



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE AGENDA

THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 2018

PAGE NO.

ACTION

AGENDA – June 7, 2018

Approve

Supplementary Agenda

Receive

MINUTES

2-4

**Agriculture Committee Meeting Minutes
- April 19, 2018**

Receive

VERBAL REPORTS

**Mark Parker, Chair – BV Cattlemen’s
Association AGM**

Receive

5-25

**Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator
- RDBN Agriculture Plan and Regional
Agriculture Forum Update
- Northwest Food Security Forum
- Livestock Processing Meeting
- Regional Agrologist AGM**

Receive

CORRESPONDENCE

26

**BC News – Farming in B.C. Goes High
Tech with \$14-million Innovation Program**

Receive

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

NEW BUSINESS

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING**
(Committee Of The Whole)**Thursday, April 19, 2018**

PRESENT: Chair Mark Parker

Directors Taylor Bachrach
Chris Beach
Eileen Benedict
Shane Brienen
Mark Fisher
Tom Greenaway
Dwayne Lindstrom
Thomas Liversidge
Bill Miller
Rob Newell
Jerry Petersen
Gerry Thiessen

Directors Rob MacDougall, District of Fort St. James
Absent Darcy Repen, Village of Telkwa

Staff Melany de Weerd, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 2:25 p.m.

AGENDAMoved by Director Lindstrom
Seconded by Director Beach**AG.2018-3-1**

"That the Agriculture Committee Agenda of April 19, 2018 be adopted."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**MINUTES****Agriculture Committee**
Meeting Minutes
-March 8, 2018Moved by Director Beach
Seconded by Director Greenaway**AG.2018-3-2**

"That the Minutes of the Agriculture Committee Meeting of March 8, 2018 be received."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS

RDBN Agriculture Coordinator Work Report Moved by Director Brien
Seconded by Director Beach

AG.2018-3-3 "That the Agriculture Committee receive the Agriculture Coordinator's April 9, 2018 memo titled "RDBN Agriculture Coordinator Work Report."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Fisher asked if there would be a presentation in regard to Work Report Item 10. Updating the RDBN Agriculture Plan 2012. Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator noted that the work on updating the plan will take place in late Fall of 2018/Winter 2019. Staff intend to utilize Community Forums and questionnaires at farmer markets to receive feedback and move forward with starting the process of updating the plan.

Director Miller raised concerns in regard to the increase in insurance costs to farmlands and commercial rural properties from the impacts of the wildfires in the summer of 2017. Ms. Evans noted that the BC Cattlemen's Association is in discussion with insurance agencies in regard to the issue.

Climate Change Regional Adaptation Program

Moved by Director Brien
Seconded by Director Liversidge

AG.2018-3-4 "That the Agriculture Committee receive the Agriculture Coordinator's April 9, 2018 memo titled "Climate Change Regional Adaptation Program."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Minutes from the RDBN Beef Workshop

Moved by Director Miller
Seconded by Director Beach

AG.2018-3-5 "That the Agriculture Committee receive the Agriculture Coordinator's April 9, 2018 memo titled "Minutes from the RDBN Beef Workshop."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORRESPONDENCE

A Growing Concern – How to Keep Farmland in the Hands of Canadian Farmers – Report of the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry Moved by Director Beach
Seconded by Director Miller

AG.2018-3-6 "That the Agriculture Committee receive the correspondence titled "A Growing Concern – How to Keep Farmland in the Hands of Canadian Farmers – Report of the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORRESPONDENCE (CONT'D)

Groundbreakers – Youth on Farms Work Program

Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Liversidge

AG.2018-3-7

“That the Agriculture Committee receive the correspondence titled “Groundbreakers – Youth on Farms Work Program.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

INVITATION

Northern Agriculture Gala

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Fisher

AG.2018-3-8

“That the Agriculture Committee receive the invitation titled “Northern Agriculture Gala – April 28, 2018 – Smithers, B.C.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SPECIAL IN-CAMERA MEETING MOTION

Moved by Director Beach
Seconded by Director Liversidge

AG.2018-3-9

In accordance with Section 90 of the *Community Charter*, it is the opinion of the Board of Directors that matters pertaining to Section 90(1)(k) - negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a municipal service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality if they were held in public may be closed to the public therefore exercise their option of excluding the public for this meeting.

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Brien
Seconded by Director Thiessen

AG.2018-3-10

“That the meeting be adjourned at 2:36 p.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

Memorandum

TO: Chair Parker and Agriculture Committee
FROM: Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator
DATE: May 29, 2018
SUBJECT: RDBN Agriculture Plan and Regional Agriculture Forum update

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update on the Regional Agriculture Forum and background work for the Regional Forum and the upcoming update to the RDBN Agriculture Plan.

