



Agricultural Development Committee Meeting

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

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

12:45 PM

Regular Agenda

Watch the meeting live at: <https://www.acrd.bc.ca/events/21-4-2026/>

Register to participate via Zoom Webinar at:

https://acrd-bc-ca.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_5emf7cfRSIKfD_-ZJ6UZhQ#/registration

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 - Board Members and Staff present in the Boardroom and on Zoom.

2. **ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON/VICE-CHAIRPERSON**

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

4. **DECLARATIONS**

(conflict of interest or gifts exceeding \$250 in value as per section 106 of the Community Charter)

5. **INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

6. **DELEGATIONS (10 minute maximum)**

- a. **Brooke Eschuck, Planner 1, ACRD presenting the Sproat Lake and Area OCP Update**

7. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

- a. **Agricultural Development Committee Meeting – February 17, 2026**

4-9

THAT the minutes of the Agricultural Development Committee meeting held on February 17, 2026 be adopted.

8. PUBLIC INPUT PERIOD

(15 minutes total. Public will be permitted to speak for up to 3 minutes on an agenda item. No video, use of presentations, handouts, or props are permitted. Virtual attendees, raise your hand in Zoom to request to speak. In-person attendees, raise your hand to request to speak.

9. CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

| | | |
|----|---|--------------|
| a. | CLEAN FARMS | 10-12 |
| | Collection Events Information | |
| b. | BC AGRICULTURE COUNCIL | 13-16 |
| | News Release: 2026 Provincial Budget Released | |
| c. | CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT | 17-23 |
| | CRD Invasive Plant Species List | |
| d. | BC MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD | 24-44 |
| | Knowledge and Technology Transfer Program Guide 2026-2027 | |
| e. | CANADIAN FOOD INSPECTION AGENCY | 45 |
| | Response to Livestock Traceability Regulations Questions | |
| f. | BC AGRICULTURAL CLIMATE ACTION RESEARCH NETWORK | 46-55 |
| | 2026 Spring Newsletter | |
| g. | YOUNG AGRARIANS | |
| | March 2026 Newsletter | |
| h. | AGRISERVICE BC | |
| | April Islands Edition Regional Newsletter | |
| i. | AGSAFE BC | |
| | Dirt on Ag Newsletter March 2026 | |

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

10. CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION

11. REQUEST FOR DECISION REPORTS

| | | |
|----|---|--------------|
| a. | REQUEST FOR DECISION | |
| | Food Security Emergency Plan and Agricultural Water Plan Implementation | 56-81 |

THAT the Agricultural Development Committee request that the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board of Directors direct staff to implement the Alberni Valley Food Security Emergency Plan, West Coast Food Security Emergency Plan, Alberni Valley Agricultural Water Plan and Alberni Valley Livestock Emergency Plan as collaborative partnerships and grant opportunities arise.

12. REPORTS

- | | | |
|----|--|--------------|
| a. | Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District – A. Needham (attached) | 82-84 |
| b. | Primary Agricultural Producers | |
| c. | City of Port Alberni – P. Deakin | |
| d. | School District # 70 – H. Zanette (attached) | 85-91 |
| e. | Island Health – K. Ruel | |
| f. | Ministry of Agriculture & Food - T. O'Dell | |
| g. | Alberni Farmers' Institute – W. Smith | |
| h. | Alberni District Fall Fair – A. Siddall (attached) | 92 |
| i. | Alberni Valley Food Security Society – A. Lewis | |
| j. | Hupacasath Community Farm – J. Priestland | |
| k. | Eat West Coast – E. Goldt | |
| l. | Spirit Square Farmers' Market – S. Rymer (attached) | 93 |
| m. | Port Alberni Port Authority, Dock + Food Processing Hub – C. Addy (attached) | 94 |
| n. | Coastal Foods Roundtable, Tofino Community Food Initiative – Katie Miles | |
| o. | 4-H – P. Radcliffe (attached) | 95 |
| p. | Marine Stakeholders | |

THAT the Agricultural Development Committee receives the Reports a-p.

13. OTHER BUSINESS (including Late Items)

Late Items are defined as matters arising after the preparation of the agenda which, if not acted upon in a timely manner, would prejudice or compromise either the Regional District's position or the position of a constituent or group of constituents.

14. QUESTION PERIOD

(15 minutes total. Public will be permitted to ask questions for up to 3 minutes on an agenda item. No video, use of presentations, handouts, or props are permitted. Virtual attendees, raise your hand in Zoom to request to speak. In-person attendees, raise your hand to request to speak).

15. ADJOURN

Next Meeting:

**Tuesday, July 14, 2026 at 12:45 PM
Regional District Board Room & Zoom**



Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

MINUTES OF THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2026, 12:45 PM

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

MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Heather Shobe, Eden Tree Farm
Ann Siddall, Alberni District Fall Fair Association
Fred Boyko, Director, Electoral Area “B” (Beaufort)
Helen Zanette, SD70 Trustee
Erika Goldt, Eat West Coast
Anna Lewis, Alberni Valley Food Security Society, Sproat Starts
Lisa Aylard, Stonehaven Farm
Sarah Rymer, Spirit Square Farmers’ Market, No Ryme or Reason
Wayne Smith, Alberni Farmers’ Institute, Vancouver Island Grain and Milling
Patty Palmer, 4H
Ex-Officio Members
Pat Deakin, City of Port Alberni
Katie Miles, Coastal Foods Roundtable Facilitator, Tofino Community Food Initiative
Thom O’Dell, Ministry of Agriculture & Food – Regional Agrologist
Larry McMahon, Agricultural Advisory Committee
Russell Dyson, Agricultural Advisory Committee, Coleman Meadow’s Farm
Penny Cote, Director (Area D), ACRD, Agricultural Advisory Committee

REGRETS:

Cecilia Addy, Port Alberni Port Authority
Bob Collins, Arrowvale Farm
Tanya Shannon, Shannon Farms
Kirsten Nesbitt, SD Healthy Schools Manager
Kaley Ruel, Island Health Dietician
Star Miklashek, Agricultural Advisory Committee
Ray Dol, Agricultural Advisory Committee

STAFF PRESENT:

Amy Needham, Sustainability Planner
Alex Dyer, General Manager of Planning & Development
Kristin Kerr-Donohue, Administrative Assistant

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

<https://www.acrd.bc.ca/events/17-2-2026/>

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Administrative Assistant (AA) called the meeting to order at 12:46 pm.

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

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

Introductions - Committee Members and Staff via Zoom.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON & VICE CHAIRPERSON

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON/VICE-CHAIRPERSON FOR 2026

The AA conducted the election for Chairperson of the Agricultural Development Committee for 2026.

No committee members accepted the nomination for Chairperson. Election for Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, will be held at the next meeting.

H. Zanette assumed the Chair role for this meeting.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED: S. Rymer

SECONDED: A. Lewis

THAT the agenda be approved with addition of Late Items 10(a) Phishing Scam targeting Agriculture Producers and 10(b) Condolence Letter to Dufour family.

CARRIED

4. DECLARATIONS

5. MINUTES

a. Agricultural Development Committee Minutes – November 18, 2025

MOVED: H. Shobe

SECONDED: A. Siddall

THAT the minutes of the Agricultural Development Committee meeting held on November 18, 2025 be adopted as amended to add a summary of topics discussed by committee members.

CARRIED

Staff Note: The ACRD Procedures Bylaw guides how minutes are taken at Board and Committee meetings. Decisions are recorded; however general discussion during meetings is not recorded in the minutes. Meetings are recorded and available to watch on the ACRD website.

6. PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

7. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. **ALBERNI VALLEY FOOD SECURITY SOCIETY**
2025 Impact Report
- b. **MINISTRY OF HEALTH**
Response to ACRD Board of Directors Letter re: Farm to School BC
- c. **PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF BC**
Farm to School BC 2025 Annual Report

MOVED: A. Siddall

SECONDED: S. Rymer

THAT this correspondence be received.

CARRIED

8. REQUEST FOR DECISIONS

9. REPORTS

- 9.1 a. Verbal Report – L. Aylard
 - **CANADIAN CATTLE ASSOCIATION**
Understanding Proposed New Traceability Rules
 - **MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FISHERIES**
BC Premises Identification Regulation, Policy Intentions Paper
 - **CANADIAN FOOD INSPECTION AGENCY**
Statement on proposed amendments to livestock traceability regulations
 - **WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH**
 - [World Organisation for Animal Health - Home Page](#)
 - [World Organisation for Animal Health - One Health](#)
- 9.2 a. Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District – A. Needham (attached)
- b. Primary Agricultural Producers
 - Wayne Smith, VI Grains – Seeing fewer grain producers, equipment for sale on the island. Concern for the future of food security, grain is very important in an extended famine situation. Recently received

- information about a food security group located in Nanaimo, will look into this further and get back to the group at the next meeting.
- Russell Dyson, Coleman Meadows Farm – Discussed the dairy industry standards in Canada and how working with the government has helped the industry.
 - Tanya Shannon, The Cabin at Shannon Farms – Has set market dates for the season (four total), that will be posted on The Cabin’s website and social media soon. The culinary events are set for July 25th (Heifers & hors d'oeuvres), and August 8th (Gather & Graze). Has met with the chef this past weekend, and menu planning is underway (Chef Martin Dean of Neck of the Woods in Tofino).
- c. City of Port Alberni – P. Deakin
- Due to concerns around the Alberni Valley’s health care system and the inability to attract more doctors a working group comprised of Community Futures Alberni-Clayoquot, the Alberni Valley Healthcare Fund Society, and the Alberni Low Energy Housing Society has been formed to establish a clinic with a new model with better work/life balance to attract doctors to the area. The group is working to find a piece of property that will meet the criteria to establish the clinic. City of Port Alberni Council has established their support for the work being done by this group. There is potential to have some of the land behind the Pacific Rim Shopping Centre removed from the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) to allow this clinic to be established. Soil testing and some preemptive works have begun. Working to find out why a previous application to have the land removed from the ALR was denied. The report will be prepared and go to council before the application to the Agricultural Land Commission is submitted. The Agricultural Advisory Committee and Agricultural Development Committee will be contacted during this phase.

MOVED: H. Shobe

SECONDED: L. Aylard

THAT the Agriculture Development Committee request that the ACRD Board of Directors ask for the City of Port Alberni to refer all Agriculture Land Commission applications to the ACRD Agriculture Advisory Committee for input.

THAT the Agricultural Development Committee request that the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board of Directors direct staff to update the Agricultural Advisory Committee’s Terms of Reference to include the review of all Agricultural Land Commission applications in the Regional District, including those that fall within the boundary of the City of Port Alberni should the City of Port Alberni be supportive of receiving Agriculture Advisory Committee input.

CARRIED

- d. Ministry of Agriculture & Food - T. O'Dell
 - Many funding programs open right now included in the latest [Ministry E-bulletin newsletter](#). Any questions please reach out to Thom O'Dell.
- e. Alberni Farmers' Institute – W. Smith
 - Started holding regular open coffee meetings at Collins Farm. You do not need to be a member of the Farmers' Institute to attend. Next meeting is Sunday, February 22, 2026.
 - Looking into an AI program to summarize the information coming from the government, putting it into common speech.
- f. Alberni Valley Food Security Society – A. Lewis
 - 641 people attended the Seedy Saturday event held February 14, 2026
 - AGM scheduled for Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at 7pm in the Alberni Valley Museum
 - Deadline for being included in the Farm, Fish, Forage directory is Feb 21, 2026
 - Deadline for inclusion in the Grower's Guide is March 31, 2026
- g. Spirit Square Farmers' Market – S. Rymer
 - August Children's Market with Community Futures, date has been set, will forward to the group.
 - Heartwood Learning Centre is also interested in having a children's market in April or May, no date set.
 - Currently negotiating the lease with the City of Port Alberni
- h. Coastal Foods Roundtable, Tofino Community Food Initiative – Katie Miles
 - Tofino Community Food Initiatives updates are as follows:
 - Currently expanding elder and student after-school programming to Opitsaht, helping locals develop their own program similar to ours this spring
 - Currently weaving connections between the Maaqtusiis garden in Ahousaht and the Wickaninnish school garden.
 - Fruit tree pruning and grafting workshop with Robin and Jordan Maynard of Gibsons Farm Friday, February 13th at the school garden
 - Next Coastal Foods Roundtable is March 18th in Ucluelet and includes a workshop on bio-regionalizing the food system from KPU researchers studying Vancouver Island.
 - Seedy Sunday is May 3rd at the school garden!
 - If anyone would like to share seeds for the seed libraries we are building, that would be lovely! Contact katie@tofinocommunityfoodinitiative.com

MOVED: A. Lewis

SECONDED: H. Shobe

THAT the verbal reports a-h be received.

CARRIED

10. LATE BUSINESS

- a. **Correspondence Regarding Phishing Scam Targeting Agricultural Producers**
The committee received correspondence outlining a potential phishing scam that has targeted an agricultural producer in the Alberni Valley.
[late_item_correspondence.pdf](#).
- b. **Letter of Condolence to family of Helene Dufour**
Helene was a member of the Agricultural Development Committee for several years, in her role as a nutritionist with Island Health.

MOVED: A. Siddall

SECONDED: A. Lewis

THAT the Agricultural Development Committee extend their condolences by sending a letter to the family of Helene DuFour.

CARRIED

11. 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 the Zoom webinar
- Submissions received by email at responses@acrd.bc.ca.

12. ADJOURN

Certified Correct:

Helen Zanette,
Chairperson

Kristin Kerr-Donohue,
Administrative Assistant



**cleanfarms**

Got Unwanted Pesticides & Old Livestock/Equine Medications?

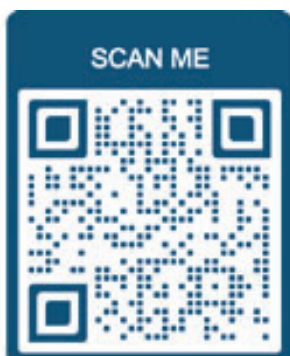


SAVE THE DATE!

Collection events are coming to four provinces Fall 2026!

Please store unwanted materials until a Cleanfarms collection event is held near you. We accept:

- Unwanted agricultural pesticides
- Commercial pesticides and pest control products
- Livestock/equine medications



Scan to learn more!

See other side for more information.

PARTNER





Got Unwanted Pesticides & Old Livestock/Equine Medications?

Keep this as a reminder to check cleanfarms.ca to find the full list of collection events for **September to November 2026**.

Managing these materials by taking them to a Cleanfarms collection event will help you maintain a healthy and safe workplace.

Regions

Quebec

Vancouver Island
& Fraser Valley

Southern Saskatchewan

Prince Edward Island

When

September 2026

October 2026

October 2026

November 2026

For details, go to:

cleanfarms.ca/materials/unwanted-pesticides-animal-meds/

WHAT'S IN AND WHAT'S OUT

| Product | Allowed | Notes |
|--|--------------|--|
| ADJUVANTS & SURFACTANTS | MAYBE | ACCEPTED IF IT IS OPEN AND PARTIAL AMOUNT ONLY – NO FULL UNOPENED CONTAINERS |
| AEROSOL CONTAINERS | NO | EVEN IF THEY ARE PESTICIDES OR ANIMAL HEALTH PRODUCT |
| ANIMAL MEDICATIONS – *USED ON FARMS FOR LIVESTOCK | YES | HAVE A DIN OR SERIAL # IF ANIMAL BIOLOGICALS IE.VACCINES, BACTERIN, TOXOID, ANTITOXIN,ANTIBODY OR DIAGNOSTIC |
| COMMERCIAL PESTICIDES, INSECTICIDES, HERBICIDES | YES | IDENTIFIED WITH A PEST CONTROL PRODUCT NUMBER ON THE LABEL |
| EAR TAGS | NO | NON-PROGRAM MATERIAL |
| FERTILIZER & MICRONUTRIENTS | NO | NON-PROGRAM MATERIAL |
| FOAM MARKER | NO | |
| GROWTH RETARDANTS | MAYBE | YES, IF IT HAS A PCP NUMBER |
| HOUSEHOLD (NON-COMMERCIAL OR HUMAN USE ITEMS | NO | NON-PROGRAM MATERIAL |
| MEDICATED FEED | NO | NON-PROGRAM MATERIAL |
| NEEDLES OR SHARPS | NO | NON-PROGRAM MATERIAL |
| PAINTS/ PAINT THINNERS | NO | NON-PROGRAM MATERIAL |
| PET/ COMPANION ANIMAL MEDS | NO | |
| PREMISE DISINFECTANTS | NO | |
| PRODUCTS FROM VETERINARY OFFICES | NO | THIS PROGRAM IS NOT FOR COMMERCIAL BUSINESSES |
| RINSATE | NO | NON-PROGRAM MATERIAL |
| SEED TREATMENT PRODUCTS | YES | |
| TIRES | NO | NON-PROGRAM MATERIAL |
| TREATED SEED | NO | NON-PROGRAM MATERIAL |
| UNLABELED PRODUCT* IF PESTICIDE/INSECTICIDE/HERBICIDE ANIMAL HEALTH PRODUCT | YES | ASK THE FARMER TO PUT A LABEL ON IT SAYING UNKNOWN |
| WASTE OILS – ANY TYPE | NO | NON-PROGRAM MATERIAL |

Jessica Spratt

From: BC Agriculture Council <communications@bcac.ca>
Sent: February 18, 2026 4:44 PM
To: ACRD Administration
Subject: NEWS RELEASE: 2026 Provincial Budget Released

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

[CAUTION] This email originated from outside of the ACRD



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NEWS RELEASE

2026 Provincial Budget Released

A missed opportunity to strengthen investment in a sector that plays a critical role in B.C.'s food security and economic resilience.

