



Agricultural Development Committee

Tuesday, February 17, 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/17-2-2026/>

Register to participate via Zoom Webinar at:

https://acrd-bc-ca.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_NQoSOixTQParWz_I_WtvXg#/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 - Committee Members and Staff present in the ACRD Boardroom and via Zoom.

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

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

4. **DECLARATIONS**

(conflict of interest)

5. **MINUTES**

- a. **Agricultural Development Committee Meeting held November 18, 2025**

4-8

THAT the minutes of the Agricultural Development Committee meeting held on November 18, 2025 be adopted.

6. **PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS (10-minute maximum)**

7. CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| a. | ALBERNI VALLEY FOOD SECURITY SOCIETY
2025 Impact Report | 9-19 |
| b. | MINISTRY OF HEALTH
Response to ACRD Board of Directors Letter re: Farm to School BC | 20-21 |
| c. | PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF BC
Farm to School BC 2025 Annual Report | 22-46 |

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

8. REQUEST FOR DECISIONS

9. REPORTS

- | | | | |
|-----|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 9.1 | a. | Verbal Report – L. Aylard | |
| | | • CANADIAN CATTLE ASSOCIATION | 47-48 |
| | | Understanding Proposed New Traceability Rules | |
| | | • MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FISHERIES | 49-56 |
| | | BC Premises Identification Regulation, Policy Intentions Paper | |
| | | • CANADIAN FOOD INSPECTION AGENCY | 57-59 |
| | | 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) | 60-61 |
| | b. | Primary Agricultural Producers | |
| | c. | City of Port Alberni – P. Deakin | |
| | d. | School District # 70 – H. Zanette (attached) | 62 |
| | e. | Island Health – K. Ruel | |
| | f. | Ministry of Agriculture & Food - T. O'Dell | |
| | g. | Alberni Farmers' Institute – L. Aylard | |
| | h. | Alberni District Fall Fair – A. Siddall (attached) | 63 |
| | i. | Alberni Valley Food Security Society – A. Lewis (attached) | 64 |
| | j. | Eat West Coast – E. Goldt (attached) | 65 |
| | k. | Spirit Square Farmers' Market – S. Rymer (attached) | 66 |
| | l. | Port Alberni Port Authority, Dock + Food Processing Hub – C. Addy | |
| | m. | Coastal Foods Roundtable, Tofino Community Food Initiative – Katie Miles | |

- n. 4-H – P. Radcliffe (attached)
- o. Marine Stakeholders

67

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

10. LATE BUSINESS

11. QUESTION PERIOD

Questions/Comments from the public:

- Participating in Person in the Board Room
- Participating in the Zoom meeting
- Emailed to the ACRD at responses@acrd.bc.ca

12. ADJOURN

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 12:45pm in the ACRD Boardroom and via Zoom



Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

MINUTES OF THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2025, 12:45 PM

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

MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Heather Shobe, Chairperson, 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
Bob Collins, Arrowvale Farm
Tanya Shannon, Shannon Farms
Lisa Aylard, Alberni Farmers’ Institute, Stonehaven Farm
Sarah Rymer, Spirit Square Farmers’ Market
Wayne Smith, Alberni Farmers’ Institute
Patty Palmer, 4H
Ex-Officio Members
Thom O’Dell, Ministry of Agriculture & Food – Regional Agrologist
Russell Dyson, Agricultural Advisory Committee
Star Miklashek, Agricultural Advisory Committee
Penny Cote, Director, ACRD, Agricultural Advisory Committee

REGRETS:

Kaley Ruel, Island Health Dietician
Pat Deakin, City of Port Alberni
Amber Lamb, Feathers be Found
Cecilia Addy, Port Alberni Port Authority
Ex-Officio Members
Kirsten Nesbitt, SD Healthy Schools Manager
Katie Miles, Coastal Roundtable Facilitator, Tofino Community Food Initiative
Larry McMahon, Agricultural Advisory Committee
Robert Haynes, 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/18-11-2025/7676/?catid=0>

1. CALL TO ORDER

4

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

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

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

Introductions - Committee Members and Staff via Zoom.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED: T. Shannon

SECONDED: S. Rymer

THAT the agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

3. DECLARATIONS

4. MINUTES

a. Agricultural Development Committee Minutes – July 15, 2025

MOVED: A. Lewis

SECONDED: T. Shannon

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

CARRIED

5. PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- a. Ione Smith, Agrologist, Upland Agricultural Consulting presenting the final versions of the Alberni Valley Food Security Emergency Plan and the Alberni Valley Agricultural Water Plan**
- b. Victor Martinez, Faculty, Kwantlen Polytechnic University & Kent Mullinix, Researcher, Kwantlen Polytechnic University presenting research project: Resilient & Thriving, Vancouver Island's Food Future**

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. HONOURABLE JOSIE OSBORNE, MINISTER OF HEALTH**

- Famers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program Letter
- Farm to School BC Letter to SD70
- b. **AGRISERVICE BC**
Islands Edition Regional Newsletter – October 2025
- c. **AGSAFE BC**
Dirt on Ag – September 2025
- d. **MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FOOD**
 - New Plant and Animal Health Centre
 - Notice of Avian Influenza in Coombs area
- e. **TOFINO COMMUNITY FOOD INITIATIVE**
Annual Report 2024

MOVED: S. Rymer

SECONDED: T. Shannon

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

CARRIED

7. REQUEST FOR DECISIONS

8. REPORTS

- a. Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District – A. Needham
 - Staff Update Report
 - 2026 Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities Resolutions Notice and Request for Submissions
- b. Ministry of Agriculture & Food - T. O'Dell
 - Many Provincial Agriculture related programs are open year-round. Currently funding for large scale producers water infrastructure and farm FireSmart assessments
- c. Alberni Farmers' Institute – W. Smith
 - Annual General Meeting held on November 12, 2025.
 - Donated funds to the Alberni Valley Search and Rescue team to thank them for their support during the 2024 windstorm and to show them that their services are appreciated.
- d. Alberni District Fall Fair – A. Siddall
 - The 2025 fair was another success with over 22,000 people in attendance over four days. The Saturday was by far the busiest day seen in many years with 10,000 people coming through the gates.
 - Congestion outside the ag building is a recognized issue that the association will continue to work on.
 - Farm Gate Brochure is being distributed with the Neighbourhood Welcome packages, thanks to the Dock+, ACRD, and AV Food Security for their support to make this happen.

- e. Alberni Valley Food Security Society – A. Lewis
 - In addition to agenda report:
 - Dry Creek Community Garden lease has been approved for another 4 years
 - Received funding for an online directory comprised of primary producers, called Farmers, Fisheries, Foragers. Found at www.avfood.ca/ffsubmit
- f. Eat West Coast – E. Goldt
 - Clayoquot Biosphere Trust Grant stream opening in January.
- g. Spirit Square Farmers’ Market – S. Rymer
 - Dock+ sponsorship of the Music at the Market was a great addition to the atmosphere.
 - Community Futures Alberni-Clayoquot sponsored the “Spirited Kids Market”. Was a popular event and will be held again in 2026.
 - Annual General Meeting scheduled for Dec 2, 2025
 - Looking for a Market Manager and investigating funding sources for this to be a paid position.
- h. 4-H – P. Radcliffe
 - In addition to the agenda report, community support for the program has been overwhelmingly positive.
- i. Primary Agricultural Producers
 - VI Grain, Wayne Smith – Overabundance of hay, lack of animals/livestock, land needs to be utilized effectively, strong market for grain, rye specifically.
 - Stonehaven Farm, Lisa Aylard – Excellent continued support for the farm. They are currently sold out of beef for this year, next set is spoken for, next potential for sales is February.

MOVED: A. Siddall

SECONDED: W. Smith

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

CARRIED

9. LATE BUSINESS

10. QUESTION PERIOD

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

- Participating in Person in the ACRD Board Room
- Participating in the Zoom webinar
- Submissions received by email at responses@acrd.bc.ca.

11. ADJOURN

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 3:03 pm.

Certified Correct:

Heather Shobe,
Chairperson

Kristin Kerr-Donohue,
Administrative Assistant



2025 IMPACT REPORT

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AVFSS

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Gratitude &
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Land Acknowledgement

The Alberni Valley Food Security Society operates within the ancestral, unceded and traditional territory of the Hupačasath and Tshesah First Nations. We seek to increase our understanding of Indigenous food systems and respectfully acknowledge the keepers of this land.

10

From AVFSS

2025 was a year of strengthening roots and stewarding growth for the Alberni Valley Food Security Society. Building on the momentum of recent years, AVFSS focused on consolidating programs, deepening partnerships, and improving the systems that support community food security across the Alberni Valley.

From a record-breaking gleaning season to fully subscribed community garden plots and expanded school garden programming, this year demonstrated the power of collective effort. Volunteers, partners, staff, and board members showed up with care, commitment, and creativity—ensuring that local food reached local people.

Equally important, 2025 was a year of planning for longevity. The organization invested time in governance, financial sustainability, and long-term visioning, ensuring AVFSS can continue to grow with integrity and resilience. Together, we are building a food-secure future rooted in community, land, and shared responsibility.

