

SQUAMISH

FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

Presented by Krystle tenBrink & Michalina Hunter

The beginning



Foodie Forums 2010-2013. Facilitated by Vancouver Coastal Health Community Developer

Food Charter Adopted by District of Squamish in 2015

Food Policy Council formed in November 2015

FPC is under Squamish Climate Action Network (CAN) for finances and staff, but is its own entity that is focussed on policy.

Squamish CAN's Food Work

**Seed Library, Seedy
Sunday, Free Seed
Saving Workshops**



**Mamquam Edible
Schoolyard Project**



**3 Community Gardens
Free Gardening
Workshops**

**Food Education Series:
Free food skills workshops**



**Farm to Table Fundraiser
Dinner**



Squamish Food Policy Council



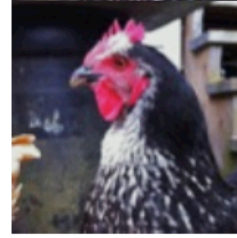
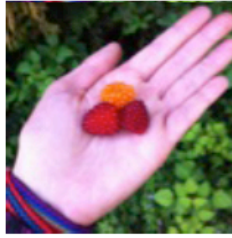
Comprised of community members from various food related sectors (individuals, non-profit, and for-profit)

Funded by the Real Estate Foundation of BC, Community Food Action Initiatives through Vancouver Coastal Health, the District of Squamish, and in-kind support from the Ministry of Agriculture, BC Food Systems Network, and District of Squamish.



Mission

SQUAMISH FOOD CHARTER



Food Security exists when ALL members of the local communities have access to enough nutritious, safe, ecologically sustainable, and culturally appropriate food at all times.

That ALL members of Squamish have access to enough nutritious, safe, ecologically sustainable, and culturally appropriate food at all times.

Strong food policy → sustainable food supply → healthy community

Purpose



Function as a bridge between citizens and civic officials to advance municipal food policy

Meet regularly to affect policy, learn from speakers, educate residents, stimulate dialogue, initiate projects and partnerships, and have a good time while doing it!

May advise and make recommendations to District of Squamish Council, Mayor, and staff on food issues

[Play me!](#)

Format



Category 3: Hybrid Model with Indirect Links to Government

Blend of civic society organizations and government (Kamloops vs Vancouver)

Linkages to government through departments and staff (not a committee of council)

Benefits

Diverse funding sources

Regional and national support

Flexible agenda (vs a committee of council)

Membership



- FPC has 11 voting members, and 2 liaisons (1 from DOS, 1 from VCH)
- Liaisons do not vote, but connect the FPC to their respective organizations
- Liaisons are appointed to attend FPC meetings by their respective organizations

Current Priorities



1. **Vision, Policy, and Bylaws:** Provide feedback on OCP, policy statements, bylaws, etc.
2. **Developing Agriculture:** Support existing and new farmers. Preserve agricultural land.
3. **Infrastructure:** Expand infrastructure to support food
4. **Education:** Support food education and skill sharing
5. **Food waste:** Reduce food waste in all areas of the food system
6. **Raise public awareness** about relative programs and issues of interest
7. **Share our experience** with others in the region and BC

What have we been working on so far?