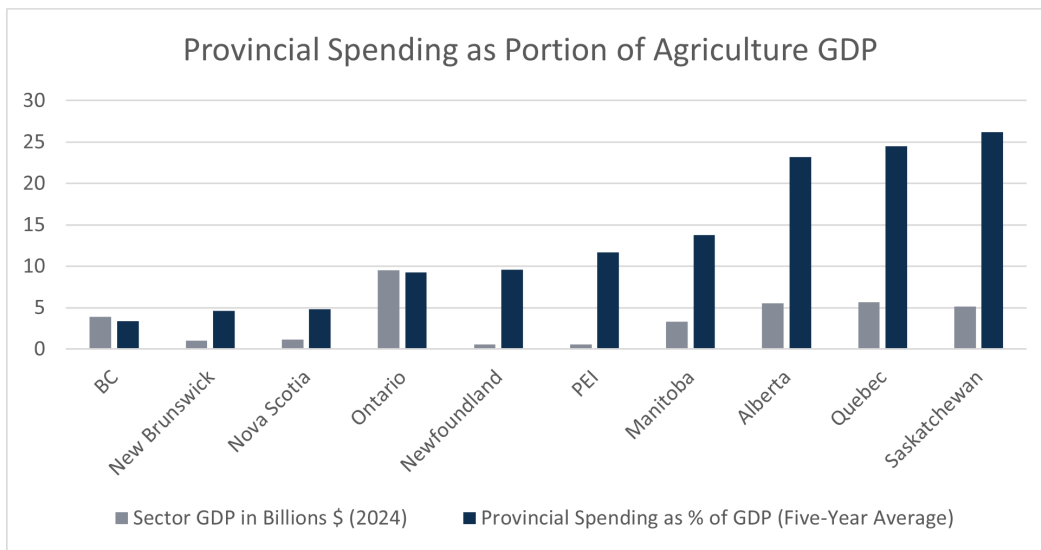
VICTORIA, B.C. – February 18, 2026: British Columbia's Finance Minister, the Honourable Brenda Bailey, released the province's 2026 Budget yesterday, outlining a fiscally restrained plan with limited new investments across government. Funding for the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food (MAF) will rise by just 0.6% in non-insurance spending over the next year, with few agriculture-specific measures announced. The modest increase represents a missed opportunity to strengthen investment in a sector that plays a critical role in B.C.'s food security and economic resilience.

"The budget is disappointing. While we recognize the broader fiscal pressures reflected in this year's budget, BCAC holds its position that the agriculture sector be prioritized as an

essential service and valued as a strategic priority - especially given that food security and affordability is a top concern of British Columbians,” says BC Agriculture Council President, Jennifer Woike.

British Columbia currently ranks last among other provinces in operational funding for its Ministry of Agriculture. However, there is a long history of underfunding the sector in this province, most recently:

- B.C. saw a dramatic 68.4% increase in actual spending on agriculture between 2023-24 and 2024-25 (up from \$136 million to \$229 million).
- In 2024-25, B.C. overtook both Nova Scotia and New Brunswick to take 8th place among the provinces for provincial spending as a portion of sector GDP in that year.
- Even so, based on the five-year rolling average, B.C. is still in last place at 3.4%, compared to 4.6% for New Brunswick and 4.8% for Nova Scotia (Nova Scotia has overtaken New Brunswick in the five-year average).
- Based on B.C.'s 2025-26 budget, spending on the Ministry of Agriculture and Food would need to increase an estimated 25% (from \$143 million to \$179 million) to contend with New Brunswick for 9th place in 2026-27.



Source: BC Agriculture Council

2026/27 General Budget Notes (relevant to agriculture):

- **MAF Non-Insurance Spending:** Expected to remain \$113.5 million, consistent with 2025-26.
- **Investing in skilled trades:** The budget doubles spending on skilled trades over three years to \$241 million.
- **Incentives for value-added processing:** Budget 2026 introduces a new, temporary 15% Manufacturing and Processing Investment Refundable Tax Credit for businesses that invest in buildings, machinery, and equipment that will be used in manufacturing and processing.
- **Supporting food donations from farmers:** Budget 2026 makes permanent the B.C. farmers' food donation tax credit, a 25% non-refundable tax credit on the value of agricultural products donated by farmers to registered charities.
- **Recapitalizing the FireSmart program:** Budget 2026 adds \$15 million to FireSmart Community Funding, topping up funds available for the current intake, but still leaving the future of the program uncertain despite ongoing wildfire risks.
- **Plant and Animal Health Lab:** \$496 million for the Plant and Animal Health Centre in Abbotsford to support monitoring, detection and prevention of disease spread.
- **Long-term forecasted spending:** Overall B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food budget is forecasted to remain frozen at \$130 million through 2028–29. Budget 2026 signals a period of fiscal restraint.

“This budget was presented as a plan to prepare British Columbia for ongoing economic uncertainty, with a focus on prioritizing critical services,” says BCAC Executive Director Danielle Synotte. “However, farmers and ranchers provide a stable and reliable supply of food and agricultural products – also a critical service. This feels like a step in the wrong direction.”

BC Agriculture Council remains committed to working with all levels of government to address the longstanding under-investment that has limited opportunities for B.C. producers to compete nationally and globally.

The government’s full budget announcement can be found here: [BC Budget 2026](#)

For more information:

Cassy James

Communications Manager

T: (604) 854-4454 ext. 195

E: communications@bcac.ca

About [BC Agriculture Council](#): BCAC's mission is to support and grow a competitive agriculture sector by fostering industry collaboration and shaping effective public policy. This is achieved by delivering a unified voice for the sector to government through member farm associations that in turn represent approximately 96% of provincial farm gate sales.

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Capital Regional District Invasive Plant Species List

July 2025



How to Use This List:











This list identifies the invasive alien plant species of concern in the Capital Regional District (CRD). All species on the list are considered a high priority for management. Species have been placed in categories based on such factors as known distribution, values or assets threatened, management objectives and management viability. Each category has a different management approach and objective. Each category has a unique colour. Icons are used to show the key values and assets that each species threatens.

The four categories and their management objectives, criteria, considerations, and processes are as follows:

| PREVENT (PR) — Prevent introduction and establishment in the CRD | |
|--|--|
| Definition | Species not yet known to occur in CRD but likely to establish if introduced. |
| Considerations | May occur in nearby regions and/or on their Prevent or “Watch” lists. |
| Process | Monitor and consult with provincial Inter-ministry Invasive Species Working Group (IMISWG) and nearby jurisdictions. If a species is discovered in a single location or very isolated locations in the CRD that is not on any other Prevent or Eradicate lists, send information to IMISWG for direction. For species not known to occur in CRD or adjacent jurisdictions, rely on input from subject matter experts and IMISWG. |
| ERADICATE (ER) — Eradicate from CRD | |
| Definition | Species occurs in CRD with few known infestations of limited extent. |
| Considerations | Is eradication feasible with available resources? |
| Process | Actively seek all occurrences in the region and respond quickly to eradicate them. |
| CONTAIN (CN) — Eradicate infestations outside containment areas and strategic control within. | |
| Definition | Species infestations exceed the resource capacity to eradicate from the CRD but preventing infestation expansion is possible. |
| Considerations | Regional eradication is not feasible due to extent and/or location of populations but populations can be contained. Infestations targeted for containment should be discrete such that a containment line can be drawn. |
| Process | Consider known occurrences, map them and draw containment (isolation) polygon around them, and eradicate any plants that occur outside the polygon. |
| STRATEGIC CONTROL (SC) — Management objective depends on context, e.g., land use objectives, values or assets threatened | |
| Definition | Species is widespread in the CRD and can no longer be contained or eradicated from the region. |
| Considerations | Eradication at the landscape level is not feasible. However, control measures are warranted where assets such as wildlife, ecosystems, recreation, and infrastructure (e.g., gravel pits) are threatened. Eradication or active suppression may be feasible at a local level considering but not limited to such criteria as mechanisms for spread, degree of threat, values threatened, and resource capacity. |
| Process | Evaluate at a local level on a case-by-case basis |





















Specific Values Icons and Listing Codes

Where applicable, icons are used to indicate specific values or assets that the species threatens, e.g., aquatic ecosystems, fire hazards, forest/woodland ecosystems, sports fields, gravel pits. If a species is also on a provincial and/or CRD priority list and/or has a CRD alert sheet, codes have been added as follows:















































| | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
|  | Human health |  | Forest / woodland |
|  | Animal health |  | Landscaping material sites (e.g., gravel pits, soil dumps, fill sites) |
|  | Aquatic ecosystem (wetland, riparian), coastal dune ecosystems |  | Linear infrastructure (e.g., roadsides, boulevards, hydro corridors, pipelines) |
|  | Coastal bluff / rock outcrop |  | Meadows, grasslands, old fields, pasture and rangelands |
|  | Fire hazard |  | Sports fields, developed parks and beaches |















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


































| | |
|-------------|---|
| BCP | Provincial Prevent |
| BCE | Provincial EDRR |
| BCC | Provincial Contain or BCC(r) if Provincial Regional Contain |
| BCT | BC Provincial Priority Invasive Species list 2020 |
| CRDp | CRD high priority species list. Source: High Priority Species Alert Sheet (no date) |
| CRDa | CRD species alert sheet. Source: CRD Invasive Species website |

| PREVENT (PR) - Prevent introduction and establishment in the CRD. | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--|---------------|
| Scientific Name | Common Name | Specific Values Threatened | BC/CRD Lists |
| <i>Aegilops cylindrica</i> | Jointed Goatgrass |  | BCE |
| <i>Alhagi maurorum</i> | Camelthorn |  | BCP |
| <i>Alopecurus myosuroides</i> | Meadow/Slender Foxtail |   | BCP |
| <i>Ammophila breviligulata</i> | American Beachgrass |  | |
| <i>Anchusa officinalis</i> | Common Bugloss |  | BCC(r) |
| <i>Berteroa incana</i> | Hoary Alyssum |    | BCC(r) |
| <i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i> | Slender False Brome |    | BCE |
| <i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i> | Italian / Shore Thistle |   | BCP |
| <i>Carduus tenuiflorus</i> | Slender-flowered Thistle |   | BCP |
| <i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i> | Round Leaf Bittersweet |   | |
| <i>Centaurea calcitrapa</i> | Purple Starthistle |   | BCP |
















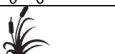









PREVENT (PR) - Prevent introduction and establishment in the CRD.







| Scientific Name | Common Name | Specific Values Threatened | BC/CRD Lists |
|---|--------------------------|---|--------------|
| <i>Centaurea iberica</i> | Iberian Starthistle |   | BCP |
| <i>Centaurea jacea</i> | Brown Knapweed |   | |
| <i>Centaurea solstitialis</i> | Yellow Starthistle |   | BCE |
| <i>Centaurea virgata ssp. squarrosa</i> | Squarrose knapweed |  | BCP |
| <i>Chondrilla juncea</i> | Rush Skeletonweed |   | BCC(r) |
| <i>Cirsium palustre</i> | Marsh Plume Thistle |  | BCC(r) |
| <i>Crupina vulgaris</i> | Common Crupina |   | BCP |
| <i>Cyperus rotundus</i> | Purple Nutsedge |   | BCP |
| <i>Eichhornia crassipes</i> | Water Hyacinth |  | BCE |
| <i>Gypsophila paniculata</i> | Baby's Breath |  | |
| <i>Halogeton glomeratus</i> | Saltlover |  | BCP |
| <i>Helianthus ciliaris</i> | Texas Blueweed |  | BCP |
| <i>Hieracium pilosella</i> | Mouse-ear Hawkweed |   | BCE |
| <i>Hydrilla verticillata</i> | Hydrilla |  | BCP |
| <i>Hyoscyamus niger</i> | Black Henbane |    | BCE |
| <i>Isatis tinctoria</i> | Dyer's Woad |    | BCE |
| <i>Knautia arvensis</i> | Field Scabious |  | BCC(r) |
| <i>Lepidium draba</i> | Hoary Cress |  | BCC(r) |
| <i>Lepidium latifolium</i> | Perennial Pepperweed |  | BCE |
| <i>Ludwigia peploides</i> | Floating Primrose-willow |  | |
| <i>Milium vernale</i> | Spring Millet Grass |   | BCP |
| <i>Myriophyllum heterophyllum</i> | Two-leaf Watermilfoil |  | |
| <i>Odontites serotina</i> | Red Bartsia |   | BCP |
| <i>Peganum harmala</i> | African Rue |    | BCP |
| <i>Pistia stratiotes</i> | Water Lettuce |  | BCE |
| <i>Pueraria montana var. lobata</i> | Kudzu |   | BCP |
| <i>Salvia aethiopsis</i> | Mediterranean Sage |  | BCP |
| <i>Salvia pratensis</i> | Meadow Clary |  | BCP |
| <i>Salvia sclarea</i> | Clary Sage |  | BCP |
| <i>Solanum elaeagnifolium</i> | Silverleaf Nightshade |  | BCP |
| <i>Sorghum halepense</i> | Johnsongrass | | BCP |
| <i>Spartina alterniflora</i> | Smooth Cordgrass | | BCE |



















































| PREVENT (PR) - Prevent introduction and establishment in the CRD. | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--|--------------|
| Scientific Name | Common Name | Specific Values Threatened | BC/CRD Lists |
| <i>Spartina anglica</i> | English cordgrass |  | BCE |
| <i>Spartina densiflora</i> | Dense-flowered Cordgrass |  | BCE |
| <i>Spartina patens</i> | Saltmeadow Cordgrass |  | BCE |
| <i>Stratiotes aloides</i> | Water Soldier |  | BCP |
| <i>Taeniatherum caput-medusae</i> | Medusahead |   | BCP |
| <i>Thymelaea passerina</i> | Spurge Flax |  | BCP |
| <i>Tribulus terrestris</i> | Puncture Vine |     | BCC(r) |
| <i>Ventenata dubia</i> | North Africa Grass |   | BCC |
| <i>Zygophyllum fabago</i> | Syrian Bean-caper |  | |












































| ERADICATE (ER) - Eradicate from CRD | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|--------------|
| Scientific Name | Common Name | Specific Values Threatened | BC/CRD Lists |
| <i>Abutilon theophrasti</i> | Velvet-leaf |  | |
| <i>Alliaria petiolata</i> | Garlic Mustard |  | BCC CRDp |
| <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i> | Wild Chervil |  | BCC(r) CRDp |
| <i>Arundo donax</i> | Giant Reed |  | BCE |
| <i>Butomus umbellatus</i> | Flowering Rush |  | BCE |
| <i>Carex pendula</i> | Hanging Sedge | | |
| <i>Centaurea diffusa</i> | Diffuse Knapweed |   | CRD |
| <i>Centaurea macrocephala</i> | Bighead Knapweed |  | |
| <i>Centaurea melitensis</i> | Maltese Starthistle |    | BCE |
| <i>Centaurea nigra</i> | Black Knapweed |    | CRDp CRDa |
| <i>Centaurea stoebe</i> | Spotted Knapweed |    | BCC(r) CRDp |
| <i>Conium maculatum</i> | Poison-hemlock |    | BCC CRDa |
| <i>Cynoglossum officinale</i> | Hound's-tongue |     | |
| <i>Cyperus esculentus</i> | Yellow Nutsedge |   | |
| <i>Cytisus multiflorus</i> | White Spanish Broom |     | BCC(r) |
| <i>Cytisus striatus</i> | Portuguese Broom |     | BCE |
| <i>Echium plantagineum</i> | Paterson's Curse |   | BCP |
| <i>Echium vulgare</i> | Blueweed; Viper's Bugloss |   | BCC(r) |
| <i>Egeria densa</i> | Brazilian Elodea |  | BCE |

ERADICATE (ER) - Eradicate from CRD

| Scientific Name | Common Name | Specific Values Threatened | BC/CRD Lists |
|--|---------------------------|--|------------------|
| <i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i> | Cypress Spurge |  | |
| <i>Euphorbia esula</i> | Leafy Spurge |  | BCC(r) |
| <i>Euphorbia oblongata</i> | Eggleaf Spurge |  | BCE |
| <i>Galega officinalis</i> | Goat's Rue |  | BCE |
| <i>Genista monspessulana</i> | French Broom |  | BCE |
| <i>Glyceria maxima</i> | Giant Mannagrass |  | |
| <i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i> | Giant Hogweed |  | BCC CRDp CRDa |
| <i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i> | Orange Hawkweed |  | CRD |
| <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i> | Policeman's Helmet |  | BCC(r) CRDp CRDa |
| <i>Impatiens parviflora</i> | Jewelweed |  | |
| <i>Koenigia polystachya</i> | Himalayan Knotweed |  | BCC(r) CRDp |
| <i>Linaria dalmatica</i> | Dalmatian Toadflax |  | CRDp |
| <i>Linaria vulgaris</i> | Common Toadflax |  | CRDp |
| <i>Lysimachia vulgaris</i> | Garden Yellow Loosestrife |  | BCC(r) CRDp |
| <i>Nymphoides peltata</i> | Yellow Floating Heart |  | BCE |
| <i>Onopordum acanthium</i> | Scotch / Cotton Thistle |  | CRDp |
| <i>Pastinaca sativa</i> | Wild parsnip |  | BCC |
| <i>Petasites japonicus</i> | Japanese Butterbur |  | BCC CRDa |
| <i>Phragmites australis subsp. australis</i> | Common Reed |  | BCE |
| <i>Potentilla recta</i> | Sulphur Cinquefoil |  | |
| <i>Reynoutria japonica var. japonica</i> | Japanese Knotweed |  | BCC(r) CRDp CRDa |
| <i>Reynoutria sachalinensis</i> | Giant Knotweed |  | BCC(r) CRDp CRDa |
| <i>Reynoutria x bohemica</i> | Bohemian knotweed |  | BCC(r) CRDp CRDa |
| <i>Spartium junceum</i> | Spanish / Rush Broom |  | |
| <i>Tamarix ramosissima</i> | Tamarisk |  | BCC(r) BCT |
| <i>Tussilago farfara</i> | European Coltsfoot | | |

| CONTAIN (CN) - Eradicate outside of containment areas and apply strategic control within. | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Scientific Name | Common Name | Specific Values Threatened | BC/CRD Lists |
| <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> | European Beachgrass |  | |
| <i>Geranium lucidum</i> | Shiny Geranium |    | BCC CRDa |
| <i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i> | Parrotfeather |  | |
| <i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i> | Eurasian / Spiked Water-milfoil |  | |