From backyard fruit trees to school gardens and community events, AVFSS initiatives connected people to food, land, and one another—strengthening local resilience and celebrating abundance.



In food and community,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Byron Pugh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

AVFSS President - Byron Pugh

Our Work

Our Vision

A Food Secure Alberni Valley: When all people, at all times, have access to nutritious, safe, personally acceptable and culturally appropriate foods, produced in ways that are environmentally sound and socially just.

17,412

pounds of local fruit gleaned



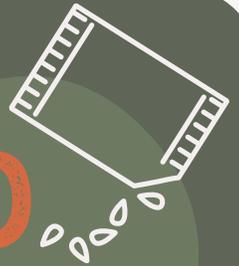
Community Garden plots filled

17



370

free seed packets & plants distributed



640

students engaged in AVFSS programming



Our Year

1,715



visits to local farms facilitated



24%

increase in AVFSS Membership

local organizations received gleaned fruit

19



118,536

AVFSS Facebook Visits



Grow Local

Plant order arriving from Streamside Nursery



The Grow Local initiative remained central to core learnings, reinforcing the value of embedding local food education within schools. Grow Local helped students and educators deepen their relationship with food and place—planting seeds not only in the soil, but in future generations of growers and food champions. AVFSS teamed up with the ACRD and Farm To School BC to revitalize three Pacific Rim Schools gardens, with grateful acknowledgement of funding through TD Friends of the Environment Foundation.

Throughout the year, AVFSS supported school gardens through hands-on workshops, an educator professional development day, and the distribution of soil amendments and signage to three schools across the district. This legacy project included planting native species to bring diversity, pollinator support and bountiful harvests to the school gardens.



New medicinal garden planted at the Bamfield Community School

Through a partnership with Cascadia Seaweed, AVFSS supported soil building at EJ Dunn School by delivering approximately 800 pounds of local seaweed. Students helped unload and incorporate the seaweed into newly developed beds, where it will improve soil health, add micronutrients, and support moisture retention—strengthening the garden for seasons to come.



Seaweed Delivery to Amend Garden

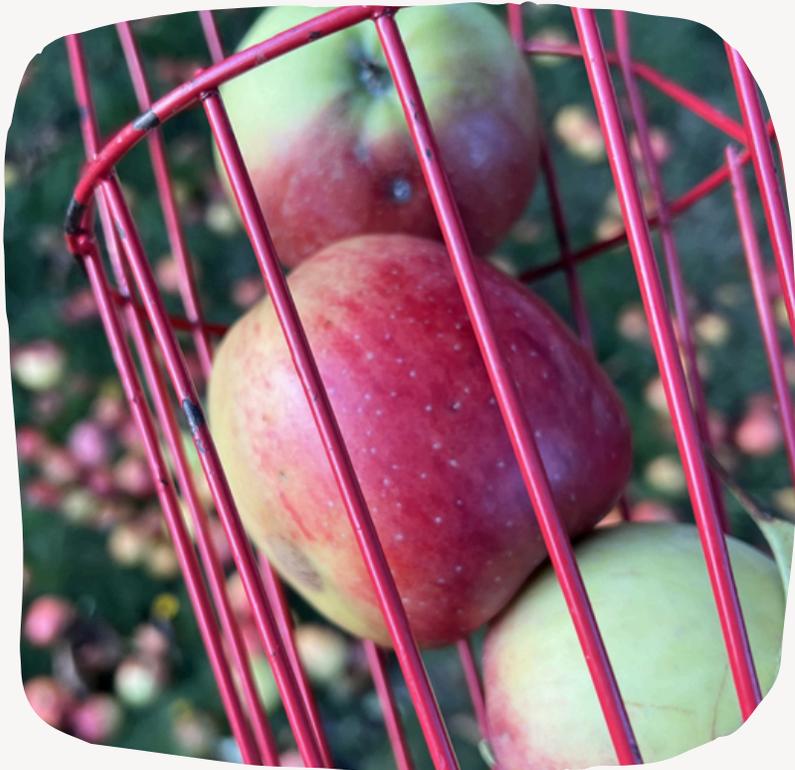
The Gleaning Project



The Gleaning Project was a cornerstone of AVFSS’s impact in 2025, reaching new scale and visibility across the region. By connecting volunteers with homeowners who had surplus fruit, the program ensured that abundance was shared rather than wasted. Nearly one hundred gleans were completed during the season, recovering more than 17,000 pounds of local fruit. Harvests were shared among volunteers, host households, and community food programs, strengthening food access while fostering neighbourly connection.



A garden harvest!



Operational improvements—including a streamlined registration system, tree scouting forms, tracking systems, and volunteer coordination—allowed the program to grow sustainably. Beyond the numbers, the Gleaning Project continued to build relationships, reduce wildlife attractants, and demonstrate the power of collective care.

This remarkable amount of gleaned fruit was made possible by the many volunteers and community members who went above and beyond throughout the season.

Dry Creek Community Garden

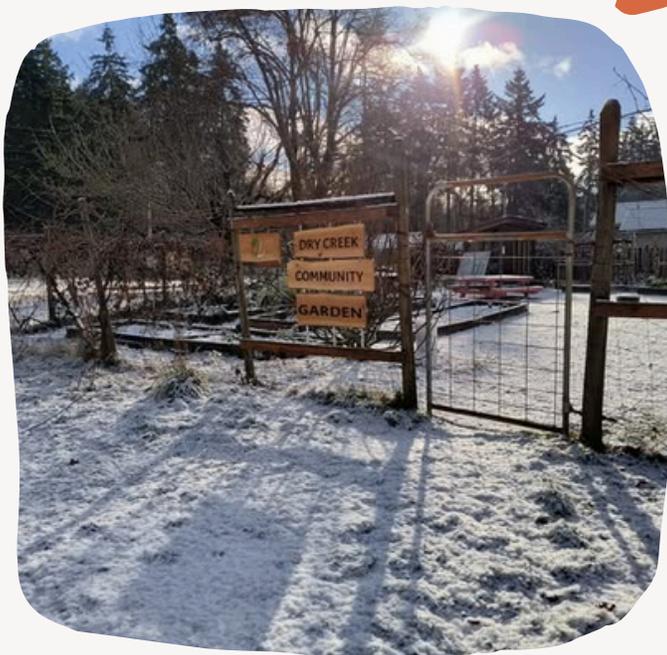
2025 Garden Slumber

Dry Creek Community Garden (DCCG), continues to serve as a vibrant community space that supports connection, learning, and environmental stewardship. Managed by AVFSS, the garden remains a shared place for skill building, collaboration, and sustainable food production.

In 2025, DCCG marked an important chapter, with all garden plots fully rented for the growing season and a lease extension secured through 2028, providing long-term stability for this valued community space. The year included volunteer work parties, infrastructure upgrades, and renewed attention to governance and stewardship, strengthening both community engagement and garden operations.

As a place of learning, nourishment, and connection, the garden continued to reflect the values of collaboration and care at the heart of AVFSS' work.

A big thank you to the City of Port Alberni for providing the garden site, renewing our three-year lease, and waiving water fees in support of community growing.



Getting ready for spring and the season ahead!



Community Events

Seedy Saturday 2025



One of the main objectives of AVFSS is to create opportunities for learning, growth, and fostering a self-sufficient food system in the resilient Alberni Valley.

In 2025, AVFSS hosted the Seedy Saturday event, which achieved remarkable success, attracting over 600 attendees. The event featured 24 vendors, a dedicated area for children's activities, and a lineup of speakers.

AVFSS hosted the annual gathering for the Island Health Food Security Hubs. It was great to showcase and tour a couple of the local initiatives and connect with our Island Health counterparts from across Vancouver Island.



Touring the Hupacasath Community Farm

In 2025, AVFSS teamed up with the Alberni Clayoquot Regional District to host the 13th Annual Family Farms Day! This event allowed us to highlight some of our amazing farms and urban sites in the Valley, and we are thankful to the seven locations that welcomed the community and opened their doors.

This event offers a wonderful chance for people to engage with and support local agriculture while also finding inspiration for what they can cultivate in their own backyards.



16 Family Farm Day 2025

Other Offerings

7

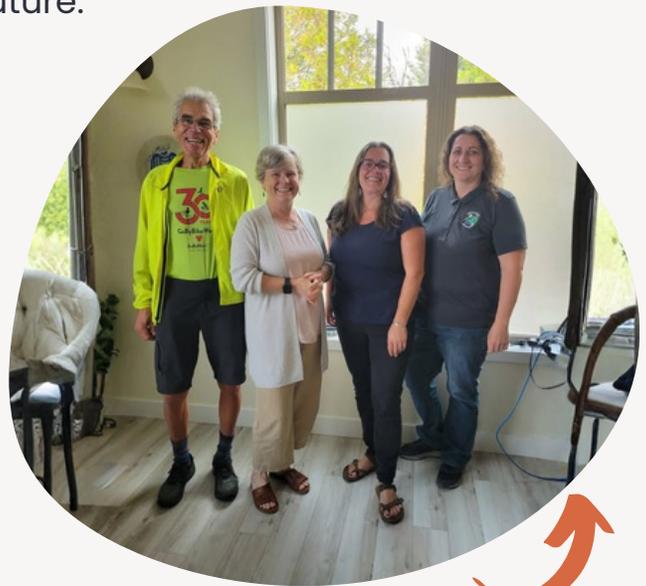
Edna Cox Bursary Recipient



One of the main objectives of AVFSS is to create opportunities for learning, growth, and fostering a self-sufficient food system in the resilient Alberni Valley.

