics Canada. 2013. Low income cut-offs (1992 base) before tax. Ottawa, Ontario. Government of Canada. www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/75f0002m/2013002/tbl/tbl02-eng.htm *Note we based our calculation on the cut-off in a community with 30,000 – 100,000 inhabitants.*
27. Dennis, J, and Hannah Wittman. 2014. "Farmland Access in British Columbia: Project Summary Report." Vancouver, British Columbia: Faculty of Land and Food Systems, University of British Columbia.
28. Ibid.
29. Metro Vancouver. 2015. Farm Lease Agreements in Metro Vancouver: Regional Planning Information Bulletin. www.metrovancouver.org/services/regional-planning/PlanningPublications/Farm_Lease_Agreements_in_Metro_Vancouver-RP_Bulletin2015.pdf
30. Ibid., 5.
31. Metro Vancouver. 2015. Farm Lease Agreements in Metro Vancouver: Regional Planning Information Bulletin. www.metrovancouver.org/services/regional-planning/PlanningPublications/Farm_Lease_Agreements_in_Metro_Vancouver-RP_Bulletin2015.pdf
32. Farm Credit Canada staff, interview with Kent Mullinix, October 5, 2015.
B.C. Farm & Ranch Realty Corporation, interview with Kent Mullinix and Cornelia Sussmann, September 24, 2015.
33. Landcor Data Corporation
34. B.C. Farm & Ranch Realty Corporation, interview with Kent Mullinix and Cornelia Sussmann, September 24, 2015.
35. B.C. Assessment. 2016. Classifying Farm Land. www.bcassessment.ca/services-and-products/Pages/Classifying%20Farm%20Land.aspx
Under the BC Assessment Act, land may qualify for farm class status and associated property tax reductions if it is used for a qualifying agricultural use or purposes that contribute to a qualifying agricultural use (e.g., irrigation, access to farm outbuildings, shelter belts), used for a farmer's dwelling; used for a retired farmer's dwelling in the ALR, used for the training and boarding of horses when operated in conjunction with horse rearing; and in some cases, vacant land associated with a farm. Land does not necessarily need to be ALR in order to qualify. (www.bcassessment.ca/)
36. B.C. Assessment. 2015. Fact Sheet: Classifying Farm Land. www.bcassessment.ca/public/Fact%20Sheets/Classifying%20Farm%20Land.aspx
37. Interview, Farm Credit Canada, October 6, 2015.
38. Interview, B.C. Farm & Ranch Realty Corporation September 24, 2015.
39. Interview, Farm Credit Canada, October 6, 2015.
40. Corporation of Delta. 2007. Bylaw 507 Area of a 'Farm House', 'Additional Farm House', or 'Migrant Farm Worker Housing'. Delta, British Columbia: Corporation of Delta.
Corporation of Delta. 2007. Bylaw 506 'Farm Home Plate' and 'Farm Home Plate' - 'Migrant Farm Worker Housing'. Delta, British Columbia: Corporation of Delta.
41. City of Surrey. 2003. "Surrey Policy for Considering Applications for Exclusion of Land from the Agricultural Land Reserve (Policy 0-5)."
42. British Columbia Ministry of Finance. 2016. Budget and Fiscal Plan: 2016/17 - 2018/19. http://bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2016/bfp/2016_Budget_and_Fiscal_Plan.pdf

An Overview of Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

CRD Sources of GHG's

Transportation = approx. 55% Buildings = approx. 35% Waste Steams = approx. 9%

Mitigation

Transportation

Conservation of Transportation Needs - Compact Land Use & Region - Complete Communities

Modal Shift - Compact Land Use & Region - Complete Communities - Improved Infrastructure for Preferred Modes - "Cultural" Shift - TDM to "encourage" modal shift

Greater Efficiency for Vehicles - Non Fossil Carbon Fuels - Electric Vehicles - New "paradigms of Vehicle Use & Ownership

Price Fossil Carbon Use

Buildings

Conservation of Energy Needs - Improved Building Energy Use (e.g. Passive solar design) Improved Efficiency of "Devices"

Location - Location - Location - Compact Community & Region

Shift to "Renewable" Energy Sources (solar, wind, et al) - Distributed Grid?