The Regional Agriculture Forum planning for September 20th and 21st is advancing to a program that will be ready to release in mid June to the public.

Thursday September 20th will have registration starting at 3:00 p.m. and the conference starting at 4:00 p.m. with an overview of the Forum by keynote speaker. Then we will have an "armchair" tour of agriculture in the RDBN. A "Feast of the Fields" and networking will wrap up the evening.

Friday September 21st will be a facilitated workshop focussing on Food Security and how it will fit in the updated RDBN Agriculture Plan. The goal is to develop a list of actionable items. To start the process, attached is the "Food and Agriculture System Planning Toolkit for Communities"

To support the workshop at the Forum, the attached Consumer and Producer surveys will be distributed this summer by the Agriculture Coordinator. Plan is to travel throughout the region to produce an "armchair" agriculture tour of the region, meet with producers, promote "Connecting Consumers and Producers", secure food for "Feast of the Fields" and encouraging registration for attendance at the Forum. The consumer survey will be at display at Farmers' Markets, grocery stores and other community events. Will also ask consumers to join at the Agriculture Forum to discuss Food Security and also promoting "Connecting Consumers and Producers".

I would be pleased to answer any questions.

RECOMMENDATION:

(All/Directors/Majority)

"That the Agriculture Committee receive the RDBN Agriculture Plan and Regional Agriculture Forum update."



6

Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
Agriculture Plan update
Farm Property Owner Survey

1. What agriculture products do you produce? (Check all that apply)

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fodder | <input type="checkbox"/> Goats | <input type="checkbox"/> Honey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beef | <input type="checkbox"/> Poultry | <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetables |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hogs | <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbits | <input type="checkbox"/> Fruit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dairy | <input type="checkbox"/> Grain | <input type="checkbox"/> Agri-tourism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sheep | <input type="checkbox"/> Eggs | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) |
-

2. What was your gross income from the production of agriculture products in 2017?

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Under \$10,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,001 - \$20,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$20,001 - \$50,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,001 - \$100,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,001 - \$150,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$150,001 or more |

3. What percentage of your net income was from the production of agricultural products in 2017?

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Under 10% | <input type="checkbox"/> 11% - 20% | <input type="checkbox"/> 21% - 40% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 41% - 60% | <input type="checkbox"/> 61% - 80% | <input type="checkbox"/> 81% - 100% |

4. With respect to land, which of the following present the greatest challenge you face as an agriculture producer? (please select a maximum of three)

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of availability | <input type="checkbox"/> Encroaching development | <input type="checkbox"/> Water supply |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High land prices | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soil quality | <input type="checkbox"/> ALR regulations | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crown land procurement | <input type="checkbox"/> Conflict with other land uses | _____ |

5. With respect to farm operations, which of the following present the greatest challenges you face as an agricultural producer? (please select a maximum of three)

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Succession planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Profitability | <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of farming knowledge |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of skilled labour | <input type="checkbox"/> Government regulations | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) |
-

6. With respect to infrastructure, which of the following present the greatest challenges you face as an agricultural producer? (please select a maximum of three)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fencing and construction costs | <input type="checkbox"/> Access to natural gas | <input type="checkbox"/> Access to processing facilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Availability of equipment maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> Access to broadband internet service | <input type="checkbox"/> Access to cold storage facilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Access to power | <input type="checkbox"/> Irrigation costs | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Access to 3 phase power | <input type="checkbox"/> Road access | _____ |

7. With respect to marketing, which of the following present the greatest challenges you face as an agriculture producer? (please select a maximum of three)

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of training/expertise | <input type="checkbox"/> Distance to markets | <input type="checkbox"/> Limited time |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted access to markets | <input type="checkbox"/> Limited advertising budget | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) |
-

8. Which marketing tools do you use to sell your agricultural products? (please select all that apply)

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Word of mouth | <input type="checkbox"/> Local producers directory | <input type="checkbox"/> Internet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local newspaper/newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Community sponsorship | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Farmers' Market | <input type="checkbox"/> Radio | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

9. Which markets do you sell to as an agricultural producer? (please select all that apply)

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local market through a farmers' market | <input type="checkbox"/> Advertise in "Connecting Consumers & Producers" | <input type="checkbox"/> Local market by farm gate sales |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local retail outlets | <input type="checkbox"/> Local restaurants | <input type="checkbox"/> Institutions (hospitals, schools etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outside of region by direct sales | <input type="checkbox"/> Outside of region by auction | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ |

10. Which resources would most help you as an agriculture producer? (please select a maximum of three)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business development and marketing support | <input type="checkbox"/> Development of innovative farm practices and products |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Training opportunities | <input type="checkbox"/> Increase government financial support to local producers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strengthened farmers' markets | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assistance with government regulations | |

11. Which areas of education or training would most help you as an agricultural producer? (please select all that apply)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Skills | <input type="checkbox"/> Specific Commodity workshops | <input type="checkbox"/> Advance farm practice and product |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basic farm workers skills | <input type="checkbox"/> Marketing | <input type="checkbox"/> Succession planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Government regulations | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ | |

12. What is the primary challenge facing a new farmer?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Costs | <input type="checkbox"/> Farming knowledge |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Equipment and construction Costs | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ |

13. Other comments:

Thank you for your time.