AVFSS would like to congratulate Hali Stafford, the 2025 recipient of the Edna Cox Social Justice Bursary! We applaud her interest and efforts in community development and local food security. Wishing Hali all the best in her bright future.

Advocacy is a large part of what AVFSS as we know that strong local food systems are key to building healthier, more resilient communities—especially as we face the challenges of a changing climate. We are grateful to see these priorities recognized at the provincial level.



Advocacy with our local politicians

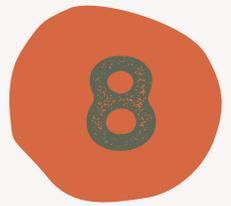
In 2025, AVFSS was incredibly fortunate to have Theresa Kingston facilitate an intensely valuable strategic planning process for the AVFSS organization. We are committed to updating and further defining our vision, goals and operational processes.

Immense gratitude to Theresa Kingston, who guided us through this undertaking with expertise, understanding and authenticity.



Formulating our Strategic Plan

Rooted in Tomorrow



In 2025, AFSS continued to invest in systems-level work that supports long-term food security. This included participation in regional food security and emergency planning, advocacy within Official Community Plan processes, and collaboration with Island Health and regional partners.

In 2025, we delivered meaningful impact across our programs, including the successful gleaning of more than 17,000 pounds of fruit and vegetables for our community. At the same time, we took an honest look at how that work was carried out and recognized the need to ensure our programs remain sustainable for the organization and the people behind them.

In 2026, AVFSS will focus on strengthening our core programs rather than expanding into new ones. This means putting clear boundaries around our work, deepening the impact of what we already do well, and aligning our activities with our capacity and resources.

Our priorities for 2026 include:

- Ensuring core programs, such as gleaning and food education, operate within realistic and sustainable limits
- Building stronger systems, staffing, and volunteer support to reduce overextension
- Delivering fewer but more intentional programs, events, and advocacy efforts that align with our mission and values.

This approach reflects our commitment to long-term impact, organizational resilience, and the wellbeing of our community, staff, and volunteers. By focusing our energy where it matters most, AVFSS is positioning itself to continue serving the community in a way that is thoughtful, effective, and sustainable.



Thank You



 WWW.AVFOOD.CA

 FACEBOOK.COM/AVFoodSociety

 INFO@AVFOOD.CA

The Alberni Valley Food Security Society extends deep gratitude to its volunteers, board members, staff, partners, funders, and community members. 2025 demonstrated what is possible when food security is approached collaboratively—with care for land, people, and future generations.

Ministry of Health Response 1320535

From Population and Public Health HLTH:EX <hlth.pph@gov.bc.ca>

Date Thu 11/27/2025 8:53 AM

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

Cc Minister, AF AF:EX <AF.Minister@gov.bc.ca>

[CAUTION] This email originated from outside of the ACRD

1320535

John Jack
Chairperson
Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board of Directors
3008 Fifth Avenue, Port Alberni, BC V9Y 2E3
aneedham@acrd.bc.ca

Dear John Jack:

Thank you for your letter of September 15, 2025, related to year-end funding for Farm to School BC. I am pleased to respond on behalf of Honourable Josie Osborne, Minister of Health. The Ministry of Health appreciates and values the work provided by Farm to School BC. The Ministry receives a significant number of grant requests; however, it is not possible to provide funding to all of the many worthy organizations seeking support from the Province. While the Ministry cannot commit funds at this time, we encourage them to continue their hard work supporting the residents of BC.

The Ministry of Education and Child Care provides \$71.5 million in annual funding to school districts through Feeding Futures to create and expand school food programs. To support this initiative, the Ministry of Health developed and launched the BC School Food Toolkit in March 2025. This resource supports schools in creating and maintaining nutritious and supportive school food environments.

In addition, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food has been working with school districts and food supply chain partners to incorporate Feed BC into new and expanded school food programs, to encourage the use of more BC food in Feeding Futures programs. It is also supporting school food programs to incorporate local food literacy through learning opportunities about local food, agriculture, and food systems.

With the intersections of these relatively new initiatives and resources for schools and districts, we continue to look for opportunities to support the needs of school communities while reducing duplication of efforts and ensuring coordinated, cost-effective alignment of the work, with a clear, shared vision for the future.

Presently, Farm to School BC's classroom learning resources remain available on their website should Pacific Rim Schools wish to access these here: [Farm to School BC - Bringing healthy, local food to schools K-12](#)

Thank you again for taking the time to share your concerns regarding discontinuation of the Farm to School BC year-end funding.

Sincerely,

Thomas Guerrero

Executive Director
Population and Public Health

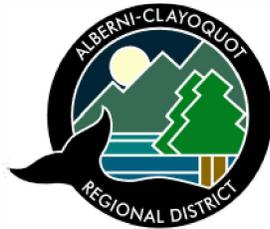
pc: Honourable Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture & Food

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From: Amy Needham <aneedham@acrd.bc.ca>
Sent: September 15, 2025 8:28 AM
To: Minister, HLTH HLTH:EX <HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Minister, AF AF:EX <AF.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Letter of Support for Farm to School BC

Good morning, please see attached letter from the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board.

Best regards,



Amy Needham, P. Ag (she/her)
Sustainability Planner – Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District
A 3008 Fifth Avenue, Port Alberni, BC V9Y 2E3
O 250.720.2729 W acrd.bc.ca

This email is confidential and may be privileged. Any use of this email by an unintended recipient is prohibited. If you receive this email in error please notify me immediately and delete it.





Public Health
Association of BC



Celebrating 18 Years

F2SBC Annual Report

2024 - 2025
22



Primary Funder

BC Ministry of Health

Celebrating 18 years of partnership growing healthy futures

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Government of British Columbia and the Ministry of Health for their long-standing leadership and partnership with Farm to School BC. Together, we have proven that healthy eating and food literacy are powerful investments in the well-being of our children and communities.



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Executive Summary

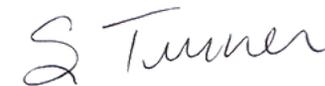
On behalf of Farm to School BC (F2SBC) and the Public Health Association of BC (PHABC), we would like to give thanks to everyone who has supported the program over the past 18 years. Your partnership and dedication strengthen health eating, hands-on learning, youth food literacy programs, and students' connections to local food systems.

During the 2024-2025 school year, F2SBC significantly expanded its reach by aligning our Regional Hub model with BC's Health Authorities, allowing us to further support all school districts with the same personalized guidance previously offered to selective school districts. This province-wide approach has allowed us to build new local connections, specifically in the Kootenays, and Fraser regions, where we hosted school-food networking and knowledge mobilization events that brought together farmers, school districts, and community partners.

Resource development was a major focus this past year. Highlights were the three major toolkits we launched, including the [Great B.C. School Food Cookbook](#), [Edible Adventures](#), and [Cultivating Curiosity](#). Each resource was developed in tandem with schools, all of which addresses a unique need for educators.

We are proud to have funded seventy new school-food projects this past year, including school garden builds, farm field trips, a school garden mentorship program, and a school farm project. In total, we have now surpassed four hundred schools funded, a milestone of which we are extremely proud.

While future funding for F2SBC is under review, we are grateful for the work and accomplishments of our program and partners over the last 18 years and trust that the ongoing value of our programs will continue to be recognized.



Dr. Shannon Turner
Executive Director
Public Health Association of BC



Marcus Lobb
F2SBC Provincial Manager
Public Health Association of BC

F2SBC at a Glance

Our Vision

Nourishing, local, culturally appropriate, and sustainable food on the plates and minds of all students in BC.

Our Mission

F2SBC seeks to **empower and support BC schools** and communities in building comprehensive farm to school programs that cultivate vibrant, sustainable regional food systems, promote student food literacy, and enhance school and community connectedness.

Three Core Pillars

Nourishing,
Local Food



Hands-on
Learning



School and
Community
Connectedness





F2SBC Through the Years



Planting the Seed

2007: Pilot F2S project at Dragon Lake Elementary in Quesnel. A salad bar program built in collaboration with Northern Health.

2009: F2SBC Provincial Network established with advisory from 5 Regional Health Leads.



Regional Expansion

2014: Regional Hub Model pilot program in Vancouver, Kamloops, and Capital Region.

2017–2021: Regional Hubs expand to Central Island, Surrey, Northwest, North Central and Lower Sunshine Coast.



Growing Support

2017–2021: Community Animators (8) hired to provide on the ground support to BC schools.

2021: Programs and resources funded for Indigenous education, i.e. Learning from the Land toolkit and Harvest 4 Knowledge.