Host public “Deep Dive” sessions to gather input

Co-write food policy for OCP

Rolling out food policies

Strategizing the next 1-3 years



Three Ad Hoc Committees

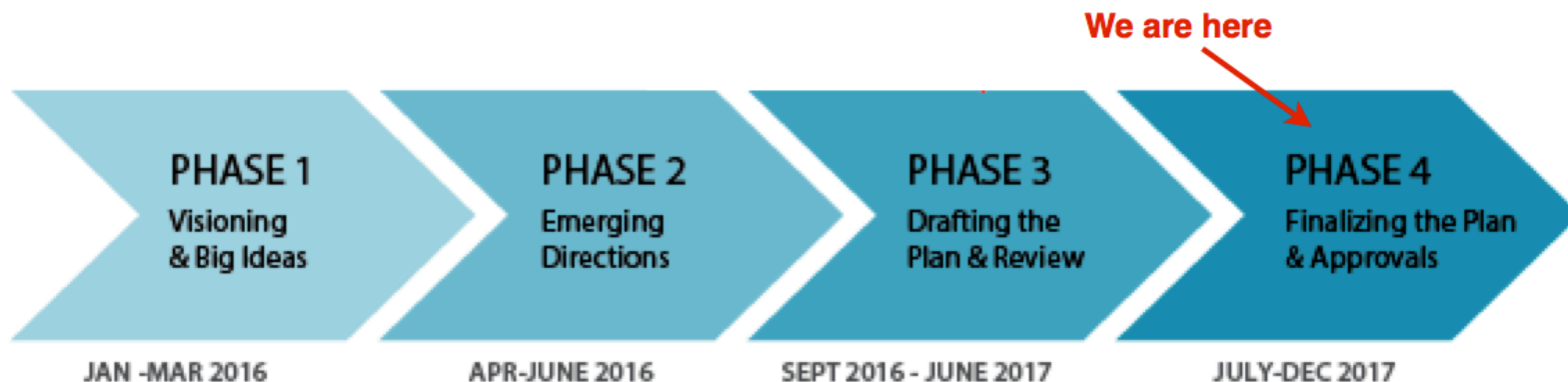
1. **Agriculture and Production** Supporting food producers, ALUI, Ag plan
2. **Food Waste and Recovery** Composting, waste diversion, packaging, Food Bank donations, etc.
3. **Health and Food Insecurity** Poverty, living wage, healthy eating



Official Community Plan



- Food was mentioned twice in old OCP, new one has 7 pages!
- Community release of draft is December 1



Agriculture & Food Production



Our Work With BC Ministry of Agriculture

Kim Sutherland, our regional agrologist, visited us in November 2016 to see the status of farming in Squamish.

We toured 3 of Nutrient Dense Farm's growing sites.

Kim presented on Agriculture in BC and Squamish, and made recommendations for next steps

Regional and Local Agriculture Perspectives



Regional: Farming is strong, innovative, and lucrative in Metro Vancouver and Fraser Valley Regional District

- There is a strong market for local food that is here to stay
- There are many people who want to start farming for local markets

Challenges: shortage for land & development pressure = high land cost

Squamish and surrounding area:

2700 ha of ALR (not including First Nations land) (630 ha in DOS)

Close to strong local and Vancouver markets

Good climate, soils, access to water, lifestyle amenities that new farmers want

Benefits of Agriculture in a Community



Economic Benefits

Steady positive economic impact to local economy

Farms provide a net tax benefit to local gov'ts, provide more in taxes than they cost in services

Diversifies economic base of local economy, and is steady, recession-proof

Much investment into the sector from established and new farmers

Generates jobs (45,000 people in BC)¹

Health Benefits

Greater availability of locally grown produce may increase their consumption²

Availability of culturally appropriate and indigenous foods are important healthy food choices²

Agricultural self-sufficiency supports healthy eating²

1. Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 2011

2. Powell, L., Newman, L., Kurrein, M. Agriculture's Connection to Health: A summary of the evidence relevant to British Columbia. (Provincial Health Services Authority). 2016. Available from http://www.phsa.ca/population-public-health-site/Documents/AgConnectiontoHealth_FullReport_April2016.pdf

BC Ministry of Agriculture Recommendations



1. **Agriculture Land Use Inventory:** An inventory of land use and activity in Squamish and area
2. **Agriculture Area Plan:** A strategy to support agriculture in Squamish and area
3. **Workshops/Other support:** Ministry funds any workshop we would like to offer in Squamish, e.g. land leasing. (Squamish CAN would organize)

Agriculture Land Use Inventory **SQUAMISH** FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