| STRATEGIC CONTROL (SC) - Management objective depends on context, e.g. land use objectives, values or assets threatened | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Scientific Name | Common Name | Specific Values Threatened | BC/CRD Lists |
| <i>Aegopodium podagraria</i> | Bishop's Goutweed; Ground Elder |   | |
| <i>Ailanthus altissima</i> | Tree-of-Heaven |    | BCC(r) BCT |
| <i>Allium vineale</i> | Crow Garlic; Field Garlic |  | |
| <i>Anthriscus caucalis</i> | Burr Chervil |    | |
| <i>Arum italicum</i> | Italian Arum, Orange Candleflower |     | CRDa |
| <i>Buddleja davidii</i> | Butterfly Bush |    | |
| <i>Centaurea cyanus</i> | Bachelor's Buttons |   | |
| <i>Cirsium arvense</i> | Canada / Creeping Thistle |    | |
| <i>Cirsium vulgare</i> | Bull Thistle |   | |
| <i>Clematis vitalba</i> | Wild Clematis |   | |
| <i>Cotoneaster sp.</i> | Cotoneaster |  | |
| <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> | English / Common Hawthorn |   | BCT |
| <i>Cyclamen hederifolium</i> | Cyclamen |   | |
| <i>Cytisus scoparius</i> | Scotch Broom |      | BCC(r) |
| <i>Daphne laureola</i> | Spurge Laurel |  | |
| <i>Dipsacus fullonum</i> | Teasel / Fuller's Teasel |  | |
| <i>Ficaria verna</i> | Lesser Celandine |    | CRD |
| <i>Foeniculum vulgare</i> | Sweet / Common Fennel |   | BCC(r) |
| <i>Hedera helix + Helix varieties</i> | English / Common Ivy & varieties |  | |
| <i>Hyacinthoides hispanica</i> | Spanish Bluebells |   | |
| <i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i> | English Bluebells |   | |
| <i>Hypericum calycinum</i> | Aaron's-beard |  | |
| <i>Hypericum perforatum</i> | Common St. John's-wort |   | |

| STRATEGIC CONTROL (SC) - Management objective depends on context, e.g. land use objectives, values or assets threatened | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|--|---------------------|
| Scientific Name | Common Name | Specific Values Threatened | BC/CRD Lists |
| <i>Ilex aquifolium</i> | English / Common Holly |   | BCT |
| <i>Iris pseudacorus</i> | Yellow Flag Iris |  | BCC(r) CRDa |
| <i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i> | Tansy Ragwort |   | CRDa |
| <i>Lamium galeobdolon</i> | Yellow Lamium |  | BCC(r) |
| <i>Ligustrum vulgare</i> | European Privet |   | |
| <i>Lupinus arboreus</i> | Tree / Bush Lupine |   | |
| <i>Lythrum salicaria</i> | Purple Loosestrife |  | BCC(r) |
| <i>Paulownia tomentosa</i> | Princess Tree |   | BCT |
| <i>Phalaris arundinacea</i> | Reed Canary Grass |   | |
| <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> | Cherry-laurel |  | BCT |
| <i>Prunus lusitanica</i> | Portugal Laurel |  | |
| <i>Rubus armeniacus</i> | Himalayan Blackberry |     | |
| <i>Rubus laciniatus</i> | Cutleaf Blackberry |   | |
| <i>Salix alba 'Vitellina'</i> | Golden Willow |  | BCT |
| <i>Silybum marianum</i> | Blessed Milk Thistle |   | BCC(r) CRDp CRDa |
| <i>Soliva sessilis</i> | Carpet Burweed |   | CRDp CRDa |
| <i>Tanacetum vulgare</i> | Common Tansy |   | BCC(r) |
| <i>Tragopogon dubius</i> | Yellow Salsify; Western Salsify |  | |
| <i>Tragopogon porrifolius</i> | Common Salsify |  | |
| <i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i> | Scentless Chamomile |   | |
| <i>Typha X glauca</i> | Blue Cattail (hybrid) |  | |
| <i>Typha angustifolia</i> | Narrow-leaved / Lesser Cattail |  | |
| <i>Ulex europaeus</i> | Gorse |      | BCC(r) CRDa |
| <i>Vinca major</i> | Large periwinkle |  | |
| <i>Vinca minor</i> | Common Periwinkle |  | |

July 2025



Learn more at:
www.crd.ca/invasive

CRD
Making a difference...together

Knowledge and Technology Transfer Program Guide 2026-2027

B.C. MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD



Funding for the Knowledge and Technology Transfer Program is provided by the governments of Canada and British Columbia through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.

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1. Overview

The Knowledge and Technology Transfer Program (KTTP) helps organizations deliver training and learning activities for B.C. food producers and food processors.

The Program supports activities that build skills, share knowledge, and help producers and processors to adopt best practices, respond to emerging challenges, and remain competitive in changing environmental, production, and market conditions.

Funding can be obtained for various knowledge transfer activities, such as workshops, farm tours, demonstrations, field trials, short courses, etc.

Up to 75% of eligible costs can be paid by the Program, to a maximum of \$7,500 per application. The remaining 25% must be contributed by the applicant through cash or in-kind support. Applications can be submitted via the [Program's webpage](#).

Support is given on a first-come, first-served basis. Funding is limited, so complete applications are approved only while funds remain available. The Ministry may re-open or extend the Program as necessary.

Funding for the Program is provided in part by the governments of Canada and British Columbia through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative. Additional funding is provided by the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food for activities related to seafood.

Key Dates

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Applications open | March 4, 2026 |
| Activity window | April 1, 2026 – February 28, 2027 |
| Claim rule | The reimbursement claim must be submitted within 30 days after the last activity. |
| Final claim deadline | March 5, 2027 If a claim is late, the application will be considered cancelled, and funding will not be paid. |
| Record retention | All records (e.g., receipts) must be kept until March 31, 2033 |

2. Who Can Apply

Eligible organizations

An application may be submitted by:

- Industry associations or non-profit organizations that support B.C. agriculture or food processing
- Farmers' Institutes and Women's Institutes
- Municipalities and regional districts
- Indigenous governments, communities, organizations, and economic development corporations¹

Ineligible organizations

Applications are **not** accepted from:

- Individual farmers or individual processors
- Private businesses or for-profit companies
- Private training or educational institutions
- K-12 school or school districts

An organization may also be ruled ineligible if:

- The organization's mandate or proposed activity does not match Program priorities
- The organization has no demonstrated capacity to deliver the activity
- Program requirements have not been met in the past

¹ The Province is committed to supporting the success of Indigenous Peoples and their self-determined priorities for food and agriculture. We understand that Indigenous organizations may have distinct characteristics reflective of regulatory, operational, cultural, and other factors that may impact eligibility. We aim for flexibility in our Program delivery to reduce barriers and ensure accessibility, please email Program Staff with any questions at Knowledge.Transfer@gov.bc.ca.

Activity Requirements

All KTCP funded activities must:

- Fit one of the Eligible Activity Types (see next section)
- Take place within the Program activity window (Apr 1, 2026 – Feb 28, 2027)
- Provide useful knowledge or skills that help participants adopt best practices or respond to sector challenges
- Be delivered by a qualified subject matter expert or trained facilitator
- Involve at least 10 B.C. agricultural producers with [Farm Class Status](#) or equivalent, or established B.C. food processors with commercial operations
 - Activities that mainly target recreational growers, the general public, or youth under 19 are not eligible
- Have reasonable and proportional costs based on the size and complexity of the event (number of days, speakers, locations, participants)

The Ministry may adjust costs or decline the proposal if the event budget seems too high for its scale.

Eligible Activity Types

The Program funds the following types of activities:

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Subject Matter Expert Talk | In-person talk or presentation; does not involve hands-on learning <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Speaker costs are capped at \$1,500 per expert (speaker fee, travel, accommodation, honoraria). |
| Farm or Facility Tour | Guided tours showcasing equipment, operations, or practices |
| Field Day or Demonstration | On-site demonstrations of tools, techniques, or practices |
| Field Trial or Research Day | Sharing research findings or trial results directly with producers/processors |
| Hands-On Workshop | Interactive learning where participants practice new skills |
| Short Course | Multisession, in-person learning on a specific topic |
| Webinars | Online training sessions |

Topic Areas

The knowledge transfer activity must fit into one of these topic areas:

- Soil, nutrient, water, air, and biodiversity management
- Climate adaptation and mitigation
- Plant and animal health
- Production extension
- On farm emergency management
- Premises ID and traceability
- Technology adoption
- Business management and development
- Workforce and human resource management
- Food and beverage processing
- Seafood production and processing
- Reconciliation and decolonization
- New entrant skill development (for producers/processors with less than 5 years experience or who intend to start a business)

Funding depends on the Ministry's budget and priorities. Therefore, funding amounts per topic area can vary, and applications in a specific topic area may not always be approved.

3. Funding and Costs

The Program provides support for eligible activities by covering:

- **Up to 75% of eligible costs**
- **Up to \$7,500 per application**
- **Up to three applications per applicant per intake (to a maximum of \$15,000 within the same intake)**

The remaining 25% of costs must be paid by the applicant². This contribution can be cash or in-kind- support (in the form of staff time, venue, or equipment, for example).

Once the activity is done and a claim is submitted through the Program website, the Program provides a reimbursement.

² The Province may waive the cost-shared requirement for groups who face barriers to the Program, such as groups supporting or run by underserved populations.

Eligible Costs

These costs can be included in the budget:

1. Speaker Costs

- Speaking fees, travel costs³, accommodation costs (cost-effective options expected), and honoraria⁴.

Important: For Subject Matter Expert Talks, all speaker costs are capped at \$1,500 per expert.

2. Facility, Equipment, and Transportation Costs

- Costs to rent event space, tools or equipment needed for the activity, buses or other transport required for tours or field events, etc.

3. Advertising and Communications Costs

- Costs to create posters, graphics, online ads, as well as printed or digital materials for participants.

4. Accessibility Costs

- Supports that help people attend or participate, such as childcare subsidies, interpreters, translation services, etc.

5. Administration Costs

- Costs that include staff wages, volunteer time, bookkeeping, project coordination, etc. The maximum allowable rate for Administration Costs is \$40 per hour.
- If administration costs seem too high or exceed the organization's 25% cost-share contribution, the Ministry may request changes or decline the application.

If the event includes other components (other speakers, ineligible costs, etc.), then costs must be pro-rated. Only include the portion of costs directly related to the proposed KTCP activity.

External contractor costs to facilitate the activity are eligible at the invoiced amount.

Reimbursement requires proof of each cost, such as receipts, paid invoices, or travel records.

³ The maximum mileage rate that may be reimbursed by the Province is \$0.63/km. If a mileage rate is chosen as the reimbursement method, fuel costs are ineligible as the mileage rate includes this cost. See Gov Policy for additional per diem and mileage information at the [Travel Allowances website](#).

⁴ An honorarium is a payment given for professional services that are rendered nominally without charge. Honoraria may include cultural protocol (such as small gifts).

Ineligible Costs

The Program will not cover these costs:

1. Costs for any purchase made before prior approval and contribution agreement
2. Entertainment costs, such as food and beverage for participants or catering⁵
3. Fundraising costs
4. Canada Revenue Agency or payroll penalties
5. Parking tickets
6. International flights
7. Fines or penalties
8. Depreciation on fixed assets
9. Board membership fees
10. Tuition subsidies
11. Curriculum development
12. Conference subsidies or paper submissions
13. Buying motor vehicles
14. Illegal substances
15. Staff mentoring or coaching
16. Alcohol or cannabis
17. Unreasonable gifts or recognition payments
18. Legal fees and court awards or any other inappropriate or illegal activity
19. Fees for private clubs (unless part of an existing employment benefits package)
20. Capital costs for the construction of a building or purchase of land or buildings
21. High-cost equipment, or equipment intended for operational use, or not directly required by the proposed activity
22. Operational costs not directly tied to delivering proposed activities

The Ministry may decline or adjust funding if costs seem unreasonable, unnecessary, or inappropriate for the scope of the proposed activity.

⁵ Exceptions will be made for activities in which food and/or gifts are culturally appropriate.

Funding Summary Table

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Program contribution | Up to 75% of eligible costs |
| Applicant contribution | At least 25% (cash or in-kind) |
| Maximum per application | \$7,500 |
| Maximum per intake | \$15,000 across up to 3 applications |
| SME Talk cap | \$1,500 per expert |
| Admin wage limit | \$40/hour |
| Mileage rate | \$0.63/km |
| Claim timing | Within 30 days of last activity |

Tips to Prepare a Strong Application

- ✓ Choose an activity that fits an eligible topic area.
- ✓ Confirm that all experts are qualified to teach the subject matter.
- ✓ Ensure the budget is realistic with proportional costs.
- ✓ Plan how to reach at least 10 producers or processors for the activity.

4. Before Applying

Before starting the online application, gather the information and documents listed below.

Organization Information

- Legal organization name
- Mailing address
- Contact person name and information
- Short description of the organization
- Optional demographic survey
- Details about any previous provincial funding

Knowledge Transfer Activity Information

Clear details about the proposed activity, such as:

- Activity title
- Description of what will be done
- Location and date(s)
- Eligible topic area
- Eligible activity type
- Expected number of participants
- Skills or knowledge participants will learn
- Expected outcomes or benefits
- Outreach plan (to ensure at least 10 producers or processors attend)

Subject Matter Expert Information

- Expert's name and contact information
- Description of their expertise
- Professional credentials or certifications
 - For example, for regulated agrology topics, experts must be registrants of the BC Institute of Agrologists (BCIA). See the [BCIA website](#) for more information.

Budget Information

A clear budget with:

- Detailed eligible costs
- Notes describing each cost
- Details on the 25% cost-share
- List of other partners and what they contribute (cash or in-kind)

Ensure costs are pro-rated if the event includes non-KTTP activities.

Required Document

- Agenda for the proposed activity (draft is acceptable) that shows the schedule, topics, and speakers.

5. How to Apply

Follow these steps to apply online.

Step 1: Confirm eligibility

Before beginning the application process:

- Make sure the organization is eligible
- Confirm the activity fits an eligible activity type
- Confirm the topic area
- Plan to involve at least 10 B.C. producers or processors
- Make sure the activity will occur Apr 1, 2026 – Feb 28, 2027

For questions about eligibility, email **Knowledge.Transfer@gov.bc.ca**

Step 2: Gather information and documents

Prepare the following:

- Organization information (legal name, contact details)
- Activity details (title, description, location, dates, topic area)
- Expert information (name, credentials, experience)
- Budget with all eligible costs and cost-share
- List of partners and contributions
- A draft agenda

Step 3: Complete online application form

When the intake is open:

- Apply online via the [Program webpage](#).
- Sign in using a [BC Services Card](#) or a [BCeID](#).
- Complete all required fields in the online form.
- Upload agenda (required) and any other supporting documents (optional).
- Make sure everything is clear and complete. Incomplete or unclear applications may be declined.
- Submit the form.

Step 4: Wait for review

Applications are reviewed first-come, first-served.

Reviewers will check:

- Eligibility
- Topic area
- Expert qualifications
- Budget reasonableness based on event complexity
- The organization's capacity to deliver
- Past compliance with Program rules
- Whether the activity aligns with Program Priorities
- Whether the activity duplicates other Ministry-funded work

While applications are reviewed first-come, first-served, priority may be given to activities serving underrepresented groups (e.g., Indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, people of colour, women, gender-diverse people, new entrants, etc.).

Step 5: Receive decision

The Program will send:

- A Decline Letter if not approved, or
- An Approval Letter and full approval package if approved

Keep the Approval Letter; it includes all steps needed to receive reimbursement.

6. After Applying

If approved, follow all rules in this section to receive funding.

Before the Event

Send promotional materials for approval

Before posting or sharing any materials:

- Include all the required logos (the *Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership* logo, *British Columbia* logo, and *Canada* logo) as well as the funding acknowledgement in all promotional materials related to the activity
- Complete the Third-Party Use Form
- Email promotional materials with the completed Third-Party Use Form to **Knowledge.Transfer@gov.bc.ca** for Ministry review and approval
- Approval may take up to 10 business days. Approval by the Ministry must be received before any materials are published

Request approval for any changes

Written approval is required before making changes to event dates, locations, speakers, budget, or activity scope.

- If any changes to the proposed activity need to be made, email **Knowledge.Transfer@gov.bc.ca**
- Approval may take up to 10 business days
- Changes made without approval may result in reduced or denied reimbursement

During the Event

- Deliver the activity on the approved dates and at the approved location
- Allow Ministry staff to attend the event for free if requested
- Capture 1–3 high-quality photos of the event (make sure participants have given consent for photos)
- Distribute the Ministry's post-event survey using the link or QR code provided

These steps are required for reimbursement.

After the Event

Submit the reimbursement claim

Claims must be submitted:

- Within **30 days** after the final activity
- No later than **March 5, 2027**

Late submissions will result in cancellation of the application.

The claim must include:

- Project results
- Total number of participants
- Number of B.C. producers/processors
- Confirmation that the provided post-event survey was shared via link or QR code
- List of eligible costs
- Details on the 25% cost-share (cash or in-kind)
- Supporting documents:
 - Income & expense statement (only if an admission fee was charged)
 - 1-3 event photos
 - 1-3 promotional materials (posters, websites, social posts)

Proof of payment (receipts) does not need to be submitted with the claim, but records related to the activity must be kept until **March 31, 2033** for audit purposes.

Examples include:

- Receipts
- Copy of the cheque that was cleared or cashed
- Copy of the cheque written and a printout of bank statement showing it has been processed
- Copy of the credit card transaction (either the actual slip or a printout of the credit card statement)
- Record of in-kind hours contributed
- Invoice showing a 'zero' balance owing

- Copy of the general ledger showing payment
- Copy of a money order or bank draft

How Claims Are Reviewed

The Ministry checks:

- Costs are eligible
- Costs match approved budget
- Administration costs are reasonable
- All delivery rules are met
- Profits from admission fees are not excessive

The Ministry may reduce or deny a reimbursement claim if:

- Costs appear too high
- Rules were not followed
- Activities differ from what was approved

Payment

Payments are made by direct deposit or cheque.

To set up direct deposit:

- Complete the [Direct Deposit Form \(FIN-312\)](#)
- Attach a void cheque or bank proof
- Email to **CSNRsupplierrequests@gov.bc.ca**

Setting up direct deposit may take up to 8 weeks.

7. Help and Contact Information

If questions arise at any point in the process, get help from the KTCP Team or AgriService BC.

Program Email (Main Support Line): Knowledge.Transfer@gov.bc.ca

Include the KTCP file number in every email. This helps staff respond faster.

Phone Support (AgriService BC): 1-888-221-7141

Ask for Knowledge and Technology Transfer Program support

Program Webpage: [Knowledge Transfer Program - Province of British Columbia](#)

The Program webpage includes:

- Online application form (when intake is open)
- Online claim form
- Updates about the Program
- Templates and other resources

8. General Terms and Conditions

Authority

The Province shall have the authority to deny an application if there is evidence of misrepresentation of pertinent information. The Province has the sole discretion to determine eligibility, costs, establish values and to approve or limit payments.