Please return the survey by August 15, 2018 in the enclosed envelope to:

Regional District of Bulkley Nechako
 Attention: Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator
 PO Box 820 Burns Lake BC V0J 1E0
 Or email: debbie.evans@rdbn.bc.ca



**Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
Agriculture Plan update**

Consumer Survey Location: _____

1. Where do you shop for food? (please select all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Grocery store	<input type="checkbox"/> Bakery	<input type="checkbox"/> Farm gate/direct from farm
<input type="checkbox"/> Farmers' market	<input type="checkbox"/> Deli/speciality meat shop	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____

2. If you shop at a local farmers/ market, are you satisfied with the products available for purchase?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
------------------------------	-----------------------------	------------------------------

3. Have you ever bought food direct from a farm?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
------------------------------	-----------------------------

4. Would you be interested in participating in a program where a selection of local food is made available in weekly/monthly assortment?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
------------------------------	-----------------------------

5. What is the most important benefit associated with local food production?

<input type="checkbox"/> Increased food quality and freshness	<input type="checkbox"/> Support for local economy
<input type="checkbox"/> Increased food security	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____

6. What local products would you be most interested in purchasing? (please select all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Meat products	<input type="checkbox"/> Dairy products	<input type="checkbox"/> Eggs
<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetables	<input type="checkbox"/> Fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____

7. What is most important to you when choosing one food product over another? (please select a maximum of three)

<input type="checkbox"/> Price	<input type="checkbox"/> Availability	<input type="checkbox"/> Freshness	<input type="checkbox"/> Quality
<input type="checkbox"/> Organic	<input type="checkbox"/> Locally produced	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____	

8. Would you be willing to pay more for a locally produced food product?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
------------------------------	-----------------------------

9. If yes, then how much more?

<input type="checkbox"/> 5%	<input type="checkbox"/> 10%	<input type="checkbox"/> 15%	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____
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10. What would encourage you to purchase more local agricultural food products? (please select a maximum of three)

<input type="checkbox"/> Increased accessibility of local food products	<input type="checkbox"/> More variety of local food products	<input type="checkbox"/> Knowledge of where to find local food products	<input type="checkbox"/> Knowledge of the production practises of local food producers
<input type="checkbox"/> Knowledge of the health benefits of local food products	<input type="checkbox"/> A relationship with local food producers	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)	_____ _____

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SYSTEM PLANNING TOOLKIT
FOR COMMUNITIES
MAY 2018



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ABOUT THIS TOOLKIT

Urban Food Strategies has led over 60 food system planning, design, and engagement projects since 2004. This toolkit is based on the learning from this experience in the emerging field of food and agriculture system planning. The purpose of this toolkit is to provide starting points to help communities develop food and agriculture system plans. This information is not intended to be prescriptive or exhaustive, but rather to stimulate thinking about developing community-driven food and agriculture system plans.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SYSTEM PLANNING IN A NUTSHELL

Every planning process contains common stages of development. Food and agriculture system planning also follows this general formula that may be described in 7 key phases:

1. Preparing to Plan

Setting up a planning process for success requires an early burst of energy to gather the people and information needed to begin a planning process. This could include: determining the scope and scale of the project, mapping stakeholders, establishing advisories and TORs, securing funding, expertise and resources, developing an engagement plan, and establishing project administration systems.

2. Background information scanning and analysis

After the planning process has been launched, background information collection and data analysis is needed to establish the planning context. This could include: engaging stakeholders in identifying opportunities, assets, and constraints, review of related plans, downloading and assessing data (e.g. Census of Agriculture, Community Profiles, Vital Signs, Cost of Eating), and identifying data gaps. This information and analysis is often summarized into a background document.

3. Visioning and goal setting

Once, or at the same time as, the background information and analysis, stakeholders and the public can provide key guidance in creating a vision and set of key directions or goals for the plan. This plan framework provides the bones for the plan and should be understood and agreed to.

4. Creating and testing strategies and actions

After the vision and goals have been established, experts, advisors, stakeholders, and the public contribute to creating strategies and actions that specify how the goals and vision will be reached. This may include: focus groups and public forums, working with local government planners to test new directions for unintended consequences and any conflict with existing local, provincial, or federal policies, and engaging senior levels of government (e.g. MOA, DFO, ALC, AGRI).

