



## Agricultural Development Committee

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Zoom/Board Room (Hybrid) – 3008 Fifth Avenue, Port Alberni, BC

12:45 pm

### Regular Agenda

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Watch the meeting live at: <https://www.acrd.bc.ca/events/18-11-2025/>

Register to participate via Zoom Webinar at:

[https://acrd-bc-ca.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_2uymC32TR2mINyXEqBsk1Q#/registration](https://acrd-bc-ca.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2uymC32TR2mINyXEqBsk1Q#/registration)

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PAGE #

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

**Recognition of Territories.**

Notice to attendees and delegates that this meeting is being recorded and livestreamed to YouTube on the Regional District Website.

Introductions - Committee Members and Staff present via Zoom.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

(motion to approve, including late items requires 2/3 majority vote)

3. **DECLARATIONS**

(conflict of interest)

4. **MINUTES**

a. **Agricultural Development Committee Meeting held July 15, 2025**

4-10

*THAT the minutes of the Agricultural Development Committee meeting held on July 15, 2025 be adopted.*

5. **DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS (10-minute maximum)**

a. **Ione Smith, Agrologist, Upland Agricultural Consulting presenting the final versions of the Alberni Valley Food Security Emergency Plan and the Alberni Valley Agricultural Water Plan**

- b. **Victor Martinez, Faculty, Kwantlen Polytechnic University & Kent Mullinix, Researcher, Kwantlen Polytechnic University presenting research project: Resilient & Thriving, Vancouver Island’s Food Future**

6. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION**

- a. **HONOURABLE JOSIE OSBORNE, MINISTER OF HEALTH**
- Famers’ Market Nutrition Coupon Program Letter **11**
  - Farm to School BC Letter to SD70 **12-13**
- b. **AGRISERVICE BC**  
Islands Edition Regional Newsletter – October 2025 **14-38**
- c. **AGSAFE BC**  
Dirt on Ag – September 2025 **39-45**
- d. **MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FOOD**
- New Plant and Animal Health Centre **46-48**
  - Notice of Avian Influenza in Coombs area **49-53**
- e. **TOFINO COMMUNITY FOOD INITIATIVE** **54-62**  
Annual Report 2024

*THAT the Agricultural Development Committee receive items a-e for information.*

7. **REQUEST FOR DECISIONS**

8. **REPORTS**

- a. Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District – A. Needham (attached)
- Staff Update Report **63-64**
  - 2026 Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities Resolutions Notice and Request for Submissions **65-74**
- b. City of Port Alberni – P. Deakin
- c. School District # 70 – H. Zanette (attached) **75**
- d. Island Health – K. Ruel
- e. Ministry of Agriculture & Food - T. O'Dell
- f. Alberni Farmers’ Institute – W. Smith
- g. Alberni District Fall Fair – A. Siddall
- h. Alberni Valley Food Security Society – A. Lewis (attached) **76-78**
- i. Eat West Coast – E. Goldt
- j. Spirit Square Farmers’ Market – S. Rymer (attached) **79**
- k. Port Alberni Port Authority, Dock + Food Processing Hub – C. Addy (attached) **80**
- l. Coastal Foods Roundtable, Tofino Community Food Initiative – Katie Miles (attached) **81**
- m. 4-H – P. Radcliffe (attached) **82**
- n. Marine Stakeholders

- o. Primary Agricultural Producers
  - Shannon Farms – T. Shannon (attached) **83**

*THAT the Agricultural Development Committee accept these reports a-o for information.*

9. **LATE BUSINESS**

10. **QUESTION PERIOD**

Questions/Comments from the public:

- Participating in Person in the Board Room
- Participating in the Zoom meeting
- Emailed to the ACRD at [responses@acrd.bc.ca](mailto:responses@acrd.bc.ca)

11. **ADJOURN**

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 12:45 pm  
Hybrid – ACRD Boardroom/Zoom



# Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

## MINUTES OF THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2025, 12:45 PM

Zoom/Board Room (Hybrid) – 3008 Fifth Avenue, Port Alberni, BC

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### MEMBERS

#### PRESENT:

Tanya Shannon, Shannon Farms, Vice-Chairperson  
Ann Siddall, Alberni District Fall Fair Association  
Fred Boyko, Director, Electoral Area “B” (Beaufort)  
Helen Zanette, SD70 Trustee  
Erika Goldt, Eat West Coast  
Cecilia Addy, Port Alberni Port Authority  
Anna Lewis, Alberni Valley Food Security Society  
Lisa Aylard, Alberni Farmers’ Institute, Stonehaven Farm  
Sarah Rymer, Spirit Square Farmers’ Market  
Wayne Smith, Alberni Farmers’ Institute  
Amber Lamb, Feathers be Found

#### Ex-Officio Members

Pat Deakin, City of Port Alberni  
Katie Miles, Coastal Roundtable Facilitator, Tofino Community Food Initiative  
Penny Cote, Director, ACRD, Agricultural Advisory Committee

#### REGRETS:

Heather Shobe, Chairperson, Eden Tree Farm  
Bob Collins, Arrowvale Farm  
Patty Palmer, 4H  
Kirsten Nesbitt, SD Healthy Schools Manager  
Jen Cody, Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council Dietician  
Thom O’Dell, Ministry of Agriculture & Food – Regional Agrologist  
Kaley Ruel, Island Health Dietician  
Larry McMahon, Agricultural Advisory Committee  
Russell Dyson, Agricultural Advisory Committee  
Robert Haynes, Agricultural Advisory Committee  
Star Miklashek, Agricultural Advisory Committee  
Ray Dol, Agricultural Advisory Committee

#### STAFF PRESENT:

Amy Needham, Sustainability Planner  
Kristin Kerr-Donohue, Administrative Assistant

The meeting can be viewed on the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District website at:

<https://www.acrd.bc.ca/events/15-7-2025/>

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

4

The Vice-Chairperson called the meeting to order at 12:45 pm.

The Vice-Chairperson recognized this meeting is being held throughout the Nuu-chah-nulth territories.

The Vice-Chairperson reported this meeting is being recorded and livestreamed to YouTube on the Regional District website.

Introductions - Committee Members and Staff via Zoom.

## 2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*MOVED: A. Siddall*

*SECONDED: A. Lewis*

*THAT the agenda be approved as circulated.*

**CARRIED**

## 3. **DECLARATIONS**

## 4. **MINUTES**

### a. **Agricultural Development Committee Minutes – April 15, 2025**

*MOVED: S. Rymer*

*SECONDED: A. Lewis*

*THAT the minutes of the Agricultural Development Committee meeting held on April 15, 2025 be adopted.*

**CARRIED**

## 5. **PRESENTATIONS**

### a. **Cynthia Dick, General Manager of Administrative Services, ACRD regarding AVICC and UBCM Deadlines and Processes (Presentation and Report)**

### b. **Serena Manhas, Planner 1, ACRD regarding Area D (Sproat Lake) OCP Introduction and Engagement (Presentation)**

Committee is requested to support the OCP process by answering the questions that were outlined in the staff presentation. A. Needham will forward a copy of the questions to the Committee with responses due by July 31, 2025, also available online [here](#).

Committee recommended that fisheries and forestry values are included in the agricultural conversation and engagement.

## 6. CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

- a. **FARM TO SCHOOL BC**  
2023-2024 Annual Report
- b. **ALBERNI VALLEY FOOD SECURITY SOCIETY**  
Strategic Plan Summary
- c. **BC FOOD HUBS**  
July Newsletter
- d. **BC MINISTRY OF HEALTH**  
Farmers' Market Nutrition Program News
- e. **AGRISERVICE BC**  
Islands Regional Newsletter – July 2025
- f. **HONOURABLE LANA POPHAM**  
Copy of Letter from Minister of Agriculture and Food re: Farmgate Program Review

*MOVED:* A. Lewis  
*SECONDED:* A. Siddall

*THAT the Agricultural Development Committee receive items a-f for information.*

**CARRIED**

After the July 15<sup>th</sup> Agricultural Development Committee meeting, staff received correspondence from the Minister of Health sent to ACRD Chair Jack on July 14<sup>th</sup>, in response to the ACRD letter dated June 3, 2025, regarding the Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program. The correspondence indicated that the BC Association of Farmers' Markets received \$4.25 million from the Ministry of Health to continue the Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program. The correspondence will be included in the ACRD Board of Directors agenda package for July 23, 2025, for their consideration.

## 7. REQUEST FOR DECISIONS

- a. **Request for Decision regarding Letter of Support for Farm to School BC**

*MOVED:* A. Lewis  
*SECONDED:* S. Rymer

*THAT the Agricultural Development Committee request that the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board of Directors direct staff to write a letter to the Honorable Josie Osborne, Minister of Health, asking for Farm to School BC funding to be reinstated.*

**CARRIED**

*MOVED:* H. Zanette  
*SECONDED:* S. Rymer

*THAT the Agricultural Development Committee request that the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board of Directors direct staff to follow up on the response to the Letter of Support for Farm to School BC and if no response is received by September that ACRD participants at UBCM bring the issue forward with representatives from the BC Ministry of Health and*

*THAT the Letter of Support for Farm to School BC be forwarded directly to the EA Director for UBCM.*

**CARRIED**

## **8. REPORTS**

- a. Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District – A. Needham
- b. City of Port Alberni – P. Deakin
  - Cascadia Seaweed has large quantities of seaweed biomass left from their liquid kelp extraction process. Anna Lewis and the Alberni Valley Food Security Society helped to distribute this for use as fertilizer in the area this spring. If anyone is interested in using this product, or have testimonials of its application, please reach out to them.
  - Funding received for Marine Life and Cellulose Innovation Centre business case.
  - Worked with Deloitte Restructuring to ensure there were successful applications for the properties owned by the San Group. One company who will be operating out of the remanufacturing plant on Stamp Ave, IGV Housing Ltd., who build modular housing, also have ties to vertical food production in the UK. Will be reaching out to this company for more information on this side of their business when they are more established in Port Alberni.
- c. School District # 70 – H. Zanette
  - Two new daycares opening at Maquinna and Wood Schools in 2025/2026
  - 2025-2026 School-Year Budget passed
  - Learning on the Land program was very successful and will continue.
  - Board of Education Trustees sent a letter to Hon. Josie Osbourne, Minister of Health requesting the Farm to School program funding be reinstated.
  - Flourish, provide lunches for students in Sooke. Will share information with other school districts and organizations who want to bring healthy lunches to students.
- d. Ministry of Agriculture & Food – A. Needham for T. O’Dell
  - Investment Agriculture Foundation has a new grant opportunity for the Agricultural Water Infrastructure Program – up to \$100,000, with no cost matching requirement. Activities eligible for this grant funding are professional consultation services for the following: facilitation, project

- management, strategic planning, conflict resolution, or general assessment of water supply and demand.
- e. Alberni Farmers' Institute – W. Smith
- Loss of Bill Thomson brings food security back into the spotlight, he had a wealth of knowledge for new farmers and was a huge advocate across the province for agriculture. Also brings into consideration the potential loss of a buyer for hay producers in the area.
  - Participated in the Water Storage Workshop/Field Day on June 22 hosted by the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food. Gained knowledge and would like to see more events like this in the future.
- f. Alberni District Fall Fair – A. Siddall
- Working with Nancy Wilmot to create new agriculture videos to display in the agriculture building at the Fall Fair.
  - Alberni Valley Fiber Guild, Alberni Valley Food Security Society, ACRD, Alberni Farmers' Institute, and some 4-H presentations will be included in the agriculture building, more room for others if needed.
  - Looking for volunteers from the agriculture sector to assist in the agriculture building.
  - Working on brochure with the AVFSS and Dock+, ACRD will assist to update the mapping.
- g. Alberni Valley Food Security Society – A. Lewis
- Farmgate+ application fillable form available on the AVFSS website now. If there are any farmstands that are known about, please reach out to Anna with that information.
  - Family Farm Day is coming together
  - Gleaning program has picked over 1400lbs of cherries this year
- h. Eat West Coast – E. Goldt
- Louise Rogers from Tofino Farms, owned and operated at Long Beach Airport (LBA) producing in greenhouses for four years, will request to present at the ACRD West Coast Committee meeting on September 3<sup>rd</sup> requesting reasonable lease costs for agriculture lands at the LBA to support agriculture and food security in the region.
- i. Spirit Square Farmers' Market – S. Rymer
- Looking for more meat producers to attend the market, only one producer currently.
  - Looking for a Market Manager to take on the duties being covered by the current president.
- j. Port Alberni Port Authority, Dock + Food Processing Hub – C. Addy
- New member at the Dock+, Munch Gelato
- k. Coastal Foods Roundtable, Tofino Community Food Initiative – Katie Miles
- Good growing season on the West Coast
  - School in Ahousaht has revitalized their garden program. They have set up a greenhouse and are growing a lot of food. Hosting workshops for the community.

- District of Tofino is running a gardening focused kids camp, which sold out very quickly, lots of participation and interest.
  - Lots of effort going into educating the west coast community members on agriculture.
- I. Primary Agricultural Producers
- Shannon Farms – T. Shannon
    - Update that the Gather and Graze dining event has been cancelled due to scheduling conflict with the chef
    - Farm is busy working on their second cut of hay
  - Stonehaven Farm – L. Aylard
    - BC Cattleman Meet a Rancher event at Save-on-Foods on June 21 had a lot of interest in supporting local producers.
  - Alberni Growers’ Collective – Anna Lewis
    - Having a lot of success with sales at the market this year, selling out on a regular basis.

*MOVED: A. Siddall*

*SECONDED: C. Addy*

*THAT the verbal reports a-l be received.*

**CARRIED**

## **9. LATE BUSINESS**

Question regarding involvement in the 2026 Island Ag Show, A Taste of the Alberni Valley. A. Needham will be reaching out to sub-committee participants in September to discuss options and securing product to showcase.

## **10. QUESTION PERIOD**

Questions/Comments from the public. The Administrative Assistant advised there were no questions or comments respecting an agenda topic from public:

- Participating in Person in the ACRD Board Room
- Participating in the Zoom webinar
- Submissions received by email at [responses@acrd.bc.ca](mailto:responses@acrd.bc.ca).

## **11. ADJOURN**

*MOVED: W. Smith*

*SECONDED: C. Addy*

*THAT the meeting be adjourned at 2:25 pm.*

**CARRIED**

Certified Correct:

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Tanya Shannon,  
Vice-Chairperson

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Kristin Kerr-Donohue,  
Administrative Assistant



July 14, 2025

1313607

Via email: c/o [tbond@acrd.bc.ca](mailto:tbond@acrd.bc.ca)

John Jack  
Chairperson  
Board of Directors  
Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

Dear John Jack,

Thank you for your letter of June 3, 2025, regarding the Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program (FMNCP). I appreciate hearing directly from you about the positive impact this program has had on local farmers, the agricultural sector in the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District, and households with lower incomes over the past year.