Gathering Together

2019: National F2S Conference hosted with Farm to Cafeteria Canada in Victoria.

2023: First F2SBC provincial conference – Planting the Seed. Gathering with 241 participants in Vancouver.

400+ Schools Funded

83 Rural and Remote
29 Indigenous



53,000 Students

Engaged in F2SBC funded initiatives across BC



18 Active Years

Supported by the BC Ministry of Health





Projects We Fund

F2SBC's annual grants program is designed to support new and established school initiatives that empower students to explore, learn, and grow through food. We embrace, celebrate, and fund a diversity of food education projects, encouraging schools to pursue initiatives that best serve the unique needs of their students and communities.

Since 2007, we've been supporting schools across BC, beginning with a simple salad bar program.





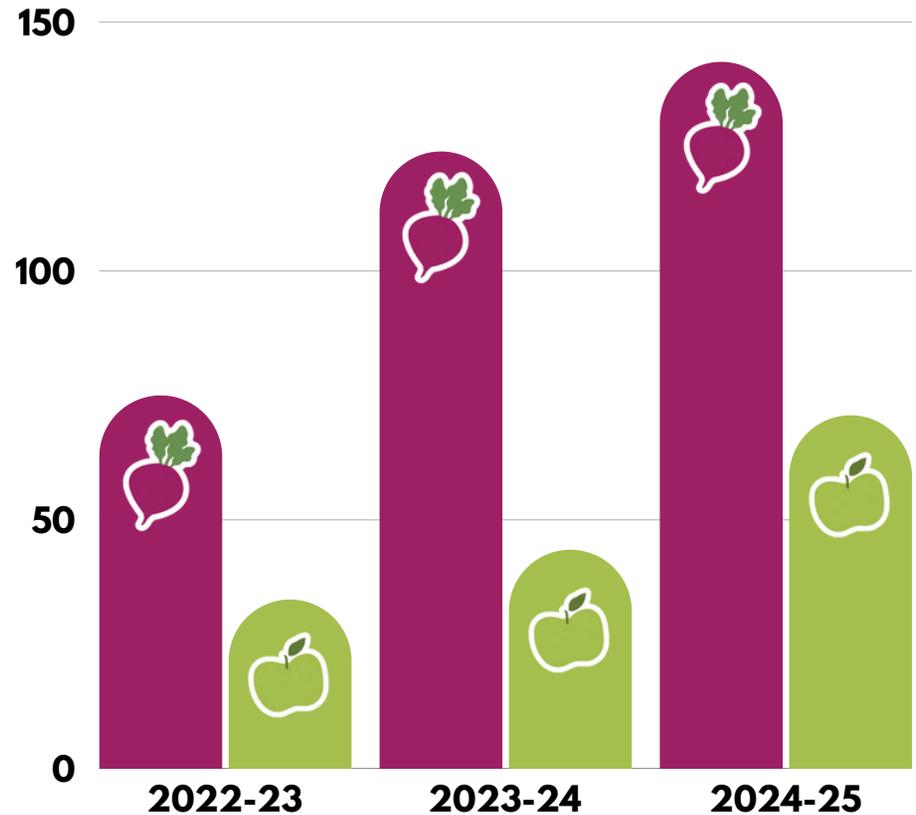
The Growing Need For F2SBC Funding

The Farm to School movement is not slowing down

Each year, we witness the growing demand for food literacy funding. In November 2024, we received a **record 142 grant applications** from schools across BC, each filled with inspiring ideas to engage K-12 students with local food systems.

Each application tells the story of a school eager to build healthy school food environments for BC students. We aim to fund them all, so we're seeking opportunities to **close this widening gap**.

“
Without F2SBC we would not have had students in the garden this year. The students are so proud, they are asking to add fresh garden food to their lunches.
 - School Administrator
 ”



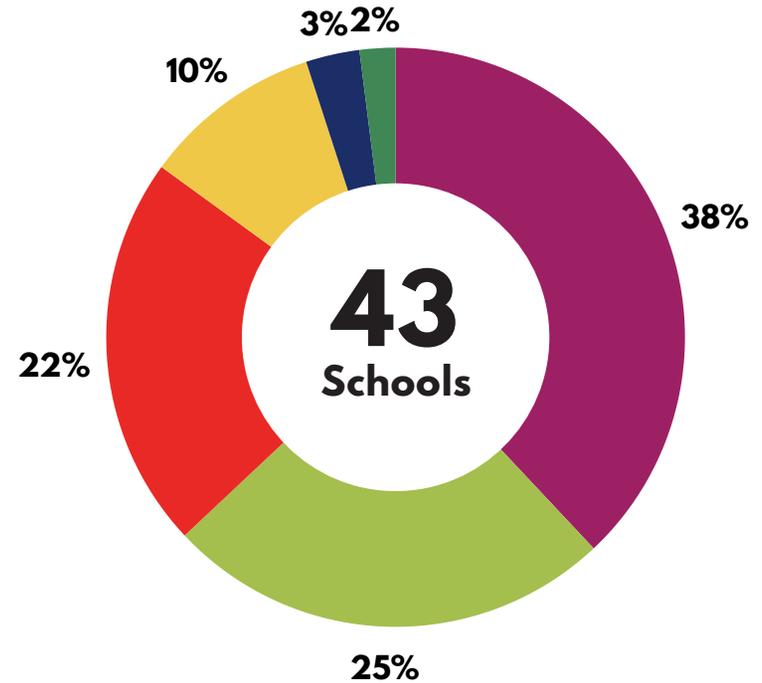


2024-2025 F2SBC Grants Year in Review

Annual Food Literacy Grants

43 Schools funded by BC Ministry of Health

F2SBC’s annual grants program empowers schools to cultivate food literacy, inspiring K-12 students to explore, learn, and grow through hands-on food experiences. This year, we’re thrilled to celebrate 43 schools across British Columbia that received up to \$1,000 in funding! We funded schools in 30 school districts across BC, along with 4 independent schools and 2 First Nations schools.



Project Category Distribution

- **Outdoor Growing (38%)**
- **Indoor Growing (10%)**
- **Cooking (25%)**
- **Celebrations (3%)**
- **Expert Knowledge (22%)**
- **Aquaponics (2%)**



Externally Funded School Food Grants



10 **Cultivating Curiosity**
\$1,000 field trip grants funded by Ministry of Agriculture and Food



8 **Food Literacy Grants**
Up to \$1,000 to schools funded by Vancouver Film Studios and the Northern SGM program



5 **Cookoff Grants**
\$1,000 to winners of the The Great BC School Food Cook-off, funded by MoAF



5 **Pollinator Award Grants**
\$1,300 to treat students to a food field trip or school food feast

71 Total funded schools in 2024-2025

Regional Distribution of F2SBC Funded Schools in British Columbia



Equity is central to F2SBC's grant distribution. We have made intentional efforts to reach rural, remote, and First Nations schools, and aligned our regional hubs with health authority boundaries to expand and strengthen support for school districts across the province.





The Regional Model

The **F2SBC Regional Model** is an innovative program that recognizes that local adaptation is critical to influencing school food environments.

2014: First Regional Hubs

The first F2SBC Regional Hubs were established in three urban regions: **Capital, Kamloops, and Vancouver**

2017 - 2021: Hub Expansion

Additional hubs were launched in more rural, equity-deserving areas: **Central Island, Surrey, Northwest, North Central, and Lower Sunshine Coast**

2024: Broader Regions

Shift from 8 locally based regional hubs to 5 broader regions aligned with BC health authorities. **Vancouver Coastal, Fraser, Interior, Island, and Northern**

Each regional hub is coordinated by a locally based **community animator** and supported by a network of **stakeholders**:



“F2SBC is important for our rural school because students are now able to participate in something that urban students can, it levels the playing field.”
 – School Administrator





Community Animators

Our Community Animators contribute to the successful delivery of F2SBC within each Regional Hub:

-  **Create space for educators, community partners, parent volunteers, and students** to come together and share their knowledge
-  **Strengthen links with the community:** local businesses, community groups, local harvesters, food producers, health authorities, etc.
-  **Assist with leveraging other sources of funding** to build on the F2SBC grants
-  **Act as allies** to Indigenous communities
-  **Bring a focused vision** to their regions
-  **Provide a framework** that addresses the unique needs of each community

2024-2025 Animator Year in Review

Animators brought in over \$130,000 in additional funding for their communities

Initiated the FLESS School Farm Project in Fraser Lake with a \$70,000 grant from Northern Health

Hosted School Food Gatherings in Kootenay and Fraser Regions
About 70 people attended, including Feeding Futures Coordinators, Teachers, Community Partners, Farmers, etc.





Thank You To Our Community Animators

These local superstars are essential to the success of both F2SBC and school food programs across the province, connecting classrooms to farmers and communities. We are profoundly grateful for their dedication and impact.