5. Synthesis and plan creation

At this point, all of the information to create the plan has been generated from engagement and analysis and it is time to create a draft of the plan. Often, a draft plan is used to further engage key stakeholders, the public, elected officials, and senior levels of government in providing input that is used to create a final version of the plan. This may include: public open houses, in-camera meetings, council workshops, and document production (i.e. formatting and layout).

6. Plan endorsement and/or adoption

Once the plan is finalized, often it will go to elected officials (e.g. City Council, Regional Board of Directors) for endorsement or adoption. Some local governments will amend a food and agriculture to an Official Community Plan, or another statutory plan.

7. Plan implementation and monitoring

Often a missing element, once the plan is completed, adopted, and starts to be implemented, it is critical to monitor progress over time. This allows plan implementers to know what is effective and what is not, which allows for making course corrections, comparing new data to baseline data, assessing plan uptake, and evaluating progress towards goals.



KEY CONCEPTS

Food and agriculture system planning are cross-cutting topics and are relatively new areas of community planning. For this reason, the lexicon and terminology is evolving as practitioners continue to establish a common understanding of what the key concepts are and how to define them. However, having consensus on terminology is not the goal as each community is different and has unique challenges and assets. Defining terms so they make sense for the community you are planning is the most important. Most communities wish to build off of existing definitions that have some acceptance. These key concepts used most often in food and agriculture planning are offered here.

1. Community Food Security

Community food security is a relatively new term and is defined as:

A situation in which all community residents obtain a safe, culturally acceptable, nutritionally adequate diet through a sustainable food system that maximize community self-reliance and social justice.¹

2. Food Security

The Population and Public Health program at BC Centre for Disease Control outlines the goals of food security as: *“increase[ing] physical, social, and economic access to nutritious, safe, personally acceptable food with a focus on increasing availability of healthy food produced in a sustainable manner”*.² This food security goal encompasses a broad scope of food security definitions, including the UN Food and Agriculture Organization FAO definition,³ community food security⁴ and individual and household food insecurity.⁵

3. Food Insecurity

Household food insecurity occurs when a household worries about or lacks the financial means to buy healthy, safe, personally acceptable food. Household food insecurity can occur at three levels: marginally food-insecure; moderately food insecure; severely food

¹ Hamm, M.; Bellows, A. (2003). *Community Food Security and Nutrition Educators*. Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior **35** (1): 37–43.

² Provincial Health Services Authority. Food Security. Vancouver, BC: Provincial Health Services Authority; 2016 [cited 2016 Sept 25]

³ FAO. World Food Summit. United Nations; 1996 [cited 2006 May 1]; Available from: http://www.fao.org/documents/show_cdr.asp?url_file=/docrep/003/w3613e/w3613e00.htm.

⁴ Hamm MW, Bellows AC. Community Food Security and Nutrition Educators. Journal of Nutrition Education Behaviour. 2003; 35:37-43

⁵ Li N, Dachner, N, Tarasuk, V, Zhang, R, Kurrein, M, Harris, T, Gustin, S, Rasali, D. Priority health equity indicators for British Columbia: Household food insecurity report. Vancouver, BC: Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) 2016



insecure.⁶ Some researchers define levels of food insecurity as marginal, moderate, or severe in detailed trend analysis and projections on national food security levels.⁷

4. Food System

A food system consists of the inter-related stages that food goes through from the natural soil, water, and air resources that enable us to grow/raise/hunt/fish/forage food to the personal and commercial practices of harvesting, processing, storing, distributing, buying, selling, eating, celebrating, and recovering waste. These stages make up the basic elements of a food system. Education, governance and capacity building are key supports for the food system. Food systems exist at multiple scales including local, regional, provincial, national, and international.

Six elements of a food system may be described as: 1) Primary food production 2) Processing and storage 3) Distribution and transportation 4) Buying and selling, 5) Eating, culture, and celebration, and 6) Waste recovery.

Figure 2 below depicts a simplified view of a food system. There are many food system diagrams and models that describe the elements somewhat differently, but the core ideas are largely consistent.

A sustainable food system⁸ furthers the ecological, social, and economic health of a community, region, province, country, and world and can be reproduced over multiple generations. Characteristics of a sustainable food system include, but are not limited to the list below. A sustainable food system:

- Is **secure**, and therefore reliable and resilient to change (including climate change, rising energy prices, etc.) and accessible to all members of society;



Figure 1: Food and Agriculture System. Source: Urban Food Strategies

⁶ Li N, Dachner, N, Tarasuk, V, Zhang, R, Kurrein, M, Harris, T, Gustin, S, Rasali, D. Priority health equity indicators for British Columbia: Household food insecurity report. Vancouver, BC: Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) 2016.