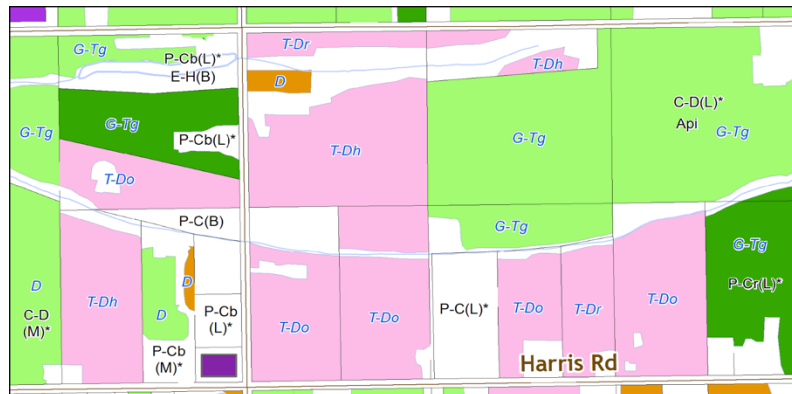
Creates a map of crops, irrigation, livestock, agriculture practices

Useful to inform land use decisions, resource management, emergency planning & response

Ministry puts it together.

What is required?

SLRD and DoS share costs for
staff and driver time.



- Forage
- Vines & berries
- Vegetables
- Nursery & tree plantations
- Glass greenhouse

IRRIGATION

- D Sprinkler (default)
- G-Tg Travelling gun
- T-Do Trickle Drip emitter On ground
- T-Dr Trickle Spray emitter

LIVESTOCK

- C-D Conventional Dairy
- P-Cb Poultry - Chicken - Broiler
- P-Cr Poultry - Chicken - Breeder
- E-H Equine - Horses

Agriculture Area Plan



What is it?

A document for government and farmers.

Examines issues and opportunities, eg residential use on ALR, market opportunities, flood hazard/dyking

Partner with SLRD Area D, interested First Nations.

Many communities have them, eg Sunshine Coast RD, SLRD/Lillooet/St'at'imc First Nation, Metro Van...

Process? ALUI is done first. Form a committee, hire a consultant.

Next steps? Initiate discussion with SLRD and First Nations to partner

Food Asset Map



What is it?

An interactive map of places where people can grow, prepare, share, buy, receive, or learn about food.

Process? Two Quest University students created map using a mix of online research, phone calls, and limited ground truthing

Next steps? Release draft for feedback and make edits



Sea to Sky Food Asset ...



Food Asset: a place where people can grow, prepare, share, buy, receive or learn about food.

137 views

[SHARE](#) [EDIT](#)