Limits on Funding

The maximum amount of funding approved for any project is under the sole discretion of the Province. Any payment to an applicant is subject to the Financial Administration Act, RSBC 1996, c. 138, which makes that payment subject to an appropriation being available in the fiscal year of the Province during which a payment may be made. The Province makes no representations, commitments or guarantees with respect to the timing, number or value of any payments that may be provided to an applicant. The Province does not guarantee that by applying, an applicant will receive any or all the funding requested from the Province even where all eligibility criteria are met.

Legislation

All projects must abide by all applicable federal, provincial, and local government laws and regulations, including but not limited to, Federal and Provincial environmental and land use legislation, and zoning bylaws.

Authorized Signatories

Designates are not permitted to sign the program application or other program documentation on behalf of an individual unless they are an attorney under a duly authorized power of attorney. In the case of non-individual applicants, the application form and other program documentation must be signed by a properly authorized person with signing authority on behalf of the entity. If the person who signs is not properly authorized to do so, that person will be deemed to have submitted the application in their personal capacity and will be responsible for all amounts paid to them or for any overpayments owed by them under this program. Proof of authorization must be submitted upon request.

Termination of the Program

The program may be terminated or amended by the Province at any time, without prior notice.

Verifications and Declarations

Program applicants must supply all documentation or information required to verify and administer the program, upon request. This continues in force indefinitely, even after the program ends or is terminated.

Collection and Use of Personal Information

Any personal information collected by the Government of B.C. in relation to this program is for the purposes of administering the program, as well as for the administration, evaluation and development of Ministry of Agriculture and Food programs, and to advise you about programs and services available through the Province. It is collected under the authority of s. 26(c) and s. 27(1)(a)(i) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, RSBC 1996, c. 165. Where required, this information may also be shared with the Government of Canada for the purposes of meeting federal funding, reporting, audit, and accountability obligations associated with this program. Further information about the collection or use of this information may be obtained by contacting Andrea Hoerger, Director of Program Delivery and Design Services, Andrea.Hoerger@gov.bc.ca.

Waiver of Liability

Under no circumstances will the governments of Canada and British Columbia, or their officers, servants or agents, be liable to any applicant or participant in the program (or to their heirs, administrators or assigns) for any direct, indirect, special, incidental, consequential, or other damages arising out of any application to or participation in the program or arising from any advice, operation or any other activity related to the program, including, without limitation, any lost profits, business interruption, or loss of programs or information, even if the governments of Canada and British Columbia have been specifically advised of the possibility of such damages.

Overpayments and refunds

If it is determined by the Province that the provision of funding to an applicant under the program was inconsistent with these terms and conditions, it is an overpayment. In that case, the Province may require the person to repay some or all the overpayment. Until it is repaid, the amount of the overpayment is a debt owing by the applicant to the Province. An overpayment may result where an applicant:

- is not eligible to participate in the program,
- claims costs that are not eligible,
- is overpaid by the program,
- has not complied with the terms and conditions of the program, or
- provides false or misleading information in the program application or to the Province.

False or misleading information

The Applicant agrees to refund any overpayments received from the program back to the Province within 30 days of notice being provided to them by the Province. The applicant's failure to refund such payment by that deadline may result in the debt for that amount being set off against money owed by the Province to the Eligible Applicant. Interest charges for unpaid amounts will be compounded monthly and will be added to any debt not repaid by the deadline.

Applicants who provide false or misleading information to the Province related to the program forego all program funding and are liable to repay all program funding they have received to the Province.

Debts to government or third parties

The Province has the right to deduct from any payments to an eligible applicant under the program any amount due and owing by the applicant to the Province.

From: Trace / Trace (CFIA/ACIA) <cfia.trace-trace.acia@inspection.gc.ca>

Sent: April 7, 2026 10:42 AM

To: Amy Needham <aneedham@acrd.bc.ca>

Cc: Trace / Trace (CFIA/ACIA) <cfia.trace-trace.acia@inspection.gc.ca>; CFIA Enquiries / Demande de renseignements ACIA (CFIA/ACIA) <Information@inspection.gc.ca>

Subject: RE: WEB RESPONSE / RÉPONSE DU WEB ID# 2026/3-139: Traceability Questions

[CAUTION] This email originated from outside of the ACRD

Hi Amy,

Thank you for your recent email regarding the proposed amendments to Canada's livestock traceability regulations. We apologize for the delay in our response.

For information on the proposed amendments to the livestock traceability regulations, please visit [Livestock traceability regulatory update](#). This webpage contains key information on the direction of the regulations.

Specifically:

- In 2023, proposed amendments to Part XV of the Health of Animals Regulations were published in [Canada Gazette, Part I](#) for public consultation
- Following the consultation, a [What we heard report](#) was published that summarizes the comments received
- After reviewing the input received and continued engagement with stakeholders, the following [proposed changes to the federal livestock traceability requirements](#) reflect adjustments made to date. Please note that these amendments are not yet finalized and are still under review.

Additionally, there are many resources with information on the livestock traceability regulatory update found on your industry associations websites, along with the ability to provide input and feedback.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Livestock Identification and Traceability Team

Animal Health Programs Division

Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Government of Canada

[Livestock identification and traceability - inspection.canada.ca](https://inspection.canada.ca)

Jessica Spratt

From: Jessica Spratt
Sent: April 17, 2026 9:44 AM
To: Jessica Spratt
Subject: FW: 2026 Spring Newsletter: Latest Network Updates, Research, and Opportunities

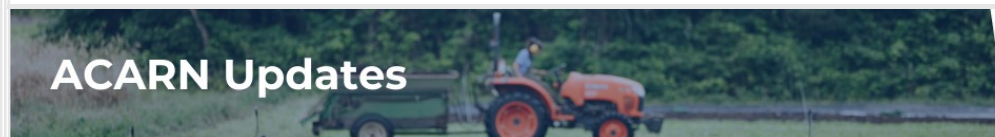
From: BC ACARN <info@bcacarn.ca>
Sent: April 15, 2026 1:07 PM
To: Amy Needham <anneedham@acrd.bc.ca>
Subject: 2026 Spring Newsletter: Latest Network Updates, Research, and Opportunities

[CAUTION] This email originated from outside of the ACRD



IN THIS ISSUE

- **ACARN Updates**
- **Network Research Spotlight**
- **Research Briefs by BC Food Web**
- **Funding & Grant Opportunities**
- **Network Events**
- **What We're Reading**



New Community Events Calendar

BC's agri-food sector is full of learning and networking opportunities, and now you can find them all in one place using **ACARN's Community Events Calendar!** We gather events from agrologists, researchers, producers, and other partners into a hub, so you can quickly find what's coming up and get involved!

Have an event to share? Add it to the calendar using this [submission form!](#)

Recruiting for ACARN's Program Advisory Group (PAG)

ACARN is recruiting for our new Program Advisory Group (PAG). The PAG is made up of ACARN members who bring perspectives from across key parts of the agricultural system, including agricultural programming and policy, agri-tech and agricultural consulting, Indigenous communities, producers, and local and municipal governments. PAG members play an important role in helping guide ACARN's program planning and identifying emerging priorities for the network.

PAG members support ACARN's research and extension work by:

- Providing input on ACARN-related research projects and extension initiatives
- Participating in sub-committees focused on research, extension, education, and outreach
- Helping align projects with the needs of farmers, communities, and agri-food sector partners
- Encouraging engagement across the network and highlighting successful projects

To learn more about the role of the Program Advisory Group, check out the updated [ACARN Terms of Reference!](#)

Interested in getting involved? Contact the Network Manager at info@bcacarn.ca with a brief description of your background, expertise, and interest.

Join our network directory!

Collaboration is at the heart of ACARN's mission. We have built a smarter network directory by mapping climate expertise and interests across the province. Whether you're seeking research collaborations, sharing climate solutions, or following ACARN's programs, our goal is to connect you with the right people to mobilize your climate action.

The directory is not public. It's thoughtfully stewarded by ACARN and used to connect members whose expertise and interests align.

Join the directory or update your profile to help us build a strong, more responsive network.

[Join the Network Directory](#)

Call for new research!

Want your agricultural research in the hands of producers? Share a recent peer-reviewed publication with us, and we'll translate it into an accessible research brief and feature it on BC Food Web.

Each brief translates your methods and findings into an accessible summary with clear, actionable takeaways for policy and practice. We feature diverse research from across the agri-food sector, from livestock grazing management to cover cropping. Scroll down to see out latest briefs!

Contact info@bcacarn.ca with the citation of your publication(s) and we'll follow up to schedule a time to discuss how we can feature it.



Network Research Spotlight



Dry farming field day at the Sandown Centre for Regenerative Agriculture, North Saanich, BC. Photo by Michael Robinson.

The Institute for Sustainable Food Systems (ISFS) at Kwantlen Polytechnic University is working with BC farmers to build local capacity for dry farming—growing crops with little or no supplemental irrigation. This approach relies on practices such as mulching, careful weed management, wider plant spacing, and drought-tolerant varieties to conserve soil moisture through the growing season.

In 2025, ISFS established dry farming demonstration sites on Vancouver Island and Salt Spring Island, where farmers successfully grew tomatoes, squash, and dry beans without irrigation. Soil moisture sensors confirmed suitable conditions, and yields met or exceeded those reported in similar Pacific Northwest trials. Differences across sites and crops point to the importance of continued place-based research.

Next steps for this work include exploring the economic costs and benefits of dry-farmed versus irrigated production, fertility management under dry-farming conditions, and region-specific guidelines to improve soil moisture conservation.

To learn more, explore the **Dry Farming Vancouver and Gulf Islands Extension Guide**, read findings from the **Farmer Dialogue on Drought**, and stay connected through the **Pacific Coastal Dry Farming Collaborative Newsletter** for upcoming workshops and field days.



Research Briefs by BC Food Web

Dive into the newest BC Food Web research briefs. These short, easy-to-read summaries break down recent findings from across the agri-food sector, giving you actionable insights to support a more sustainable food system.

Peer-reviewed research

Determining sweet cherry flavour retention for export markets

Researchers: K. A. Ross, N. C. Delury, L. Fukumoto, and J. A. Forsyth

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Of the fruit quality traits we evaluated, **fruit dry matter at harvest was the best predictor of post-storage sweet cherry flavour** (other limited overseas shipping conditions).
- We found that **colour was not a reliable indicator of maturity and/or flavour quality** as cherries with the same colour index always have the same amount of dry matter, soluble solids, or acidity (due to location and growing conditions differences).
- We found that **cherries had the best post-storage flavour when they were harvested at the following dry matter levels:** the optimal dry matter range is **22.0% - 20% dry matter for Sweetheart and 19.0% - 23.5% dry matter for Starbuck**. More research is needed to determine the optimal range for bestennial but our initial data indicates **20.5% - 23.4%** may be optimal. It is important to note that these numbers are based on 3 years of research at the Summerland Research and Development Centre and that the optimal range may differ for other regions and growing conditions.

How can this research be used?

- For the best flavour after overseas shipping, growers can try using **dry matter, instead of colour, as an indicator of when to harvest cherries**.
- Dry matter can be measured using near-infrared (NIR) spectroscopy handheld instruments, such as the Felix K-750.

Production Type

- Tree fruit

Practice Benefits

- Flavour predictor of fruit
- Flavour post-storage

Research Location

- Summerland, BC

Key Terms

- Dry matter: the solids in a fruit (including sugars, acids, carbohydrates, and starch).
- Soluble solids: primarily an indicator of sugar content but also affects overall fruit maturity and flavour quality.

Determining sweet cherry flavour for export markets

Key findings: Dry matter is the best indicator of sweet cherry flavour other than colour.

Based on a Government Publication

Managing leafhoppers in BC vineyards: Identification, monitoring, and control

Researchers: T. Lowery, A. Braaten, N. Delury, and L. Jensen

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Leafhopper management is balancing act, and understanding how pesticide applications and other control methods affect the presence of each leafhopper species is essential. The 3 main ways to manage leafhoppers are:
 1. **Monitor, measure, and identify:** Use population estimates from yellow sticky cards and field counts to guide targeted, area- and species-specific pesticide applications.
 2. **Incorporate preventative practices:** Removing leaf litter in the fall and bud break in the spring helps significantly reduce early season leafhopper populations.
 3. **Limit pesticide applications:** Reduced pesticide use can worsen outbreaks by increasing pest resistance and removing beneficial insects that naturally control leafhoppers and other pests like mealybugs and scale.

Introduction

In the early 2000s, a wine grower in North Penticton noticed unusually high insect numbers that persisted despite repeated pesticide applications. Heavy infestations of leafhoppers result in damaged and dried leaves that for vineyards can be devastating.

Production Type

- Vine grapes

Practice Benefits

- Pest management
- Reduced pesticide inputs
- Optimizing health and yield

Research Location

- Okanagan Valley area
- Similkameen Valley

Key Terms

- Nymph: The immature stage of an insect. Nymphs are newly hatched and do not have functional reproductive organs.
- Parasitoid: An animal, often an insect, that rears on another animal (its host) to grow and reproduce (Lowe et al., 2014).

Managing leafhoppers in BC vineyards: Identification, monitoring, and control

Key findings: Managing leafhoppers requires multiple complementary strategies.

Improving red colouration in Honeycrisp apples under protective netting

Key findings: Reflective groundcover and netting can reduce sunburn and improve colour.



Funding & Grant Opportunities

New CAREE Journal (University of Guelph)

The Canadian Agri-food & Rural Advisory, Extension and Education (CAREE) Journal, recently launched by the University of Guelph, is an open-access, peer-reviewed journal that promotes the exchange of knowledge and innovation in agricultural and rural extension, advisory services, communication, knowledge mobilization, and development studies.

The journal invites both critical and applied research that explores how people, knowledge, and systems interact to drive change in agri-food and rural contexts. By welcoming contributions from both academic and practitioner perspectives, the CAREE Journal provides space for work that challenges conventional approaches and introduces new tools, frameworks, and narratives in support of more equitable, adaptive, and sustainable rural futures.

Climate Foresight Program | Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions

The Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS) is inviting proposals from researchers to lead multidisciplinary conversations on emerging climate challenges and solutions. Successful applicants will receive up to \$30,000 to design and host a multi-day, retreat-style dialogue taking place this fall.

This program is intended to bring together diverse perspectives and help shape forward-looking climate solutions, particularly for topics that are under-researched and complex. **The application deadline is May 10, 2026.** More details and application information are available on the PICS website.

Knowledge and Technology Transfer Program

The Knowledge and Technology Transfer Program (KTTP) helps organizations deliver training and learning activities for agricultural producers and food processors in British Columbia.

Up to 75% of eligible costs, to a maximum of \$7,500 per application

Applications open: March 4, 2026

BC Peace Agriculture Fund | Farming Infrastructure

The BC Hydro Peace Agricultural Compensation Fund opened its 2026 intake cycle! This program provides funding for agricultural events and education initiatives, farming infrastructure, and research and demonstration projects. Click the link to learn more about how this funding can support your work.

Intake 2 closes: July 2, 2026



Network Events

Research Impact Training Series: What is Research Impact? (April 15, 9AM)

Research impact can often feel intangible - but it doesn't have to be. This webinar makes impact accessible, practical, and achievable for researchers at any stage. During this session, you'll explore three powerful levers for impact:

- Mechanism: Define the change your research is working toward and how it can happen.
- People: Identifying your audience and how to reach them is foundational to everything that follows.
- Framework: Map your pathway to impact in a way that supports both strategic planning and credible evaluation.

Who's growing Food Sovereignty in Canada? A Learning Circle Series (April 15 - May 13)

How do we build more food sovereign communities? This series brings together visionary changemakers in our food movement from farmers, researchers, policy experts to grassroots activists.

This series will explore the history, politics, and practices that support food sovereignty on the ground.

Workshop 1 — Planting the Seeds: Introducing Food Sovereignty in Canada

Wednesday, April 15, 2026 | 12:00–2:00 PM ET

Workshop 2 — Growing Food Sovereignty: Policy, Trade, and Fair Work

Wednesday, April 29, 2026 | 12:00–2:00 PM ET

Workshop 3 — Food Sovereignty from the Ground Up

Wednesday, May 13, 2026 | 12:00–2:00 PM ET

Biochar Webinar (May 7, 12PM)

Biochar is gaining interest as a tool to improve soil performance, manage nutrients, and make better use of on-farm resources. This upcoming webinar will explore how activated (or “charged”) biochar made from dairy manure is being researched and applied in dairy and mixed farming systems.

Speakers will share practical insights on how biochar works, what current research is showing, and what farmers should consider if they’re interested in on-farm demonstrations or trials.

If you’re interested in manure management, soil health, or applied research collaborations, this session is for you!

BC Agriculture Forum (June 24-25)

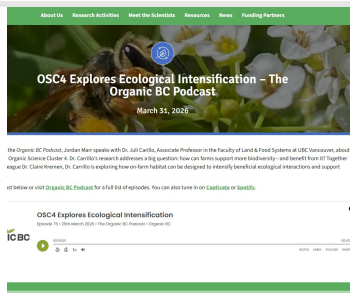
This two-day event brings together farmers, ranchers, government representatives, researchers, and industry partners to engage in meaningful dialogue on the most pressing challenges and opportunities facing agriculture in British Columbia.

The Forum will feature on-farm tours and a welcome reception on day one, followed by a policy-focused conference, keynote speakers, and collaborative roundtable discussions on day two. Learn more and register by visiting the event website.

To see more community events, check out ACARN's new calendar!

ACARN Events Calendar

What We're Reading



OSC4 Explores Ecological Intensification

This episode explores research from, Dr. Juli Carillo, associate professor in the faculty of Land & Food Systems at UBC Vancouver, and her UBC colleague Dr. Claire Kremen,

Juli's [Organic Science Cluster 4 research](#) is exploring how on-farm habitat can be amended to intensify beneficial ecological interactions. Translation: how can we increase and support biodiversity on the farm that in turn supports farm production goals?

Check out other this one and other great [OrganicBC podcasts!](#)

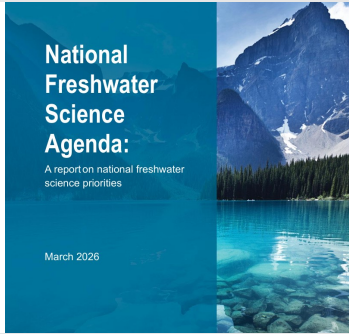


Policy Brief: Agriculture R&D through a critical infrastructure lens

For decades, public agricultural research in Canada helped build the sector we know today. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's network of research centres, satellite farms and labs, along with provincial institutions and universities, underpinned much of the innovation that farmers now see as standard.