Incentives to Encourage Shift e.g. "Pay as You Go" Solar Installations (BC Hydro)

Price Fossil Carbon Use

Waste Streams

Reduce Waste Generation - Reduction in Packaging - Accelerated "3 R's (Including design for purpose)

Use of Remaining Waste as a Resource (Fossil Carbon replacement)

Price Fossil Carbon Use

STAFF

Advise on Mechanism to Evaluate "Internal" Choices - Advise on Methods to Insure Decisions pass through a Climate Change Lens

IMPLICATIONS for the RGS

Build RGS around a Climate Change Lens?

Create and Promote a Model of Where We Must Go as A Region (Climate Change Lens)

Create, Publicize and Promote Where We Must Go As a Region - Use Education plus a "Carrot & Stick Approach to Accomplish a Cultural Shift

CRD TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING

Thursday, April 14, 2016

The Lakes' Banquet Room, 4670 Elk Lake Road, Victoria

Members: Kim Bruce, Prevention Services, Island Health (Chair)
Judy Dryden, Child Passenger Safety Program, BCAA Community Impact
Chris Foord, Community Member
Dr. Murray Fyfe, Medical Health Officer, Island Health
Shawn Haley for Tina Rogers, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Bill Laughlin, Vancouver Island Safety Council
Alan Perry, Media
Colin Plant, CRD Director
Dr. Holly Tuokko, Centre on Aging, University of Victoria
Colleen Woodger, ICBC Road Safety Division
Stefan Yancey, Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement

Associates: Sgt. Ron Cronk, Victoria Police
Sgt. Ray Maxwell, Oak Bay Police
Cst. Krysti Seutter, West Shore RCMP
Cst. Scott Seutter, Sidney/North Saanich RCMP
Cst. Ross Smith, Victoria Police
Dr. Richard Stanwick, Office of the Chief Medical Health Officer, Island Health
Sarah Webb, Active Transportation, CRD
Sgt. Alex Yelovatz, CRD Integrated Road Safety Unit

Guests: Dr. Bonnie Leadbeater, UVic
Cst. Bimo Ribiero, CRD Integrated Road Safety Unit
Paweena Sukhawathanakul, UVic

Regrets: S/Sgt. James Anderson, CRD Integrated Road Safety Unit
Judy D'Gal, RoadSafetyBC
Barb McLintock, BC Coroner's Service (Vice-Chair)
Deb Whitten, School Districts

Recording Secretary: Arlene Bowker

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

1. Approval of Agenda

The following item was added to the agenda:

- Provincial Health Officer Report on Road Safety

MOVED by Murray Fyfe, **SECONDED** by Judy Dryden, that the agenda be approved with one addition.

CARRIED

2. Approval of Minutes – March 10, 2016

MOVED by Murray Fyfe, **SECONDED** by Colin Plant, that the minutes of the meeting held on March 10, 2016 be approved as distributed with a revision to the section on seniors on page 4 as follows: remove the words "are being examined" from the last sentence on the page.

CARRIED

3. Chair's Remarks

4. Media Clips

Alan Perry spoke about it being a difficult week, particularly for police officers, because of the death of Cst. Beckett. One legacy of this is that the public now has a greater appreciation for the jobs the police do.

Alan commented on three items he thought would be of interest to the TSC.

- There is an excellent new study out done by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety in the U.S. that shows that increases in speed limits over two decades have cost 33,000 lives. For each 5 mph increase in the maximum speed limit, there was a 4% increase in fatalities; on interstates and freeways, the increase was 8%.
- In an attempt to combat carnage on roads in Thailand during their week-long New Year's celebration, authorities are considering ordering drunk drivers and repeat traffic offenders to serve stints as morgue workers. Statistics show that 2.3 people die and 160 are injured every hour during this holiday.
- An Israeli company named Cellebrite has come up with a new device called a textalyzer. New York State has proposed that if you are involved in a vehicle crash, you will have to hand over your phone and it will be plugged into a unit in the police car which will download information to find out if you were using the phone in the seconds before the crash. This would provide grounds for seizure of the phone and then if there is evidence it was used at the time, police would go for a search warrant to see what was happening at the time of the crash.

5. Business Arising from the Previous Minutes

➤ **Presentation on the topic of marijuana use and driving behaviours in BC youth - Dr. Bonnie Leadbeater and Paweena Sukhawathanakul, UVic (as part of the Roy Watson Project Fund)**

Dr. Leadbeater presented information on a research project on Patterns of Marijuana Use & Driving Risk Behaviors in Victoria Youth. It is based on a Victoria sample and data was collected for ten years, beginning in 2003. At the time, 662 adolescents between the ages of 12 and 18 years of age and their parents agreed to participate in the study. Participants were interviewed every two years over a ten year period with privacy being provided for the more delicate questions. After ten years, there were 477 participants remaining in the study.