2014 - 2020

Aaren Topley, Marcus Lobb, Margo Peill, Samantha Gambling, Bonnie Klohn, Lauren Bernardi, Claudia Paez, Keira McPhee and Addie de Candole



2021 - 2023

Serena Caner, Erin Champion, Margo Peill, Meryn Corkery, Angelina Sharma, Tessa Stiven, Roanne Whitticase, Sonya Rokosh, Matthew Kemshaw, Claudia Paez, and Naomi Fleschhut



2024 - 2025

Ève-Marie Richard, Véronique Emmett, Tessa Stiven, Quentin Randall, Roanne Whitticase, Megan Visslai, and Amber Rowse-Robinson



Pollinator Awards

Celebrating Local School Food Champions in British Columbia

F2SBC's Pollinator Awards recognize K-12 schools across BC that demonstrate outstanding leadership in farm-to-school initiatives.

This year, each of our Pollinators was nominated by members of their community. They were **awarded \$1,300** to take their students on a local food field trip or to host a school feast.



Sherwood Park Elementary
SD 44 North Vancouver



Peden Hill Elementary
SD 57 Prince George



Highland Park Elementary

SD 42 Maple Ridge
- Pitt Meadows



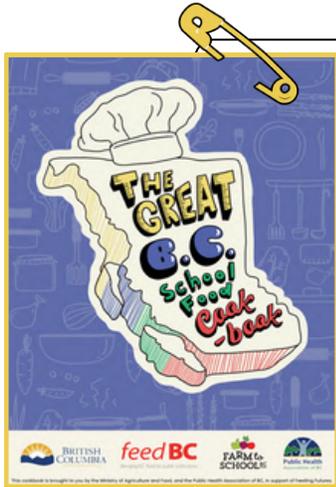
Stelly's Secondary
SD 63 Saanich



Coldstream Elementary
SD 22 Vernon



Strengthening Educator Toolkits



The Great B.C. School Food Cookbook

Over 60 recipes submitted by K-12 students and educators exploring local B.C. foods. Perfect for a healthy breakfast, lunch or snack.

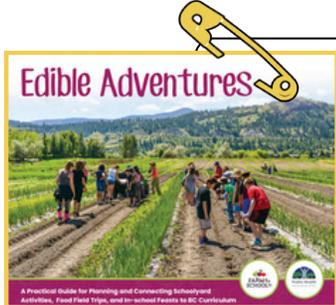
Published: April 2025
Funded by: BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food



B.C. Food Literacy Resources

A series of “All about B.C. food” posters, scrolling slideshows, and activity sheets to support curriculum connections to B.C. food, agriculture, and food systems.

Published: April 2025
Funded by: BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food



Edible Adventures

A practical guide to support K-12 educators in connecting schoolyard stations, field trips, and in-school feasts to the BC curriculum.

Published: September 2025
Funded by: Victoria Foundation



Cultivating Curiosity

A practical guide designed to help BC educators strengthen agriculture education in secondary schools.

Published: October 2025
Funded by: BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food



Most Engaged F2SBC Educator Resources

F2SBC is proud to offer a growing library of resources for K-12 educators.

Developed in alignment with the B.C. curriculum, these tools were created in close collaboration with educators, public health dietitians, Indigenous leaders, and government. We remain committed to building teacher capacity to engage students in food systems and food literacy.



Hands on Food
Use food to teach the BC Curriculum
Lesson plans developed for educators by educators and health professionals

Interior Health | FARM to SCHOOLS | Public Health

Hands on Food: Resource to guide educators through using food to teach the BC Curriculum.

2,957

File Downloads
(Jan 2023 - Dec 2025)

www.handsonfood.ca

Learning from the Land

RESOURCES AND STORIES FROM K-12 SCHOOLS TO SUPPORT ENGAGEMENT WITH INDIGENOUS PLANTS AND PEDAGOGY

Learning from the Land Toolkit: Connects K-12 schools to Indigenous plants and pedagogy.

2,565

File Downloads
(Jan 2023 - Dec 2025)

www.farmtoschoolbc.ca/learning-from-the-land-toolkit

Farm to School BC:

Guide to Growing a School Farm

Guide to Growing a School Farm: Sharing lessons and stories from different school farm models.

461

File Downloads
(Jan 2023 - Dec 2025)

www.farmtoschoolbc.ca/guide-to-growing-a-school-farm



Knowledge Mobilization Webinars

In 2024, we wrapped up three years of hosting School Garden Mentorship webinars.

We started 2025 with a new format, collaborating with local school food experts to dive into more diverse topics.

All of these webinars are uploaded to our YouTube channel @farmtoschoolbc and website.



Building a Successful School Farm with Krystle tenBrink (SquamishCAN)

114 views

January 2025



Growing a Sustainable School Meal Program with Fatima Da Silva (Nourish Cowichan)

103 views

February 2025



A Community-Rooted Approach to School Food with Matthew Kemshaw (Flourish!)

95 views

April 2025



Cultivating Curiosity Webinar Series (Ministry of Agriculture and Food)

- **PART ONE:** Joe Massie and Tania Toth, Sardis Secondary School
- **PART TWO:** Krystle tenBrink and Erin Eidsvik, Howe Sound Secondary School and SquamishCAN
- **PART THREE:** Daniel Schulbeck, Daaxiigan S K'adāa Nēe and Shelly Crack, Northern Health

361 views

April - May 2025



The Growing Network

Through the years, our communications strategy has improved, strengthening our capacity to promote our program’s impact and expand our network for province-wide community engagement and knowledge sharing.

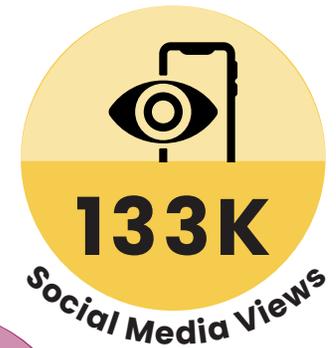
We communicate across **3 social media platforms, 5 regionally focused newsletters, one province-wide newsletter, and a school garden listserv community.**



F2SBC 2024 - 2025 Analytics:



Social Media Posts



Social Media Views



Social Media Followers



Website Views



Newsletter Subscribers



Program Funders (2024-25)

BC Ministry of Health

Celebrating 18 years of partnership

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Government of British Columbia and the Ministry of Health for their long-standing leadership and partnership with Farm to School BC. MoH is the primary funder supporting F2SBC grants and program operations.

BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food

This year, we collaborated to develop The Great B.C. School Food Cookbook, BC Food Literacy resources, and Cultivating Curiosity. They funded grants for 15 schools to engage students with local food systems. They also funded food networking events in the Kootenay and Fraser regions.

Victoria Foundation

Funds for developing the Edible Adventures guide were provided by the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction's Food Security: (Provincial Initiatives) Fund through the Victoria Foundation.



Vancouver Film Studios

Vancouver Film Studios funded farm to school projects in three schools in BC.





Regional Supporters

Regional network of stakeholders providing in-kind donations, contributing to the advisory committee and collaborating on school food events and projects.

Island Region

- Alberni Clayoquot Regional District
- Alberni Valley Food Security Society
- Beban Learning Gardens
- Compost Education Centre
- Cowichan Green Communities
- CRFAIR
- Flourish! School Food
- Growing Opportunities
- Island Health
- Island Health
- Iye Creative
- Lush Valley
- Mustard Seed
- Nanaimo Food Hub
- Nanaimo Foodshare
- Nanaimo Ladysmith Schools Foundation
- Nourish Cowichan
- People for a Healthy Community Gabriola
- Sandown Centre for Regenerative Agriculture
- Tofino Community Food Initiative



Regional Funding Partners

- **Tree Canada:** Perennial planting at Woodlands School Farm (*pictured above*)
- **TD Friends of the Environment:** Port Alberni Garden Revitalization Project
- **People for a Healthy Community:** Field trip to Good Earth Farm

Vancouver Coastal Region

- Elements Society
- Fresh Roots
- North Shore School Food Network
- North Vancouver School Board
- Sea to Sky School District
- Squamish CAN
- Sunshine Coast School District
- University of British Columbia
- Vancouver Coastal Health
- Vancouver DPAC
- Vancouver Food Policy Council
- Vancouver School Board
- Vancouver School Food Network
- West Coast Seeds

Fraser Region

- A Rocha Farm
- Fraser Health
- Langley School District
- Mission School District
- New Westminster School District
- Seeds of Change
- Surrey School District
- West Coast Seeds



Regional Funding Partners

- **Metro Van Agricultural Awareness Grant:** Sharing Farm Field Trip (*pictured above*)
- **Feed BC:** Fraser Region School Food Gathering

Interior Region

- Butler Urban Farm
- Central Kootenay School Food Policy Council
- Columbia Valley Food and Farm
- Creston Valley Food Action Coalition
- Fields Forward
- Interior Health
- Kamloops Farmers Market
- Kamloops Food Policy Council
- Nelson Community Food Center
- SD 83, SD 73, SD 51, SD 8, SD 5
- Shuswap Community Foundation
- Shuswap Food Action
- The Stir Food Hub

Northern Region

- Community Futures
- Ecotrust
- First Nations Health Authority
- Groundbreakers Agricultural Association
- Kalum Community School Society
- Nechako Valley Food Network
- Northern Health
- Prince George Library
- SD82, SD57, SD91, REAPS, SD28, SD52
- UNBC



Regional Funding Partners

- **Feed BC:** Kootenay Region School Food Gathering (pictured above)
- **Northern Health Grant**
- **IMAGINE Community Grant**



Celebrating 18 Years F2SBC Annual Report

2024 - 2025

Connect with PHABC



www.phabc.org



[PublicHealthAssociationBC](https://www.facebook.com/PublicHealthAssociationBC)



[PHA_BC](https://www.instagram.com/PHA_BC)



[Public Health Association of BC](https://www.linkedin.com/company/public-health-association-of-bc)



Newsletter:
clkmg.com/PHA_BC/Newsletter

Connect with F2SBC



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[Farmtoschoolbc](https://www.instagram.com/Farmtoschoolbc)



Newsletter:
farmtoschoolbc.ca/newsletter



Celebrating 18 Years

F2SBC Annual Report

2024 - 2025

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Understanding the Proposed New Traceability Rules

There is significant misinformation being shared on social media regarding the proposed changes to traceability regulations under the *Health of Animals Act*. The Canadian Cattle Association worked with provincial associations and other industry associations to provide input to ensure the regulations follow the Cattle Implementation Plan which was developed and endorsed by the cattle industry.

