

# FINDING COMMON GROUND 2016 SUMMIT REPORT



Sustainable Food Systems Working Group  
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The Sustainable Food Systems Working Group is a group of BC-based agencies working together to foster healthy, resilient food systems in regions across the province, in ways that benefit communities, individuals, ecosystems, and local and provincial economies. The Working Group is made up of the BC Food Systems Network, Capital Region Food and Agriculture Initiatives (CRFAIR), FarmFolk CityFolk, Institute for Sustainable Food Systems at Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Real Estate Foundation of BC, Vancity and the Vancouver Foundation.

**Summit Sponsors:**



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In May 2016, 59 participants from all parts of BC's agrifood sector gathered for the Finding Common Ground 2016 Summit, hosted by the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group (SFSWG) in Vancouver. At the two-day Summit, participants shared their knowledge and created action plans around three focus areas:



Increasing production through protecting and increasing access to agricultural land.



Training and support for new entrants.



Building domestic markets through institutional procurement and local value chains.

In designing the Summit, planning committee members identified five outcomes for 2018 that support the SFSWG's three focus areas. Each of these outcomes is matched to one of the Province's 2020 targets, which are described in the [BC Agrifood and Seafood Strategic Growth Plan](#).

The 2018 outcomes are:

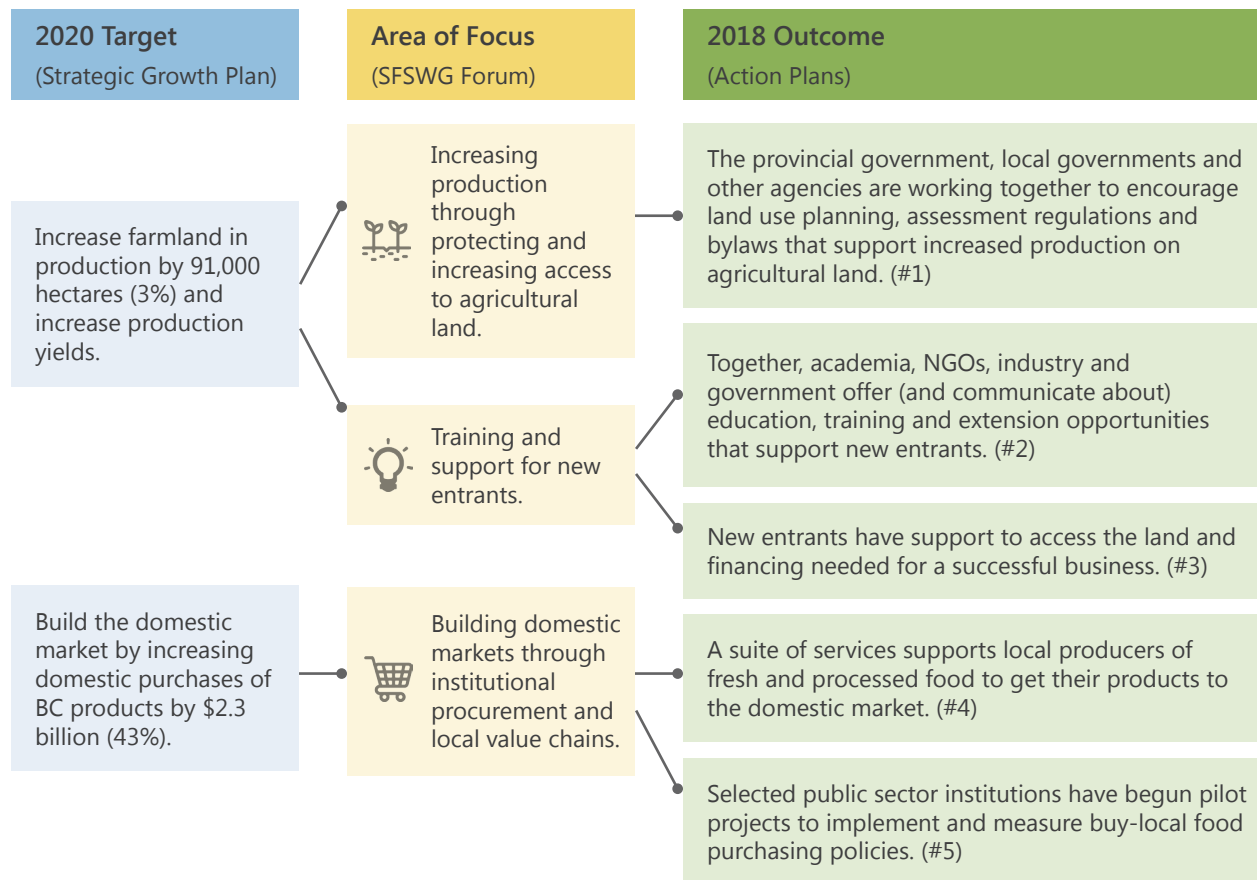
1. The provincial government, local governments and other agencies are working together to encourage land use planning, assessment regulations and bylaws that support increased production on agricultural land.
2. Together, academia, NGOs, industry and government offer (and communicate about) education, training and extension opportunities that support new entrants.
3. New entrants have support to access the land and financing needed for a successful business.
4. A suite of services supports local producers of fresh and processed food to get their products to the domestic market.
5. Selected public sector institutions have begun pilot projects to implement and measure buy-local food purchasing policies.