⁷ Tarasuk, Valerie, Andy Mitchell, and Naomi Dachner (2012). Household Food Insecurity in Canada 2012. PROOF.

⁸ de la Salle, Janine (2008). City of Edmonton Policy Set. Some sustainable food system characteristics drawn from: Pothukuchi, K. and Kaufman, J.L. (1999) Placing the Food System on the Urban Agenda. The Role of Municipal Institutions in Food Systems Planning.



- Is energy efficient;
- Is an **economic generator** for farmers, whole communities, and regions;
- Is environmentally beneficial or benign;
- Uses creative **water reclamation and conservation** strategies for agricultural uses;
- **Balances** food imports with local capacity;
- Adopts **regionally-appropriate** agricultural practices and crop choices;
- Contributes to both community and ecological health;
- Builds soil quality and farmland through the **recycling of organic waste**;
- Supports multiple forms of **urban as well as rural food** production;
- Ensures that food **processing facilities** are available to farmers and processors of all scales;
- Is **celebrated** through community events, markets, restaurants etc;
- **Preserves biodiversity** in agro-ecosystems as well as in the crop selection;
- Has a strong **educational focus** to create awareness of food and agricultural issues; and
- Is **fairly traded** by providing a fair wage to producers and processors locally and abroad.

5. Food Asset

Food assets are places, programs, policies, businesses, and organizations that play a role in the food system. Local governments and communities have access to and influence over many local food assets. Using an Asset Based Community Development approach, is a preferred starting point for many communities as it builds and focuses on what the community already has instead of what it does not. Commonly, these assets will be inventoried at the beginning of a planning process in order to inform the strategic thinking that leads to sound recommendations. Food assets can be understood in nine major categories, summarized in Table 1, below.

Table 1: Community Food Assets

Food Asset	Examples
1) Food production, hunting, fishing, foraging	Rivers, lakes, and streams Grasslands Farmland Urban gardening- Community gardens and edible landscaping, backyard gardening Crown land Private land
2) Community and commercial processing facilities	Packing houses Community kitchens Cold storage Commissary kitchens
3) Community food economy and culture	Harvest festivals Food trucks and mobile food markets Plazas and open spaces for food celebration Agritourism
4) (Healthy) food sources	Grocery stores, drug stores



Table 1: Community Food Assets

Food Asset	Examples
	Farm stands, farmers' markets, Restaurants, caterers, pubs, and cafes Food hubs Local food sources
5) Capacity for social connectedness and emergency food relief	Charitable food organizations Meal and hamper programs School breakfast and lunch programs
6) Learning environments	Elementary, secondary, and post-secondary cooking classes Business startup incubators Community learning opportunities and facilities
7) Food recovery systems	Cold storage Collection and distribution networks Processing facilities
8) Research, knowledge creation, and policy	Official Community Plans, Zoning Bylaws Agriculture Plans Population health studies Statistics Canada, Agriculture Census Peer review journal articles Reports from other jurisdictions
9) Macro supports for food security	Affordable housing Employment and business opportunities Social connectedness Walkable communities Leadership and management



ROLES IN FOOD SYSTEM PLANNING

There are many distinct and overlapping roles in planning for food and agriculture systems. This complex web is somewhat simplified by focusing food and agriculture plans at one level of jurisdiction. Often times, food and agriculture system planning occurs at the local government level, including regional and municipal governments. However, there are many other roles that can become an important part in plan creation and implementation. These roles are briefly described below.

1. Federal and Provincial Levels of Government

The federal government has jurisdiction over trade agreements, health inspection and food regulation, among other things. The activities of Agrifood Canada: *range from the farmer to the consumer, from the farm to global markets, through all phases of producing, processing and marketing of farm, food and bio-based products.*

The Provincial Government in BC also has jurisdiction on regulating farming and has passed legislation that regulates land use in the Agricultural Land Reserve and are involved with economic development initiatives.

2. Health Authorities

There are six Health Authorities in BC. Increasingly Medical Health Officers are engaging in community planning exercises like creating Official Community Plans, that can support food and agriculture system planning. Community nutritionists are also working with communities on increasing community food security through creating plans and supporting programs.

3. Community Sector, Schools, and Post-Secondary Institutions

Volunteers and staff in the community and non-profit sector are critical partners in developing and implementing food system plans. Schools and post-secondary institutions can also be part of providing food system education in the classroom and program development.

4. Industry Associations and Business Sector

There are many industry associations and business sector interest groups that are also a key part of creating and implementing food system plans. The BC Cattleman's Association, the Small-Scale Processors Association, Business Improvement Associations, Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development agencies are all examples of resources and stakeholders in food and agriculture system planning.