Recent literature on marijuana use and driving has been reviewed and there is agreement that it impairs several aspects of driving, particularly reaction time, ability to stay in the lane and ability to maintain consistent headway. Epidemiological data is complicated by the fact that many times in these crashes, the amount of marijuana is confounded by the amount of alcohol. Marijuana use with alcohol is very frequent.

Youth in this study were divided into three groups: Abstainers - did not use in last year, Occasional users – use up to once a week; Frequent users – use more than once a week. Frequent users were more likely to be males and the frequent users are a group of some concern. They are using increasing amounts over time and co-used marijuana with alcohol and other drugs more than occasional users. This is a group that is concerned about their use and dependency, i.e. efforts to stop, needing more to get the same effect, taking more than they thought they would on any particular occasion, spending a lot of time obtaining or recovering, and experiencing marijuana-related problems, either at school or work, with family or peers and yet continuing to use.

In the driving behavior risks for ages 22-29, the frequent users really stood out as having potential problems. They were more likely to have said that they operated a vehicle while high and also report being the passenger in a car where the driver had used marijuana or other drugs. Youth who are frequent users are also more likely to display physical aggression and this is similar to high binge drinkers.

Given the state of understanding of marijuana in blood levels and the lack of testing for marijuana in blood levels, we are fairly reliant on educational programs at this point. There are a lot of misconceptions about the safety of marijuana and these will get worse as marijuana is legalized. Educational programs are badly needed now, before it is legalized. There is more discussion needed on what we should tell youth and they should be involved in the discussion.

During a question period following the presentation, the following issues were discussed:

- Sgt. Ron Cronk asked how the Victoria study compares to Washington and Colorado. Dr. Leadbeater said that the current research in Washington and Colorado is suggesting legalization increased acceptance and use. It has been difficult to create causal relationships

between marijuana use and driving accidents because marijuana in the bloodstream can reflect use from a couple of days previously. It can be hard to say that people with a high tolerance for marijuana are still impaired when they are driving.

- Dr. Stanwick mentioned a special meeting held in the States over the Easter weekend that was attended by Dr. Patricia Daly, Chief Medical Health Officer for Vancouver Coastal Health. Issues around the sale of marijuana were looked at, basically what sort of regulations were needed. Dr. Daly was concerned that the issue of driving wasn't high on the priority list.
- Dr. Leadbeater said that what she found most alarming from the study was the dependency data. If marijuana use is going to be legalized, there will need to be money for prevention, as well as money put into intervention. There are some serious issues for kids who get trapped. The idea that you can be addicted to marijuana is less strong than the idea you can be addicted to alcohol.
- Sgt. Ribiero said one concern is that there are not sufficient tools for police to use to deal with drugs and waiting for the federal government to provide criminal tools to deal with it is not sufficient. Something to consider as part of the discussion with government is what administrative tool can police use to deal with drivers that are affected by marijuana.
- Sarah Webb asked if anyone had reported around marijuana use and cycling? Dr. Leadbeater said there is some research on that. One study from the States said that people who died were most likely to be on a motorcycle or a bike.
- Sgt. Ray Maxwell said that there are so many other issues around legalization that concerns about road safety get pushed to the side.
- Currently, although businesses are registered, the product isn't regulated. If it becomes legal, there could be mandatory requirements on concentration, strength, packaging, etc.
- Paweena Sukhawathanakul mentioned that what she found most surprising in the study were the high rates of driving, especially around the frequent user group.
- It is a safe assumption to say that more people will be driving if it's legalized. In States where it has been legalized, there has been an increase in acceptance and uptake in youth.

Colin Plant asked if the TSC is in a position to direct an ad campaign as it seems like this would be an opportunity to be ahead of the game. One idea would be to get students to come up with some ideas for ads. Colleen Woodger will bring some examples of student ads to the next meeting.

Chair Bruce thanked Bonnie and Paweena for their presentation.

➤ **Spending plans for surplus funds**

Suggestions for spending surplus funds in the amount of \$110,000 were discussed and amounts estimated as shown below. These estimated amounts will be refined and the funds allocated.