I'm pleased to share that the BC Association of Farmers' Markets has received \$4.25 million from the Ministry of Health to continue delivering the FMNCP this year. This funding will help over 8,500 lower-income households in approximately 90 communities across the province access nutritious foods at local farmers' markets.

Thank you again for taking the time to write and share your perspective.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josie", written in a cursive style.

Josie Osborne  
Minister



September 29, 2025

1316038

Via email: [PCraig@sd70.bc.ca](mailto:PCraig@sd70.bc.ca)

Pam Craig, Chair of the Board of Education  
Pacific Rim School District  
4690 Roger St  
Port Alberni BC V9Y 3Z4

Dear Chair Craig:

Thank you for your letter of June 12, 2025, related to funding for Farm to School BC. I am responding on behalf of the Minister of Education and Child Care, the Honourable Lisa Beare, as the funding you referenced falls under the Ministry of Health. I apologize for the delayed response.

I appreciate the passion and commitment expressed in your letter. Farm to School BC has been a valued partner in helping young people connect to healthy, local food and in building stronger school communities. I recognize the impact these programs have had, not just in classrooms, but in fostering healthier habits, deeper knowledge of food systems, and stronger links to local producers.

As you may be aware, the [Minister of Health's mandate letter](#) includes working with the Minister of Finance to review all existing Ministry of Health programs and initiatives to ensure they support and continue to serve British Columbians within current budget realities. Unfortunately, this has meant that some programs which previously received year-end funding could not be supported this year. I want to assure you that this decision does not reflect a lack of appreciation for Farm to School BC or the value of its work.

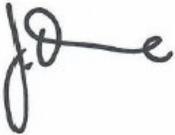
The Province remains committed to supporting nutritious and sustainable school food programs. The Ministry of Education and Child Care provides \$71.5 million annually through the [Feeding Futures](#) program to create and expand school food initiatives. To complement this, the Ministry of Health launched the [BC School Food Toolkit](#) in March 2025 to help schools create and maintain supportive food environments. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food is also working with school districts and supply chain partners through [Feed BC](#), encouraging local food use in Feeding Futures programs and building food literacy through classroom learning opportunities.

...2

Together, these initiatives are designed to create a coordinated, cost-effective and sustainable framework for school food programming across BC. While year-end funding for Farm to School BC is not available at this time, I encourage schools in your district to continue accessing the program's classroom learning resources, which remain available online here: [here: Farm to School BC - Bringing healthy, local food to schools K-12.](#)

I recognize this is not the answer you were hoping for, and I want to reiterate that the lack of year-end funding for Farm to School BC in no way reflects a lack of appreciation for the program or the value of its work. Thank you again for your advocacy and for highlighting the importance of school food programs. Your voice, and the voices of school communities, are vital as we continue to strengthen the supports available to children and youth across the province.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Josie', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Josie Osborne  
Minister

pc: Honourable Lisa Beare, Minister of Education and Child Care

**Kristin Kerr-Donohue**

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**From:** AgriService BC <AgriServiceBC@agriservicebc.gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** October 1, 2025 3:00 PM  
**To:** Amy Needham  
**Subject:** Islands E-Bulletin - October 2025

No images? [Click here](#)



# Islands Edition

## Regional Newsletter

### October 2025



#### Feature of the month:

- Forage and livestock field days on Vancouver Island

#### Upcoming events:

- **Oct 5 & Oct 8:** Farmer-Led Soil Health Demonstration Field Days
- **Oct 26 - Nov 30:** LUSH Valley's Small Scale Processing Course
- **Oct 2:** On-Farm Demonstration Research
- **Nov 25-27:** 2025 BC Organic Conference - Early-bird tickets now available

- **Jan 22-24:** Save the Date: Lower Mainland Horticultural Conference
- **Jan 30-31:** Islands Agricultural Show
- **Feb 11-12:** Save the Date: Southern Interior Horticultural Show

### **Drought and Wildfire Preparedness:**

- Protect your farm or ranch with FireSmart!
- Responding to drought on your farm
- Emergency management for agriculture - Is your BCPID info up to date?

### **Programs and funding opportunities:**

- BMP Applications now open for Extreme Weather Preparedness
- Knowledge Transfer Program

### **Business Risk Management Programs:**

- Production Insurance

### **Resources:**

- Engagement Opportunity: Xwulqw'selu (Koksilah) Watershed Plan
- Natural resource permitting improvements
- B.C Application Risk Management (ARM) tool
- ALC 2024/2025 Annual Report
- B.C. Indigenous Pathfinder Service
- Share your views: Consulting Canadians on the operation of the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA)



## **FEATURE OF THE MONTH**

# **Forage and livestock field days on Vancouver Island**



The BC Forage Council and BC Cattlemen’s Association, supported by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, held three workshops on Vancouver Island in September with over 45 attendees. Workshops took place on five farms in Saanich, Duncan, Merville and Black Creek.

Workshops included information-packed sessions led by experts including Greg Tegart, Mike Witt and Graeme Fowler as well as farmer-to-farmer learning. Topics of interest included seeding and grazing strategies, drought adaptability, farm business decisions, equipment requirements for different management approaches, and more. Razer Grazer portable electric fencing and a solar powered waterer were demonstrated.

The workshops fostered networking between friends and neighbours with discussions around on-farm success, challenges, and solutions related to livestock, pasture, hay and silage production. They also provided an opportunity to connect experts with local farmers to discuss the unique conditions and challenges of raising livestock and forage on Vancouver Island. The workshops garnered positive feedback from the Vancouver Island livestock community. As one participant said: “More of this please!”

*Funding for these workshops was provided in part by the governments of Canada and*

*British Columbia under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative; additional funding provided by CleanBC.*

Learn more about the BC Forage Council and BC Cattleman's Association by clicking the buttons below.

[B.C. Forage Council](#)

[B.C. Cattlemen](#)

—◆ EVENTS ◆—

## Farmer-Led Soil Health Demonstration Field Days



**Attention Islands region farmers, land managers, and food growers with an interest in on-farm research and soil health!**

Part of the of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food's [Extension program](#), the On-Farm Soil Health Demonstration project is a farmer-led research project supported by Dr. DeLisa Lewis.

Three farms on Vancouver Island are participating in the project, including Smith Lake Farm in Merville, Tatlo Road Farm in Crofton, and Newman Farm in Central Saanich. Each participating farmer chose to address a specific soil health challenge on their farm and implemented on-farm research techniques to evaluate the most effective approach to manage their specific soil health challenge.

Learn more about on-farm demonstration research projects by reading the [Guide to conducting on-farm research](#).

**Two upcoming field days will showcase the farmer-led research focused on a specific soil health challenge at each farm.**

- Sunday, October 5 from 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM at 8073 Central Saanich Rd, Newman Farm, Central Saanich, BC
- Wednesday, October 8, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM at 1481 Larkin Road Merville, Smith Lake Farm, Merville, BC

*Funding is provided in part by the governments of Canada and British Columbia under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.*

[Register](#)

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## LUSH Valley's Small Scale Processing Course



**Date:** Sundays, October 26 to November 30

**Time:** 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

**Location:** LUSH Valley HQ, 2342B Rosewall Crescent, Courtenay, B.C.

Calling all foodies! Have you wanted to sell processed food products, but are unsure where to start or how to scale up? In this series of classes, you will learn everything you need to know in order to take your food product to the retail market.

This course will introduce you to commercial kitchen equipment as well as food safety requirements for retail. Whether you want to learn how to scale up production of existing products or are looking to start a business, these classes will help you understand regulations, safety, costs and efficiencies.

The final class of the series will be a business incubator, bring your big ideas and discuss business development with experienced retail food processors and your peers. You'll discover resources and make valuable connections with experienced food processors in the region.

*Funding is provided by the governments of Canada and British Columbia under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.*

[Register](#)

## Join us for a webinar on On-Farm Demonstration Research

LEARN ABOUT PRODUCER-LED  
TRIALS HAPPENING ACROSS  
THE PROVINCE

# ON-FARM RESEARCH EVENING WEBINAR

October 2, 7-8PM

Questions? [Catherine@agrowest.ca](mailto:Catherine@agrowest.ca)

Register:

<https://onfarmresearch.eventbrite.ca>



Register

## Early-bird tickets now available for the 2025 BC Organic Conference



Join Organic BC in Harrison Hot Springs from **November 25 - 27** to farm ideas and build community!

### This year's highlights include:

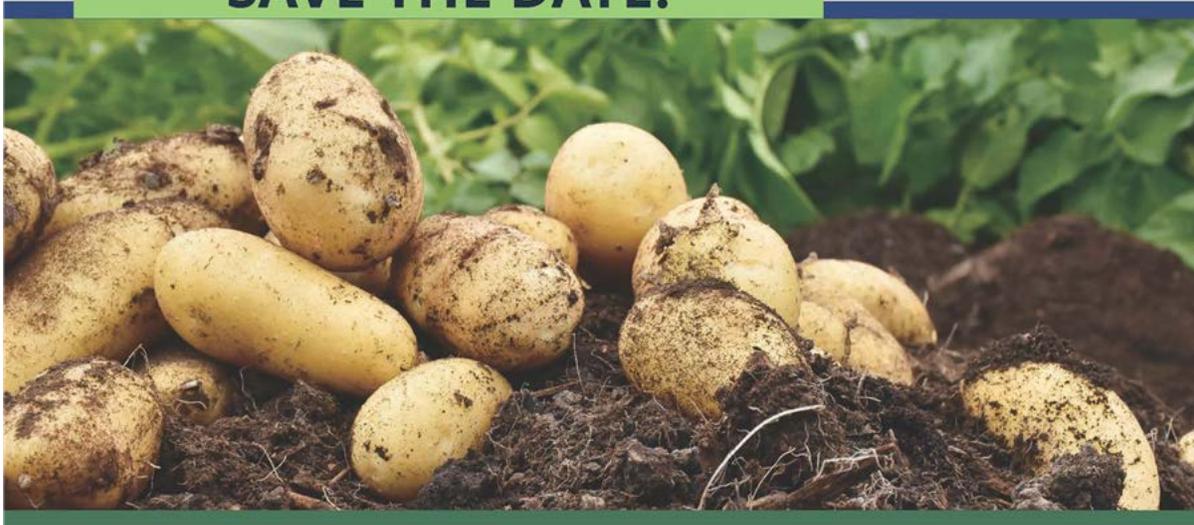
- **Keynotes:** We're excited to welcome Jacob Beaton, Gillian Flies, Brent Preston and our virtual keynote, Paul Holmbeck
- **Workshops:** 20+ sessions featuring practical, hands-on learning
- **Trade show:** The latest products, services, equipment and more
- **Organic banquet:** A delicious feast featuring local, organic products
- **Farm tours:** A close-up look at innovative practices, techniques, and tools
- **Seed swap table:** Bring seeds, take seeds, share stories!

Discounts are available for recently purchased Organic BC memberships at the Organic Farm/Business, Sustainer and Certifying Body tiers. Haven't joined the new Organic BC yet? Join now at [organicbc.org/membership](https://organicbc.org/membership)

Learn more and register

## Lower Mainland Horticultural Conference

SAVE THE DATE!



**When:** January 22 - 24, 2026

**Where:** TRADEX, Abbotsford

The Lower Mainland Horticultural Conference provides producers the opportunity to get the latest information on research, farming practices and market opportunities from some of the industry's most knowledgeable experts.

Details on how to purchase tickets, as well as an agenda overview, will be provided in the fall.

The Lower Mainland Horticultural Conference is delivered by the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food in partnership with the Lower Mainland Horticultural Improvement Association and the Pacific Agriculture Show.

*Funding for the conference is provided in part by the governments of Canada and British Columbia through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.*

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## Islands Agricultural Show

### Islands Agricultural Show



**When:** January 30 - 31, 2026

**Where:** Cowichan Exhibition Grounds, Duncan

*Funding for the conference is provided in part by the governments of Canada and British Columbia through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.*

[Learn More](#)

# Southern Interior Horticultural Show

**SAVE THE DATE!**



**When:** February 11 - 12, 2026

**Where:** Penticton Trade and Convention Centre

The Southern Interior Horticultural Show provides producers with the opportunity to network and access the latest information on research, innovation, and farming practices from some of the industry's most knowledgeable experts.

Details on how to purchase tickets, as well as an agenda overview, will be provided in the fall.

The ever-popular tradeshow and sponsorship opportunities are back! Details will be shared by the end of summer for those that wish to be a part of the show. If this is of interest to you, please reach out to [sihs@pacegroup.com](mailto:sihs@pacegroup.com) and we will add you to our distribution list.

The event is delivered by the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food in partnership with: B.C. Cherry Association, B.C. Fruit Growers' Association, B.C. Grapegrowers' Association, B.C. Wine Grape Council, Wine Growers British Columbia, Sustainable Winegrowing B.C., Okanagan-Kootenay Sterile Insect Release, Summerland Varieties Corp., and the Cross-Commodity Leadership Support Project.

*Funding for the conference is provided in part by the governments of Canada and British Columbia through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.*

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## DROUGHT AND WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS

# Protect your farm or ranch with FireSmart!



Wildfires can move fast and there can be little or no time to act. FireSmart practices greatly reduce the risk of a structure catching fire and don't rely on last-minute defenses.

[Watch 'Farmers talk FireSmart'](#) to see what B.C. producers are saying about the FireSmart BC Farm & Ranch Assessment.