CCA will continue to work with provincial members, other beef industry associations and governments to ensure any proposed changes work for producers. We called for and achieved a pause to address the concerns that we are hearing.

The proposed regulatory changes honour the intent of the Cattle Implementation Plan, which was developed by the beef industry and was updated in 2016.

Traceability data is protected by privacy legislation. A premises identification (PID) number allows anonymized reporting: no producer name, business name or location is provided with each transaction. Associated information is only visible to select individuals in certain circumstances.

There is no proposed requirement to report cattle movement within a cattle operation.

Proposed NEW Requirements for Producers

- A premises identification (PID) number obtained from your provincial government (currently mandatory in some but not all provinces)
- Must include your PID number when:
 - Purchasing approved indicators (tags)
 - Reporting information related to identification of cattle and their movement
- Report the arrival of cattle (i.e., move-in reporting) within 7 days
- If moving cattle to graze at community pasture or comingled grazing, producers will be required to report group movement for departure and return

No Proposed Changes to Current Regulations

- Cattle must be tagged before leaving the site of origin
- Report tag retirement when animals are slaughtered, exported or die



Understanding the Proposed Traceability Regulations



ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	CURRENT REGULATIONS	PROPOSED REGULATIONS
IDENTIFYING CATTLE			
Identifying cattle—general	Premises where cattle are located	Animals must be identified before leaving site of origin.	No change
Identifying cattle—receiving cattle without indicators (tags)	Tagging site	Cattle must be tagged with indicator linked to the originating site.	Cattle must be tagged with indicator linked to the originating PID and reported.
	Receiver (arriving) but not a tagging site	Re-identified cattle must be recorded.	Re-identified cattle must be reported.
Identifying cattle—when cattle lose an indicator	Premises where cattle are located	Cattle with lost indicators must have indicator replaced and be recorded.	Cattle with a lost indicator must have indicator replaced and be reported.
PREMISES IDENTIFICATION			
Identifying premises	Premises owner	No requirements	A PID must be reported when purchasing tags or reporting information to CLTS.
MOVEMENT REPORTING			
Movement within a cattle operation	Premises owner	No requirements	No requirements
Movement off and on to grazing without comingling	Premises owner	No requirements	No requirements
Movement off and on to comingled grazing or community pasture	Premises owner (returning and departing)	No requirements	Departing premises owner reports group movement for departure, and returning premises owner reports group movement for return.
Movement to another cattle operation	Shipper (departing)	No requirements	No requirement to report. Provide PID to transporter.
	Receiver (arriving)	No requirements	Report move-in event, including animal indicators, within 7 days.
Movement to assembly or auction	Shipper (departing)	No requirements	No requirements to report. Provide PID to transporter.
	Assembly or auction	No requirements	Report group movement or arrival “sighting” within 7 days.
Movement to slaughter	Shipper (departing)	No requirements	No requirements
	Abattoir	No requirements	Report arrival (move-in event), death or slaughter within 7 days.



BC Premises Identification Regulation

Policy Intentions Paper

January 2021

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

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Introduction

The B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (MAFF) is introducing a new Premises Identification (ID) Regulation (the “Regulation”) under the B.C. *Animal Health Act*. This document provides a plain-language summary of the ministry’s intended policy direction for the new regulation.

Background

MAFF has offered voluntary premises identification (ID) registration at no cost since 2011. In 2016, MAFF introduced a new user-friendly online registration system - [BCPID Online](#) - to improve the premises ID registration process. Although support is growing for premises ID among B.C.’s livestock and poultry industries, particularly those that have been affected by disease outbreaks and wildfires in recent years, only an estimated 65% of livestock and poultry premises have been registered to date. The persistent gaps in information about where farm animals are located on the land base continues to limit the ability of government agencies and industry to respond quickly to disease and natural disaster emergencies, reduces the chances that livestock and poultry operations can continue operating during emergencies and puts Canada’s traceability system at risk.

The new regulation will introduce mandatory premises ID registration with the goal of closing information gaps in B.C.’s premises ID system in order to enable the Province and industry to more effectively respond to animal health and environmental emergencies affecting livestock and poultry.

For more background information, please refer to the following documents posted on the premises ID website:

- [Frequently Asked Questions – Premises ID](#) (2019)
- [Premises ID Discussion Paper](#) (2019)
- What We Heard Report (2021)

Proposed Policy Scope

Species

The regulation will require registration of premises where the following animals may be present, temporarily or permanently, within 30 days of assuming care and/or ownership of the animal(s). The term “animal” will be defined in the Regulation and will include:

- ◆ Alpacas
- ◆ Bees
- ◆ Bison
- ◆ Cervid (farmed deer, reindeer or caribou)
- ◆ Cattle
- ◆ Donkeys
- ◆ Doves
- ◆ Ducks
- ◆ Fowl (quail, peafowl, pheasants, guinea fowl and pigeons)

- ◆ Fur-bearing animals (chinchilla, mink, fox)
- ◆ Geese
- ◆ Goats
- ◆ Horses
- ◆ Llamas
- ◆ Mules
- ◆ Poultry (broilers, pullets, layers, turkeys, exhibition breeds)
- ◆ Rabbits
- ◆ Ratites (Emu/Ostrich)
- ◆ Sheep
- ◆ Swine (pigs, hogs, miniature pigs)
- ◆ Vicuna
- ◆ Water Buffalo
- ◆ Wild boars
- ◆ Yaks

Public input included suggestions to require registration of exotic species and dogs. These and other species are not proposed for inclusion under the premises ID regulation.

Commingling Sites

The regulation will require an owner or operator of premises where animals owned by different owners are raised, kept or assembled, either temporarily or permanently (i.e., a “commingling site”) to register and obtain a premises ID number for the commingling site.

Commingling sites being considered for inclusion in the proposed regulation are listed below and have been refined to reflect the results of public consultation and a review of other provincial jurisdictions’ regulations.

- ◆ Animal embryo transfer stations
- ◆ Assembly yards
- ◆ Auctions/livestock sale facilities
- ◆ Boarding stables
- ◆ Carcass disposal sites
- ◆ Community pastures
- ◆ Crown range tenures
- ◆ Fair or Exhibition grounds
- ◆ Federally licensed slaughter facilities
- ◆ Feedlots
- ◆ Hatcheries
- ◆ Insemination centres
- ◆ Pastures
- ◆ Race tracks/competition facilities
- ◆ Rendering plants
- ◆ Research facilities
- ◆ Provincial slaughter facilities (Class A, B, D and E) licensed under the B.C. *Meat Inspection Regulation*
- ◆ Veterinary clinics
- ◆ Veterinary hospitals/labs
- ◆ Zoos/petting zoos

Operation Type and Size

The regulation will apply to all premises where animals are kept, assembled, raised or disposed of, regardless of the number of animals on a given premises (i.e., size of operation, herd or flock size), and irrespective of the reason the animals are kept (type of operation). For example, requirements would apply equally to a small acreage with one horse kept as a pet, a farm with a small flock of 10 chickens, a commercial beef cattle operation, or a feedlot.

The risk of a disease outbreak occurring varies depending on how the disease spreads (mode of transmission), the location of a premises (proximity to other premises, density of operations), the species affected (single or multiple species) and various other factors. Similarly, the impact of a natural

disaster can vary from minimal to extreme. Any animal or premises can be the source or be affected by an animal disease outbreak, and any animal or premises is vulnerable to the impacts of an unforeseen natural disaster. To ensure that emergency events can be managed quickly and efficiently and protect the health and well-being of animals, all premises where regulated animals are present, either permanently or temporarily, will be required to register with the premises ID program.

Primary and Linked Premises

The regulation will require registrants to identify at least one “primary premises”¹, sometimes referred to as the “home site” or “home ranch”. A primary premises is the location where animals in the registrant’s care are permanently or most often located.

Many registrants keep animals in their care at multiple locations (locations other than their primary premises) either temporarily or permanently. The premises ID program will continue to encourage registrants to identify these other locations as “linked premises”. Registration of linked premises will not be required under the regulation but will be strongly encouraged. The more information there is available in the premises ID database about where animals are on the land base, the more efficient and effective emergency management efforts can be.