Summer Malahat speed enforcement campaign	\$40,000
Education campaign around use of marijuana and driving	\$15,000
Helmet and cyclist visibility campaign	\$10,000
CTV2 annual TV ad campaign	\$24,000
Year 2 of CRD active transportation program	\$25,000
Signs on back of transit buses	\$10,000
Speed reader boards and data collection	\$20,000
Website	<u>\$5,000</u>
Total	\$149,000

➤ **Letter to Island Health on health care staff receiving training on proper placement of child in car seat and car seat in vehicle**

Dr. Stanwick is drafting a letter to Accreditation Canada.

➤ **Commission Membership**

Chris Foord will contact Grant Brilz at BC Ambulance to see about appointing an alternate.

➤ **Letter regarding need for Motor Vehicle Act changes**

Sgt. Ron Cronk gave an update on items that were discussed at the recent biannual meeting of the BC Association of Chiefs of Police. There are several different subcommittees and Sgt. Cronk sits

on the enforcement subcommittee. One of the primary goals is to review the Motor Vehicle Act and Regulations and offer suggestions for change. These are then taken to the larger committee for voting and any recommendations are brought forward to the BC Chiefs who will decide if the suggestion will be supported or not. One item that was discussed was Section 231.1 of the Motor Vehicle Act which states that it is an offence to smoke in a car with a person under the age of 16. The change suggested is to revise the definition of smoking to also include marijuana. This was well received and turned into a recommendation that was put forward to BC Chiefs. Penalties for distracted driving were also discussed. Sgt. Cronk said this is an effective lobby group and he would be happy to take some of the suggestions from the TSC to BCACP.

Sgt. Ray Maxwell mentioned that he sits on the administration, training and recognition subcommittee and the issue of drivers suffering from dementia was discussed. There is nothing in place right now other than sending a letter to the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles asking for a review and that usually takes about 60 days. Some form of administrative change that would allow a police officer to issue an immediate prohibition and have an expedited medical assessment done is needed. There is currently a complete lack of ability to deal with people who are driving when they shouldn't be and possible solutions to that are being examined.

In response to a question from Judy Dryden regarding whether child passenger safety issues had been discussed at BCACP, Sgt. Cronk will follow up to get an answer on that.

Alan Perry asked if we should be advocating for making the penalty for not wearing a bike helmet the same as the penalty for not wearing a seat belt and Sgt. Cronk advised that this was not supported.

- **Letter to RoadSafety BC suggesting an increase in the fee for not wearing a bike helmet**
As mentioned above, this is not supported, therefore, the TSC will not be sending a letter.

- **Traffic Court Judgements**
Deferred to next meeting.

- **Revised TSC Terms of Reference**
After discussion, there was agreement that the mandate of the Traffic Safety Commission be changed as per the suggestion made by Barb McLintock and Alan Perry.

MOVED by Chris Foord, **SECONDED** by Holly Tuokko, that the mandate for the Traffic Safety Commission be revised to be as follows: To actively promote traffic safety throughout the Capital Region by researching, developing and funding evidence-based initiatives. **CARRIED**

- **Possible change to Parks Bylaw regarding mandatory use of bike helmets on trails**
Sarah Webb advised that at this time the CRD does not recommend changing the bylaw. There aren't any resources available to enforce such a bylaw and there are other ways to target helmet wearing compliance rates, e.g., education program, helmet incentives, etc.

After some discussion, it was decided to send a letter to the CRD recommending that the Parks Bylaw be changed to put the same measures in place for mandatory use of bike helmets on trails as are in effect on roads.

MOVED by Colin Plant, **SECONDED** by Murray Fyfe, that the Transportation Safety Commission send a letter to the CRD Board requesting that the Parks Bylaw be amended to make the wearing of bike helmets mandatory on regional trails. **CARRIED**

Barb McLintock and Alan Perry will draft a letter.

- **Letter to BC Transit regarding transportation of fragile seniors**
Dr. Stanwick is doing more research on this and will have a draft copy for the next meeting. Sarah Webb will send some information on this to Dr. Stanwick.

6. Member Updates

- **RoadSafetyBC**
Deferred to next meeting
- **ICBC**
Deferred to next meeting
- **Youth & Children**
Deferred to next meeting
- **Seniors**
Deferred to next meeting
- **Cycling**
Deferred to next meeting
- **TSC Website**
Deferred to next meeting
- **CVSE**
Deferred to next meeting
- **Vancouver Island Safety Council**
Deferred to next meeting

7. Other Business

Recognition of Constable Sarah Beckett

Discussion took place about a proposal that the TSC do something in memoriam for Constable Sarah Beckett.