Get FireSmart with a Farm & Ranch Assessment: [Learn more and apply now.](#)

[Learn More and Apply Now](#)

# Responding to drought on your farm

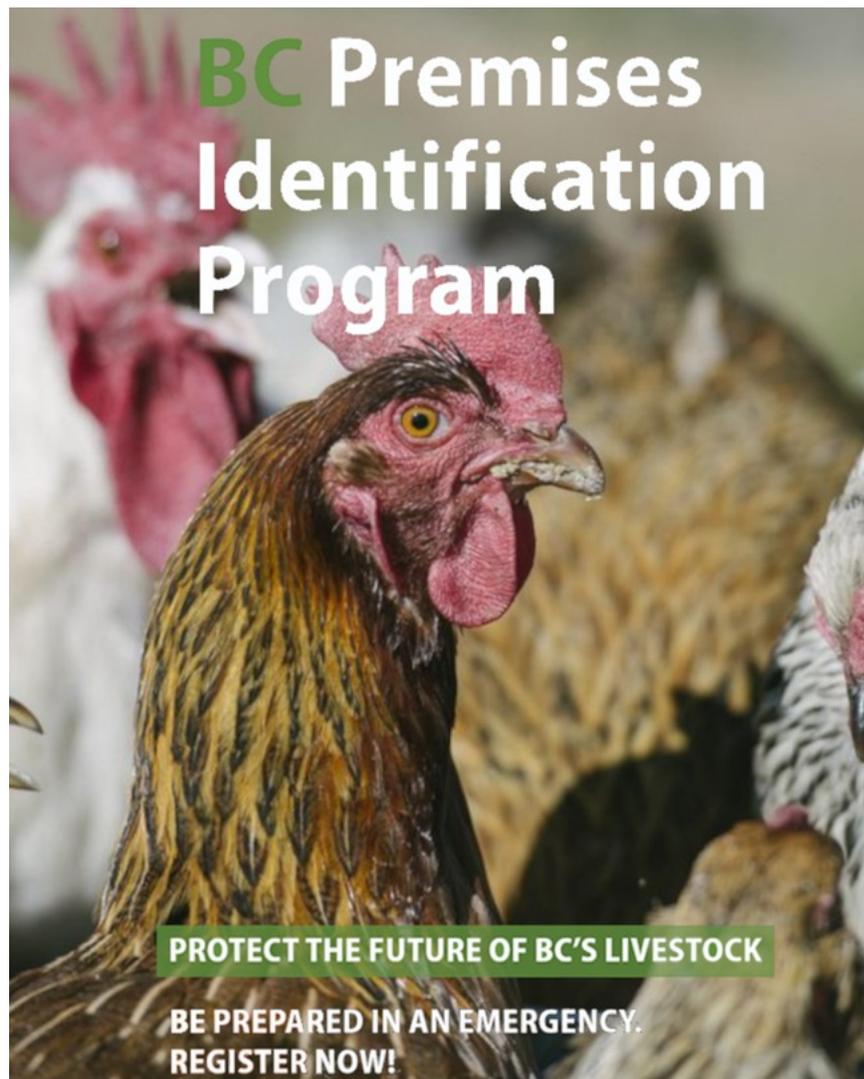
Even after harvest, ongoing drought conditions can affect your farm's long-term productivity. Now is the time to assess the season's impact and plan for the next growing season. For resources to help you manage the long-term effects of drought, visit the [Drought in Agriculture webpage](#). Here are some key resources to help you prepare:

- Review the [Pasture and Hay Rejuvenation Options factsheet](#) for guidance on rejuvenating pastures or forage fields affected by drought.
- Refer to the [B.C. Livestock Drought Management Guide](#) for information on livestock feeding and strategies as we move into the winter, addressing potential shortages, forage crop considerations, and business and economic decisions.
- Consult the [Drought Recovery Checklist for Livestock and Forage Producers](#) for guidance on post-drought recovery and preparing for the next growing season.

Learn More

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## Emergency management for agriculture - Is your BCPID info up to date?



If you keep livestock, poultry, or bees, it's time to update your [BC Premises ID \(BCPID\)](#) account, as it could make all the difference in an emergency. Take five minutes to log in to your account and confirm your details to make sure you are prepared in the event of an emergency.

We are moving from wildfire season into the fall, and new risks are on the horizon for British Columbia's agriculture sector:

- Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI): Cooler weather increases the risk of spreading among wild and domestic birds. Poultry owners need to stay alert and practice strong biosecurity.
- Atmospheric rivers and flooding: Heavy rains can quickly disrupt farms, transportation, and access to feed and veterinary care.

Keeping your BC Premises ID (BCPID) account current ensures that, in the event of an animal disease outbreak or weather emergency, we can contact you quickly with updates, resources, and instructions.

Not sure if your animals require registration?

Check the [BCPID brochure](#) for a full list of species that need to be reported.

Register now and make sure your BCPID info is current:

[Register or Reconfirm your account now!](#)

Have a Premises ID, but no online access?

Click "[Get Access](#)" under the Access Paper Account section and enter your account number and phone number.

Trouble logging in? Questions? We're here to help: [BCPID@gov.bc.ca](mailto:BCPID@gov.bc.ca) | [1-888-221-7141](tel:1-888-221-7141)

(Ask for Premises ID).



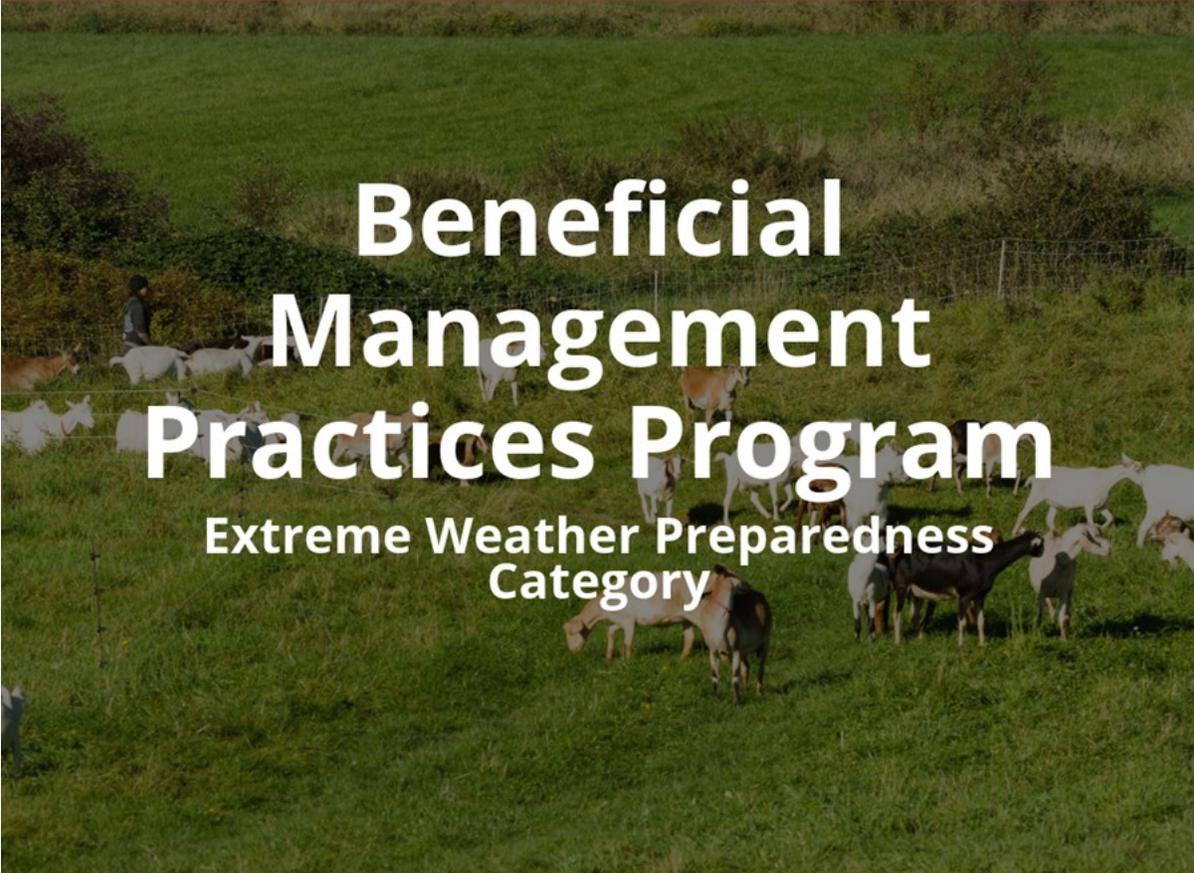
Register or reconfirm

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## PROGRAMS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

**BMP applications now open for  
extreme weather preparedness  
projects**

# Applications Open



## Beneficial Management Practices Program

Extreme Weather Preparedness  
Category

Visit [iafbc.ca/bmp](https://iafbc.ca/bmp) to learn more

Funding is now available through the Beneficial Management Practices (BMP) program for projects that help farms prepare for extreme weather events. This intake supports initiatives focused on:

- Wildfire Preparedness
- Flood Preparedness
- Extreme Heat and Cold Preparedness
- Creative solutions for extreme weather preparedness

No Environmental Farm Plan required to apply. Applications will be open until funding is fully committed.

We anticipate high demand, so don't wait! Visit [iafbc.ca/bmp](https://iafbc.ca/bmp) for full program details and to start your application today.

Learn More

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## Knowledge Transfer Program



Funding remains available for this year's Knowledge Transfer Program intake. Submit your application now to receive support for your knowledge or skill-building event.

Apply now

A new infographic has been published summarizing the results from the 2024-25 Knowledge Transfer Program and the impact of last year's funding on B.C.'s agriculture and food sector. Read the infographic here: [2024-25 kttp\\_end\\_of\\_year\\_report.pdf](#)

# BUSINESS RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

[Insurance and Income Protection Programs](#) are an important part of a farmer's overall risk management strategy. AgriStability and Production Insurance work together to provide the best coverage for producers.

## Production Insurance

[Production Insurance](#) helps producers manage their risk of crop losses caused by hail, spring frost, excessive rain, drought, flooding and other extreme weather events. In British Columbia, Production Insurance is available for:

- [Berries](#)
- [Flower bulbs](#)
- [Forage](#)
- [Grain](#)
- [Grapes](#)
- [Tree fruit](#)
- [Vegetables](#)

### Need help with Production Insurance?

- Phone: [1-888-332-3352](tel:1-888-332-3352) toll-free
- Email: [ProductionInsurance.Kelowna@gov.bc.ca](mailto:ProductionInsurance.Kelowna@gov.bc.ca)
- Visit: [www.gov.bc.ca/CropInsurance](http://www.gov.bc.ca/CropInsurance)

Staff are available to help with the application and renewal process.

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## RESOURCES

# Engagement Opportunity: Xwulqw'selu (Koksilah) Watershed Plan



**This fall, the Xwulqw'selu (Koksilah) Planning Team is preparing to draft the Xwulqw'selu (Koksilah) Watershed and Water Sustainability Plan (the Plan), and we want to hear from you!**

As the Planning Team continues to develop solutions, the public is invited to share their input to help guide the development of the Water and Watershed Sustainability Plan (the Plan) and shape long-term solutions for water supply and ecosystem health.

[Take the Survey](#)

---

## Natural Resource Permitting Improvements



The Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship is streamlining and improving natural resource permitting processes. 16 topics are currently open for public feedback, some of which have surveys closing on October 17, 2025 and others closing on December 12, 2025. Two that may affect or be of interest to agricultural producers are the following:

- Stream Restoration (Expanding eligibility for stream restoration activities)
- Low volume water use – exemptions (Low volume water use without an authorization)

This is your opportunity to be heard on a number of permitting processes. Feedback is quick and simple to give.

[Learn More](#)

# BC Application Risk Management (ARM) tool

BRITISH COLUMBIA BC Application Risk Management (ARM) Tool

Date	24-hr precipitation (mm)	72-hr precipitation (mm)	Rainfall amount
8/26/2025	0	1	Low
8/27/2025	1	1	Low
8/28/2025	0	2	Low
8/29/2025	0	4	Low
8/30/2025	2	4	Low

Complete a risk assessment for today      Complete a risk assessment for tomorrow

Do you apply manure in October, February or March depending on rain and field conditions? Use the BC ARM Tool to help plan your applications – in the past year, your neighbours have used it over 1,000 times!

For many farmers, manure is a valuable resource to help them provide nutrients for their crops and reduces the need for expensive commercial fertilizer. During the shoulder season months of October, February and March, planning manure applications can be tricky and it becomes even more important to plan manure spreading around the changing weather and field conditions.

However, planning manure applications during the shoulder season can quickly become quite complicated and time-consuming. To make planning easier, use the BC ARM Tool before making any applications. The tool helps you assess the next seven days of upcoming rainfall and current field conditions to determine when to apply and which fields to apply to. Most risk assessments using the BC ARM Tool can be completed in less than five minutes.

Under B.C.'s agri-environmental regulations, the BC ARM Tool must show a 'Low' risk of manure loss prior to application in the Lower Mainland and on Vancouver Island.

Make sure you save your finished risk assessment from the BC ARM Tool using either the print or email function. This is not only good practice but also shows that you're following B.C.'s regulations on manure application.

[Learn More](#)

[ARM Tool](#)

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## ALC 2024/2025 Annual Report



The Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) is pleased to advise that its 2024/2025 Annual Report is now available on their website. The report includes a review of the tribunal's operations during the preceding period and details on the nature and number of applications and notices of intent, as well as Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) compliance and enforcement workload, change in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) area, and other matters considered by the tribunal.

For more information, please visit the ALC's website at <https://www.alc.gov.bc.ca>

If you want to speak to someone from the ALC please contact us at <https://www.alc.gov.bc.ca/contact>.

Read the 2024/2025 Annual Report by clicking the button below.

[Annual Report](#)

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## B.C. Indigenous Pathfinder Service



Indigenous  
Partnerships and  
Reconciliation Branch

# B.C. Indigenous Pathfinder Service

Provincial wayfinding services and program referrals to connect people to current supports and other available opportunities for:

- Indigenous food systems
- Food sovereignty
- Food security
- Agriculture and food sector

**CONTACT US:**

Email [IndigenousFoodSystems@gov.bc.ca](mailto:IndigenousFoodSystems@gov.bc.ca)

or call 236-426-5024



Sustainable Canadian  
Agricultural Partnership



BRITISH  
COLUMBIA

Canada

The B.C. Indigenous Pathfinder Service is a single source for support and referral to help navigate the relevant information, tools and funding available to start or expand activities in Indigenous food systems, food sovereignty, food security and the agriculture and food sector.

Staff provide provincial wayfinding services and program referrals as required to connect people to current supports and other available opportunities including: support for navigating existing programs, services and funding opportunities, navigating government's organizational structure, coaching through project development and planning and connections to sector organizations, potential industry partners, and other collaborators.

To access this free service, email [IndigenousFoodSystems@gov.bc.ca](mailto:IndigenousFoodSystems@gov.bc.ca) or call [1-236-426-5024](tel:1-236-426-5024).

*Funding for the B.C. Indigenous Pathfinder Service is provided by the governments of Canada and British Columbia through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.*

[Learn more](#)

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## Share your views: Consulting Canadians on the operation of the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA)

Global Affairs Canada has launched its [second phase of public consultations regarding the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement \(CUSMA\)](#), which are effective immediately and will continue until **November 3, 2025**.

CUSMA, which replaced the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) on July 1, 2020, ensures Canada's preferential access to the United States and Mexico. As with the previous consultation, the Government of Canada is seeking feedback on how the Agreement is functioning. Your input will inform preparations for the first joint review of CUSMA in 2026 and guide efforts to ensure the effective operation of the Agreement.