Growing Food



Farm

Community Garden

Garden Programs and Education

Other



Free or Subsidized Grocery Items



Free Grocery Items

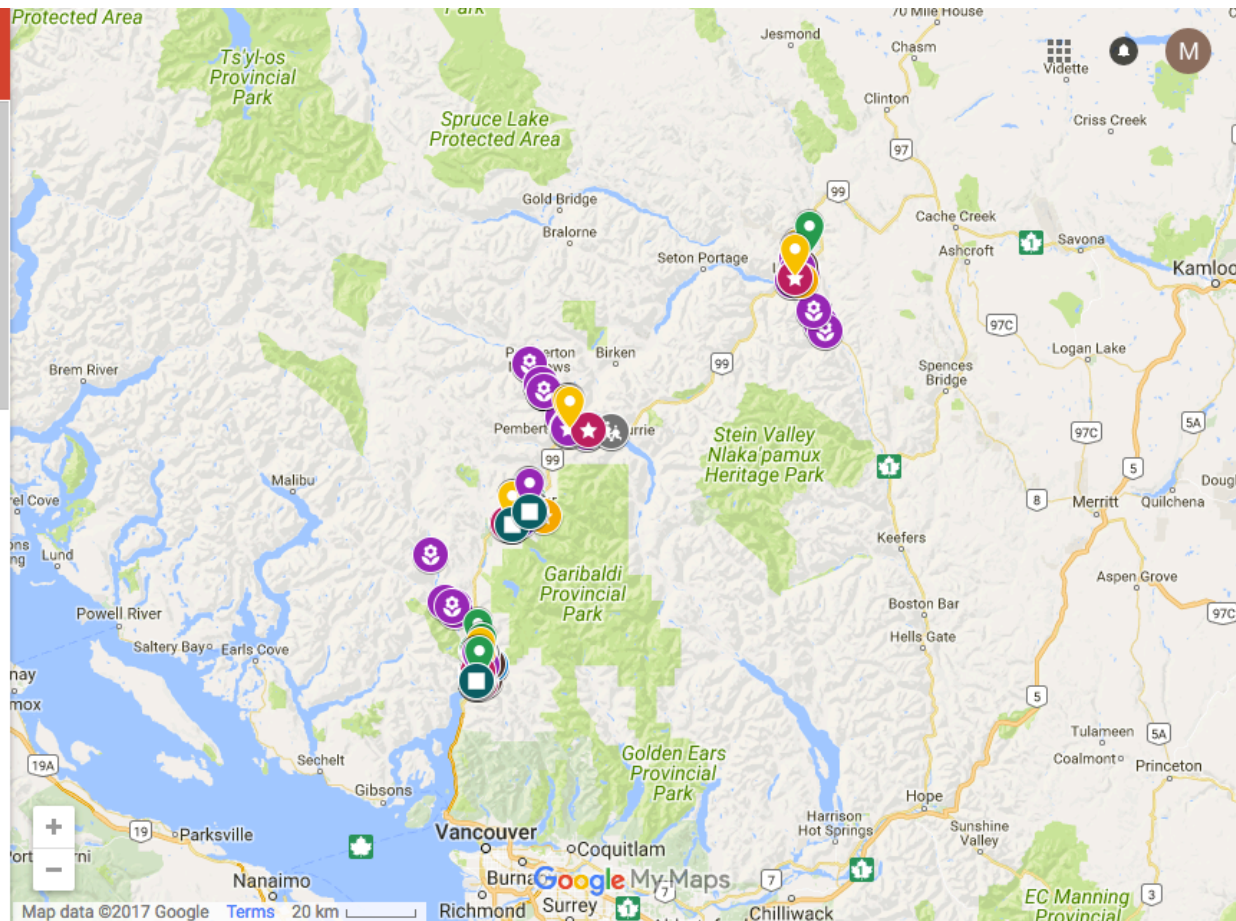


Kitchens & Food Programs



Kitchen Access

Food Skills Workshops



Young Agrarians UMAP



What is it? An interactive map of resources for young farmers. Includes networking opportunities, education, business resources, jobs and training, land, markets, supplies, etc.

Process? People must add their own businesses/resource listings

Next steps? Add a listing and encourage others too!

U=MAP



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT 67

PRODUCTION PLANNING TOOLS 6

LAND RESOURCES 20

SERVICES AND SUPPLIERS 170 **MARKETS 120**

FARMS 207 **SEEDS 34**

FARMERS LOOKING FOR LAND 45 **LAND LISTINGS 54**

ORGANIZATIONS 126

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS 56

WEB RESOURCES 69 **JOBS 7** **PUBLICATIONS 37**

EVENTS 31 **FUNDING 34** **APPRENTICESHIPS 29**



PRODUCTION PLANNING TOOLS

Johnny's Seeds Select Growers Calc...