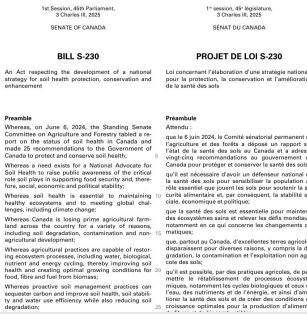
Over time, that foundation has thinned out. AAFC's total spending on agricultural R&D has fallen, and the composition has shifted away from the infrastructure

and operating budgets that keep research sites functional.



A New National Freshwater Science Agenda

Canada released a new National Freshwater Science Agenda to guide freshwater research priorities over the next decade. Developed with input from more than 800 experts and Indigenous Knowledge Holders, it outlines shared priorities such as water availability, pollution, ecosystem resilience, and the integration of Western and Indigenous science. Read the Government of Canada's press release for more information.



A New National Strategy for Soil Health

A National Strategy for Soil Health (Bill S-230) was introduced in March 2026. Informed by the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry's Critical Ground report, the strategy outlines a coordinated approach to protecting, conserving, and enhancing Canada's soils. Read the Government of Canada's press release, or access the bill directly for full details.



BC's new Plant and Animal Health Centre

BC purchased a 40-acre property in Abbotsford to build a new Plant and Animal Health Centre. The new centre will provide various services to producers and other members of the agri-food sector, including diagnostics to help monitor and manage plant and animal diseases. Read the latest provincial announcement for more details, and stay tuned for updates as the project progresses.





To: Agricultural Development Committee

From: Amy Needham, P.Ag, Sustainability Planner

Meeting Date: April 21, 2026

Subject: Food Security Emergency Plan, Agricultural Water Plan and Livestock Emergency Plan Implementation

Recommendation:

THAT the Agricultural Development Committee request that the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board of Directors direct staff to implement the Alberni Valley Food Security Emergency Plan, West Coast Food Security Emergency Plan, Alberni Valley Agricultural Water Plan and Alberni Valley Livestock Emergency Plan as collaborative partnerships and grant opportunities arise.

Desired Outcome:

That the ACRD support local food security, emergency planning and agricultural producers through supporting staff to implement recently developed emergency and food security planning policy documents according to budget and capacity. The implementation of actions and key priorities identified in the plans would be supported by staff searching and applying for grants and seeking partnership opportunities within the region.

Background and Summary:

In October 2023, the ACRD received a grant from the Province of BC through the Investment Agriculture Foundation to explore long term options for water to use for food production in the Alberni Valley. In March 2024, the ACRD received funding through the Food Security Emergency Planning & Preparedness fund from the Province of BC through the Investment Agriculture Foundation to conduct a two-phase project on food security across the ACRD in the context of emergency planning for flooding, drought, wildfire and supply chain interruption.

Each plan focuses on a specific area of the ACRD, as geography, climate, soil, precipitation, and access impose very different opportunities and limitations to both food production and emergency planning in each area. The Alberni Valley plans include a [livestock emergency plan](#) that satisfies all new legislative requirements imposed by the province through the *Emergency & Disaster Management Act* that was enacted in 2023 and may be used by area farmers to plan for and respond to emergencies, a [food security emergency plan for the City of Port Alberni and Alberni Valley](#), and an [agricultural water plan](#) focusing on

exploring the feasibility and cost of potential options to secure irrigation water supply and support increased long term food production in the Alberni Valley.

The [West Coast Food Security Emergency Plan](#) focuses on the unique challenges associated with food security and sovereignty on the West Coast, an area with no Agricultural Land Reserve but where non-traditional food production, foraging, and aquaculture are both crucial and often overlooked, and where road access issues and supply chain interruptions have long been a part of life.

All four reports include a number of recommended actions for food security emergency planning and preparedness, increased community food resiliency, First Nations' food sovereignty, agricultural water storage, and livestock emergency planning, which are summarized in the attached table for the committee's review.

The committee may make recommendations to the ACRD Board for which implementation actions should take priority, as well as recommending that staff be directed to investigate opportunities for grant leveraging and community partnerships to action implementation options included in the reports as they arise. Some of the implementation actions may require the ACRD to investigate creating a sustainability service that would support activities relating to food security, environment, watershed health, and climate adaptation, that are not already considered within the existing services that the ACRD provides.

Time Requirements – Staff & Elected Officials:

Any implementation requested by the committee will have to fit within the Sustainability Planner's current workplan, which is also focusing on climate adaptation planning on the West Coast as well as many other projects related to their diverse portfolios.

Partnerships in implementation can be explored with non-governmental organizations such as the Alberni Farmers' Institute, Alberni Valley Food Security Society, Tofino Community Food Initiative, or with other governments and community groups as priority alignment occurs.

Financial:

The agricultural planning budget for 2026 is \$25,000 with the majority of the funding allocated for agricultural and food security initiatives guided by the Agricultural Development Committee and the Coastal Foods Roundtable. With direction from the Board, a portion of this budget could be reallocated to fund agricultural initiatives as they arise or as matching funds to leverage grants. Any implementation in 2027 would be discussed by the Board during the development of the 2027-2031 Financial Plan.

Strategic Plan Implications:

ACRD Strategic Plan objective 1.2.2 reads 'work with regional agricultural producers toward identifying and addressing challenges faced by regulations and climate change.' Objective 1.5.1 supports staff to 'actively pursue grants that align with or advance the regions' strategic and operational needs.' The Strategic Plan also outlines the intersection of emergency management, climate adaptation and water in Objective 2.4 to 'examine the impacts of drought on the security of our water systems' and to 'identify and consider the impacts of climate change as it relates to hazard and risk assessments.'

Implementation of these plans will help achieve all of these listed strategic goals.

Comments:

The Sustainability Planner will be the primary staff member facilitating implementation of plan recommendations. As they already have a full workplan for 2026 and budget has been adopted, progress will likely only be made this year on recommendations as collaborations with food system actors arise, should Board direction be to pursue these collaborations.

Often, progress on plan recommendations is tied to successful grant applications, as budgets are set early in the year and all levels of government are practicing fiscal restraint. Board direction to staff to actively search and apply for applicable grants can increase implementation, as it allows for taking advantage of grant programs as they launch.

Options Considered:

1. That the Agricultural Development Committee accept this report for information.

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

Reviewed by: *Cynthia Dick*
Cynthia Dick, General Manager of Administrative Services

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

Implementation of Alberni Valley Food Security Emergency Plan

| Action ID | Action | Description | Lead Actor(s) | Supporting Actors | Timeline | Resource Level | Priority | Additional Capacity Required? | Additional Budget Required? |
|---|---|---|-----------------|---|----------|----------------|----------|---|--|
| Food Security Emergency Management Planning and Preparedness Actions | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Support funding for backup generators/ secondary power sources for cold storage, emergency reception centre kitchens, and other critical food assets. | Support organizations in applying for grant funding for off-grid (solar) power and/or back-up generators for critical food assets such as cold storage (refrigerated and frozen), community kitchens, community halls, and emergency reception centres. This would allow food storage facilities to have reliable backup power in case of outages. | CPA ACRD | Community hall associations | Ongoing | Low | High | Depending on the level of involvement | Depends if matching grant funds are required. |
| 2 | Conduct a post-disaster assessment of impacts to food security. | After an emergency has occurred, convene all relevant parties related to agriculture and food security to discuss lessons learned and opportunities to increase resiliency to future emergencies. | ACRD | AFI AVFSS Food access orgs Chamber of Commerce | Ongoing | Medium | High | No | No |
| 3 | Advocate for more cell service and broad band connectivity throughout the Alberni Valley. | Advocate to the Province and to service providers to increase rural broadband deployment and cell phone connectivity (e.g. communications towers) in rural areas. | ACRD | AFI | Short | Low | High | No | No |
| 4 | Consider if food storage needs and distribution logistics are adequate at Emergency Reception Centres. | Convene the ACRD Protective Services Department, CPA, Salvation Army and centre owners/managers to discuss organization and logistics of food access at emergency reception centres (e.g. Echo 67 Community Centre, Alberni Athletic Hall, Sproat Lake Community Hall, Beaver Creek Community Hall, Cherry Creek Community Hall), which may include the need for food storage on-site. Consider establishing MOUs with emergency reception centres to articulate responsibilities. Explore the possibility of using of storage containers to store emergency food and supplies throughout the Alberni Valley. | ACRD CPA | Salvation Army Community hall associations | Short | Medium | High | Can be completed in-house but perhaps not with current workloads. | Budget will be required if reception centres require money to rent food storage space. |

Implementation of Alberni Valley Food Security Emergency Plan

| Action ID | Action | Description | Lead Actor(s) | Supporting Actors | Timeline | Resource Level | Priority | Additional Capacity Required? | Additional Budget Required? |
|-----------|--|--|---------------|--|----------|----------------|----------|--|--|
| 5 | Create a food distribution strategy between local governments, farmers, food banks, food security organization and other actors to activate during an emergency. | <p>Develop of a comprehensive strategy for the inclusive and effective distribution of food and water during emergencies. This strategy should identify clear locations for distribution or outreach, incorporate safe and accessible distribution techniques, and outline procedures for prioritizing vulnerable populations when resources are limited.</p> <p>Particular attention should be given to ensuring equitable access for marginalized populations, as well as individuals with mobility, health, or transportation challenges. Establishing these guidelines in advance will help ensure that critical resources are distributed fairly, transparently, and in a manner that maintains community trust during times of crisis. Consider including seafood businesses to determine if they could play a role in emergency food distribution to provide local protein sources. Consider conducting "dry-run" or "test" scenarios that mimic an emergency to troubleshoot plan/process. Consider establishing MOUs with organizations as part of this strategy.</p> <p>Include the need for potable water for drinking, food preparation, and the rehydration of baby formula.</p> <p>The communications components of the food distribution strategy could involve identifying primary points of contact for each party, communication channels for real-time updates during an emergency, and defining roles, commitments, and expectations related to food access and distribution during emergencies between all involved parties. Refer to the ACRD Emergency Communication and Public Notification Plan for existing communications protocols and ensure alignment between the two documents.</p> | ACRD | CPA Interested First Nations Salvation Army AFI AVFSS Island Health Community Hall Associations Food banks Others as deemed appropriate | Short | High | Medium | Similar to above - could be completed in-house but unlikely with current workloads. If time is of the essence, then a grant could be explored to hire these items out. | Similar to above - could be completed in-house but unlikely with current workloads. If time is of the essence, then a grant could be explored to hire these items out. |
| 6 | Provide resources to producers around creating and updating a Farm Emergency Plan for their operation. | Keep links to the resources on the ACRD Agriculture webpage and the Farm Emergency Plan templates updated. Communicate the importance of having an Emergency Plan to producers through social media and workshops/events (e.g. a guided workshop to create/update producers' Plans). | ACRD | AFI | Short | Low | High | No, but will have to be assigned to workplans. | Funding would be required to host workshops or events. |
| 7 | Support preparedness for livestock evacuations. | <p>Implement the ACRD Livestock Emergency Plan.</p> <p>Consider adding a policy statement in EA OCPs about supporting the agriculture community in emergencies and referencing implementation support for the ACRD Livestock Emergency Plan.</p> | ACRD | AFI | Medium | Medium - High | High | Potentially | Potentially |
| | | | | | | | | No | No |

Implementation of Alberni Valley Food Security Emergency Plan

| Action ID | Action | Description | Lead Actor(s) | Supporting Actors | Timeline | Resource Level | Priority | Additional Capacity Required? | Additional Budget Required? |
|--|---|--|---------------|--|----------|----------------|----------|---|---|
| 8 | Advocate for alternative emergency routes into and out of the ACRD. | In alignment with the ACRD 2024-2027 Strategic Plan, advocate to the Province (Ministry of Transportation and Transit) and other relevant authorities on alternative emergency routes including but not limited to Highway 4, marine and air-based travel. | ACRD | CPA Chamber of Commerce Interested First Nations | Medium | Low | High | No, Special Projects Director is working on it already. | Budgeted within 2026 workplan |
| 9 | Convene a meeting with large grocery retailers to discuss food distribution challenges during an emergency. | Host a meeting with large grocery retailers to understand the challenges they face in re-stocking and managing sales during an emergency with the aim of increasing food access to residents as much as possible. | ACRD | Grocery Retailers | Medium | Medium | Low | Yes | Yes |
| 10 | Expand the Alberni Valley Gleaning Project to be able to mobilize during an emergency. | Build up the Gleaning Project such that it can be mobilized in coordination with farmers to harvest and distribute foods during an emergency. | ACRD | AVFSS AFI | Long | Medium | Medium | Yes, the gleaning program requires full time help in the summer season. | Yes additional funding is needed to boost the program's capacity. |
| 11 | Collaborate with relevant partners to support agri-food business continuity planning efforts. | Work with the Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce and Island Health to understand how local governments could best support the solutions and next steps outlined in the Highway 4 Disruption and Resiliency Solutions Report. | ACRD CPA | Chamber of Commerce Island Health | Long | Low - Medium | Low | Yes | Yes |
| 12 | Update ACRD Disaster and Emergency Management Plan to reference recent planning documents | The <i>ACRD Disaster and Emergency Management Plan</i> (DEMP) has recently been updated and provides some mention of food access during emergencies. However, to increase food security and enhance communication with producers during emergencies, it is recommended that when the DEMP is updated in the future to reference this Alberni Valley FSEP and the Livestock Evacuation Plan for the Alberni Valley. | ACRD | | Long | Low | Low | Yes | No |
| Long-term Food Security Actions for Increased Community Food Resiliency | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Allow local government land awaiting development to be used for food production (e.g. market gardens). Amend EA OCPs to include wording specific to supporting agriculture on surplus land. Consider including an agricultural land designation in EAs for this type of use. | ACRD CPA | AFI AVFSS | | | | Yes | Yes |

Implementation of Alberni Valley Food Security Emergency Plan

| Action ID | Action | Description | Lead Actor(s) | Supporting Actors | Timeline | Resource Level | Priority | Additional Capacity Required? | Additional Budget Required? |
|-----------|--|--|---------------|--|----------|----------------|----------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 13 | Promote increased utilization of publicly-owned land for agriculture and food growing. | Consider leasing public land to producers when feasible - using affordable, long-term leases to support farm business planning and continuity. Explore a regional foodlands access program (such as the Capital Regional District's Regional Foodlands Access Service Bylaw). | | AF | Ongoing | Medium | Medium | Yes | Yes |
| | | Develop guidelines for local government staff to plant food crops within public land and parkland. For example, when planting fruit trees/shrubs in parks consult the Wildsafe BC program/coordinator. Allocate maintenance capacity to care for edible plants in Parks Department budgets and workplans. | | | | | | Yes | Yes, to purchase, plant and maintain plants. |
| | | Continue to support community gardens with fencing, irrigation and infrastructure. For example, the AVFSS is undertaking an expansion of the Dry Creek Community Garden and support could be in-kind through fencing, tree pruning, etc. | | | | | | Potentially | Potentially |
| 14 | Promote increased utilization of private agricultural lands for a greater diversity of crop and livestock production. | Support the province and other organizations (e.g. AFI) in providing extension services to producers wishing to try new crop varieties, help new entrants gain access to land by connecting entrants with the Young Agrarians organization and direct producers to AF Beneficial Management Practices resources related to crop production. | ACRD | AFI Young Agrarians AF | Medium | Medium | Medium | Depending on the level of involvement | Depending on the level of involvement. |
| | | Advocate to the province and other agencies related to challenges producers face such as high land and insurance costs, water licencing delays, regulatory complexities and other issues as identified by regional producers. | | | | | | Depending on the level of advocacy | No |
| 15 | Continue to provide support to organizations working on public education related to food security and advisory committees. | Provide support (for example, letters of support for grants, funding, advertising, staff time, or in-kind) to organizations hosting workshops, events, etc. related to food security (e.g. food processing, growing their own food and purchasing locally produced foods, and other topics). For example, the AFI, the AVFSS, garden clubs, community associations and others. Support local schools and daycares to integrate gardens and growing into their schoolgrounds and curriculums. | ACRD CPA | AFI AVFSS CAWS AAC ADC SD70 and other schools | Ongoing | Medium | High | Potentially | Potentially |

Implementation of Alberni Valley Food Security Emergency Plan

| Action ID | Action | Description | Lead Actor(s) | Supporting Actors | Timeline | Resource Level | Priority | Additional Capacity Required? | Additional Budget Required? |
|-----------|--|--|--|---|----------|----------------|----------|-------------------------------|---|
| | | Support the continuation of the CAWS, AAC and ADC through facilitation and honorariums that acknowledge the specialized knowledge of local food growers. | | | | | | No | Yes, to cover honorariums |
| 16 | Advocate to the province to continue to streamline meat processing permits and regulations, without compromising food safety. | Advocate to the province for the development of a streamlined renewal pathway for meat processing licences that is clearly differentiated from initial applications, as well as creating and communicating clear guidance on inspector standards during inspection. | ACRD | AFI AF | Short | Low | High | No | No |
| 17 | Support existing and new food and seafood processing businesses. | Provide the following support: | ACRD CPA | Chamber of Commerce Community Futures Island Health | Ongoing | Low | Medium | Yes | Yes |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - letters of support for grants, - assistance with zoning and permitting processes, - water and electrical hook-ups. This may include support for Dock+ expansions and meat processing. Some priority should be given to processing businesses that also contain cold (refrigerated or frozen) storage with generator backup. | | | | | | No | No |
| 18 | Support establishment of refrigerated and frozen cold storage space with backup generators outside of the tsunami inundation zone. | Support businesses, NGOs, or other local organizations wishing to establish cold storage (with generator backup) by providing letters of support for grants and help determine appropriate locations based on utilities, services, and zoning/building permits as required. In EA OCPs, consider explicitly supporting food security infrastructure developments (e.g. food processing, community kitchens, food storage) through policy statements. Include publicly accessible cold storage (with generator backup) space in future plans for centralized markets, food banks and/or emergency infrastructure. | CPA | Chamber of Commerce | Medium | Low | Medium | Yes | Yes, in the case of future infrastructure design. |
| | | ACRD | Fire Halls Community Halls Island Health | | | | | | |

