

# Food and Agriculture Plan Update 2020

## **Food and Agriculture is a Significant Part of Our Region's Culture, Environment, and Economy:**

Food and agriculture play a critical and significant role in the history, and the growth and development of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN).

Agriculture continues to contribute significantly to the economy and character of our region. Given this significance, the Board of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako has initiated the update of the 2012 Agricultural Plan to ensure that the RDBN is doing all that it can to protect and enhance the viability and vitality of food and agriculture in the region.

## **5 Goals of the Agriculture Plan Update:**

1. Update baseline data and information on the food and agriculture sector in the RDBN.
2. Engage stakeholders in creating a shared vision for food and agriculture in the RDBN and updating the 2012 (food) and agriculture plan.
3. Update policies and actions to reflect new data and information, consumer and producer perspectives, as well as provincial legislative changes.
4. Establish a sound factual basis for informing recommendations and decision making.
5. Create a detailed 5-year action and implementation plan to support plan recommendations.

## **What a Food and Agriculture Plan is:**

A food and agricultural plan is a strategic planning document that will help to develop a shared vision for food and agriculture amongst farmers, the public, and local government within the Regional District as well as goals, objectives and actions for achieving the vision. Upon completion, the agricultural plan will be approved by the Regional District Board of Directors and used to guide future activities affecting agriculture.



### **How the RDBN Plan is Being Updated:**

The agricultural plan, and the process to create it, will help to continue to build a relationship between the farming community and local government. These two groups are working together, with input from the general public, and First Nation Communities, to create a clear plan of action guided by a common vision and goals. Key process points for developing the plan include:

- ⇒ Establishing and engaging a Project Steering Committee
- ⇒ Conducting consumer and producer surveys (hard copy and on-line)
- ⇒ Engaging First Nation Communities early in the process
- ⇒ Holding one on one informal interviews with key stakeholders
- ⇒ Hosting stakeholder workshops
- ⇒ Updating the RDBN website to provide a central place for information on regional food and agriculture.

### **What the Plan Will Document:**

- ⇒ The state of the local agricultural sector in the region
- ⇒ Consumer and producer data and perspectives
- ⇒ First Nation Community perspectives
- ⇒ Opportunities and challenges in the regional food and agriculture sector
- ⇒ The achievable and practical actions that can be taken by the RDBN, the Province, and others

### **How the RDBN intends to use the Food and Agriculture Plan:**

- ⇒ To ensure that long range planning, and the regulation of land use and development, is managed in a manner consistent with the direction provided in the plan.
- ⇒ To ensure that decisions regarding the use of the RDBN's resources are made in consideration of the recommendations made in the plan.

To find out more, please visit:

<https://www.rdbn.bc.ca/departments/agriculture>

Or contact the RDBN Agriculture Coordinator:

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