The Government of Canada encourages members of the agriculture and agri-food sector to participate in this consultation by sharing their experiences and perspectives on CUSMA's operation. Your feedback is invaluable in helping the Government of Canada understand the key areas of the Agreement that are working well and potential areas for improvement.

[Learn more](#)

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**Visit the AgriServiceBC website and follow our Facebook page for more information on drought resources and tools**

[AgriServiceBC Website](#)

[AgriServiceBC Facebook](#)

Missed the last e-bulletin? Catch-up on previous issues [here](#).

**Want to grow your farm or food business?**

**Contact your local Regional Agrologist**

Thom O'Dell - North Island  
Email: [Thom.ODell@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Thom.ODell@gov.bc.ca)

Bejay Mills - Central Island  
Email: [Bejay.Mills@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Bejay.Mills@gov.bc.ca)

Megan Halstead - South Island  
Email: [Megan.Halstead@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Megan.Halstead@gov.bc.ca)



Ministry of  
Agriculture  
and Food

AgriService BC connects farmers, food processors and new entrants to agricultural services, programs and information that can help them succeed.

[Preferences](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

**Kristin Kerr-Donohue**

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**From:** AgSafeBC <Contact@agsafebc.ca>  
**Sent:** September 30, 2025 10:42 AM  
**To:** Amy Needham  
**Subject:** AgSafe Dirt on Ag |September 2025

**[CAUTION]** This email originated from outside of the ACRD

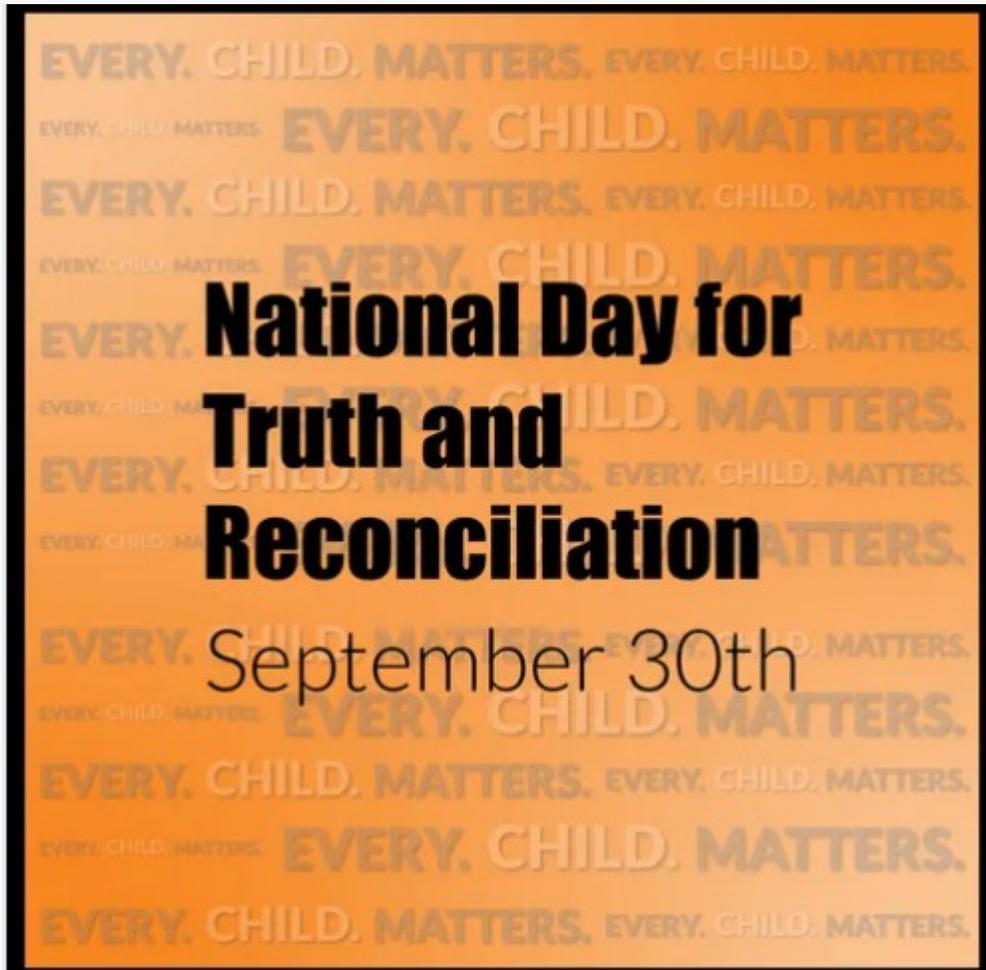


September 2025 [View Online](#)

In This Issue

[Injury Recovery Story](#) | [AgLife](#) | [HR Toolkit](#) | [Other News and Events](#)





AgSafe acknowledges Tuesday, September 30, as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Featured Stories

**Injury Recovery Story**



Workplace injuries can be tough—but the road to recovery doesn't have to be. Knowing the proper steps after an injury is essential for both workers and employers. That's why AgSafe is proud to launch our new video series, Incident Recovery Stories.

This series shares the real-life journeys of BC farmers who faced injury on the job and found support through the WorkSafeBC claim process, with an AgSafe representative by their side. These stories demonstrate that timely injury reporting doesn't mean skyrocketing premiums or financial setbacks for employers—that's a common misconception. Early reporting helps with faster recovery, effective injury management, and safer workplaces in the long run.

[AgSafe's Video Library - From Incident to Recovery](#)



## AgLife Feature: Active Listening

### Why Active Listening Matters on the Farm

Whether you're working with family, employees, suppliers, or customers, effective communication is essential. Active listening is a communication skill that strengthens teamwork, improves problem-solving, and supports mental well-being across the farm community.

Some simple ways to practice active listening include:

- **Avoiding Interruptions**
- **Embracing Silence**
- **Making Eye Contact**
- **Repeating and Clarifying**
- **Asking Thoughtful Questions**

Active listening builds trust, shows respect, and helps prevent misunderstandings. Whether you're discussing safety protocols, harvest plans, or community concerns, active listening helps everyone feel heard—and that's good for business and for well-being.

[AgLife Article: The Power of Active Listening](#)



## AgSafe's Human Resource Toolkit

AgSafe's HR Toolkit is available and ready. In it you will find:

1. Templates for job descriptions, employment confirmation, reference checking, exit interviews, an employee handbook and more.
2. Checklist for terminations.
3. Forms for payroll deduction, progressive discipline, performance evaluation, and more.
4. Tip Sheets for onboarding, probationary periods, performance management, delivering feedback, and more.

Whether you manage a small family farm or a large-scale operation, the toolkit is designed to be flexible and scalable, meeting your unique needs. Learn more about AgSafe's HR Toolkit [here](#).

Additionally, AgSafe's dedicated Human Resource Consultants offer a wealth of additional tools and personalized support upon request.

[Connect with an AgSafe HR Consultant](#)

### Lunch and Learn

Join AgSafe's Human Resources Team in a virtual webinar on **Protecting Your Farm: The Power of Proper Employee Documentation**



With **Janine Beamish**  
Human Resources Consultant

AgSafe

Recruit | Onboard | Retention | Departure

Funding By   

This program is funded by the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia.

Wednesday, October 8th, 2025  
12:00 PM - 12:30 PM  
Online

“  
**The COR program has been a great guide to implementing & meeting our industry's safety standards. The certification is a great reminder that our safety comes first.**  
”



**TESTIMONIAL**  
Certificate of Recognition (COR)  
Safety Certified Employer



**SAFETY CERTIFIED**

#### EVENTS:

- October 6-9, 2025 [Canadian Agricultural Safety Conference](#). Virtual.
- October 8, 2025 12:00 - 12:30 PM [HR Lunch and Learn: Employee Documentation](#) (Online).
- October 25, 2025 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM [Red Cross Psychological First Aid](#) Langley.
- October 28, 2025 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM [AgLife Connector Training \(Online\)](#).
- November 5, 2025 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM [AgLife Connector Training \(Online\)](#).
- November 12, 2025 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM [AgLife Connector Training \(Online\)](#).
- November 25-27, 2025 [BC Organic Conference](#), Harrison Hot Springs.
- November 26-27, 2025, [BC Dairy Conference](#), Vancouver.

Visit our [Events Calendar](#) to see what's coming up.

#### FIND US ONLINE

-  [AgSafeBC.ca](#)
-  [Email](#)
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-  [YouTube](#)

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British Columbia News

## **New plant, animal health centre will safeguard people, farms**

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/32894>

Government is building a new plant and animal health centre to keep people safe by stopping diseases such as avian flu before they spread, protecting British Columbia’s food, farmers, animals and communities.

“B.C. farmers, producers and processors rely on fast, accurate testing to keep their animals healthy and their operations running smoothly,” said Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture and Food. “This new centre will help producers prevent and respond to disease threats, protect our food supply and support public health. This is a forward-looking investment that will strengthen B.C.’s agriculture sector and safeguard food security for generations to come.”

The new plant and animal health centre will be the backbone of B.C.’s food safety system, helping farmers and veterinarians quickly detect and respond to animal and plant diseases that could threaten animal safety, food supply and public health.

“All farmers and ranchers in the province rely on the excellent veterinary and diagnostic work done at the plant and animal health centre,” said Jennifer Woike, president, BC Agriculture Council. “Building a new and updated centre is an extraordinary commitment to ensure the continued health of livestock and crops and, by extension, the health of all British Columbians.”

The current centre suffered extensive damages during the 2021 floods in Abbotsford and needs to be replaced to meet the increasing demands for testing. The centre handles more than 10,000 cases annually from farmers and organizations, helping to detect, monitor and prevent diseases such as avian influenza, West Nile virus and chronic wasting disease. Staff at the lab conduct, on average, 100,000 tests annually.

“A new state-of-the-art plant and animal health centre will help strengthen public health by detecting diseases, such as avian influenza before they reach people,” said Josie Osborne, Minister of Health. “It will also ensure safer food on our tables by monitoring food sources, tracking emerging threats and guiding swift responses. This early warning system supports a healthier, more resilient food supply for everyone.”

The new centre will be at 34252 King Rd., next to the University of Fraser Valley's Abbotsford campus, just off Highway 1. It will replace the current 30-year-old facility and be built to modern specifications to provide updated testing for farmers and better protect public health.

“As the agricultural capital of B.C., the City of Abbotsford understands the importance of protecting the health of our animals, plants and crops,” said Ross Siemens, mayor of Abbotsford. “This plant and animal health centre will continue providing farmers with support for keeping their farms healthy, safeguarding their livelihoods and strengthening food security across B.C. We are grateful to the Province for maintaining Abbotsford as the home for this important facility.”

The Province has approved up to \$496 million to buy the land, build the new facility and buy equipment. Construction is expected to begin in 2027 with enhanced services available to B.C. producers by 2032.

“The plant and animal health centre is a valuable tool for agricultural producers in British Columbia,” said Preston Farris, director of production, Oso Berry Farms. “The lab services helped Oso Berry Farms to make informed decisions on our farms, and is an integral part of our integrated pest management. Further investment in the centre will allow farmers to receive important animal and plant health information at an expedited rate.”

The centre is one of Western Canada's leading full-service veterinary laboratories and plays a key role in the Province's veterinary, diagnostic and food safety programs that support healthy farms and public health.

#### **Quotes:**

##### **Dr. Shannon Waters, deputy provincial health officer –**

“The new plant and animal health centre is an essential step to invest in our collective well-being. Security of our food, health and economy is intimately tied to our relationships with land, water, plants and animals. This modern, resilient lab will better equip us to detect and respond to emerging diseases and climate-related risks, and strengthens our capacity to protect the health of plants, animals and humans, today and for generations to come.”

##### **Casey Pruum, chair, BC Dairy Board –**

“BC Dairy welcomes the establishment of the new provincial plant and animal health laboratory in Abbotsford. A dedicated facility for timely testing and disease detection is vital to protecting herd health, ensuring food safety, and supporting the long-term sustainability of B.C.'s dairy industry. This investment will enhance the Province's ability to respond quickly to emerging risks and provide producers and veterinarians with the reliable, efficient and accessible diagnostic services they need to keep herds healthy across B.C.”

##### **Navtej Bains, vice-president of operations, marketing and procurement, Westberry Farms –**

“As a B.C. grower, I know firsthand how important reliable diagnostic services are to our industry. The new centre will provide crucial testing and support, especially for challenges like blueberry scorch virus. This investment gives growers confidence that we can protect our crops, respond quickly to plant health issues, and continue producing high-quality berries for local and global markets.”

##### **Brad Driediger, president, BC Poultry Association; president, BC Chicken Growers' Association –**

“To successfully manage biosecurity risks, access to timely information and diagnostic testing is needed. British Columbia's poultry sector, which contributes to the food security of our communities and supports thousands of jobs, welcomes the construction of a new plant and animal health centre.”

##### **Kevin Boon, general manager, B.C. Cattlemen's Association –**

"Animal health and welfare for ranchers involves a comprehensive, proactive approach. It is also one of the biggest challenges facing livestock producers worldwide today. It is vital that we have modern, technologically advanced facilities to respond to and ultimately prevent future health concerns for our livestock. Our primary responsibility is keeping our animals healthy and the investment in the new provincial Animal Health Centre is key to managing issues as they arise."

**Jesse Zeman, executive director, B.C. Wildlife Federation (BCWF) –**

“The BCWF is thrilled that the Province is investing in a larger facility which will support the increasing need for testing for wildlife disease, such as chronic wasting disease in a timely manner.”

### **Quick Facts:**

- The centre employs over 60 scientists who provide diagnostic services to British Columbians.
- As an accredited testing facility, the centre offers fee-for-service diagnostic testing to veterinarians, livestock producers, the public and other government agencies, in bacteriology, histopathology, molecular diagnostics, pathology (necropsy), serology, genomics, virology, etc.
- While the Canadian Food Inspection Agency leads the response to avian influenza in Canada, the centre is a key diagnostic laboratory providing testing for the disease.
- The PAHC also tests for chronic wasting disease, a fatal infectious disease that affects cervids, such as deer, elk, moose, and caribou, of which there have been recent cases in the Kootenays.
- The centre publishes a newsletter multiple times per year that offers scientific information on cases of animal or plant disease, including recent news around deceased wildlife, as well as notices for Ministry of Agriculture and Food programs or information sessions.