Implementation of Alberni Valley Food Security Emergency Plan

| Action ID | Action | Description | Lead Actor(s) | Supporting Actors | Timeline | Resource Level | Priority | Additional Capacity Required? | Additional Budget Required? |
|---|--|--|---------------|---|----------|----------------|-----------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 19 | Allow water use for food production year-round in both urban and rural areas. | As water restriction phases are enacted during drought conditions, continue to allow irrigation of crops and household gardens as water supplies permit. | ACRD CPA | CCWD | Ongoing | Low | As needed | No | No |
| 20 | Increase access to water for agricultural irrigation. | Implement the findings of the ACRD Agricultural Water Plan. | ACRD | AFI CPA CCWD | Medium | High | High | Yes | Definitely |
| 21 | Continue and expand the municipal waste diversion program to create high quality soil amendments. | Support the ACRD's three-stream organics diversion and production of soil amendments, such as compost. | ACRD | | Long | Medium | Low | No | No |
| | | Expand organics diversion within the ACRD to explore the possibility of accepting fish waste. Ensure the finished product is of high quality and that distribution is available to residents. | CPA | | | | | Potentially | Potentially |
| 22 | Explore options for the development of a year-round, permanent centralized farmers market complex. | A single high-traffic farmers' market, instead of multiple low-traffic markets could help improve sales for producers and access for residents and tourists. This would involve a feasibility study to determine potential locations, structural requirements and the options to include components of food processing, storage (dry and cold, with backup generator), distribution, production and education, to increase long-term food security and food access during an emergency. Consider if local government zoning bylaws need to be modified to allow for these multiple uses. | CPA ACRD | ADC Chamber of Commerce Island Health | Long | High | Medium | Yes | Yes |
| | | In the short-term, continue supporting existing markets until feasibility study is completed. Support can include reasonable or exempted lease rates, advertising on social media/websites, etc. | | | | | | No | Yes |
| Actions to Support First Nations' Food Sovereignty and Emergency Food Security | | | | | | | | | |
| 23 | Explore permanent funding sources for staff positions to increase programming related to food production, preservation and food sovereignty. | <u>Tseshaht First Nation</u> Additional staff/capacity required to increase food sovereignty programming and manage agricultural lands once developed. | TFN HFN | | Ongoing | Low | High | N/A | N/A |
| | | <u>Hupacasath First Nation</u> Additional staff/capacity required to increase food sovereignty programming such as food preservation workshops and maintain/expand the community farm. ACRD support could include letters of support, assistance with grant writing, or sharing of appropriate funding sources. | ACRD | | | | | N/A | N/A |
| | | <u>Tseshaht First Nation</u> | TFN | | | | | No | No |

Implementation of Alberni Valley Food Security Emergency Plan

| Action ID | Action | Description | Lead Actor(s) | Supporting Actors | Timeline | Resource Level | Priority | Additional Capacity Required? | Additional Budget Required? |
|-----------|---|---|---------------|--------------------------|----------|----------------|----------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 24 | Pursue grant funding applications to expand infrastructure, equipment and training related to food sovereignty and emergency food security. | Support applying for grants in the following focus areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Assess water sources for agricultural land development, including the capacity of the well at the Old Airport site. o Expand the food box program; this program boosts community nutrition and checks in on members physical and mental health. o Water infrastructure upgrades at Tseshaht Paper Mill Dam Park to enable construction of smokehouses. Water source/infrastructure could also be used for fire suppression. o Additional cold storage and freezer storage situated outside the tsunami flood zone and equipped with backup power. o Solar panel installation at Somass Hall. o Any other emerging areas of interest to support both long-term and emergency food security. | HFN | ACRD | Ongoing | Medium | High | No | No |
| | | <u>Hupačasath First Nation</u> Support applying for grants in the following focus areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Fencing (including electric fencing) the farm perimeter and establishing a dedicated composting structure (e.g. concrete slab with roof). o Commercial-grade dehydrators and related food preservation equipment. o Workshops and training related to food preservation using a variety of techniques such as dehydrating, freeze drying and canning, cooking workshops using produce from the farm, and sharing traditional knowledge related to foods and medicines. o Any other emerging areas of interest to support both long-term and emergency food security. ACRD support could include letters of support, assistance with grant writing, or sharing of funding sources. | No | | | | | No | |
| 25 | Continue building partnership with educational institutions (e.g. North Island College, University of Victoria, Vancouver Island University, KPU) to conduct research on agricultural | <u>Tseshaht First Nation</u> There has been interest from several universities and colleges about collaborations regarding the development of the agricultural lands. Continue to facilitate connections through existing relationships with educational institutions. | TFN | ACRD | Ongoing | Low | High | Potentially | Potentially |
| | | <u>Hupačasath First Nation</u> | HFN | Educational Institutions | | | | | |

Implementation of Alberni Valley Food Security Emergency Plan

| Action ID | Action | Description | Lead Actor(s) | Supporting Actors | Timeline | Resource Level | Priority | Additional Capacity Required? | Additional Budget Required? |
|-----------|--|---|---------------|-------------------|----------|----------------|----------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | conduct research on agricultural lands. | Continue to support collaboration with educational institutions to provide workshops, courses and micro-credentials on the community farm. | | | | | | No | No |
| 26 | Explore the potential to include fish waste from processing into the regional three-stream composting program. | Discuss with the ACRD the feasibility of collecting fish processing wastes. Finished compost can then be provided back to each Nation to grow food on their agricultural lands and community farm respectively. | TFN HFN | ACRD | Medium | Medium | High | Yes | Yes |

Implementation of West Coast Food Security Emergency Plan

| Action ID | Action | Description | Lead Actor(s) | Supporting Actors | Timeline | Resource Level | Priority | Additional Capacity Required? | Additional Budget Required? |
|---|---|---|--------------------|---|----------|----------------|----------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Food Security Emergency Management Planning and Preparedness Actions | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Create a food distribution strategy between local governments, hotels and resorts, restaurants, food banks, food security organizations and other actors to activate during an emergency. | <p>Development of a comprehensive strategy for the inclusive and effective distribution of food and water during emergencies. This strategy should identify clear locations for distribution or outreach, incorporate safe and accessible distribution techniques, and outline procedures for prioritizing vulnerable populations when resources are limited. Particular attention should be given to ensuring equitable access for marginalized populations, as well as individuals with mobility, health, or transportation challenges. Establishing these guidelines in advance will help ensure that critical resources are distributed fairly, transparently, and in a manner that maintains community trust during times of crisis. Consider including seafood businesses to determine if they could play a role in emergency food distribution to provide local protein sources. Consider conducting "dry-run" or "test" scenarios that mimic an emergency to troubleshoot the plans and/or processes. Establishing MOUs with organizations as part of this strategy is a critical step.</p> <p>This action should include recognition of the importance of potable water needs for consumption, for the rehydration of dried food, and for the use in baby formula.</p> | ACRD DoT DoU | Salvation Army Food Bank on the Edge Fish and Loaves Tofino Interested First Nations TUCG TCH BCSA BMSC Island Health Restaurants Others as deemed appropriate | Short | High | Medium | Yes | Yes |

Implementation of West Coast Food Security Emergency Plan

| Action ID | Action | Description | Lead Actor(s) | Supporting Actors | Timeline | Resource Level | Priority | Additional Capacity Required? | Additional Budget Required? |
|-----------|---|---|--------------------|---|----------|----------------|----------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | | <p>The communications components of the food distribution strategy could involve identifying primary points of contact for each party, communication channels for real-time updates during an emergency and defining roles, commitments, and expectations related to food access and distribution during emergencies between all involved parties. Refer to the ACRD Emergency Communication and Public Notification Plan for existing communications protocols and ensure alignment between the two documents.</p> <p>Partnerships with water purveyors and municipalities may offer additional supports during an emergency.</p> <p>Consider referring to municipal drinking water plans that address emergency planning for potable water if applicable and available.</p> <p>Consider recommendations from the Mount Underwood post-emergency report.</p> | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Advocate for more cell service and broad band connectivity throughout the Highway 4 corridor, Pacific Rim Highway, Franklin River Road, and Bamfield, and tsunami siren upgrades in Bamfield. | <p>Advocate to the Province and to service providers to increase rural broadband deployment and cell phone connectivity (e.g. communications towers) in rural areas.</p> <p>Leverage grant funding to expand/repair tsunami sirens in Bamfield.</p> | ACRD | DoT DoU | Short | Low | High | No | No |
| | Consider if food storage needs and | <p>Tofino-Ucluelet Corridor: Convene the ACRD Protective Services Department, DoT, DoU, Salvation Army, and food banks to discuss organization and logistics of food access at emergency reception centres (Tofino Community Hall and Ucluelet Secondary School), which may include the need for food storage on-site.</p> | ACRD DoT DoU | Salvation Army Food Bank on the Edge | | | | Yes | Yes |

Implementation of West Coast Food Security Emergency Plan

| Action ID | Action | Description | Lead Actor(s) | Supporting Actors | Timeline | Resource Level | Priority | Additional Capacity Required? | Additional Budget Required? |
|-----------|--|--|--------------------|---|----------|----------------|----------|--|-----------------------------|
| 3 | distribution logistics are adequate at Emergency Reception Centres. | Bamfield-HFN: Convene the ACRD Protective Services Department, Fire Hall Staff, HFN, BCSA and BMSC and other potential organizations to discuss organization and logistics of food access at emergency reception centres (Bamfield Community School), which may include the need for additional food storage on-site. Consider recommendations from the Mount Underwood post-emergency report. | | BMSC BCSA HFN | Short | Medium | High | Yes | Yes |
| 4 | Explore emergency food storage on Airport Lands at Tofino-Long Beach (YAZ) and at the water aerodomes in Tofino, Ucluelet, and Bamfield. | Determine the feasibility of installing shipping containers (e.g. seacans or other storage structures) to store shelf-stable food (and other emergency supplies) on airport lands at Tofino-Long Beach (YAZ) and at the water aerodomes of Tofino, Ucluelet, and Bamfield. Consider who will manage and maintain the supplies and distribution during an emergency. | ACRD | Airport and water aerodome users / members. | Short | Low | High | Yes | Yes |
| 5 | Engage with the tourism sector about emergency planning and food needs. | Convene restaurants, resorts and tourist lodgings in Tofino, Ucluelet and Area C to discuss emergency planning, communication and food access and storage needs. Consider determining appropriate communication avenues between parties during an emergency (including protocols for short-term road blockages and power outages). Consider the use of MOUs or LOUs where appropriate. | ACRD DoT DoU | Restaurants Resorts Tourist lodgings | Short | Medium | Medium | Yes | Yes |
| 6 | Engage with the BMSC about emergency planning and food needs. | Engage with the BMSC about the possibility of entering into an agreement or MOU to utilize their kitchen facilities to feed residents during an emergency. This may also require engaging with the BC Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR). | ACRD | BMSC EMCR | Short | Low | High | No | No |
| 7 | Advocate for alternative emergency routes into and out of West Coast communities. | In alignment with the ACRD 2024-2027 Strategic Plan, advocate to the Province (Ministry of Transportation and Transit) and other relevant authorities on alternative emergency routes including but not limited to Hwy 4, improvements on routes to Bamfield from Port Alberni and Youbou, and consider marine and air-based travel during emergencies. | ACRD | DoT DoU | Medium | Low | High | Special Projects Director is working on this | Potentially |

Implementation of West Coast Food Security Emergency Plan

| Action ID | Action | Description | Lead Actor(s) | Supporting Actors | Timeline | Resource Level | Priority | Additional Capacity Required? | Additional Budget Required? |
|--|--|--|--------------------|---|----------|----------------|-----------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 8 | Collaborate with relevant partners to support food business continuity planning efforts. | <p>Work with the Chambers of Commerce to understand how local governments could best support the solutions and next steps outlined in the Highway 4 Disruption and Resiliency Solutions Report.</p> <p>Consider developing a spreadsheet and/or checklist for food-related businesses of actions that can be taken to prepare for, and recover from, emergencies.</p> <p>Provide support in the form of inspections of facilities and assessing safety of food operations after emergencies (in partnership with Island Health).</p> | ACRD CPA | Chambers of Commerce Island Health's Environmental Public Health Team | Long | Low | Low | Yes | Yes |
| 9 | Conduct a post-disaster assessment of impacts to food security. | After an emergency has occurred, convene all relevant parties related to food security to discuss lessons learned and opportunities to increase resiliency to future emergencies. | ACRD DoT DoU | Food security & access orgs Interested First Nations Chambers of Commerce | Ongoing | Medium | As needed | Yes | Yes |
| 10 | Support funding for backup generators/ secondary power sources for cold storage, emergency reception centres and other critical food assets. | <p>Support organizations in applying for grant funding for off-grid (solar) and back-up generators for critical food assets such as cold storage (refrigerated and frozen), community kitchens, community halls, and emergency reception centres. This would allow food storage facilities to have reliable backup power in case of outages.</p> <p>For example, Tofino Community Hall (TCH), Bamfield Community School (BCS) and BMSC.</p> | ACRD DoT DoU | TCH BCSA BMSC SD70 | Ongoing | Low | As needed | Yes | Yes |
| Long-term Food Security Actions for Increased Community Food Resiliency | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Continue to support community gardens with fencing, irrigation and infrastructure. Establish new community gardens when possible and where there is interest. | | | | | | Yes | Yes |

Implementation of West Coast Food Security Emergency Plan

| Action ID | Action | Description | Lead Actor(s) | Supporting Actors | Timeline | Resource Level | Priority | Additional Capacity Required? | Additional Budget Required? |
|-----------|--|--|--------------------|---|----------|----------------|----------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 11 | Promote increased utilization of publicly-owned land for agriculture and food growing. | Develop guidelines for local government staff to plant food crops within public land and parkland. For example, when planting fruit trees in parks consult the Wildsafe BC program/coordinator. Allocate maintenance capacity to care for edible plants in Parks Department budgets and workplans. | DoT DoU ACRD | TCFI CBT-EWC BCSA | Ongoing | Medium | High | Yes | Yes |
| | | Provide long term leases and/or other forms of commitment and support to farms located on publicly-owned lands. | | | | | | No | No |
| | | Allow local government land awaiting development (e.g. at the Long Beach airport) to be used for intensive food production (e.g. market gardens/greenhouses). Amend the Tofino-Ucluelet Airport Land Use Plan, Area C and Area A OCPs to include wording specific to supporting agriculture on surplus land. Consider including this land under an agricultural land designation in both EA OCPs. | | | | | | Yes | Yes |
| | | Consider leasing public land to producers when feasible - using affordable, long-term leases to support farm business planning and continuity. | | | | | | Yes | Yes |
| 12 | Support existing and new food and seafood processing businesses | Provide the following support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - letters of support for grants, - assistance with zoning and permitting processes, - water and electrical hook-ups. | ACRD DoT DoU | Tofino, Ucluelet and Bamfield Chambers of Commerce Island Health | Ongoing | Low | High | Yes | Yes |
| | | Consider priority to processing businesses that also contain cold (refrigerated and frozen) storage with generator backup. Work with Island Health's Environmental Public Health Team to support with inspection of facilities and permitting processes. Work with Island Health's Healthy Built Environment and Community Development team for referrals regarding OCPs and Zoning Bylaws and associated amendments. | | | | | | Yes | Yes |

Implementation of West Coast Food Security Emergency Plan

| Action ID | Action | Description | Lead Actor(s) | Supporting Actors | Timeline | Resource Level | Priority | Additional Capacity Required? | Additional Budget Required? |
|-----------|--|---|--------------------|---|----------|----------------|----------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 13 | Continue to support organizations working on public education related to food security and advisory committees. | Provide support (for example, letters of support for grants, funding, advertising, or in-kind) to organizations hosting workshops, events, and working with students, related to food security (e.g. food processing/ preservation, growing their own food, and other topics). For example, the CFR, CBT, TCFI, TUCG, BCSEA. | ACRD DoT DoU | CFR CBT-EWC TCFI TUCG BCSA | Ongoing | Medium | High | Yes | Yes |
| | | Support the continuation of the Coastal Foods Roundtable co-facilitation partnership. This group may wish to meet more than twice annually in order to provide additional implementation support for these recommendations. | | | | | | No | Yes |
| 14 | Work towards long-term water security. | Collaborate with DoT, DoU, and First Nations to secure long-term water sources for drinking water and food/seafood processing. Participate in discussions when necessary (e.g. for infrastructure that may require moving water through Electoral Area C (Long Beach)). | ACRD | DoT DoU First Nations Island Health Province of BC | Ongoing | Medium | High | Yes | Yes |
| | | Continue to support safe drinking water infrastructure when possible/applicable for Bamfield, and water use for food production and processing (including seafood). | | | | | | No | Yes |
| | | Work with Island Health, as their operational goals include supporting water security in changing climates. | | | | | | No | No |
| | | Consider providing incentives for rainwater catchment at the household level for irrigating gardens. | | | | | | Yes | Yes |
| 15 | Support the establishment of refrigerated and frozen cold storage space with backup generators outside of the tsunami inundation zone. | Support businesses, NGOs, or other local organizations wishing to establish cold storage (with generator backup) by providing letters of support for grants, and help determine appropriate locations based on utilities, services, and zoning/building permits required. In EA OCPs, consider explicitly supporting food security infrastructure developments (e.g. food processing, community kitchens, food storage) | ACRD DoT DoU | Tofino, Uctuelet and Bamfield Chambers of Commerce Fire Halls | Ongoing | Low | Medium | No | No |

Implementation of West Coast Food Security Emergency Plan

| Action ID | Action | Description | Lead Actor(s) | Supporting Actors | Timeline | Resource Level | Priority | Additional Capacity Required? | Additional Budget Required? |
|-----------|---|---|--------------------|---|----------|----------------|----------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | | through policy statements. Include publicly accessible cold storage space in future plans for centralized markets and/or emergency infrastructure. | | Community Halls | | | | | |
| 16 | Showcase local organizations and businesses working towards food security | Host tours for elected officials and local and regional government staff to showcase local food security initiatives and how food processing, preservation, literacy, and local food businesses support emergency planning. For example, TUCG, CBT-EWC initiatives, local seafood processing businesses. | ACRD DoT DoU | CBT-EWC TCFI BCSA Chambers of Commerce | Ongoing | Low | Medium | Yes | Yes |
| | | Provide regular (e.g., annual) updates to elected officials on the state of local food production and food security initiatives. | | | | | | No | No |
| | | During local elections, host an all-candidates meeting on the topics of emergency preparedness and community food security. | | | | | | Yes | Yes |
| | | Consider working with local food organizations to host a local food fair that encourages and showcases locally produced, caught, harvested and preserved foods. | | | | | | Yes | Yes |
| 17 | Continue and expand the waste diversion program to create high quality soil amendments. | Continue the three-stream organics diversion program in the Tofino-Ucluelet corridor. Provide finished compost back to residents. Implement reduced cost or free compost programs for commercial farms. Expand the organics diversion program to commercial businesses if possible. | ACRD | DoT DoU | Medium | Medium | Low | Yes | Yes |
| | | Support Bamfield in developing a wildlife-safe composting facility to create compost for home food production. | | | | | | Yes | Yes |
| 18 | Support regional collaboration and learning opportunities. | Convene local organizations, community gardens, and First Nation communities to support each other with food security goals. Provide more training and programs for collaborative learning opportunities. For example, initiatives like the Coastal Community Garden Gathering in 2021 that presented the | ACRD | YG, HFN, TN CBT-EWC CFR TCFI BCSA Others as deemed | Medium | Low | Low | Yes | Yes |