5. Local Government

Often local governments will be the primary facilitator for and lead on food and agriculture system planning processes. While local governments have many ways to increase community food security and interact with many dimensions of the food system, they are limited in their ability to directly address some of the core drivers of household food insecurity such as poverty and low- income status of residents. However, there are areas where local governments do have influence in some of these areas of food insecurity. For example,



affordable housing and local economic development, often priorities for local government as implemented through regulation, incentives, and land use planning, can positively impact household income and, indirectly, food security.

Other specific ways that local government can intervene and engage with food security and work to increase food assets and access to them include, but are not limited to are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2: Food Assets and Local Government Leverage Points

Food Asset	Local Government Leverage
Food production, hunting, fishing, foraging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture in the ALR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Agriculture planning and policy (OCPs, ZBLs) ○ Managing/ regulating increasingly complex issues on farmland • Urban Agriculture and Farming <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ensure urban agriculture is allowed and supported in public and private lands (OCPs, ZBLs) ○ Managing potential conflicts (e.g. wildlife) ○ Encouraging / requiring food assets including urban agriculture in development projects (tax breaks, requirements, design guidelines). ○ Providing education and resources ○ Collaborating with community partners • Indigenous Food Systems (water, land, air) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establishing teaching, learning, and stewardship centres/programs
(Healthy) food sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responding positively to land management needs. • Planning and policy to support walkable (800m) access to healthy food assets (e.g. grocery store, farm stand, community garden, farmers market) • Supporting food hub testing and development • Support Farmer's markets • Zoning for food districts, light industrial for agriculture sector (Locate outside of the ALR) • Zoning for food retail especially healthy options • Adopting food truck policies and creating permits • Purchasing relationships and contracts with local producers and caterers • Transportation planning
Learning environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide information on new food-security related initiatives. • Be open to requests/applications for new facilities to support educational programs
Community food culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responding positively to First Nation land management needs. • Providing space and programming for food celebrations



Table 2: Food Assets and Local Government Leverage Points

Food Asset	Local Government Leverage
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborating with community partners to deepen food culture • Providing signage, communications, and marketing of food assets, where appropriate • Designing public spaces to support a lively streetscape (e.g. patios, spill-out onto the sidewalk, street trees, plazas)
Capacity for social connectedness and emergency food relief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with food banks to find appropriate facilities • Preparing for emergencies (education, planning, preparation)
Food Recovery Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with food gleaning programs to find facilities • Working with businesses to find processing facilities • Business license rules • Partnership programs • Developing internal programs to reduce food waste within local government operations • Regional organic diversion policies and programs
Research, knowledge creation, and policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting baseline food assessments (e.g. food security, local food economy assessments, food hub feasibility) • Conducting best practice research from other jurisdictions • Engaging with stakeholders and the general public • Developing food and agriculture strategies and plans
Macro supports (food insecurity)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local governance and management systems (e.g. Food Policy Councils) • Protecting and restoring the environment (e.g. Link to indigenous food systems, OCP policies and requirements) • Implementing affordable housing strategies • Attracting livable wage job opportunities



FOOD CHARTERS

What is a food charter?

*A Food Charter is broad community statement and/or a set of goals that describe **how** the members of a specified geopolitical community want their food system to be maintained. By including the voices of various stakeholders, Food Charters encourage a broad base of support, cross-sectorial collaboration, and community connection. Used as an education piece, Food Charters raise community awareness about food system concerns and weaknesses, and offer a platform for public discussion and advocacy. Most importantly, Food Charters are not binding policy statements, but instead act as inspiration for how to develop local food policy and or initiatives for the community.⁹*

Example Food Charters from BC

There are many food charters in BC and Canada. Six examples and links to each is provide below.

Vancouver Food Charter (2007)

http://vancouver.ca/files/cov/Van_Food_Charter.pdf

Capital Region Food Charter (2008)

http://www.communitycouncil.ca/sites/default/files/CR_Food_Charter_Final-2008-06-10.pdf

Kaslo Food Charter (2015)

<http://nklcss.org/documents/food/foodcharter.pdf>

Grand Forks Food Charter (2013)

<http://www.boundaryagsociety.org/grand-forks-food-charter/>

North Shore Vancouver (2013)

<http://www.tablematters.ca/tm-projects/north-shore-food-charter/>

Kamloops Food Charter (1998)

http://kamloopsfoodpolicycouncil.com/wpcontent/uploads/2010/04/Kamloops_Food_Plan1.pdf

Hazelton Food Charter- Please see attachment

Themes in Food Charters

The Table 3 on the next page compares the content from 10 food charters in Canada

⁹ Sustain Ontario (2016). Food Charters in Ontario and Beyond. Accessed March 12, 2018.
<https://sustainontario.com/resources-2/food-charters-2>