### **Learn More:**

Details of programs and services in animal health provided by centre are listed here:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/animals-and-crops/animal-health/animal-health-centre>

Information on the Plant Health Laboratory at PAHC and services provided by the lab are listed here:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/animals-and-crops/plant-health>

For a detailed breakdown of Services and Fees at the facility, visit:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/agriculture-and-seafood/animal-and-crops/animal-health/animalhealthcentrefeeguide.pdf>

**Dave Townsend**

Media Relations  
Ministry of Agriculture and Food  
250 889-5945 (mobile)

### **Translations**

- [PlantAnimalHealthCentre\\_French.pdf](#)
- [PlantAnimalHealthCentre\\_Punjabi.pdf](#)

The B.C. Public Service acknowledges the territories of First Nations around B.C. and is grateful to carry out our work on these lands. We acknowledge the rights, interests, priorities, and concerns of all Indigenous Peoples - First Nations, Métis, and Inuit - respecting and acknowledging their distinct cultures, histories, rights, laws, and governments.

**[CAUTION]** This email originated from outside of the ACRD

Good Morning,

The following premises is confirmed positive for notifiable Avian Influenza (AI) and is declared an Infected Premises by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. It is being shared with your organization for the explicit purpose of containing and preventing the spread of AI:

<b>BC IP:</b>	IP-259
<b>Location:</b>	Coombs
<b>Flock info:</b>	Non-commercial - 18 Ducks
<b>Date IP Confirmed:</b>	2025-11-07

**For information about the ongoing avian influenza response,** direct the public to these avian influenza response webpages:

- BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food: [Avian Influenza \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://gov.bc.ca)
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA): [Canadian Food Inspection Agency \(canada.ca\)](https://canada.ca)

**For information on preventing the spread of avian influenza:**

- **Share the attached infographic.**
  - Bird owners can learn how to:
    - Reinforce flock biosecurity
    - Recognize the symptoms of avian influenza
    - Report suspect cases in domestic birds
- **Share the attached BC Premises Identification (ID) brochure**
  - BC poultry and livestock owners and [commingling site operators](#) must register with the Premises ID program. There is no cost to take part
  - The Premises ID program improves the ministry's ability to:
    - Notify animal owners
    - Contain pest and animal disease outbreaks
    - Respond to natural disasters like floods or fires

**To report a sick or dead wild bird,** the public can contact 1-866-431-BIRD (2473).

- [More information about how and what to report is available.](#)

**For support with permits and movement control permissions:**

- Avian Influenza permits and movement control: [CFIA AI permits and conditions needed for movement control](#)
- Small flock owners can call the Ministry of Agriculture and Food's hotline at 1-888-221-7141, 8:30am – 4:30pm PT (Mon-Fri, excluding stat. holidays)
- Commercial poultry owners can contact their marketing board

Thank you,

Sent by EMCR Regional Response Operations on behalf of:

**Emergency Coordinator,**  
Ministry of Agriculture and Food  
[AF.EM@gov.bc.ca](mailto:AF.EM@gov.bc.ca)



Wild birds are the main source of Avian Influenza Virus (AIV)

AIV is shed in wild birds feces



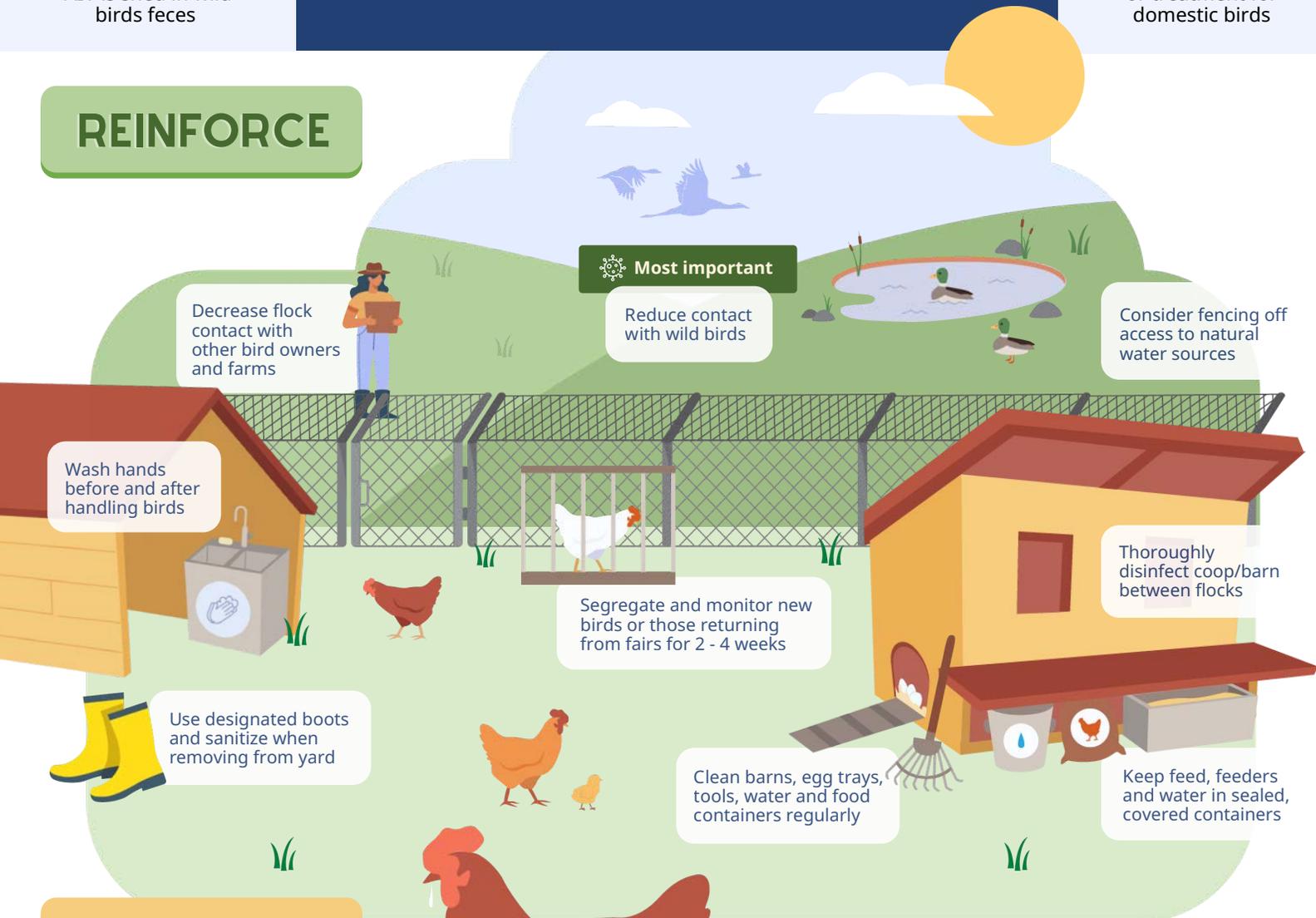
The virus can persist in the environment for a long time

There is no vaccination or treatment for domestic birds

# PROTECT YOUR FLOCK

## AVIAN INFLUENZA

### REINFORCE



Decrease flock contact with other bird owners and farms

**Most important**

Reduce contact with wild birds

Consider fencing off access to natural water sources

Wash hands before and after handling birds

Thoroughly disinfect coop/barn between flocks

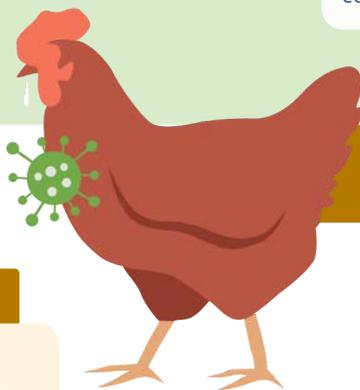
Segregate and monitor new birds or those returning from fairs for 2 - 4 weeks

Use designated boots and sanitize when removing from yard

Clean barns, egg trays, tools, water and food containers regularly

Keep feed, feeders and water in sealed, covered containers

### RECOGNIZE



Other symptoms include:

 Nasal discharge

 Drop in egg production

 Diarrhea

 Lack of appetite

 Decreased energy and movement

 Swelling of head, neck, and eyes

 Coughing, gasping, sneezing

**Most important**

Sudden, unexplained increase in flock mortality

**Most important**

### REPORT

 Contact your district CFIA Veterinarian

 Submit to Animal Health Centre

 Report dead wild birds to Wild Bird Mortality Line



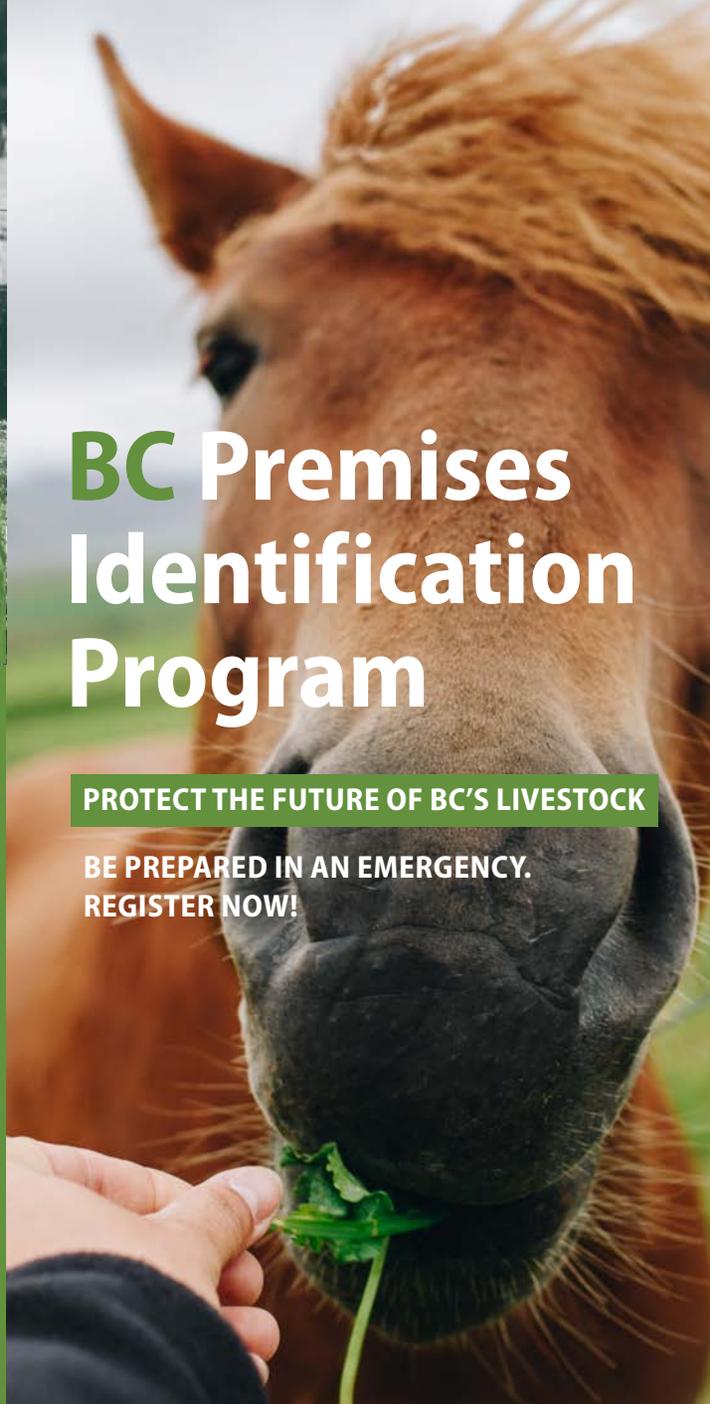
To learn more:



Set up Premises ID



Visit our website <https://arcodes.pro/Znkyv>



# BC Premises Identification Program

PROTECT THE FUTURE OF BC'S LIVESTOCK

BE PREPARED IN AN EMERGENCY.  
REGISTER NOW!

## How to obtain a PREMISES ID NUMBER

There are two ways to register for a Premises ID number:

- 1 Register online:**  
Visit [www.gov.bc.ca/premisesidprogram](http://www.gov.bc.ca/premisesidprogram) and follow the online registration link.
- 2 Fill out a paper form:**  
Forms can be downloaded from our website or mailed/mailed to you upon request. Completed paper forms can be mailed, emailed, or faxed to the Premises ID Program.

For more information visit:  
[www.gov.bc.ca/premisesidprogram](http://www.gov.bc.ca/premisesidprogram)



## FOR MORE INFORMATION on Premises ID

### CONTACT US:

 **Mailing address:**  
BC Premises Identification (BCPID)  
Ministry of Agriculture and Food  
1767 Angus Campbell Road  
Abbotsford, B.C., V3G 2M3

 **Email:** [BCPID@gov.bc.ca](mailto:BCPID@gov.bc.ca)

 **Phone:** 604-556-3001  
1 888-221-7141 (toll free)

 **Fax:** 604-556-3030



British Columbians who own or care for livestock **ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER** their premises, to support the Province's emergency response network. [www.gov.bc.ca/premisesidprogram](http://www.gov.bc.ca/premisesidprogram)

## What is PREMISES IDENTIFICATION?

**PREMISES IDENTIFICATION (ID)** is a way of linking livestock and poultry to geographic locations. Premises ID information is used to respond to animal disease or natural disaster emergencies affecting livestock.

Premises ID is one of the three pillars of a livestock traceability system. The other pillars are animal identification and animal movement. Having an effective livestock traceability system allows Canada's livestock industries to respond quickly and to continue operating during emergencies.

A 'premises' is a parcel of land where animals are grown, kept, assembled, or disposed of. Types of premises include small- and large-scale farms, ranches, stables, feedlots, veterinary clinics, livestock markets, abattoirs, fair grounds, and others.



## Who must REGISTER?

Any premises where one or more livestock animals or poultry are kept must be registered with the Premises ID program. Animal owners, commingling site operators (e.g., stable owner, abattoir operator/manager, etc.) and individuals with animals under their care and control must register for a Premises ID account and obtain a Premises ID number for the location(s) where the animals are kept.

If you own animals that are under your care and control but are kept on someone else's property (e.g., leased land, private agreement) you must register for a Premises ID account and obtain a Premises ID number for that location.

## What ANIMALS must be registered?

- |               |               |                 |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| ✓ Alpaca      | ✓ Farmed Fox  | ✓ Pigeons       |
| ✓ Bees        | ✓ Geese       | ✓ Quail         |
| ✓ Bison       | ✓ Goats       | ✓ Rabbits       |
| ✓ Cattle      | ✓ Guinea Fowl | ✓ Sheep         |
| ✓ Chickens    | ✓ Horses      | ✓ Swine         |
| ✓ Donkeys     | ✓ Llamas      | ✓ Turkeys       |
| ✓ Doves       | ✓ Mules       | ✓ Vicuna        |
| ✓ Ducks       | ✓ Ostrich     | ✓ Water Buffalo |
| ✓ Emu         | ✓ Peafowl     | ✓ Wild Boars    |
| ✓ Farmed Deer | ✓ Pheasants   | ✓ Yaks          |

If you own animals that are never under your care and control (e.g., a horse kept at a stable) you are not required to register for a Premises ID account but may request the Premises ID number for the site where your animals are kept.



**FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE LIST of animals that need to be registered, please visit our website:**  
[www.gov.bc.ca/premisesidprogram](http://www.gov.bc.ca/premisesidprogram)

## What INFORMATION IS REQUIRED to register?

- Name and emergency contact information
- Location of the premises. BC Land Titles
- Parcel ID is preferred (e.g. 000-000-000)
- Type of premises (e.g. farm, feedlot, abattoir)
- Types of animals grown, kept, assembled, or disposed of on the premises
- Maximum capacity of the premises for each species (used to estimate operation scale)

## How will your information BE USED?

Premises ID information is used to plan for and manage emergencies affecting livestock.

**Your information is protected under the BC Animal Health Act and can only be used for the purposes set out in the Act.**

Premises ID information can be used to:

- **NOTIFY** animal owners and site operators of animal health threats or disease control measures;
- **STRENGTHEN** livestock tracking to rapidly and effectively contain an animal disease outbreak;
- **SUPPORT** disease control measures to reduce animal losses and public health impacts;
- **FACILITATE** rapid evacuation of animals in a natural disaster emergency (e.g. floods or fire); and
- **REDUCE** the impact of marketing restrictions by enabling quicker resolution of emergencies.



# TOFINO COMMUNITY FOOD INITIATIVE



# Annual Report 2024

**Our mission is to develop and deliver programs that increase food growing and food security for people of Tofino and surrounding communities.**

**We share a vision of thriving and resilient coastal communities with access to an abundance of healthy local food and an awareness of what can be grown and harvested.**



# Activity Snapshot



4

Seasonal Workshops



6

Community Events

8

Weekly School Programs



40+

varieties of edible plants grown in the school garden

150+

Students benefitting

1

Coastal Foods Roundtable meeting **55**

# Letter from the board

Among many other things, in 2024 we were thankful for rain. 2023's summer drought, coupled with severe water restrictions, made for a challenging summer as staff, board members, and volunteers tried to keep the children's garden thriving. As a result, a major goal for 2024 was to bolster our water catchment and storage capabilities. To that end, we were able to purchase a large cistern. (Thank you to New Horizons for Seniors Program for funding, and Jim Green for delivering the cistern to us.)

The school gardens were a hive of activity throughout the year with the variety of programs funded and staffed by TCFI. Programs included hands-on activities for six classrooms, two after-school programs, and an intergenerational seniors' program, and several events and activities for the community, including Seedy Saturday, a harvest celebration, edible garden tours in Tofino and Ucluelet, and various workshops. We were also pleased to be able to offer three programs for youth with funding from the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust.

A new program for us this year was to coordinate the Coastal Foods Roundtable for the Alberni Clayoquot Regional District. We were happy to help serve the region further its food security goals.

TCFI is a small organization, but it's a hard-working and resilient one. Thank you to our fabulous staff: Paula Robertson, the school garden coordinator, and Katie Mills, administrator and program coordinator. (Thank you also to H el ene Descoteaux, previous administrator, who provided us with ongoing support.) The board, our volunteers, and west coast communities are so thankful for the work you do. This year we also welcomed Jenn Heckert to the board. This report highlights our 2024 programs and showcases the many ways community members can be involved in the work we do, from volunteering at garden work bees or events, to saving and sharing seeds, opening your gardens for others to learn, and making donations of all sizes. If you are interested in being more involved with TCFI please get in touch. We are particularly keen to grow our board in 2025.

We're proud of what we were able to accomplish this year and look forward to another year of great community programs.

See you in the garden,

Adrienne Mason

TCFI board chair



# School garden program



In 2024, Paula Robertson, our school garden coordinator, worked closely with the school administration and educators to deliver a comprehensive program of in-class and in-garden activities to six classes. Paula also offered two after-school programs and ran a successful intergenerational program, with seniors working alongside children in the classroom and garden.

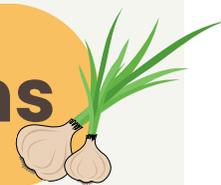
The children particularly enjoyed nibbling on Chilean guava, fennel, strawberries, rhubarb and ... kale! In the Sowing Seeds Across Generations program, students from grades three, four, and seven paired with seniors to participate in gardening-themed activities, such as making clay plant markers, exploring plant dyes, and general garden chores.

Throughout the year, students were hands-on learners in all aspects of planning, growing, and preparing food. This included learning how to seed, feed, weed, and fertilize. Our young gardeners also learned how to properly harvest and clean the food they grew and spend some time in the kitchen learning how to prepare and preserve produce. The children also learned about water catchment and storage as we bolster this part of the program to ensure the garden can always be properly watered.





# Sowing Seeds Across Generations



The Intergenerational Seniors Program, run with federal funding from the New Horizons for Seniors Program, offered weekly workshops and activities for seniors. Participants of all ages sharing their knowledge, asking questions, and problem solving together was deeply rewarding for us all. The shared laughter, encouragement and enthusiasm creates bonds that will spread out into the community for years to come!

Activities included winter sowing, making compost tea (a natural fertilizer), and fermenting food. Field trips and workshops with local enthusiasts and artisans inspired new ideas participants. Elders in the community were also supported through home visits that focused on growing food and planning nourishing meals. A new addition and highlight this year was creating products from our produce and locally sourced inputs. We made beeswax wraps, Calendula salve, salted herbs, & beet lip balm.



# Events for the community

Our annual **Edible Garden Tours** showcase food growing in creative ways in Tofino and Ucluelet. These tours directly highlight one of the reasons TCFI began: to dispel the myth that growing food on the west coast is impossible! We are grateful to all the gardeners who open up their corners of paradise to the tour, volunteering time and sharing their experiences to the benefit of others. In 2024, we visited 16 gardens between the two tours.



The **Harvest Celebration** in October has become a popular event that celebrates the school garden and the wonders of seasonal change. The apple pie contest is a delicious highlight! We also highlighted traditional Indigenous cultivation methods such as food forests and clam gardens with an information table. Thank you to the chefs at Wolf in the Fog who created and donated a delicious potato leek soup. This event brings familiar and new faces to the garden, expanding TCFI's network and welcoming everyone.

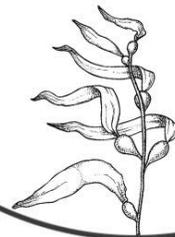


# Workshops + Roundtables

This year TCFI took on the role of co-facilitating the Coastal Foods Roundtable with Amy Needham, Sustainability Planner for the ACRD. Created in 2019 and formerly known as the Coastal Agricultural Roundtable, the CFR is a permanent working group of the ACRD that guides the ongoing implementation of agricultural and food security initiatives in our coastal communities. Primary producers connect with each other and bring ideas forward to the Agricultural Development Committee of the ACRD. This year's meetings focused on the Emergency Food Security Plan that is being created for the coastal regions.



## COASTAL FOODS ROUNDTABLE



Jam making



Kombucha creation



Winter Sowing workshop

Throughout the year we offered 4 workshops. These kicked off with a winter sowing workshop in February to showcase DIY methods to boost early spring food production using recycled materials. We offered a one day "Start Your Garden" workshop in spring, and two free workshops for youth making kombucha and canning jam with local strawberries and cranberries. Thank you to XXXXXXXX for sourcing these for us. Thank you to everyone who volunteered at our "work bees" and contributed so much to the garden's health in 2024.

# Thank you

for your contributions  
to our mission  
& the community's  
transformation.



**Community partnerships are not just valuable – they are vital. Thank you to all our donors, volunteers and partners!**

## Major Partners

Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District  
All One Fund  
Clayoquot Biosphere Trust / Eat West Coast  
District of Tofino  
Gaia Grocery  
Government of Canada  
Tofino Co-op  
Tofino Saltwater Classic  
Vancouver Island Health Authority  
Wickaninnish Community School  
Wickaninnish PAC  
OCN Garden Center  
Wickaninnish Community School Society

## Community Partners

Farm to School BC / PHABC  
Tofino-Ucluelet Culinary Guild  
Tofino Brewing Company  
Tofino Time  
Tuff City Radio  
Common Loaf Bake Shop  
Wolf in the Fog  
West Coast Nest  
Chef Ron + Chef Nick  
Tofino Garden Retreat  
FarmFolk CityFolk  
Rhino Coffee  
Tofitian Cafe  
Tofino Farms  
Colin Steven

## Individual Donors

Alannah Radburn  
Emelie Comtois  
Emily Ballard  
Heather Hendry  
Jacqueline Fraser  
Madelaine Clerk  
Margaret Eady  
Rebecca Hurwitz  
Dan Price-Francis  
Steve Price-Francis  
Sara Sloman  
Kristen Mcdonell  
Daniel Lamarche

Heather McGregor  
Kevin & Naomi Bruce  
Dan Lewis  
Bonny Glambeck  
Steve Price-Francis  
Tracy Rawa  
Mackenzie Coombe  
Todd Evalina  
Adrienne Mason  
Ivana Kraljevic  
Mackenzie Coombe  
John Livingston  
Anonymous donors



info@tofinocommunityfoodinitiative.com



www.tofinocommunityfoodinitiative.com



/TofinoCommunityFoodInitiative



@tofinocommunityfood



**The Tofino Community Food Initiative conducts its programs on the ancestral, unceded territories of the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations.**

We acknowledge that many of the practices we draw on and teach are not traditional to this place, yet Indigenous people have expertly altered the soils and forests to improve food growing capacity since time immemorial. With colonization, Indigenous people lost access to the land on which we live and work. The TCFI is committed to cultural inclusion and reconciliation, and to stewarding the land on which we are guests.

- We bring the following values into this work:
- Generosity (in sharing food and in sharing knowledge)
- Inclusivity (creating a safe, welcoming & accessible space for staff, volunteers, children & community members)
- Listening & Learning (we are here to serve our community)
- Experimentation (we may not always get it right but we will try and try again)
- Fun! We want to share in the joy of growing food





**To:** Agricultural Development Committee

**From:** Amy Needham, Sustainability Planner

**Meeting Date:** November 18, 2025

**Subject:** Staff Update Report

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**Summary:**

- Previous business:
  - A UBCM resolution to reinstitute priority ferry boarding for livestock and agricultural products was approved by the Board and went to UBCM in September. Messaging back from BC Ferries is that priority boarding already exists for livestock via reservation per their [website](#), and even livestock purveyors arriving at the terminal without a reservation will only be held up a maximum of one sailing, even at high traffic times of the year (email communication from a BC Ferries representative).
  - At their April 23, 2025 meeting, the ACRD Board passed an amendment to Bylaw P1480 'Development Procedures and Fees' to exempt farm status properties in the ALR that meet current ALC guidelines from Temporary Use Permit fees for agri-tourism accommodation. A Temporary Use Permit is still required, however, as the Regional District does not have business licensing and TUP authorizations are how short term vacation rental operators are able to register as a host with the province on their [Short-Term Rental Registry](#).
  - A letter was sent to the province asking them to review their Farmgate Plus program to increase the allowable number of animal units and amend the requirement for a feasibility study to specify 100km distance by road. The Minister's reply was presented to the ACRD Board of Directors on June 25, 2025 and to the committee at their July meeting.
  - A letter of support for the Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon program was sent to the Minister of Health, Josie Osborne, on June 3, 2025. A reply was received on July 14, 2025 and is attached as an information item.
  - The Islands Agriculture Show Welcome Reception Planning Sub-committee has been meeting regularly to get details for the event sorted. Catering menu planning is underway, drink vendors have been approached and we're moving into signage and advertising to help attendees understand the farms their appetizer ingredients come from. We are also working with Tourism Alberni to align with their agri-tourism work.
    - Amy N. will be attending the event to work the ACRD booth. If anyone on the committee wants to do a shift in the booth, please let Amy know so she can be sure to get you an entry pass.
- The Sproat Lake & Area OCP Team has a [survey](#) out right now to help guide policy development. Please take the time to fill it out and also attend the Open House scheduled for November 25 from

2-7pm at the Sproat Lake Community Hall. Participation will ensure that agriculture and food security are represented in future land use policy in Area D.

- The Fall Fair and Family Farms Day were both great successes this year. we had a total of 407 ballots for the Local Farm Product basket at the Fair, indicating engagement with over 500 people throughout the four days. Family Farms Day had a voucher return of \$930, which is higher than last year's by almost \$100. Total farm sales for the day were \$8,485.
- On December 10, 2025, final reports for the Alberni Valley Food Security Emergency Plan, the West Coast Emergency Plan, Alberni Valley Livestock Emergency Plan and Alberni Valley Agricultural Water Plan will be presented to the Board. Thank you to all those invested in food security, agriculture and emergency management who consulted on this project over the last year and a half. It could not have been done without you.
  - Action items from these plans will be integrated into the sustainability planner's plan as priority, provided resources and grant funding allow.
  - The next planning project will be climate adaptation planning in partnership with West Coast and Alberni Valley local governments and interested First Nations.
- *Noctua pronuba* (winter cutworm) monitoring season wrap-up:
  - The season is winding down for this insect and it appears predictions from last fall were correct and it is returning to background levels.
  - A total of two *Noctua pronuba* and zero true armyworm moths were captured in the volunteer light traps. The conclusion is that the blue-tinted LED lights are ineffective in attracting the adult moths.
  - A total of 3172 *Noctua pronuba* and 9 true armyworms were captured in the much brighter black light traps run by Libby and Rick Avis, who have monitored moth species in the Alberni Valley for over a decade. Moth numbers did not start to spike until after August 15 and were already in decline by October. These light traps are too expensive for the ACRD to purchase with the current budget.
  - By comparison, last year they captured 4148 *Noctua pronuba* moths, indicating populations are decreasing. We have had no reports of larval outbreaks similar to last fall, also an indication that the outbreak is in decline.
  - Next steps – larvae are active and visible on overcast days; please keep an eye on your pastures and gardens and let me know if you see any significant numbers of larvae.
  - Thank you so much to all the volunteers for their work this season!
- Amy N. will be in contact with all producer members of both the ADC and AAC in December to ask if they would like to remain on the committee for another year – if you already know your answer, please let her know at the November 18 meeting.
  - 2026 ADC meetings are scheduled for February 17, April 21, July 21, and December 8. The November meeting was adjusted due to local government elections and the need for new Board members to be oriented.

Reviewed by: Alex Dyer  
Alex Dyer, RPP, MCIP, GM of Planning & Development

Reviewed by: Heather Zenner  
Heather Zenner, MA, Manager of Administrative Services

Approved by: Daniel Sailland  
Daniel Sailland, MBA, Chief Administrative Officer



**To:** Agricultural Development Committee

**From:** Amy Needham, Sustainability Planner

**Meeting Date:** November 18, 2025

**Subject:** 2026 Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC)  
Resolutions Notice and Request for Submissions

**Desired Outcome:**

To determine if the Agricultural Development Committee wishes to forward any advocacy resolutions to the ACRD Board of Directors for consideration to be brought forward to the 2026 Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) conference.