Examples of linked premises

A common example of a linked premises is a Crown land tenure or private pasture where cattle are moved to graze for part of the year. A linked premises could also be a second land parcel adjacent to a registrant’s primary premises where they keep a second or distinctly separate herd. Another example of a linked premises is a field where beehives are moved temporarily for pollination purposes. Given the many possible scenarios in how individual farming operations are structured, premises ID staff are available to assist registrants in identifying their primary premises and any possible linked premises.

Leased or Rented Premises

If a person is leasing or renting the property on which their animals are kept, they would be responsible for registering with the premises ID program, not the property owner. In the case an emergency, emergency responders are interested in contacting the person that is responsible for the care of animals on a given premises.

Premises ID Number Stays with the Location

Upon registration, a premises ID number is assigned to the geographical location where animals are located. This location is identified based on a legal land description, most often by a 9-digit land parcel identification number. Once created, a premises ID number remains permanently with the geographic location and is not transferrable to another geographic location.

For example, if a farmer registered with the premises ID program moves their animals to a new ranch (i.e., a different parcel of land), they will need to update their premises ID account with their new ranch

¹ It is possible for a registrant to identify multiple primary premises. For example, an owner/operator of multiple commingling sites (e.g. auction yards) could register multiple primary premises.

location. They will then receive a new premises ID number for the new ranch location. Their old premises ID number will remain with the original ranch on the original parcel of land. A registrant can update their premises ID account information online at any time or contact program staff for assistance with updating their account.

A person moving animals to a new location does not need to know the premises ID number for the new location, or even if one exists – they will receive a new premises ID number when they update their information online or with the assistance of program staff.

Premises ID Account versus Premises ID Number

When a person or business registers with the premises ID program, either online or via the paper registration form, a premises ID account is created. This account contains all the information that might be required in an emergency affecting the animals in the registrant's care (see below).

As discussed above, one premises ID number is assigned to each specific and legally defined parcel of land where animals are located. If a registrant keeps animals at more than one location, their premises ID account may have several premises ID numbers associated with it (i.e., one primary premises and one or more linked premises). Similarly, when animals under the care of two or more individuals may be located on the same premises (for example, multiple herds grazing on the same range tenure or an abattoir operating on the same property where poultry barns are located), several premises ID accounts could reference the same premises ID number.

Premises ID Information

Upon registration, all of the following information will be requested from the registrant:

- Registrant's name (individual or business);
- Business name (where appropriate);
- Registrant's contact information;
- Name and contact information for the individual who will be the primary contact for the premises during business hours and after business hours for emergency and other purposes (may or may not be the same as the registrant information);
- The relationship of the applicant to the ownership of the premises on the register of titles under the Land Titles Act (e.g., tenant, lease holder, family member);
- The location of the premises either by legal land description, georeferenced coordinates or street address;
- The type of operation or operations on the premises;
- The species of animals that will be present on the premises; and
- For each species of animal, the maximum capacity estimated for the operation on the premises.

For most agricultural operations, the number of animals on site at any given time will fluctuate. For this reason, only the maximum capacity or maximum possible number of animals on site is collected by the program as a starting point for emergency planning and response.

Premises ID Information Management

Registrants will be required to update their premises ID account information within 30 days if any of the above information changes to maximize its value for emergency response. Examples of when registrants should update their account information include (but are not limited to):

- The registrant no longer owns animals;
- New species of animals are present on the premises or species on the premises have changed;
- The type of operation associated with the premises changes;
- The maximum capacity of the site changes (e.g., a significant and permanent increase in herd size); or
- Contact information or business information changes.

Registrants will also receive a notification from the premises ID program every 2 years asking them to review and verify their account information to ensure the information is up to date.

Premises ID account holders can access their online account at any time, using their username and password. If a registrant has used the paper registration form, they can either contact program staff to assist in updating their account, or they can create a username and password to access their account information online at any time.

Confidentiality

The new premises ID regulation will be enacted under the B.C. *Animal Health Act*. The collection, use and disclosure of premises ID information will continue to be strictly managed per provisions in the B.C. *Animal Health Act*. Consistent with current policy, premises ID information can only be shared with agencies responsible for emergency management when necessary to protect animal and public health. Premises ID information will continue to be stored on servers located in Canada, behind government firewalls, in a strictly password-controlled database.

Premises ID information will not be shared with agencies responsible for taxation or for purposes unrelated to animal or public health.

Access to Evacuation Areas during Emergencies

Decisions about access to evacuation zones are made by emergency management personnel on a case by case basis, with a focus on ensuring public safety. Neither the premises ID program, nor MAFF has control over these decisions in any given emergency scenario.

However, premises ID information has been used during past natural disaster emergencies to inform and facilitate re-entry permitting decisions with considerable success in wildfire-affected areas. Ministry staff will continue to work with local governments to communicate the value of this approach and to incorporate guidelines for the use of premises ID information, where practical and appropriate, in emergency response scenarios affecting livestock and poultry.

Enforcement

Following the introduction of a new premises ID regulation, program staff will focus on education and outreach combined with cross-compliance measures to encourage premises ID registration in lieu of enforcement actions. Education and outreach will focus on dispelling misinformation and communicating the value of premises ID in protecting the lives of animals and livelihoods during emergency events.

Animal owners will be increasingly required to provide their premises ID number in order to access funding and (or) government services, or to obtain or renew certain licenses issued by MAFF or other provincial government agencies. For example, premises ID registration will be required to access all funding under the Canadian Agriculture Partnership (e.g., Environmental Farm Plan funding, traceability funding) or to obtain or renew a small-scale slaughter licence (e.g., a Class D or E slaughter licence under the B.C. *Meat Inspection Regulation*).

Diseases Transmitted between Domesticated and Wild Animal Populations

Some animal diseases can be transmitted between domestic and wild animal populations (e.g., chronic wasting disease in deer, rabbit haemorrhagic fever in rabbits). The use of premises ID information will be restricted to managing an outbreak or threat to a domesticated animal population.

Regulated Industries

Regulated dairy, poultry and pork operations are subject to considerable oversight by industry boards. Regulated industry operations are typically registered with the premises ID program via their respective board rather than directly with the program. The premises ID program has varying levels of access to regulated industry business and contact information.

If a memorandum of understanding is in place between the ministry (the premises ID program) and a regulated industry board that enables rapid access to members' premises ID information during an emergency, individual operations regulated by that industry board would not need to maintain separate accounts with the premises ID program.

Beekeeping (Apiculture) Operations

Beekeeping operations are unique in that hives are regularly moved between multiple premises for commercial pollination purposes. As well, apiculture operations in B.C. are subject to unique registration and reporting requirements under the B.C. *Bee Regulation*.

Beekeepers are now required to register their apiaries through the premises ID program.



[Canada.ca](#) › [Canadian Food Inspection Agency](#)

Statement from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency on proposed amendments to livestock traceability regulations

From: [Canadian Food Inspection Agency](#).

Statement

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is aware of public discussion regarding the proposed amendments to Part XV (Traceability) of the *Health of Animals Regulations*.

These amendments are not currently in place and have not been finalized. The CFIA has consulted with industry, associations and governments regarding the proposed amendments and will continue to do so. The CFIA will pause any publication of the regulations until the proposed changes are more widely understood and concerns are heard and taken into consideration.

The CFIA is committed to reducing red tape and regulatory reform and is advancing a number of modernization initiatives to support businesses, while ensuring Canada's animal health system remains effective, practical, and fit for purpose. Animal diseases continue to occur, and when they do, Canada must be able to respond quickly, accurately, and effectively.

Strong traceability is central to that response. A modern, reliable traceability system allows animals to be tracked through the production system, supports faster and more targeted disease response, and helps limit impacts on producers, communities, and trade. It is also an investment made to protect Canadian animal health and respond to disease threats, like foot and mouth disease. In practice, better traceability leads to quicker resolution of disease events, greater certainty for businesses, and stronger confidence in Canada's livestock system domestically and internationally.

The proposed amendments are intended to close gaps in the current framework and strengthen Canada's livestock traceability system. This supports effective response to disease events, minimizes economic disruption and helps Canadian producers and processors remain competitive at home and abroad, while supporting long-term economic stability for businesses.

Industry has been closely involved throughout the development of these proposed amendments over the last decade. The draft regulations were pre-published in Part I of the *Canada Gazette* in 2023, followed by a 90-day public comment period. In 2024, the CFIA published a *What We Heard report* summarizing feedback from producers, industry associations, provinces, and other partners. Since then, the CFIA has continued engagement with stakeholders so that the system is workable while maintaining strong animal health protections.

When the amendments are published, the regulations will include transition periods to support the implementation process — one year for regulated parties before implementation, followed by a graduated enforcement approach. The CFIA will provide guidance, education, and support throughout this period.

The CFIA values ongoing dialogue with industry and remains open to input. Maintaining an excellent, credible animal health system is essential to protecting livestock, supporting producers, and enabling trade.