Table 3: Comparison of Food Charters in Canada

		FOOD CHARTER THEMES																		
		Rural Urban Linkages	Farmers & rural communities	Urban agriculture	Farmland protection	Sustainability	Food as a basic right	Health	Self Sufficiency	Access	Food Education	Food infrastructure	Culture and connection	Animal ethics	Food infrastructure	Local food & agriculture	Emergency preparedness	Economy	Waste management	Collaboration
FOOD CHARTERS	Saskatoon	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓				✓			✓		✓			
	Prince Albert	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓			
	Thunder Bay			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Vancouver	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	
	Cowichan	✓				✓		✓				✓								
	CRD	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
	Kaslo		✓		✓			✓	✓	✓			✓					✓		✓
	Central Okanagan	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓			✓			✓	
	Toronto			✓	✓		✓	✓		✓			✓					✓	✓	
	Sudbury	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	

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COMMON GOALS/STRATEGY AREAS IN FOOD SYSTEM PLANS

Every plan is different because every community is unique in the challenges and opportunities it is facing, the natural environment it exists in, and the socioeconomic context it has. Despite these important differences between communities, there are recurring themes/goals/strategy areas in food system plans including:

1. **Building culture and community:** Celebration, inclusion, learning, place-making.
2. **Resilient environment and sustainable practices:** Edge planning, climate adaptation, mitigation, emergency preparedness, water conservation, green waste recycling, perennials, and biodiversity.
3. **Protecting natural assets:** Protecting the Agricultural Land Reserve, sensitive ecosystems, environmental development permit areas
4. **Growing more food and fibre in urban and rural areas:** Ranching, farming, horticulture, green house, soil-less production, aquaponics, urban agriculture, urban farming, community gardening, edible landscapes, food forests.
5. **Education and awareness building:** Food skills, food literacy, public awareness, education with elected offices.
6. **Access to food:** Geographic or income access to healthy food sources, food recovery
7. **Local food economies:** Innovation, farmer's markets, local food retail, value added processing, shared kitchen spaces, branding and marketing.
8. **Capacity building:** Funding, staff resources, communication systems, food and agriculture councils.
9. **Advocacy:** Issues that are out of the jurisdiction of the community.

PRIORITIZATION FRAMEWORK

Originally developed for Food Secure Oliver (2018), this prioritization framework provides a new level of detail for developing action plans based on the vision, goals, strategies, objectives and recommended actions of a food and agriculture plan.

Table 4: Prioritization Framework

Readiness Estimate <i>Resources (\$ or other required assets) and partnerships needed to implement are currently in place or are easily achievable.</i>	NR (Not ready)	GR (Getting Ready)	R (Almost ready/ Ready to go)
Cost Assessment <i>A preliminary estimate of the cost associated with the strategy or action</i>	\$ (Under \$10k)	\$\$ (11k-\$50k)	\$\$\$ (\$51k +)
Priority Score <i>The degree of priority based on three criteria. The total possible score is 9, indicating the highest level of priority.</i>			
a) Impact / benefit. The strategy/action has the greatest impact and/or benefit	1	2	3
b) Urgency. The strategy/action is targeted at the areas of most need	1	2	3
c) Measurability. The strategy/action is specific, measurable, agreed upon, realistic and time-based	1	2	3

Creating an Implementation or Action Plan

Based on an evaluation and scoring of readiness, cost, and priority, specific ideas and actions may be sorted into categories that help to clarify how the plan will be implemented. In Food Secure Oliver, three action categories emerged from this exercise:

- 1) **Quick Starts.** Actions that are the easiest to implement and where the community is ready, cost is low, and the action is seen as a medium to high priority (e.g. promoting backyard hen bylaw that is in place but no one knows about).
- 2) **Enabling Actions.** Actions that help to increase overall capacity to implement the plan (e.g. establishing resources and sustainable funding models).
- 3) **Big moves.** Actions that are comprehensive in scope and require a longer timeline to implement and where the community may not be ready, action is medium to high in cost, and the priority is high. (e.g. launching an annual multicultural food celebration event).

EMERGING AREAS IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SYSTEM PLANNING

The field of food and agriculture planning is constantly evolving as it further establishes as a realm of planning akin to traditional areas such as housing, transportation, and infrastructure. The list below provides a brief description of some of the emerging areas in food and agriculture planning.

- ⇒ Linking food systems with indigenous food systems, reconciliation, and de-colonization
- ⇒ Preparing for emergencies
- ⇒ Mitigating and adapting to the impacts of global events and climate change on food and agriculture systems.
- ⇒ Creating a Healthy Built Environment by considering food systems as part of revitalization and development.
- ⇒ Rethinking the traditional food bank model to focus on empowerment and community building.
- ⇒ Land use planning and management for growth in emerging industries such as Cannabis.
- ⇒ Developing community and regional food and agriculture economies.
- ⇒ Many others.