**Summary:**

The annual AVICC conference is held in April and involves consideration of advocacy resolutions from members to be taken forward either to the province directly or to the Union of BC Municipalities conference. As the ACRD Board of Directors is considering which resolutions will be drafted for AVICC at their January meeting, the ADC is now invited to submit resolution requests. This will provide staff enough time to draft the resolution and background document and submit it to the Board before the February deadline.

**Background:**

The AVICC formed for the purpose of representing the various municipalities, regional districts and other local governments of Vancouver Island, Sunshine Coast, qathet/Powell River, the North Coast and the Central Coast in one organization. It is one of five area associations of local governments within the province of British Columbia that operate under the umbrella of the Union of BC Municipalities. The objective of the Association is to secure united action among its members to promote greater autonomy within local government in co-operation with the Union of BC Municipalities and other area associations in British Columbia for the advancement of the principles of local government.

The 2026 AVICC Convention is scheduled for April 24-26, 2026 in Victoria. The AVICC Executive has put out a call for resolutions (attached) to be considered at the 2026 Convention, which includes resolution structure and parameter guidelines.

**Time Requirements – Staff & Elected Officials:**

Approximately two hours for the Sustainability Planner to draft each resolution and background document.

**Financial:**

There are no financial implications.

**Strategic Plan Implications:**

There are two strategies in the 2024-2027 Strategic Plan that promote agricultural advocacy:  
 Strategy 1.2 – Work with regional agricultural producers toward identifying and addressing challenges faced by regulations and climate change.  
 Strategy 4.1 – Develop individual strategies for effective advocacy on important issues facing the ACRD, including: Agricultural Land Reserve policies that limit housing opportunities on agricultural lands and the growing cost of insurance for agricultural producers.

**Policy or Legislation:**

Resolutions that are endorsed by the ACRD Board will be forwarded on to the AVICC conference for consideration by the members. From there, they may not be endorsed, in which case no further action occurs. If the resolution is deemed to be specific to the Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities geographic area, then the AVICC may endorse it and advocate to the applicable provincial ministry. Endorsed resolutions that are deemed to be BC-wide are forwarded on to the Union of BC Municipalities convention to be considered by all members across BC.

**Options Considered:**

1. Receive the report as information.
2. Request staff to conduct background research on a proposed resolution and circulate to the committee via email for comment before forwarding to the Board for endorsement.

Reviewed by: *Alex Dyer*  
 Alex Dyer, MCIP RPP, General Manager of Planning & Development

Reviewed by: *Heather Zenner*  
 Heather Zenner, MA, Manager of Administrative Services

Approved by: *Daniel Sailland*  
 Daniel Sailland, MBA, Chief Administrative Officer



## 2026 AGM & CONVENTION

### RESOLUTIONS NOTICE REQUEST FOR SUBMISSIONS

The AVICC Executive is calling for resolutions to be considered at the 2026 AGM and Convention that, subject to public health order restrictions, will be held in Victoria at the Victoria Conference Centre as an in-person event from **April 24-26, 2026**. Members are asked to submit resolutions that meet the requirements outlined in the following pages.

#### **DEADLINE FOR RESOLUTIONS:**

AVICC must receive all resolutions by: **4:30 pm, Thursday, February 12, 2026**

#### **IMPORTANT SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

To submit a resolution to the AVICC for consideration please send a copy of the resolution as a **WORD DOCUMENT** by email to [info@avicc.ca](mailto:info@avicc.ca) by the deadline. AVICC staff will confirm receipt of the submission via email. If confirmation is not received within 3 business days, the resolution sponsor should follow up by phone at 236-237-1202. A mailed hard copy of the resolution is no longer required.

AVICC's goal is to have resolutions that can be clearly understood and that have specific actions. If a resolution is endorsed, its "therefore clause" will form the basis for advocacy work with other levels of government and agencies. Detailed guidelines for preparing a resolution follow, but the basic requirements are:

- Resolutions are only accepted from AVICC member local governments and First Nations and must have been endorsed by the Board or Council of that member.
- **Each member may submit a maximum of three (3) resolutions (updated August 2025).**
- Members are responsible for submitting accurate resolutions. AVICC recommends that local government staff assist in drafting the resolutions, in checking the accuracy of legislative references, and be able to answer questions from AVICC & UBCM about each resolution. If necessary, please contact AVICC staff for assistance in drafting the resolution.
- Each resolution **must include a separate backgrounder** that is a maximum of 3 pages and specific to a **single** resolution. Each resolution submitted must have a separate backgrounder; do not combine backgrounders into a single document. The backgrounder may include links to other information sources and reports.
- Sponsors should be prepared to speak to their resolutions at the Convention. **Each sponsor will be given 2 minutes to introduce their resolution (updated August 2025)**
- Resolutions must be relevant to other local governments within AVICC rather than specific to a single member government.
- The resolution must have at least one "whereas" clause and **should not contain more than two "whereas" clauses**. Each whereas clause must have only one sentence.

## **LATE AND OFF THE FLOOR RESOLUTIONS**

- A resolution submitted after the regular deadline is treated as a "Late Resolution". The Resolutions Committee **only** recommends Late Resolutions for debate if the topic was not known prior to the regular deadline date, or if it is emergency in nature.
- Late Resolutions must be received by AVICC by **noon on Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026**.
- Late Resolutions are not included in the Resolutions Package sent out to members before the Convention. They are included in the Report on Late Resolutions that is distributed on-site.
- Off the Floor Resolutions are considered after all resolutions in the Resolutions Book and all Late Resolutions have been considered. Off the Floor Resolutions must be submitted in writing to the Chair of the Resolutions Session as soon as practicable, and copies must be made available to all delegates no later than 9:00 am on Sunday morning. Contact AVICC staff for more information about how to organize an Off the Floor Resolution for consideration.
- The full Convention Rules, including detailed information about the process for Late and Off the Floor Resolutions, will be published and distributed to members in advance of the Convention.

## **AVICC RESOLUTIONS PROCEDURES**

UBCM urges members to submit resolutions to their Area Association for consideration. Resolutions endorsed at the AVICC annual meeting, except those that are considered to be regional in nature by UBCM, are submitted automatically to UBCM for consideration.

A resolution deemed by UBCM to be specific to the AVICC region is considered a Regional Resolution and if endorsed, it will not be automatically submitted to UBCM for consideration at the UBCM annual meeting, and instead will remain with AVICC, where it may be actioned.

UBCM has observed that submitting resolutions first to an Area Association results in better quality resolutions overall. Local governments may submit Council- or Board-endorsed resolutions directly to UBCM prior to **June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025**. Detailed instructions are available on the UBCM website.

## **AVICC RESOLUTIONS PROCESS**

1. Members submit resolutions to AVICC for debate. All resolutions submitted to AVICC are forwarded to UBCM staff for analysis, comment, and recommendations.
2. For some resolutions which focus on issues specific to the AVICC region, UBCM will indicate that they are considered a Regional Resolution and that it won't be admitted to UBCM for debate should it be endorsed. AVICC will work with local governments to address issues identified by UBCM staff to ensure the resolution reflects the intention of the local government.

3. The AVICC Resolutions Committee reviews and finalizes the recommendations, and the Resolutions Book is published and sent to members in advance of the annual meeting.
4. AVICC conveys any Regional Resolutions endorsed at their annual meeting to the appropriate level of government, or takes other action as determined by the AVICC Executive. AVICC will forward any response to the regional resolution sponsor.
5. AVICC submits all other resolutions endorsed at its Convention to UBCM.
6. The UBCM Resolutions Committee reviews the resolutions for submission to its Convention. Please note that the UBCM Bylaws were updated at the 2025 UBCM Convention as included as **Appendix A** with this document.
7. Resolutions endorsed at the UBCM Convention are submitted by UBCM to the appropriate level of government for response.
8. UBCM will forward the response to the resolution sponsor for review.

## **UBCM BYLAW & RESOLUTIONS PROCESS UPDATE**

At their 2025 UBCM Convention, members endorsed ***ER1: Extraordinary Resolution to Amend the UBCM Bylaws to Streamline the Resolutions Process***. The changes to UBCM's Bylaws will impact how resolutions endorsed at AVICC are considered after they are sent to the UBCM Resolutions Committee. Please note the following changes to the UBCM Bylaws [15.(c)]:

- The Resolutions Committee **shall determine which Annual Resolutions will be included for consideration by the membership at Convention;**
- **Any Annual Resolution that falls under one or more of the following criteria, as determined by the Resolutions Committee, will be excluded from consideration by the membership at Convention:**
  - **Resolution is existing UBCM policy (as set by the membership endorsing or not endorsing a previous resolution or policy paper);**
  - **Resolution is outside of the scope of BC local governments and member First Nations;**
  - **Resolution is within the scope of BC local governments and member First Nations, but does not meet UBCM criteria for format or clarity; or**
  - **Resolution is regional in focus.**

ER1 in its entirety and the rationale provided by the UBCM Executive has been included as **Appendix A** with this document.

The AVICC Executive is currently evaluating our own resolutions process. The 2026 Convention Rules & Procedures for handling Resolutions, including detailed information about the process for Late and Off the Floor Resolutions, will be published and distributed to members in advance of the Convention.

## **AVICC & UBCM RESOLUTIONS GUIDELINES**

### **The Construction of a Resolution:**

All resolutions contain a preamble – the whereas clause(s) – and an enactment clause. The preamble describes **the issue** and the enactment clause outlines **the action being** requested of AVICC and/or UBCM. A resolution should answer the following three questions:

- a) **What is the problem?**
- b) **What is causing the problem?**
- c) **What is the best way to solve the problem?**

### **Preamble:**

The preamble begins with "WHEREAS" and is a concise sentence about the nature of the problem or the reason for the request. It answers questions (a) and (b) above, stating the problem and its cause, and should explain, clearly and briefly, the reasons for the resolution.

The preamble should contain **no more than two "WHEREAS" clauses**. Supporting background documents can describe the problem more fully if necessary. **Do not add extra clauses.**

There should be only one sentence per WHEREAS clause.

### **Enactment Clause:**

The enactment clause begins with the phrase "Therefore be it resolved" and is a concise sentence that answers question (c) above, suggesting the best way to solve the problem. **The enactment should propose a specific action by AVICC and/or UBCM.**

Keep the enactment clause as short as possible, and clearly describe the action being requested. The wording should leave no doubt about the proposed action. Consider whether the resolution relates to all local governments, or is specific to municipalities, regional districts and/or First Nations, and use the appropriate language.

## **HOW TO DRAFT A RESOLUTION**

### **1. Address one specific subject in the text of the resolution.**

Because your community seeks to influence attitudes and inspire action, limit the scope of a resolution to one specific subject or issue. If there are multiple topics in a resolution, the resolution may be sent back to the sponsor to rework and resubmit.

### **2. For resolutions to be debated at UBCM, focus on issues that are province-wide.**

The issue identified in the resolution should be relevant to other local governments across BC. This will support productive debate and assist UBCM to represent your concern effectively to the provincial or federal government on behalf of all BC local governments. Local governments are welcome to submit resolutions that address issues specific to the AVICC region. A resolution that addresses a topic specific to the AVICC region may not be entered for debate during the UBCM Convention but may be actioned by the AVICC Executive if endorsed.

### **3. Use simple, action-oriented language.**

Explain the background briefly and state the desired action clearly. Delegates can then debate the resolution. Resolutions that are unclear or that address multiple topics may end up with amendments at the Convention.

### **4. Check legislative references for accuracy.**

Research the legislation on the subject so the resolution is accurate. Where necessary, identify:

- the correct jurisdictional responsibility (responsible ministry or department, and whether provincial or federal government); and
- the correct legislation, including the title of the Act or regulation.

### **5. Provide factual background information.**

Even a carefully written resolution may not be able to convey the full scope of the problem or the action being requested. Provide factual background information to ensure that the intent of the resolution is fully understood for the purpose of debate and UBCM (or AVICC for Regional Resolutions) can advocate effectively with other levels of government and agencies.

Each resolution **must include a separate background** that is a maximum of 3 pages and specific to a single resolution. Do not submit a single background relating to multiple resolutions. The background may include links to other information sources and reports.

Resolutions submitted without background information **will not be considered** until the sponsor has provided adequate background information. This could result in the resolution being returned and having to be resubmitted.

### **6. Construct a brief, descriptive title.**

A title identifies the intent of the resolution. It is usually drawn from the "enactment clause" of the resolution. For ease of printing in the Annual Report and Resolutions Book and for clarity, a title should be no more than three or four words.

## TEMPLATE FOR A RESOLUTION

Whereas << *this is the area to include an issue statement that outlines the nature of the problem or the reason for the request* >> ;

And whereas << *if more information is useful to answer the questions - what is the problem? what is causing the problem?>> :*

Therefore be it resolved that **AVICC and/or UBCM** << *specify here the **action(s)** that AVICC **and/or** UBCM are being asked to take on, and what government agency the associations should be contacting to solve the problem identified in the whereas clauses. For regional resolutions, only AVICC may take action, and for all other resolutions, AVICC and UBCM may take action* >>

- **If absolutely necessary**, there can be a second enactment clause (the “therefore” clause that specifies the action requested) with the following format:

And be it further resolved that **AVICC and/or UBCM** << *specify any additional specific actions needed to address the problem identified in the whereas clauses* >>

## Section ER

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### ER1      **Extraordinary Resolution to Amend the UBCM Bylaws to Streamline the Resolutions Process**

**UBCM Executive**

Whereas the large number of resolutions submitted by UBCM members—more than 200 annually— results in a wide range of policy positions, rendering it challenging for UBCM to focus its advocacy efforts;

And whereas a reduction in the number and breadth of policy positions adopted annually by the membership would enable UBCM to advocate more effectively, by focusing time and resources on issues with significant province-wide impact on local governments and member First Nations:

Therefore be it resolved that Section 15(c) of the UBCM Bylaws be amended by adding the text in bold type as follows, to enable the Resolutions Committee to apply filters to determine which resolutions may be included for consideration by the membership at Convention:

15. COMMITTEES (Other than Nominating Committee):

(c) The Resolutions Committee:

- shall examine all Annual Resolutions regularly submitted to the Convention;
- **shall determine which Annual Resolutions will be included for consideration by the membership at Convention;**
- shall recommend in favour of or against the Annual Resolutions respectively;
- may correlate Annual Resolutions; and
- may recommend amendments.