Cst. Krysti Seutter advised that there are already a couple of things happening. At the Peat Road and Goldstream intersection, the roundabout that has been discussed in the past will be going ahead and will be a memoriam to Cst. Beckett. Also, the Westshore detachment received many potted perennials and they are going to be incorporated into a garden being created in front of the detachment. The garden will have a bench with a plaque on it in memory of Cst. Beckett.

It was decided to dedicate one of the planned TSC campaigns to Cst. Beckett, possibly one that focuses on child safety. Cst. Seutter will check with Cst. Beckett's family to see which TSC campaign they would like to have dedicated in her honour.

Letter regarding Malahat Campaign

Alan Perry passed around a copy of a draft letter to the Minister of Public Safety and the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure regarding funding for the proposed IRSU Malahat campaign and asked for any feedback by Tuesday, the 19th.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday, May 12, 2016 at noon** in **The Lakes banquet room**. On motion, the meeting adjourned at 1:29 pm.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMERGENCY PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMISSION
Minutes of Meeting Held Thursday, February 18, 2016 at 9:30 a.m.
CRD – 625 Fisgard Street – Room #107

Present:	Shawn Carby Clare Fletcher Dave Cockle Doug Carey Eileen Grant Ian Foss Jeri Grant John Trelford Maegan Thompson Mike Harman Peggy Dayton Sara Jansen Steven Sorensen Troy Mollin	Capital Regional District (CRD) - <i>Commission Chair</i> Emergency Management BC (EMBC) Oak Bay Victoria Oak Bay CRD - <i>Recording Secretary</i> Juan de Fuca Electoral Area North Saanich Saanich Sidney CRD Esquimalt Sooke View Royal
Telephone:	Brigitte Prochaska Sara Jansen	Southern Gulf Island Electoral Area Esquimalt
Guest:	Elizabeth Scambler Krystal Hansen	EMBC Health Emergency Management BC

1) **Welcome and Introductions:** S. Carby called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Welcome and introductions were made.

2) **Approval of agenda:**

It was **Moved** by E. Grant and **Seconded** by M. Thompson that the agenda of the Local Government Emergency Program Advisory Commission (LG EPAC) be approved.

Motion Carried

3) **Approval of previous meeting minutes:**

It was **Moved** by J. Grant and **Seconded** by D. Cockle that the minutes from the **January 21, 2016** meeting of the Local Government Emergency Program Advisory Commission (LG EPAC) be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

4) **Other Agency Minutes:** CRCRCC November 2015

5) **Presentation:** Strategy to Advance Support for Local Authority Emergency Management Programs– Elizabeth Scambler – EMBC Planning Officer

6) **Old Business:**

a. Regional Partnerships status – S. Carby

AI C. Fletcher: locate MOU at EMBC and try to move it more quickly back to the LGEPAC.

b. PrepareYourself.ca website/domain name update – I. Foss

AI I Foss: Share Regional Equipment list with LGEPAC & Fire Leadership Conference

c. Prepareyourself Workbook & Contact List – M. Thompson

It was **Moved** by E. Grant and **Seconded** by J. Grant to remove all references to candles from the Prepareyourself workbook.

Motion Carried

d. Quake Cottage Island Tour WG update – J. Trelford

(WG D. Cockle, E. Grant, G. Amy, S. Jansen, J. Trelford, I. Foss, K Hansen –HEMBC, Sybille Sanderson – MIEMC)

7) New Business:

a. Bell Media Partnership – I. Foss

- Bell Media has proposed an EM partnership with local businesses and LGEPAC.

AI I Foss: Advise Bell Media, CRD Communications we will commit to the partnership.

AI LGEPAC Public Education Committee: To work on partnership agreement.

(WG M. Thomson, S. Jenson, T. Mollin, E. Grant, I. Foss, J. Grant)

b. LGEPAC Budget – S. Carby

- Regional Emergency Program Support Budget was discussed with CRD financial Services, Sr. Financial Analyst Peggy Dayton

AI S. Carby: Hold \$5,000 for Partnership from LGEPAC budget surplus

AI LGEPAC: Look at LGEPAC funds to print EMBC materials for QC tour.

c. EMBC Update – C. Fletcher

- EMBC working with CRD and Selkirk Systems on Provincial Air Operation Prioritization tool.
- Kathryn Forge is leaving EMBC for a position at Ministry of Health
- Assistant Deputy Minister Pat Quealy is leaving EMBC March 10 to become the CAO of Royal Canadian Marine SAR