VIEW ON
MAP



LAND RESOURCES

FarmableNow.ca
SURREY, BC

VIEW ON
MAP



SERVICES AND SUPPLIERS

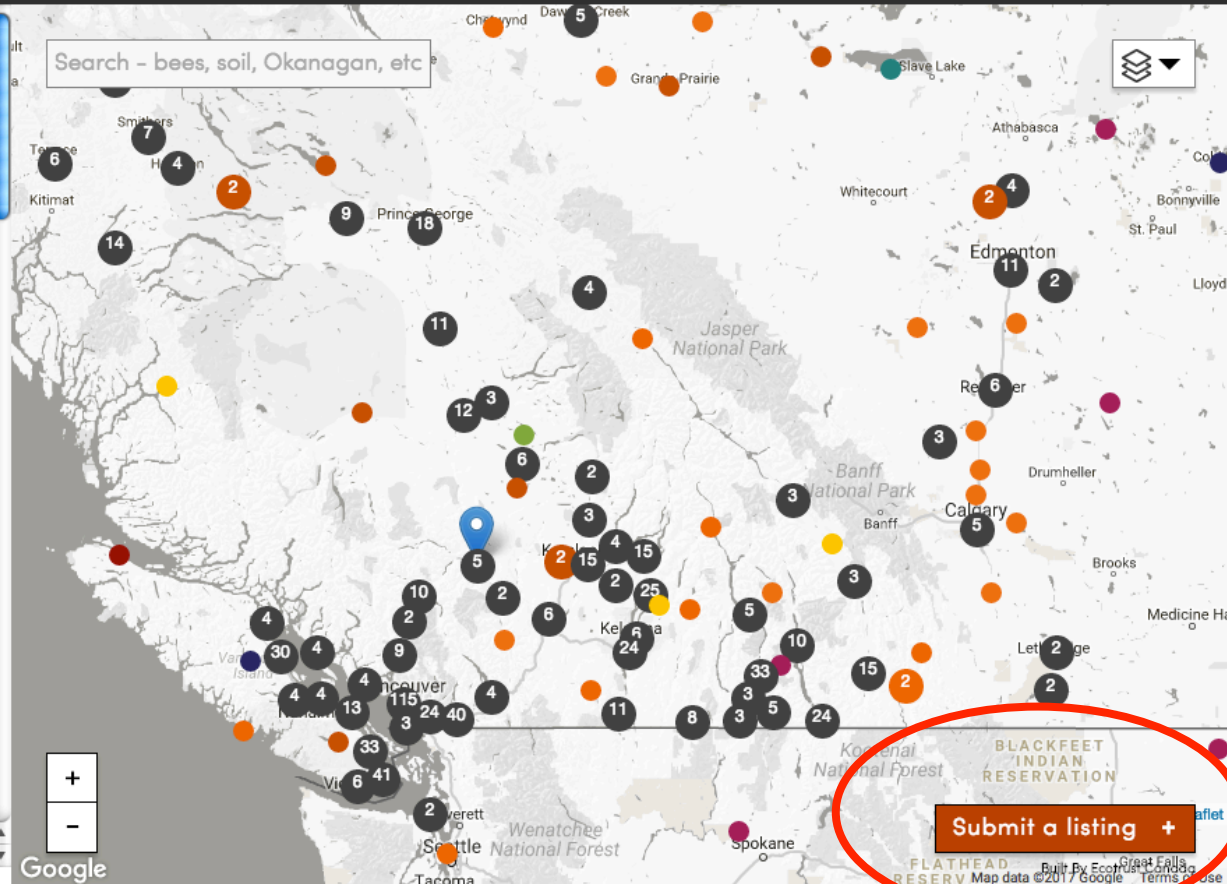
Sunrise Farms
SURREY, BC

VIEW ON
MAP



SERVICES AND SUPPLIERS

VIEW ON
MAP



Food *In*security & Food Security

Household food insecurity is defined as “the inadequate or insecure access to adequate food due to financial constraints”

Food security has been defined as “a situation in which all community residents can obtain a safe, culturally acceptable, nutritionally adequate diet through a sustainable food system that maximizes self-reliance and social justice”

Household FOOD INSECURITY in 2011-2012

INTRODUCTION

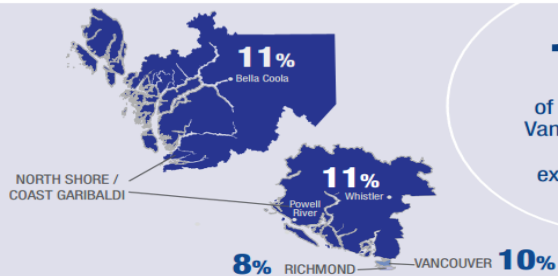
Household food insecurity is when a household worries about or lacks the financial means to buy healthy, safe, personally acceptable food.

Evidence shows that food insecure families struggle to afford a healthy diet and experience greater health and social challenges compared to people who are food secure.