Any Annual Resolution may be referred by the Convention to the Resolutions Committee either alone or with new resolutions for study and report to the Convention.

**Any Annual Resolution that falls under one or more of the following criteria, as determined by the Resolutions Committee, will be excluded from consideration by the membership at Convention:**

- **Resolution is existing UBCM policy (as set by the membership endorsing or not endorsing a previous resolution or policy paper);**
- **Resolution is outside of the scope of BC local governments and member First Nations;**
- **Resolution is within the scope of BC local governments and member First Nations, but does not meet UBCM criteria for format or clarity; or**
- **Resolution is regional in focus.**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation:*                    **Endorse**

***UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:***

*The Resolutions Committee is seeking membership approval of this Extraordinary Resolution to reduce the volume of resolutions received and considered each year and improve the quality of resolutions considered.*

*Lens #1 - Resolutions that reaffirm existing policy*

*The Committee proposes that any resolution that aligns with resolutions already endorsed or not endorsed by the membership should be received rather than put forward for further consideration by the membership. The current intent of the Resolutions Committee is that a 5 year window would be adopted to establish existing policy under this lens.*

Lens #2 - Resolutions outside of local government scope

*The Committee suggests that limiting resolutions for consideration to those that directly relate to local government service delivery will strengthen the efficacy and credibility of UBCM's advocacy.*

Lens #3 - Resolutions that are unclear or poorly formatted

*UBCM staff and the Resolutions Committee currently expend considerable time working with the sponsors to help them to clarify and format their resolutions. Removing this function will encourage those drafting resolutions to meet established standards for clarity and better resolutions.*

Lens #4 - Resolutions that are regional in focus

*Resolutions for consideration at UBCM should have a province-wide focus. Resolutions that are regional in focus should be considered and acted upon by Area Associations.*

*The Committee proposes to include all resolutions captured by one or more of the lenses in an appendix of the Resolutions Book. While these resolutions are being published for transparency, these resolutions are not to be considered and are not available to be brought forward for consideration via a motion to vary the agenda.*

*The Committee would point out that section 14(d) of the UBCM Bylaws grants the UBCM Executive authority to bring forward to Convention a resolution on any matter at any time. This authority of the UBCM Executive enables UBCM to respond quickly to a changing policy or legislative environment, bringing forward issues or concerns that may fall within existing UBCM policy, but require immediate consideration.*

*Members are encouraged to read the accompanying backgrounder found in the Appendix of this Resolutions Book to learn more about the proposed Extraordinary Resolution.*

**Conference decision: Endorsed**

**From:** [Helen Zanette](#)  
**To:** [Amy Needham](#)  
**Cc:** [Kristin Kerr-Donohue](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Call for ADC Reports/Updates for Nov 18 Meeting  
**Date:** October 23, 2025 5:32:39 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image003.jpg](#)  
[image005.jpg](#)  
[image007.jpg](#)  
[Outlook-logo.png](#)

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**[CAUTION]** This email originated from outside of the ACRD

Hi Amy and Kristen,

Hope all are well.

Here is my report for the Pacific Rim School District:

- National School Food Program will be permanent <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/school-food/feeding-future.html>
- New Policies open for feedback on <https://www.sd70.bc.ca/>. Please remember Policies are the idea and the Administrative Procedures are detailed about implementation of policies.
- Please take the opportunity to see our Enhanced Student Learning Report, reports on educational challenges, the plan forward, with lots of data and information. <https://media.sd70.bc.ca/media/Default/medialib/pacific-rim-schools-eslr-2025-part-1.1df8cd10621.pdf> and <https://media.sd70.bc.ca/media/Default/medialib/pacific-rim-schools-eslr-2025-part-2.56f20a10622.pdf>
- Districts School Meal Program. <https://www.sd70.bc.ca/school-meal-program>
- Public Board Meeting Schedule <https://media.sd70.bc.ca/media/Default/medialib/public-board-meeting-schedule-2025-26.c0b78d10459.pdf>

Thank you,

Helen

*Helen Zanette*

Pronouns: She/her

Board of Education Trustee

Pacific Rim School District 70

*I acknowledge that I live, work and learn on the ha-houlthees of the c̓išaaʔath, hupačasath, tla-o-qui-aht, Yuułuʔilʔath, and Huu-ay-aht First Nations. I also acknowledge the presence of all Nuu-chah-nulth nations as well as the Métis Nation of British Columbia in the Alberni-Clayoquot region. I strive to increase awareness, understanding and integration of Nuu-chah-nulth culture, history and language in my work. It is part of my ongoing commitment to Truth and Reconciliation.*

# AVFSS Summary – July to October 2025

## Administration & Operations

- Active communications: newsletters, social media, and membership engagement continued.
- Canada Summer Jobs: staff payroll and reporting managed; case review completed.
- Vital Signs submission recognized for strong local food security insights.

## Program Highlights

- **Gleaning:** 43 gleaners, 81 homeowners, 98 gleans completed, totaling **17,412 lbs of fruit**. New equipment purchased and collaborations explored (Cherry Creek Cidery, Common Fruit). End-of-season debrief/potluck/winterizing of trailer.
- **Dry Creek Community Garden:** New managers (Byron & Kaley). Transition communications complete. Lease renewal discussions underway; Tree Canada grant being pursued.
- **Grow Local:** School signage and soil amendments delivered. Ongoing partnerships with Eighth Avenue Learning Centre and Cascadia Seaweed. Gleaned fruit distributed through Backpack Program.

## Events & Community Engagement

- **Family Farms Day:** Successful event; **\$930 in vouchers** redeemed (up from \$870 in 2024). High attendance and farm participation. 2026 event set for Sept. 20.
- **Fall Fair:** Strong engagement and survey feedback on food access priorities; convenience and awareness remain top barriers. Included survey questions and results below.
- **Alberni Co-op Day:** AVFSS booth distributed fruit and promoted programs.
- Participation in regional events such as Coming Together Forum (Oct. 22).

## Partnerships & Advocacy

- Ongoing collaboration with **ACRD** on Sproat Lake OCP and potential joint **WildSafe/Gleaning** staff position.
- Meeting with Minister of Health Josie Osborne: strong advocacy and follow-up on funding opportunities.
- Continued collaboration with **Island Health** and community partners.

## New & Upcoming Initiatives

- **Ecochef Academy:** Preservation workshop series to launch in 2026
- **Seedy Saturday 2026:** Venue costs rising (quadrupled!); Anna to submit CIP grant application and explore alternative venues.
- **Canada Summer Jobs 2026:** Application to be submitted with focus on skilled recruitment.

## Key Trends

- Growing public engagement with local food initiatives.
- Increased demand for food recovery and redistribution.
- Staffing and funding challenges across the sector.
- Rising focus on equity, access, and food sovereignty.

### Dot Survey Question 1. What would you like to see more of?

Answer	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Total numbers	%
Community and School Gardens	7	23	43	15	<b>88</b>	<b>15.8%</b>
Local Farmers' Markets and Food Hubs	14	15	37	10	<b>76</b>	<b>13.7%</b>
Restaurants and stores offering more local food	20	22	38	8	<b>88</b>	<b>15.8%</b>
Education on Cooking, Growing and Preserving Local Food	16	22	39	6	<b>83</b>	<b>14.9%</b>
Programs that make local food more affordable	12	22	37	7	<b>78</b>	<b>14%</b>
Support for indigenous food sovereignty initiatives	3	16	26	6	<b>51</b>	<b>9.2%</b>
Local food processing, storage and distribution infrastructure	11	19	29	9	<b>68</b>	<b>12.2%</b>
Other	3 Connecting volunteers with farmers	2	7 More of the coupon program; one big market; small abattoir	1 Canning	<b>13</b>	<b>2.3%</b>

**Dot Survey Question 2. What are the biggest obstacles to buying local food?**

Answer	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Total numbers	%
Price is too high	15	18	34	2	<b>69</b>	<b>16.7%</b>
Limited Availability/ not enough food	14	10	24	1	<b>49</b>	<b>11.9%</b>
Lack of year round access (seasonal gaps)	12	14	27	8	<b>61</b>	<b>14.8%</b>
Transportation/distance to access markets	5	5	5	0	<b>15</b>	<b>6%</b>
Lack of awareness of where to buy	14	15	40	14	<b>83</b>	<b>20.1%</b>
Convenience – grocery stores don't carry enough local options	25	27	46	17	<b>115</b>	<b>27.9%</b>
Other	3	0	6	1 More accessible market hours each week	<b>10</b>	<b>4%</b>

The dot survey was what people needed to complete at the Fall Fair in order to receive the \$10 voucher for use at the Family Farm Day event.

**From:** [Sarah Rymer](#)  
**To:** [Kristin Kerr-Donohue](#)  
**Subject:** REMINDER: Reports/Updates for Nov 18 ADC Meeting - Due October 31  
**Date:** November 1, 2025 9:04:27 AM

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**[CAUTION]** This email originated from outside of the ACRD

Hey Kristin,

Sorry for the late entry!

Spirit Square Farmers Market

- was busy this summer season
- over \$30k in BC Nutritional coupons have been used at the market, December 20 is the last market the coupons can be used at for the year.
- music at the market was excellent, thankful for the Dock+ sponsorship!
- Christmas at the market coming up for the first 3 Saturdays in December
- looking for a market manager
- Spirited Kids market was held on August 13 and was sponsored by Community Futures Alberni-Clayoquot. Had 10 kid vendors, with a wide variety of products from farm produce, honey, flowers to crafts and dog treats. Will partner again for next year.
- Garlic Fest was postponed due to personal reasons to 2026

That's it!

Thanks

Sarah



3140 Harbour Rd, Port Alberni, BC, V9Y 4B9  
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info@thedockplus.ca  
www.thedockplus.ca

October 2025

### **Prepared for the Alberni Clayoquot Agriculture Development Committee**

From Mushrooms and spruce tip jelly and fresh seafood to Hot Sauce ....The Dock+ Food Hub is very busy with lots of activities as many of our members prepare products for upcoming Christmas Markets.

### **Expansion Project**

The Expansion project is in its final stages as we wrap up the electrical install with BC Hydro! Nova Harvest will be moving into their space and are eager to be using their High-Pressure Processor

We have installed a new ice machine at Alberni Ice and are in the process of commissioning it and doing other repairs and maintenance in preparation for the 2026 season.

### **Sponsorships and Community Awareness**

- The kitchen at the Dock+ proudly provided space for V9Y Culinary to prepare the traditional salmon dinner for the Salmon Festival
- We continue to offer tours to the public and have done so for SD 70 Land Based Learning classes as well as the Seafood business Accelerator Program
- You will hear some ads on the Peak Radio to encourage kitchen use and memberships are available

### **Kitchen Members & Tenants**

We are in the process of signing on two new members – stay tuned for more information, but know there are two new exciting food businesses coming to Port Alberni!!

Flurer Smokery will be moving to a bigger location in the new year as their business has grown and they have outgrown their space. We are sad to see them go to Errington; however, we are excited that they have reached this milestone!

We are currently seeking a new tenant and have lots of interest and the hard part will be deciding who our next tenant will be.

**From:** [Katie Miles](#)  
**To:** [Kristin Kerr-Donohue](#)  
**Subject:** Re: REMINDER: Reports/Updates for Nov 18 ADC Meeting - Due October 31  
**Date:** November 7, 2025 4:37:44 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image008.jpg](#)  
[image010.jpg](#)  
[image012.jpg](#)  
[image013.jpg](#)  
[image014.jpg](#)  
[image015.jpg](#)

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**[CAUTION]** This email originated from outside of the ACRD

Hi Kristin,

Updates from Tofino Community Food Initiative (TCFI) and the Coastal Foods Roundtable (CFR)

- **CFR Updates:** Successful meeting of the CFR on October 28th in Ucluelet. The West Coast Food Security Emergency Plan was presented, feedback given by participants, and a roundtable was held.
- Participants highlighted the need for local resilience, working together to "action" the recommendations from the report
- Participants highlighted the need for increased public awareness of emergency preparedness and interest in a "dry run" food emergency scenario
- **TCFI updates:** Starting Tofino's first seed library (*Anyone want to donate seeds you've saved? Email [Katie@tofinocommunityfoodinitiative.com](mailto:Katie@tofinocommunityfoodinitiative.com) please*)
- Hosting kelp pickling workshops, putting increasing effort into ensuring the sustainability of the Wickaninnish Community School Garden Program
- Connecting with the Ucluelet Elementary School to assist with their garden programming

Thank you!

## **ACRD ADC 4-H REPORT November 18, 2025**

**Monthly Club meetings** continued through the summer as well as ongoing **Project meetings**, where members work with their project animals, in many cases preparing them for going to fairs for exhibition.

**Beaver Creek Firehall** visit in July – to learn about fire safety in the home; Safety is an important component of the 4-H program

### **Agriculture Fairs/Exhibitions:**

**Coombs** – we elected not to go due to the Wesley Ridge forest fire, leaders and parents were concerned about getting 4-H members and/or animals stuck on the other side of the Hump

**Comox Valley Exhibition** - Some of our Beef project members attended this in last Aug and did very well, some were showing for the first time

**ADFF** – Project members in Beef, Rabbit and Cavy participated and did very well

**Fundraising-** donations from local groups and businesses as well as running the Petting Farm and the Dairy Bar at the ADFF have allowed us to purchase T-shirts and hoodies for the members and some equipment for the Beef project. Community support for 4-H has always been amazing and continues to be!

**4-H Fun Day** – held in early October at the ADFF grounds; included Judging, talks on 4-H Public Speaking, Safety in the Woods/Hiking; and a talk from a veterinarian about “Know your Project Animal and When to Call the Vet”. Several members from Comox 4-H attended also, and everyone enjoyed it! (this event was in place of the Regional Judging Rally that was planned for early October and had to be cancelled because of insufficient registration from other Districts)

**District Council AGM** -will be held in early November

We have several new people interested in being leaders in 2026 so we may be adding several new projects to the club next year.; this is still to be determined

Respectfully submitted

Patty Palmer

Key Leader in Training Port Alberni 4-H District

## Kristin Kerr-Donohue

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**From:** Tanya Shannon [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** October 31, 2025 9:50 AM  
**To:** Kristin Kerr-Donohue; Amy Needham  
**Subject:** Re: REMINDER: Reports/Updates for Nov 18 ADC Meeting - Due October 31

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**[CAUTION]** This email originated from outside of the ACRD

Hey Kristin & Amy,

Please find my report below.

The Cabin - closed for accommodation for October and November, doing maintenance and repairs (waterline, roof, shower, etc) however, times are open in November for wreath making classes, and our Mini Christmas Market is Sunday, November 30th, 10-1.

Farm - rolling along as usual!

Tanya