Contacts

Media Relations

Canadian Food Inspection Agency

cfia.media.acia@inspection.gc.ca

613-773-6600

Search for related information by keyword: [Animal health](#) | [Canadian Food Inspection Agency](#) | [Canada](#) | [Agriculture, food, forestry and fishing regulation](#) | [government](#) | [media](#) | [rural community](#) | [statements](#)

Date modified: 2026-01-10



To: Agricultural Development Committee

From: Amy Needham, Sustainability Planner

Meeting Date: February 17, 2026

Subject: Staff Update Report

Summary:

- Thank you for agreeing to be on the Agricultural Development Committee for 2026!
- 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) 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.
- I attended the Islands Agriculture Show to work the ACRD booth and had almost 200 entries into the door prize draw, indicating a high level of engagement over the two-day event.
 - I have been invited to join the Islands Agriculture Show Board to help plan next year's conference and tradeshow.
- The Islands Agriculture Show Welcome Reception, featuring a 'Taste of the Alberni Valley,' was held January 30, 2026 and was a smashing success, with over 120 exhibitors and guests enjoying appetizers featuring ingredients from eight local farms in a menu crafted and served by the Starboard Grill and drinks from Cherry Creek Cidery, Dog Mountain Brewing, Wild Kind Kombucha and Twin City Brewing.
 - Thank you to all the members of the sub-committee who worked so hard to make the event a success!
 - The show's coordinator indicated she will be approaching other agricultural areas on the Island to gauge interest in sponsoring the Welcome Reception next year.
- I approached the Ministry of Agriculture and Food last year to request an updated Agricultural Land Use Inventory to replace the previous ALUI conducted in 2016 and I am pleased to announce they are considering it for this summer if budget allows.
- 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 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 am in contact with CleanFarms and will keep the committee updated on upcoming Pesticide Roundup events, whether they occur here or across the Island.
- On December 10, 2025, final reports for the [Alberni Valley Food Security Emergency Plan](#), the [West Coast Food Security Emergency Plan](#), [Alberni Valley Livestock Emergency Plan](#) and [Alberni Valley Agricultural Water Plan](#) were accepted by the Board and final grant reporting has now been

completed. I would like to thank all those invested in food security, agriculture and emergency management who consulted on this project over the last year and a half. It could not have been done without you.

- Plan implementation will be integrated into my work plan as priority, resources and grant funding allow. An overview report of action items, including which items may require a service, will be presented to the ADC at the April meeting.
- My next planning project will be climate adaptation planning in partnership with West Coast and Alberni Valley local governments, interested First Nations and non-governmental organizations.
- The OCP Team will give an update on Sproat Lake & Area OCP project at the April ADC meeting.

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

Pacific Rim School ADC Report

I have compiled the highlights for my report to the ADC.

- Superintendent Peter Klaver was appointed Interim Secretary Treasurer, search for replacement underway
- Annual Board Elections held, new Board Chair, Cynthia Or and Vice- Chair Chris Washington, allow with some changes to committee chairs and representatives
- Invitation to ACRD to engage in a government to government meeting
- Co-Governance process started with Local Nation's representatives joining the Board during Public Board Meetings as non-voting members in a consensus model <https://www.sd70.bc.ca/press-release.11318>
- Budget cuts announced
- Operational Plan update <https://sd70.community-ca.diligentoneplatform.com/document/13ecf49a-5954-4a00-9d9f-f10ca430eead/>
- Student initiated BAA (Board/Authority Authorized) Adulting 101 authorized <https://sd70.community-ca.diligentoneplatform.com/document/483b3dcc-cf25-4fa8-97a1-b8391b9f6df4/>
- Board motioned to reach out to ACRD for involvement in ADSS turf field replacement
- Pacific Rim School District Winter Newsletter out <https://www.sd70.bc.ca/newsletter-winter-2026.11433>
- Before/After School Bus Transportation Survey <https://www.sd70.bc.ca/before-after-school-bus-transportation-survey.11351>
- 2026 School Trustee Elections page created on district website <https://www.sd70.bc.ca/2026-school-trustee-elections>
- Land Based Learning program is always looking for partnerships or learning opportunities with community groups, contact Sarah Williams, teacher, at swilliams@sd70.bc.ca Or Principal Dave Maher at dmaher@sd70.bc.ca

Thank you,

Helen



ADC REPORT FOR FEB. 2026

- This year's theme is Family Roots – Strong Communities
- Our budget is set and there is not a lot of money put aside for Agriculture Education, however we have committed re printing 1000 copies of the Farmgate Brochure.
- We are open to any ideas for a feature exhibit in the Agriculture Education area that we could perhaps get sponsorship
- We have been asked to provide an editorial for the Growers Guide based on promoting our prize book entering as an exhibitor. This years Prize Book will be available in mid-April, however last years book is still available to review from our website and the categories will not change.

Alberni Valley Food Security Society Update

- Several grant applications remain under review (including Tree Canada, CIP and Canada Summer Jobs), while the AgriSpirit grant was denied. A West Coast Seeds community seed donation was received.
- AVFSS will pursue grant-in-aid funding to support coordination of the Gleaning Program.
- A presentation on the Gleaning Program was delivered to the ACRD Board and generated strong interest and helpful suggestions.
- Dry Creek Community Garden updates include lease finalization (in place until December 2028), new online registration is open for 2026, infrastructure concerns (fencing, rabbits, soil), and plans to seek donations and funding for improvements.
- Strategic and governance work continued, including development of a supplemental project scoring/evaluation matrix and a strategic planning review session.
- Prune-Along and Pruning Workshop programs were confirmed for 2026, with new registration systems and dates in place.
 - Prune-Along program starts early February, Pruning Workshop is March 1st, 1-4pm
- Planning and promotion for February 14th Seedy Saturday continues, including vendor recruitment, volunteer coordination, and event logistics.
- Communications and systems improvements continued, including website updates, online registration and payment tools, newsletters, and social media.
- The Farm-Fish-Forage online directory and the Grower Guide 2026 are moving forward, with extended submission deadlines and publication planning. FFF deadline is February 20th with a March 21st reveal date; GG deadline is end of March with an April 13th print date.
- The AVFSS Board formally endorsed the 2025 Impact Report. See agenda.
- Six-month Food Literacy Program planning is in place, with the intent to launch this spring.



Update to the Agriculture Development Committee Clayoquot Biosphere Trust – Eat West Coast February 2026

1. Eat West Coast is the CBT's food security and sovereignty initiative. In collaboration with Island Health, the initiative has secured core funding through 2028 under the Island Food Hubs program, with matching core funds provided by the CBT.
2. [Biosphere Centre](#) in Tofino to be located at 301 Olsen Rd. in Tofino
 - a. Building permit received
 - b. Capital campaign is near its goal for the Centre, awaiting final government funds this spring
 - c. The large commercial teaching and small processing kitchen will host a community consultation to learn about possible programs and user needs
 - d. Still looking for funding, sponsorships and grants for equipment, in particular for preservation and processing equipment
3. Senior affordable and healthy food access a current community priority with several programs in pilot
4. There are current partnerships, funds, and plans ready to go to expand food production on the west coast, with the challenge currently finding land. It is not considered a high enough value use of space for municipalities, Nations, or private land owners with empty lots when housing and parking primarily take precedence.

Contact Info:

erika@clayoquotbiosphere.ca
250-725-2219

Outlook

Re: Call for ADC Reports for February 17 Meeting

From Sarah Rymer [REDACTED]
Date Fri 1/30/2026 6:13 PM
To Amy Needham <aneedham@acrd.bc.ca>
Cc Kristin Kerr-Donohue <kndonohue@acrd.bc.ca>; Amy Needham <aneedham@acrd.bc.ca>

[CAUTION] This email originated from outside of the ACRD

Hello!

Spirit Square Farmers Market

Agm was in December and the entire board was re-elected for 2026.

The board's first meeting will be February 4 and the calendar of events for 2026 will be the main focus for the meeting.

The Christmas at the market events went well.

The coupon program wrapped up in December and hopefully will be renewed and start again in June.

Over \$35k in coupons were redeemed.

Thank you!
Sarah

ACRD ADC 4-H REPORT for February 17, 2026 meeting

Registration for 4-H leaders and members opened Dec 1, 2025 for the 4-H year starting January 1, 2026.

To date there are 23 members registered and 8 leaders. Projects being offered yet are still to be finalized but the plan is to offer Cloverbud, Beef, Small Engines, Horses, Poultry, Rabbit, Cavy and Dog if there is enough interest in each of them

Registration for returning 4-H members closes Jan 31 and new members Feb 28.

The first business meeting has been held and information handed out to members about 4-H Public Speaking – members are now working on writing their speeches as well as choosing their Projects.

Club Public Speaking competition will be in Feb and District in March Port Alberni is set to host the Regional Public Speaking competition in April (our Region is Vancouver Island and also includes Powell River).

Patty Palmer has stepped down as Key Leader in Training and will continue as Resource Leader and Awards Coordinator.

New co Key Leaders in Training are Laura Gow and Trina Lloyd

Respectfully submitted

Patty Palmer