Implementation of West Coast Food Security Emergency Plan

| Action ID | Action | Description | Lead Actor(s) | Supporting Actors | Timeline | Resource Level | Priority | Additional Capacity Required? | Additional Budget Required? |
|---|--|---|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------|----------------|----------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | | Octopus learning model. | | appropriate | | | | | |
| Actions to Support First Nation Food Sovereignty and Emergency Food Security | | | | | | | | | |
| 19 | Explore permanent funding sources for staff positions to increase programming related to food production, preservation and food sovereignty. | For all nations additional staff/capacity would be required to increase food sovereignty and emergency food security programming. Programming could include food preservation workshops, traditional food and medicines harvesting and preservation, cooking workshops, etc. Local government support could include letters of support, assistance with grant writing, or sharing of appropriate funding sources. | YG HFN TN | ACRD DoU DoT | Ongoing | Low | High | No | No |
| 20 | Pursue grant funding applications to expand infrastructure, equipment and training related to food sovereignty and emergency food security. | Support applying for grants in the following focus areas, as needed by each nation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Food preservation and processing equipment (e.g. dehydrators, canners, refrigerated and freezer storage, and generators). o Repairing/maintaining/enhancing community gardens. o Training for small-scale intensive food production, compost creation and other related topics. Local government support could include letters of support, assistance with grant writing, or sharing of appropriate funding sources. | YG HFN TN | ACRD DoU DoT | Ongoing | Medium | High | No | No |

Implementation of Livestock Emergency Plan

| # | Emergency Stage | Action | Description | Timeline | Resource Level | Needs More Capacity? | Needs More Budget? |
|---|-----------------|---|---|----------|----------------|---|---|
| 1 | Mitigation | Support alternatives to open burning on farmland | Work with the agricultural community to support alternatives to open burning on farmland, to mitigate wildfire risk. This is particularly acute during the vulnerable summer months. Support may include directing producers to information regarding where legislation resides, providing information regarding jurisdictional enforcement, disseminating provincial resources and/or establishing regional programs to collect and chip/mulch agricultural vegetative waste and invasive weeds. | Long | Medium | No, the Sustainability Planner will work with Bylaw and Administration to complete this as workload allows. | Establishing regional programs to collect and chip/mulch agricultural vegetative waste and invasive weeds will require dedicated funding. |
| 2 | Mitigation | Advocate for mitigation resources from the province for farm-based or community-level initiatives | Advocate to the province for financial programs targeting agricultural adaptation and mitigation initiatives, including funds for building infrastructure and protecting or relocating assets at the community level. | Ongoing | Low | No, this can be worked into a future ADC agenda for discussion and direction. | No |
| 3 | Mitigation | Connect farmers to the FireSmart Farm & Ranch programs | Advocate to Union of B.C. Municipalities to support funding for the provision of a regionally-coordinated and integrated approach to offering FireSmart assessments at both the residential and farm/ranch level for local governments and First Nations. This will require the ability to continue partnering with provincial agencies to ensure a smoother deployment of the program with set follow-up timelines regarding funding availability for site improvements. | Ongoing | Medium | This is ongoing work for the FireSmart Coordinator to integrate into their workplan as applicable. | No |
| 4 | Mitigation | Foster collaboration with First Nations in emergency planning | Continue to consult and collaborate with First Nations in agricultural emergency planning efforts and sharing of resources between all levels of government and communities. | Ongoing | Medium | No | No |
| 5 | Mitigation | Advocate for changes to farm insurance affordability and accessibility | Advocate to other levels of government for affordable and accessible farm insurance, as outlined in the ACRD 2024-2027 Strategic Plan, Strategy 4.1. | Ongoing | Low | No, the Sustainability Planner can complete this as workload allows. | Funding would be required if producers wanted insurance workshops held. |

Implementation of Livestock Emergency Plan

| # | Emergency Stage | Action | Description | Timeline | Resource Level | Needs More Capacity? | Needs More Budget? |
|---|-----------------|--|--|----------|----------------|--|---|
| 6 | Preparedness | Modernize the ACRD Farm Emergency Plan | Modernize the ACRD Farm Emergency Plan to incorporate elements of personal preparedness and the Home Emergency Plan. | Short | Medium | The Protective Services Manager and Sustainability Planner can complete this but timelines may be extended. | No |
| 7 | Preparedness | Clarify the ACRD's role in emergency preparedness, response, and recovery to livestock operators | Using this Livestock Emergency Plan, create educational materials that outline the ACRD's role in emergencies, including communication and providing access (pass system) to areas under evacuation order. Communicate these materials with the Agricultural Advisory Committee, the Agricultural Development Committee, Alberni Farmers' Institute and others. | Short | Medium | Would require professional graphics design and drafting to ensure materials are uniform in appearance and easily read. | Yes, funding required to hire graphics designer. |
| 8 | Preparedness | Create clear, consolidated, guides and checklists | Using this Livestock Emergency Plan, consolidate local emergency planning information into a single, easy-to-navigate guide covering all emergency types. This could include disaster-specific resources, clear, actionable guidance on preparing for, responding to, and recovering from an emergency, and mental health resources. Share the buddy farm template and encourage producers to enter into buddy farm agreements with other operators. | Short | Medium | Would require professional graphics design and drafting to ensure materials are uniform in appearance and easily read. | Funding required to hire graphics designer. |
| 9 | Preparedness | Develop an emergency communication plan with the AFI | Work with the AFI in developing a communication plan with the ACRD EOC during an emergency. Investigate the possibility of using a decentralized neighbourhood "pod" communications system where each sub-area of the Alberni Valley has a person 'on the ground' responsible for communicating with the EOC and the agricultural community. See Appendix C for more details. Funding is required to support the development and establishment of this system. | Long | High | Will need dedicated support and capacity resources from the AFI. | Will require funding to develop and continue this system. |

Implementation of Livestock Emergency Plan

| # | Emergency Stage | Action | Description | Timeline | Resource Level | Needs More Capacity? | Needs More Budget? |
|----|-----------------|--|--|----------|----------------|--|--|
| 10 | Preparedness | Pre-identify horse and livestock relocation sites | Investigate additional locations to move livestock during an emergency in each of the agricultural areas of the Alberni Valley (Beaver Creek, Cherry Creek, and Sproat Lake areas) and in neighbouring local governments and First Nations, and sign MOUs with the managing entity. Examples of potential locations within the ACRD include Evergreen Park, Beaver Creek Community Hall grounds, and Cherry Creek Community Centre grounds. Work with the managing entity to ensure locations are equipped with necessary infrastructure, such as water and fencing. Support and provide grants as needed. | Long | High | The Sustainability Planner can work with each identified entity to explore interest and MoU options. | Funding will be required for everything from administration to infrastructure and equipment purchases. |
| 11 | Preparedness | Encourage registration in the provincial PremisesID program | Encourage participation in the PremisesID program to support the province in understanding the level of resources needed in each area and the timing to deploy support during an emergency. Emphasize the program's role in re-entry, relocation, and recovery efforts. | Ongoing | Low | Public education on PremisesID can be accomplished as capacity allows or hired out as part of a larger public education campaign on multiple aspects of Farm Emergency Management. | Funding will be required if engagement help is hired and to support any workshops that may be held or any resources published. |
| 12 | Preparedness | Collaborate with AF to raise awareness of PremisesID program | The ACRD to collaborate with AF to raise awareness about the program and allay producer concerns. | Ongoing | Low | MAF may be invited to delegate at an ADC to speak about PremisesID and answer questions if desired. | No |
| 13 | Preparedness | Support the AFI in EOC training | ACRD to support interested AFI members in completing AF's Agricultural Emergency Coordinator EOC training, aiming for 2-3 people at one time having completed the training. Provide a stipend for completing the training, if possible. | Ongoing | Low | The AFI will be responsible to send members to offered training. | Budget may be required for stipends or travel. |
| 14 | Preparedness | Provide updates to the Livestock Emergency Plan as needed | Update this Livestock Emergency Plan and review every year (or more frequently if required due to changing legislation). As part of this process connect with AF Emergency Management Branch for up-to-date policies and procedures. Update the agricultural community on changes and consult producers as needed during the update process. | Ongoing | Medium | This will be completed within Protective Services Manager and Sustainability Planner workplans as possible. | No |

Implementation of Livestock Emergency Plan

| # | Emergency Stage | Action | Description | Timeline | Resource Level | Needs More Capacity? | Needs More Budget? |
|----|-----------------|--|---|----------|----------------|--|---|
| 15 | Preparedness | Advocate for cell services across the entire Alberni Valley | Many parts of the Alberni Valley do not have reliable cell coverage, which poses a major risk to real-time communication during an emergency. Raise awareness with the residents about the benefit of cell coverage and support establishment of widespread connectivity. | Ongoing | Medium | No | No |
| 16 | Preparedness | Ensure producers know that the EOC is available to support them during an emergency | During an emergency, ensure the EOC's presence is known to producers by having EOC personnel and the EOC Agricultural Coordinator be familiar with local producers. This will facilitate the coordination of potential evacuations and the pass system, allowing producers to re-enter their farms if conditions are safe to do so. | Ongoing | Low | The Sustainability Planner is the EOC Agricultural Coordinator - should be encouraged to continue connecting with local producers to ensure a relationship is fostered and maintained. | No |
| 17 | Response | Leverage a variety of communication tools during an emergency | Enhance the specificity and timeliness of emergency alerts by leveraging tools such as email lists, AFI phone trees, social media forums (e.g. Facebook community pages), and the Voyent Alert app. Be mindful that not all areas of the ACRD have reliable cell service and not every resident uses social media or email. | Ongoing | Low | Yes | Yes |
| 18 | Response | Ensure EOC personnel are familiar with the farming community | Ensure EOC personnel responsible for emergency response at the EOC are aware of the characteristics of the livestock sector and who to contact (e.g. AFI pod leaders) during an emergency in specific regions. | Ongoing | Low | As workload allows. The AFI may also take the lead on this. | No |
| 19 | Response | Work with legal advisors to create an appropriate waiver for entering an area under Evacuation Order | Initiate work between the ACRD and legal advisors to create an appropriate waiver for livestock operators to sign when entering an area under Evacuation Order. Waivers should be used to clarify that any liability for the risks associated with temporary access lies with the individuals or agencies entering the evacuated area. This will also ensure that the individuals or agencies gaining access understand that they are responsible for their own safety. The person should sign a waiver as a condition of receiving access. It is recommended that local authorities work with their legal advisors to develop an appropriate waiver for authorizing temporary access into evacuated areas. This will ensure clarity when it comes to liability concerns. | Short | Medium | Support from upper management and administration to access legal advice will be required. | Budget will be required for legal advice. |

Implementation of Livestock Emergency Plan

| # | Emergency Stage | Action | Description | Timeline | Resource Level | Needs More Capacity? | Needs More Budget? |
|----|-----------------|---------------------------------|---|----------|----------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 20 | Recovery | Advocate for recovery resources | Advocate to the provincial and federal governments for financial assistance programs targeting agricultural recovery, including funds for rebuilding infrastructure and replacing assets and including support for small mixed farms whenever possible. | Ongoing | Low | No | No |

Implementation of Agricultural Water Plan

| Recommendation | Recomm. Timeline | Needs More Capacity? | Needs More Funding? | Notes |
|--|------------------|--|---|--|
| Establish a single multi-jurisdiction water group in the Alberni Valley. | Long Term | Yes - needs a facilitator to book/run meetings, take minutes and keep track of action items. The SP will need to be supported to attend meetings and represent the ACRD. | Yes - the SFFC included \$66k in the WSF application for this | The Somass Fish Flows Committee has submitted an application to the Watershed Security Fund for money to establish and facilitate this group. The grant decision is expected in Q2 2026. |
| Advocate to the Province to install a groundwater monitoring well in the Alberni Valley. | Ongoing | No | The Ministry of Environment indicated in March 2025 they have no budget to expand the groundwater monitoring network or bringing wells officially into the network. | The Sustainability Planner contacted the province in 2024 to ask to get a groundwater monitoring well in the Alberni Valley. Due to budget constraints and lack of capacity, the ACRD has been put on the list to get a well but no further action has been taken, despite check-ins by the Sustainability Planner every 6 months. |
| Advocate for third-party hydrologist reporting as a requirement for any proposed logging activity on hillslopes above farms, to identify best practices to minimize water quality and quantity impacts on farmland, and to monitor outcomes to protect the water rights of agricultural users. | Ongoing | No | No | |
| Revisit the regional reservoir concept at a later date if land and/or capital and/or interest arises. | Long Term | Yes | Yes | We can begin discussions with Tseshaht and Hupacasath at any time. May be best approached through a regional watershed group if one gets going. |
| Seek funding to complete hydrometric studies on Great Central Lake, Sproat Lake, or other waterbodies of interest to determine impacts from potential bulk water withdrawals. | Short Term | No | Yes | A study of this nature was included in the Somass Fish Flow Committees Watershed Security Fund Application. |
| Perform a technical review of the impacts of a Partial Transfer of Appurtenancy and consider drafting a memorandum of understanding with Domtar. | Medium Term | Yes - beyond the scope of the SP's area of expertise. | Yes | |
| Explore additional partial water volume transfer opportunities with other large volume licence holders. | Long Term | Yes - beyond capacity at this time. | Yes | |

Implementation of Agricultural Water Plan

| Recommendation | Recomm. Timeline | Needs More Capacity? | Needs More Funding? | Notes |
|---|------------------|---|---------------------|-------|
| Support landowners in forming Water Users Community groups if and when the interest arises for collaborating on shared irrigation infrastructure. | Ongoing | Will support as able to if interest arises. | Yes | |
| Continue to liaise with provincial officials at WLRs and MAF to ensure that local producers have up-to-date, clear, and accurate information regarding dugouts. | Ongoing | No | No | |



To: Agricultural Development Committee
From: Amy Needham, Sustainability Planner
Meeting Date: April 21, 2026
Subject: Staff Update Report

Summary:

- A letter of condolence was sent to the family of Helene Dufour from the Chair of the ACRD Board on behalf of the Agricultural Development Committee and the Alberni-Clayoquot Health Network, on which she served for many years.
- I approached the Ministry of Agriculture and Food last year to request an updated Agricultural Land Inventory (ALI) to replace the previous Agricultural Land Use Inventory (ALUI) conducted in 2016 and I am pleased to announce it is confirmed! The office-based survey is already complete and the field survey is scheduled for July. The ALI is an important tool to understand long term trends in agricultural land use in the area and helps support grant applications to promote farming and run the Agricultural Water Demand Model to determine current and future agricultural water needs.
- At their February 17, 2026 meeting, the Committee requested a delegation from a CFIA representative to discuss potential changes to the *Health of Animals Act* and answer questions. I contacted multiple CFIA reps, as well as reached out multiple times to the Canadian Cattle Association and the BC Cattlemen's Association. There was no response at all from the Cattle Associations and two CFIA representatives responded, one as follows and the other included in Information Items:

Thank you for reaching out. At the moment, the proposed changes to traceability and Health of Animals Act have been put on hold and are subject to change. Because of this, we are not currently able to answer any questions with certainty. Our recommendation for the time being is to proceed as normal and monitor CFIA's website and notifications to be kept up to date. Once the changes (if there will be any) are announced in an official capacity, please feel free to reach out to me if any questions arise.

Producers and interested parties can sign up for CFIA notifications [here](#). There are also great videos and summaries regarding the proposed changes that can be found below:

This presentation is directly from CFIA regarding the proposed changes: <https://youtu.be/5w3ALso7lg0>

The federal government also has an [Identification and Traceability Guide for Livestock Producers page](#) and webpages dedicated to the [livestock traceability regulatory update](#) and a [What We Heard report](#) from engagement that occurred in 2023.

If a producer is more concerned with cattle and traceability, the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency has created their own presentation for industry: [Canadian Cattle Identification Agency \(CCIA\) Industry Update](#)

They also produced a table that summarizes proposed changes: [Understanding Proposed Traceability Rules-15 January 2026.pdf](#)

- Upon request of this Committee, I contacted CleanFarms back in 2023 to ask about having a pesticide roundup in our area and they said they would consider it the next time the Pesticide Roundup is in the Vancouver Island Zone, which is Fall 2026. Whether or not they can host a location in the Alberni Valley depends on the other locations that they always use – they may or may not have funding to add in the Alberni Valley. I will keep the committee apprised of details as they become available and I have added in important CleanFarms Pesticide Roundup information into the Information Items of this agenda.
- At their January 28, 2026 meeting, the Board carried a motion to forward a resolution to the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) convention to exempt ALR properties conducting agri-tourism accommodation under the *ALC Act and Regulations* from the province's Short-Term Rental Registry, to decrease red tape and registration fees for producers. The convention will take place April 24-26, 2026 and further actions taken on this resolution will be reported out at the July 14, 2026 ADC meeting.
- On a related note, the deadline for UBCM resolutions is June 15 so ADC members are encouraged to bring forward any resolutions they would like to send forward either in the meeting or please send them to me through email.
- Kwantlen Polytechnic University is holding Food Future workshops in the Alberni Valley to engage on their Vancouver Island Bioregional Food System study. The first two workshops took place on April 2 and 16. You don't need to have attended the previous workshops to join in for the last two (on May 7 and 28) so please feel free to come! They begin at 9am at Echo Park Fieldhouse and lunch is included. You can register [here](#) (it helps with lunch numbers) but registration isn't required to attend. Hope to see you there!
- At their April 8, 2026 meeting, the ACRD Board considered the requests put forward by the ADC at their February 17, 2026 meeting: that the City of Port Alberni be asked to send all ALC applications through the AAC for review and recommendation, and, if they are amenable to do so, that staff be directed to amend the AAC terms of reference accordingly. The Board carried the motion that the City of Port Alberni be requested to refer all ALC applications within city limits to the AAC for input. Next steps will be to send a letter to the City requesting ALC referrals to the AAC and then amending the AAC Terms of Reference to include the City, should Council be supportive.
- As directed by previous agricultural water policy documents, I approached the province about getting a groundwater monitoring well installed in the Alberni Valley in April of 2024. Although the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy is supportive of a monitoring well being installed, due to lack of capacity and budget cuts, all possibility of expanding the groundwater monitoring network are on hold. The Groundwater Monitoring Specialist at WLRS did indicate that

there may be the ability to add additional monitoring if an appropriate existing well can be found, with the following characteristics:

- Public land is preferable or land access agreements on private property
- No pump or equipment in the well
- Minimal pumping interference from neighbouring wells
- Ease of access and datalogger installation
- Aquifer monitoring priority
- One year of water level monitoring data

Please let me know if you have an idea of a well that might fit these parameters.