8) Roundtable

9) Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

Next regular Meeting: March 17th, 2016 at 09:30 – Room 107, CRD, 625 Fisgard St, Victoria

LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMERGENCY PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMISSION
Minutes of Meeting Held Thursday, March 17, 2016 at 9:30 a.m.
CRD – 625 Fisgard Street – Room #107

Present:

Shawn Carby	Capital Regional District (CRD) - <i>Commission Chair</i>
Brigitte Prochaska	Southern Gulf Island Electoral Area
Clare Fletcher	Emergency Management BC (EMBC)
Dave Cockle	Oak Bay
Eileen Grant	Oak Bay
Frank McDonald	Saanich
Ian Foss	CRD - <i>Recording Secretary</i>
Jeri Grant	Juan de Fuca Electoral Area
Mike Harman	Sidney
Peter Ensor	CRD
Sara Jansen	Esquimalt
Steven Sorensen	Sooke

Telephone: Stephanie Dunlop Metchosin

1) **Welcome and Introductions:** S. Carby called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. Welcome and introductions were made.

2) **Approval of agenda:**

It was **Moved** by S. Jansen and **Seconded** by J. Grant that the agenda of the Local Government Emergency Program Advisory Commission (LG EPAC) be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

3) **Approval of previous meeting minutes:**

It was **Moved** by E. Grant and **Seconded** by J. Grant that the minutes from the **February 18, 2016** meeting of the Local Government Emergency Program Advisory Commission (LG EPAC) be approved.

Motion Carried

5) **Old Business:**

a. Regional Partnerships status – S. Carby

It was **Moved** by B. Prochaska and **Seconded** by F. McDonald that LGEPAC establish a nominations committee to present the candidates for Primary and Secondary LGEPAC Representative on the Regional Emergency Management Partnership Steering Committee.

Motion Carried

AI LGEPAC Nominations Committee: Collect nominations until the 1600 April 1, 2016 and report to LGEPAC at the regular April meeting. (Nominations committee: I. Foss, C. Fletcher & E. Grant)

AI I Foss: Circulate the REMP survey to LGEPAC

AI I Foss: Invite EMBC REMP Manager L. MacDonald to April LGEPAC Meeting.

b. Prepareyourself Workbook update and order – I. Foss

It was **Moved** by S. Jansen and **Seconded** by D. Cockle that LGEPAC use up to \$10000 from surplus budget to ensure the cost of workbooks is not more that \$2 to each LGEPAC member and to ensure the group receives the best bulk price possible.

Motion Carried

AI I Foss: Share Prepareyourself workbook v1.2 with LGEPAC and enquire on wish list of order numbers at \$2 per workbook.

AI I Foss: Share Prepareyourself workbook v1.2 with MIECM to see if there is an interest in anyone in that group purchasing the workbooks.

c. Quake Cottage Island Tour WG update – I. Foss

It was **Moved** by S. Jansen and **Seconded** by M. Harman that LGEPAC use up to \$5000 from surplus budget to cover the remainder of the cost to bring the Quake Cottage to the region.

Motion Carried

AI LGEPAC: Supply vector graphic quality image of community logo to I Foss ASAP to be included in the Quake Cottage advertising campaign.

AI I Foss: Confirm & clarify who can participate with Quake Cottage and what restrictions exist and report back to the committee.

d. Bell Media Partnership WG update – I. Foss

It was **Moved** by S. Jansen and **Seconded** by G. Amy that LGEPAC use up to \$5000 from surplus budget towards the Bell Media Partnership.

Motion Carried

e. Tsunami Week – S. Jansen

AI LGEPAC Members: Work on a coordinated approach with ShakeOut BC and EMBC/PreparedBC to messaging for Tsunami week April 6-10 2016

6) New Business:

- a. Help/Ok signs – S. Jansen

AI I Foss: Include Help/Ok signs in workbook order email mail out.

AI LGEPAC Members: Respond with wish list numbers ASAP to I Foss for inclusion in the workbook order.

- b. Devils Mountain Fault – G. Amy

AI I Foss: Share NRCAN write-up with LGEPAC members.

7) Roundtable

AI I Foss: Ensure LGEPAC Members are notified in advance if there are potential budget items on the agenda.

8) Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:56 a.m.

Next regular Meeting: April 21, 2016 at 09:30 – Room 107, CRD, 625 Fisgard St, Victoria