VANCOUVER COASTAL HEALTH

KEY FINDINGS

RATES OF FOOD INSECURITY



10%
of households in
Vancouver Coastal
Health
experience food
insecurity



BRITISH COLUMBIA

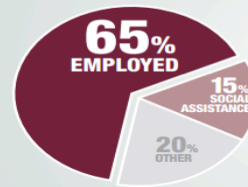
KEY FINDINGS

CHARACTERISTICS OF FOOD INSECURE HOUSEHOLDS

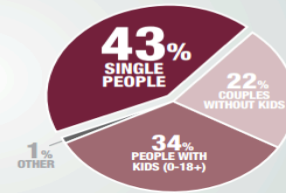


OF ALL FOOD INSECURE HOUSEHOLDS IN BC:

The majority are employed



The majority are single people



HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION & RATES OF FOOD INSECURITY



From Dietitians of Canada



Prevalence, Severity and Impact of Household Food Insecurity: A Serious Public Health Issue

Background Paper
Dietitians of Canada

August 2016

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www.dietitians.ca/foodinsecurity

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Conclusion:

Since the root cause of household food insecurity is inadequate and/or insecure income, solutions must be income based. ***Only with sufficient income can a household have consistent access to food.***

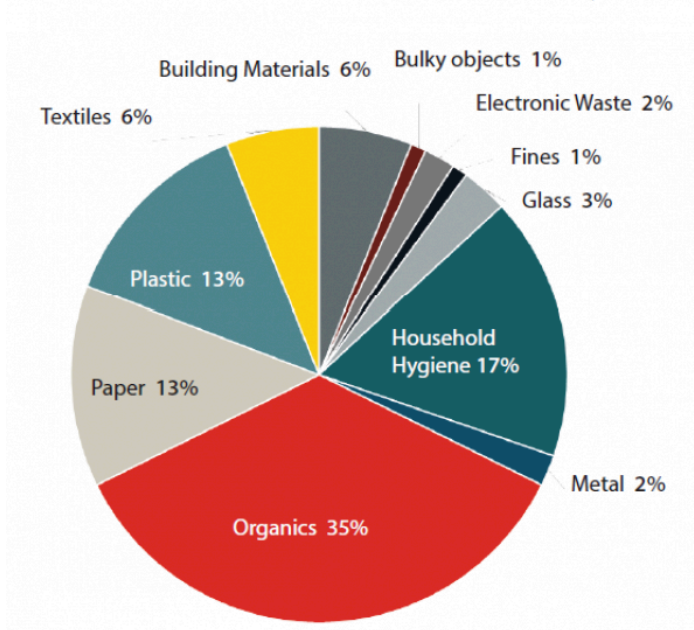
Living Wage & Other



- We are hosting a living wage panel discussion for our next meeting
- Advocate to Minister of Poverty Reduction and others
- Make this an issue in our upcoming local elections?
- Start an incentive program for local businesses? Eg “Living Wage Certified Employer” stickers?
- What else can we do as a FPC on this issue?

Food Waste and Recovery

District of Squamish Waste Audit Results, May 2016



Waste Audit 2016: Garbage

- New waste bylaw rolling out: no compostables or recyclables allowed in landfill
- Educating restaurant and grocery store owners how to do it
- Opportunity to sort and funnel usable food to Food Bank and Helping Hands

In Summary



What we asked for in February 2017

1. **A staff is appointed** as the official liaison to the Squamish Food Policy Council
2. **Council** (and other staff) liaise with the Squamish Food Policy Council
3. **Agriculture Land Use Inventory** commitment (2017)
4. **Agriculture Area Plan** commitment (Investment Agriculture Foundation - 2018)
5. **Agriculture Workshop** promotion
6. **Annual update** from the Squamish Food Policy Council

Summary for our presentation to DOS in November 2017

1. **Providing an update on the ALUI & report** (if done)
2. **Confirmation for financial allocation for 2018 ag plan** (IAF- 2018)
3. **Agriculture Workshop promotion** (January 2018)
4. **Food and Farm Land Trust Education** (contribution to systemic change)
5. **SLRD Regional Growth Strategy** (how can we help)
6. **Participation in Regional Food Systems Planning** (Whistler Centre for Sustainability)
7. **BCFSN Coaching Opportunity**
8. **Living Wage**