- The ACRD, in partnership with the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust, will be facilitating regional climate adaptation planning for a cohort of five on the West Coast – two municipalities (District of Ucluelet and the District of Tofino) and three First Nations (Tla-o-qui-aht, Toquaht Nation and Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ). Grant funding for this project has just been approved and the project will focus on increasing capacity at the local level to facilitate climate adaptation plans that address both individual governmental climate adaptation priorities as well as boost alignment for regional climate resiliency projects.

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

Reviewed by: *Cynthia Dick*
Cynthia Dick, General Manager of Administrative Services

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

Kristin Kerr-Donohue

From: Helen Zanette <HZanette@sd70.bc.ca>
Sent: April 9, 2026 8:00 AM
To: ACRD Administration; Kristin Kerr-Donohue
Cc: Amy Needham
Subject: Re: REMINDER - Call for ADC Reports for April 21st Meeting
Attachments: draft 2026-04-01 Ltr to PSSG re FIT Funding.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[CAUTION] This email originated from outside of the ACRD

Hello Amy and Kristin,

Hope all is well.

Thanks for the extension.

Here is my Pacific Rim School District report for April meeting:

- Graduation rates across the district have strengthen compared to prior years, in particular indigenous grad rates, which have been a focus for improving. It is very positive, thanks to all our dedicated staff.
- Declining student enrollment numbers for the district means less funding, so challenges are ahead
- The Board of Education approved a letter of support for the Campus of Care application to remove the Cherry Creek Road land parcel from the Agricultural Land Reserve
- 2 Trustees attended the VISTA (Vancouver Island School Trustees Assoc.) conference in March, one highlight was the tour of Nourish Cowichan's facility. The district contracts with them for our Food programs.
- 3 Trustees will be attending our BC School Trustee Assoc. (BCSTA) AGM April 9-11 and present our Staff Accommodation funding motion and exploring new learning opportunities and more.
- Superintendent Peter Klaver has submitted his resignation as he is retiring at the end of this school year. The recruitment and search for a replacement have commenced. Consultation with stakeholders has also begun.
- The Board of Education has approved a letter advocating for ongoing ERASE K-12 Organized Crime and Exploitation Initiative (OCE) Funding to the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General of BC, Nina Krieger. These funds were received as a 3-year pilot program ending this year. The funds allowed for the creation of our successful Focused Intervention Team (FIT) by the district, to assist students in risk. I am **attaching** the draft letter as it has some very poignant student success stories which are worth reading and hearing about.
- New Policies are posted to the school district website for 30-day consultation.
<https://www.sd70.bc.ca/policies-for-public-consultation.6843>
- Headlight Glare Survey available now at <https://tc.canada.ca/en/corporate-services/consultations/canadian-experience-vehicle-headlights-glare-night>

- The BC Teacher's Union and the Province have a new collective bargaining agreement. And now CUPE bargaining underway.
- The district has hired a new Secretary Treasurer - Teri Fong, starting mid April.
- District Indigenous Language Programming Feasibility Survey available at <https://www.sd70.bc.ca/indigenous-language-programming-feasibility-survey.11812>

Thank you,
Helen

Helen Zanette

Pronouns: She/her

Board of Education Trustee

Pacific Rim School District

I acknowledge that I live, work and learn on the ha-houlthees of the c̓išaaʔath, hupačasath, tla-o-qui-aht, Yuułuʔitʔath, 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.



Honourable Nina Krieger
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
PO Box 9010 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2
PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca

April 1, 2026

Re: Request for ongoing ERASE K-12 Organized Crime and Exploitation (OCE) Initiative Funding

Dear Minister Kreiger,

Over the past two and a half years, the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General has invested in Pacific Rim School District (#70) through the ERASE K-12 Organized Crime and Exploitation (OCE) Initiative. This funding enabled the district to substantially strengthen its capacity to respond to the impacts of organized crime and exploitation affecting children and youth in our coastal communities of Port Alberni, Tofino, Ucluelet, and Bamfield. Port Alberni faces some of the most acute risk factors in the province, with an unregulated drug death rate of 105.6 per 100,000—double the provincial average—and drug toxicity deaths nearly twice the Island Health rate. These risks are compounded by persistently high child poverty (20.3%–22.7%), elevated numbers of children and youth in care (20.2 per 1,000), and alcohol consumption well above provincial levels (13.6 litres per person compared to 8.6 provincially). Together, these intersecting health and socioeconomic pressures create conditions that significantly increase youth vulnerability to organized crime and exploitation.

Through this investment, the district established the Focused Intervention Team (FIT), consisting of a Manager of Youth Outreach and a Youth Outreach Worker. FIT was intentionally designed to serve our highest risk and most vulnerable students—youth who are often disengaged from school, disconnected from services, and at significant risk of harm due to exploitation, violence, substance use, and involvement with organized crime.

FIT provides intensive, relationship-based outreach to students and their families, prioritizing trust, cultural safety, and consistent healthy adult connections. The team has been instrumental in bridging gaps in wraparound care by coordinating access to essential services, including counselling and treatment programs, youth justice supports (probation, RCMP, restorative justice), and critical food, housing, health, and cultural resources. Through close collaboration with internal school teams and external community partners, FIT works to stabilize students, reduce harm, and interrupt pathways toward high-risk peer and adult involvement.

Since its inception, FIT has directly supported over 70 students in grades 6–12, the majority of whom are Indigenous, living in government care, and experiencing multiple intersecting challenges such as FASD, ADHD, complex trauma, and other neurodevelopmental or mental health conditions. These

students present to be clinically complex and require coordinated, trauma-informed, interagency intervention. FIT has supported 20 students to successfully graduate from secondary school, most of whom had been disengaged from education for two or more years. These outcomes represent significant protective factors against exploitation, criminal involvement, and lifelong marginalization.

Quantitative data alone cannot fully capture FIT's impact. Attached statements from 2025 graduates speak powerfully to the program's role in restoring hope, safety, and belonging. Their voices highlight the critical difference made when youth are met with consistent, compassionate, and culturally responsive support.

Beyond direct 1:1 intervention, FIT has delivered 25+ prevention and awareness sessions on organized crime and exploitation to students, provided targeted education to school staff and community service providers, and led a two-year districtwide poster campaign on human trafficking and help seeking pathways. FIT also presented at the *Youth of Now* conference, delivered training on self-harm and addiction coping strategies, and successfully trained all district first aid attendants and school administrators in naloxone administration and the root causes of addiction—an essential intervention in a community that loses a young person to overdose approximately every six months.

The FIT program has demonstrably met and exceeded its objectives: strengthening the district's response to OCE, increasing staff knowledge and confidence, and enhancing cross sector collaboration at a time when services are being reduced at the local, provincial, and federal levels. Both internal and external partners now rely on FIT as a cornerstone of support for high-risk youth.

While the three-year ERASE pilot concludes on August 31, 2026, the need it was created to address has not diminished; it continues to grow at an unprecedented rate. Without sustained funding, Pacific Rim School District may be unable to continue this essential program. The district is deeply grateful for the Ministry's past investment and respectfully requests consideration for ongoing funding to ensure this proven, life-changing work can continue. Maintaining FIT is not only a continuation of success—it is a necessary safeguard for youth, families, and communities at significant risk.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Orr, Board Chair
Board of Education
Pacific Rim School District
www.sd70.bc.ca

cc: Honourable Lisa Beare ECC.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Josie Osborne, MLA (Mid-Island-Pacific Rim) Josie.Osborne.MLA@leg.bc.ca
BC Representative for Children and Youth (RCY-BC) rcy@rcybc.ca

FIT Student Stories and Voice

“E” (18 year old female)

E came on our caseload as soon as FIT was launched. E has been a victim of sex trafficking for two years. When I first started working with E, she was in a very violent relationship with her intimate partner. E has struggled with alcohol and substance use for most of her adolescence. E is an Indigenous student living in a group home. E has lost several close friends and family members to overdose and violence. E also has significant learning challenges as a result of FASD, which makes her more susceptible to coercion and manipulation.

When our team first started working with E, we were picking her up from hotels and motels after she had been sexually and sometimes physically assaulted. Through working with E and building a strong rapport, we were able to identify other victims of sex trafficking, and eventually E felt comfortable enough with FIT’s support and an Indigenous Safety Team member (RCMP) to open up about the trafficking and make a statement, which allowed RCMP to pursue charges against at least three highly suspected traffickers.

Our program connected E with an indigenous counsellor. E struggled immensely last school year. E lost a close friend to overdose, and E’s boyfriend became increasingly violent. E would often come to school with bruises around her neck as if she had been strangled. Things escalated when E’s boyfriend robbed a liquor store, and subsequently, the police arrested him. E’s boyfriend was angry that the liquor store worker had called the RCMP, and went back the next weekend and stabbed her in her neck, chest, and stomach. Because of the information that E provided over the past two years, we were able to provide a significant amount of documentation of her boyfriend’s escalating violence, which has kept him incarcerated. E is now in a much healthier relationship with a youth her own age.

Through ongoing and continued outreach support, E made a huge effort to come back to school and, as a result, was able to graduate with an adult dogwood from our local alternative school. This is what E had to say about her experience with the FIT program:

“I can’t believe I made it. I wish my friends could be here to watch me (friends who have died). My mom told me my whole life that I am a failure, but I am the first person in my family to graduate high school. My grandpa is so proud, he keeps crying when he looks at me. You (Jess) never gave up on me, even when I thought it was impossible (to graduate).”

“C” (16 year old female)

C was referred to our program early last year due to an incident at school when she had slit her wrists in a suicide attempt. C is an indigenous youth who experienced substantial abuse at the hands of her mother and witnessed her mother attack her older brother with a machete. The school reported a massive behavioural shift as C started drinking, partying, and missing weeks of school at a time. We

learned from C that she was being trafficked in exchange for alcohol. An older female youth had convinced her to sleep with a man in his 40's so they could both drink. Things started to spiral quickly for C after that. C was drinking and using hard drugs with her friends and mother (the only connection she has had with her for years), and self-harming every day. The assaults were happening frequently, and her father lacked the skillset and knowledge to support her. As a single parent, Dad works two jobs to provide for the family, but because of that, he was not able to invest the time and care that C needed.

FIT stepped in and quickly brought in Y-STAR (Island Health) and Usma NTC (Nuu-chah-nulth family and child services) on board. Y-STAR, Usma, and FIT worked together closely to support C in going to treatment and accessing services like harm reduction supports and counselling. It took 3 failed attempts and the death of a close friend to finally decide she needed help. C has been in treatment voluntarily for 9 months. When C exits treatment, C will be set up on a youth agreement as she identified the house she lives in as being triggering due to mom's violence and substance use when she was a child. C no longer self-harms.

This is what C had to say about her experience with FIT. "At first, I was really mad at you (Jess). You were always up in my business, and I thought you were trying to get me in trouble or taken away, but my friend (name removed) said you were chill, and you bought me McDonald's, so I kept seeing you."

"Drinking and drugs is normal for us (friend group). At first, it was fun, but then it got really scary. Bad things kept happening to me and my friends. I was scared to go (to treatment), but I was more scared of what would happen to me if I didn't go. I thought I was going to die like (friend who passed). Maybe I didn't care if I died. You (Jess) and Jenni (YSTAR social worker) kept bugging me about treatment, it was kind of annoying. But going to treatment was the best thing for me. I didn't think I needed help, but the treatment centre is teaching me about trauma. I want a different life for myself, I don't want to be like my mom (in active addiction, living on the streets)."

"E" (18 year old male)

FIT started working with E about a year ago and a half ago. E is an Indigenous youth who was gang affiliated and would often fight rival gang members. E was referred to our program for being involved in gang-like violence in the community. E's girlfriend at the time had also just given birth to their daughter. E has a drinking problem, and when he drinks, he becomes more violent. The mother of the child also has severe substance use issues. About two months after E's daughter was born, E and his partner got into a physical altercation after a night out, which resulted in their daughter being removed from E and his partner's care and charges being pressed against the mother for assault.

FIT worked with E's nation to connect him with a social worker from his nation. FIT continued to offer outreach and worked on stabilizing E's housing. FIT worked with Usma to identify healthy family

members to look after E's daughter so the daughter could be with family instead of in foster care. E moved in with his sister and stopped drinking with the help of a substance use counsellor that FIT helped connect him with.

E decided shortly after his daughter's first birthday that he needed to do everything in his power to get her back into his care. E started coming to school more regularly, and E's social worker helped E get registered in parenting and anger management classes at the friendship centre – the first step on the path to getting his daughter back into his care. FIT drove E to appointments and classes at the friendship centre three times a week for months, and he never missed a day. FIT worked with the alternative school to provide credits for graduation for the classes he was attending at the friendship centre, and because of that E was able to meet graduation requirements this year. With the help of a small grant, FIT was able to buy a suit and new shoes for graduation. E got to walk the stage, holding his daughter. E is still in the process of getting custody of his daughter back, but is on the right track.

This is what E had to say about his experience with FIT. "I never had nobody give a f*** about me. Even my old man would rather drink than show up to grad. I've been out here on my own, you know? You cared, always made sure I slept somewhere safe, had food, staying out of bad areas (rival gang territories). You helped me realize that my daughter needed a father. I don't want her growing up like me without a nuwii (short form of "nuwiiqsu" NCN word for father). My daughter is my everything. You gave me hope that I could be something and get out of this gangsta sh**, that I could make it (graduation). I think she's too little to remember this (graduation), but I have pics and one day she will know I did it for her."



April 21, 2026 Agriculture Development Report

- We are starting to ramp up our advertising for the 2026 fair and have booked our headline entertainment and attractions.
- The 2026 Exhibitors Book has been updated and gone to print, it will be posted on our website soon and hard copies will be available at major locations
- The updated Farmgate brochures have been reprinted with lots of copies available. The Neighbourhood Welcome is putting the brochures into their newcomer packages.
- Space will be available for Ag. Education in the same place as last year. If there is anything new and exciting we need to be promoted, we could do so with assistance from the ADC.
- We are trying to bring back the School Program on Friday mornings, where kindergarten and grade one classes are invited to come and view the exhibits. This is a work in progress.

3

Kristin Kerr-Donohue

From: Sarah Rymer
Sent: April 2, 2026 7:14 PM
To: ACRD Administration
Subject: Re: REMINDER - Call for ADC Reports for April 21st Meeting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

[CAUTION] This email originated from outside of the ACRD

Hello!

The Spirit Square Farmers Market is starting to head into our busier season.

- April 26, May 2 and May 9 are our seedling/plant sale markets
- Port Alberni Port Authority (Dock+) has committed to sponsoring our Music at the Market this summer
- Community Futures Alberni-Clayoquot is helping us with new logo ideas in conjunction with marketing for our Spirited Kids market on August 15
- New market year began April 1 and we have 3 new members already in addition to our seasoned members
- Farmers who sell meat need “mechanical re Fridgeration” for their frozen products as per Island Health, so this a cost/logistics issue for them
- Garlic Fest returns Sept 26

Thank you
Sarah



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April 2026

Prepared for the Alberni Clayoquot Agriculture Development Committee

The Dock+ Food Hub is becoming busy as the season is upon us.

- We are getting ready for commercial prawn season starting in May,
- Black Jaguar Chocolate obtained their CFIA License and is now leasing a space inside the main processing area where is setting up a cocoa roaster and grinder.
- Our kitchen members are preparing for spring markets
- Flurer Smokery has decided to stay at our location for the foreseeable future
- BC Food & Beverage (BCFB) has been selected to lead and manage the BC Food Hub Network, strengthening the connection between industry experts and regional infrastructure. BCFB leverages its industry expertise to support food hubs, processors, and entrepreneurs, focusing on coordination, service improvements, and regional collaboration for the sector.
- We continue to offer tours and are welcoming new kitchen members
- This summer we will be converting one of our walk-in freezers to a walk-in fridge to accommodate the need in the community for fridge space. It will be ideal for caterers and other organizations such as shipping that need to store perishables.

Expansion Project

The Expansion project is complete and HPP has been in the testing phase and will be operational over the next couple of weeks. We will be hosting a “grand opening” where we are welcoming Minister of Agriculture and Food, Lana Popham.

Our new ice machine at Alberni Ice is being commissioned and is expected to be open and operating at the start of May.

Sponsorships and Community Awareness

- The Dock+ has committed to another year of sponsoring the music at the Spirit Square Market
- We will be advertising in this year’s growers Guide
- We continue to seek instructors to host community workshops
- We continue to promote The Dock+ and our tenants on the Peak Radio, the Scoop and through social media

ACRD ADC 4-H REPORT for April 21, 2026 meeting

39 registered members, 10 leaders, 2 screened volunteers

Projects are Cloverbud, Beef, Small Engines, Horses, Poultry, Rabbit, Cavy, Sheep, and Dog. There is one club again this year, Alberni Cloverpatch

Most members completed a speech and took part in the club Public Speaking competition in February. Public Speaking is part of the BC 4-H Communications Program. The District Public Speaking competition in March only saw 2 entries – one senior member and one junior member..

The Regional Public Speaking competition is going to be held on April 11, 2026 here in Port Alberni. We are part of the Vancouver Island 4-H Region and there will be participants from Comox, Cowichan, Parksville-Qualicum and South Malahat Districts attending. Special thanks to the ADFP for allowing us to use the building on the Fall Fair grounds for this competition. There will only be one entry (Junior) from Port Alberni, but it should be a good learning experience for all our members to attend and watch.

Project meetings have begun for some Projects including Beef and Cloverbud.

Monthly business meetings continue and election of officers has occurred

Fundraising opportunities for this year are being explored

Respectfully submitted

Patty Palmer

Resource Leader, Port Alberni 4-H District