Food is our common ground, a universal experience.

— James Beard, American Chef

Food, in the end, in our own tradition, is something holy. It's not about nutrients and calories. It's about sharing. It's about honesty. It's about identity.

— Louise Fresco, Dutch scientist, director and writer

Eating is an agricultural act,' as Wendell Berry famously said. It is also an ecological act, and a political act, too.

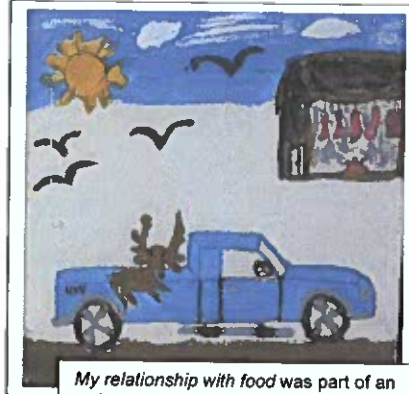
— Michael Pollan, US Journalist and Author

... the way we eat represents our most profound engagement with the natural world. Daily, our eating turns nature into culture, transforming the body of the world into our bodies and minds.

— Michael Pollan, US Journalist and Author

Hazelton Food Charter

Food Citizenship and Policies of the People



My relationship with food was part of an action research project conducted in 2007.

What is a Food Charter?

A "charter" is a document granting certain rights on a community, neighbourhood or group. The word "charter" originally meant a paper or written document.

A "food" charter is a document that states people's rights within a food system. A food system involves our access to food. A food charter is usually written by the people in a community, neighbourhood or group.

What does the Hazelton Food Charter include?

The Hazelton Food Charter includes five principles and three goal statements that people in Hazelton believe should guide our food system. The Hazelton food charter states that everyone has a right to local and healthy food. The Charter was created after a four month action research project that asked people to describe their relationship to, and understanding of, food. Five principles and three goal statements emerged from consultation with over 200 community members including children, youth, adults and elders and form the basis of this Charter. As a result of this research, the Village of Hazelton has adopted and is fully supportive and committed to the principles and goals of the Hazelton Food Charter. This Charter will provide a sound foundation for all Hazelton organizations and individuals to work together towards a better understanding of the choices we make when growing, gathering or consuming food.

What are the principles?

- ❖ Food is central to our identity as citizens.
- ❖ Food is central to our social relationships.
- ❖ Food is central to how we work on the land.
- ❖ Food is central to a healthy economy.
- ❖ Food is central to our health.

What are the goal statements?

- ❖ We want to continue to build our food knowledge and food action.
- ❖ We want people to know how our food choices impact personal and community health.
- ❖ We want to sustain the land and rivers that provide us access to healthy food.

Who has endorsed this Charter?

Storyteller's Foundation, the Village of Hazelton and the Upper Skeena Development Centre are supporting local organizations as they implement their individual food action projects. These organizations are adopting the principles and goals of this Charter. The Charter's principles and goals guide how they approach their food action work. There are also many individuals working collaboratively on local food action projects.

**Interested in learning more about the Charter or getting involved
in Local Food Action projects?**

**Call Storytellers' at 842-6500 and we'll connect you with others working on
Food Action**

British Columbia News

Farming in B.C. goes high tech with \$14-million innovation program

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/17184>

Tuesday, May 22, 2018 9:00 AM

victoria - Farmers and food processors in British Columbia will have \$14 million in federal and provincial government support over the next five years, to help them develop new products and processes that will support food production in B.C.

B.C. farmers are already using computerized sensors, drones and wireless technology to monitor the growth and condition of their crops and livestock. They are also experimenting with new varieties of traditional crops and growing experimental ones, such as quinoa, wasabi and tea.

The Canada-BC Agri-Innovation Program encourages entrepreneurs and tech-leaders in B.C. by supporting projects that advance innovation and competitiveness, including:

- investments in applied science for major sector commodities;
- improved support for minor sector commodities and emerging/transformational areas including agri-tech;
- enhanced efforts in clean growth, environment and climate change;
- accelerating the growth of the sector, particularly in the agrifood and value-added food processing sectors; and
- strengthening knowledge transfer and adoption.

Applications and program criteria are available at: <http://iafbc.ca/funding-opportunities/innovation/>

The program will run for the duration of the five-year Canadian Agriculture Partnership. The partnership is a federal-provincial agreement that includes \$2 billion in cost-shared strategic initiatives delivered by the provinces and territories, and \$1 billion for federal programs and services through March 2023. The partnership replaces Growing Forward 2, which ended March 31, 2018.

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