Using these outcomes as a guide, Summit participants developed five action plans to strengthen BC's local food system. To support these plans, participants shared ideas for building action teams, increasing capacity and supporting implementation, and building an active, engaged community of food sector leaders.

### Connecting the Strategic Growth Plan to our Areas of Focus



# OUR PROCESS




### Defining the Areas of Focus

In November 2014, the Sustainable Systems Working Group (SFSWG) partnered with the Real Estate Foundation of BC (REFBC) to conduct a series of six Regional Dialogues in communities across the province. During the dialogues, local food leaders identified priorities for action to strengthen BC’s local food system. These priorities are discussed in detail in the [Local Food Futures for British Columbia](#) report.

Following the dialogues, the SFSWG and REFBC hosted the [Finding Common Ground Forum](#) in Vancouver in the fall of 2015, which brought together a group of thought leaders from all sectors of BC’s agrifood system. At the Forum, participants identified a series of high-level actions needed to support the priorities identified by Regional Dialogues participants.

Shortly after the Forum, the Province released the [BC Agrifood and Seafood Strategic Growth Plan](#), which sets a goal of increasing revenues in BC’s agrifood and seafood sector to \$15 billion a year by 2020. SFSWG leaders compared the high-level actions identified in the Finding Common Ground Forum with the priorities outlined in the Province’s Strategic Growth Plan to find overlaps in theme and priority.

The overlapping areas of focus, which will have the greatest impact, are:

-  Increasing production through protecting and increasing access to agricultural land.
-  Training and support for new entrants.
-  Building domestic markets through institutional procurement and local value chains.



### Sustainable Food Systems Working Group Activities:





## A Framework for Action

Three planning committees – one for each area of focus – drew upon findings from the Regional Dialogues and Finding Common Ground Forum and matched their area of focus to the most relevant 2020 target in the Province’s Strategic Growth Plan.

### Planning Committees:



Increasing production through protecting and increasing access to agricultural land.

- Kathleen Gibson, BC Food Systems Network member
- Abra Brynne, BC Food Systems Network
- Hannah Wittman, Academic Director, Centre for Sustainable Food Systems, UBC Farm



Training and support for new entrants.

- Linda Geggie, CRFAIR
- Garry Fehr, Director, Agriculture Centre of Excellence, University of the Fraser Valley
- Sara Dent, Young Agrarians



Building domestic markets through institutional procurement and local value chains.

- Brent Mansfield, Director, BC Food Systems Network
- Dave Eto, CEO, BC Dairy Association

The committees then considered different ways to reach their 2020 target by drafting a series of outcomes to work towards for the next two years (into 2018.) While there are many outcomes that could support reaching the Province’s 2020 targets, committees prioritized outcomes that were supported by both the Finding Common Ground Forum participants and the Strategic Growth Plan objectives. Additionally, planning committees favored outcomes that are “winnable” through a collective, multi-sector approach.

The 2018 outcomes identified by the planning committee were:

1. The provincial government, local governments and other agencies are working together to encourage land use planning, assessment regulations and bylaws that support increased production on agricultural land.
2. Together, academia, NGOs, industry and government offer (and communicate about) education, training and extension opportunities that support new entrants.
3. New entrants have support to access the land and financing needed for a successful business.
4. A suite of services supports local producers of fresh and processed food to get their products to the domestic market.
5. Selected public sector institutions have begun pilot projects to implement and measure buy-local food purchasing policies.

### Finding Common Ground 2016 Summit

Using these outcomes as a base, the SFSWG convened 59 participants from multiple sectors of BC's food system for a two-day Summit in May 2015. The Summit included a mix of plenary and breakout sessions designed to inform discussion, share learnings and to facilitate the creation of action plans.

The goals of the Finding Common Ground 2016 Summit were to:

- Deepen our understanding of what a sustainable local food system looks like in BC and build our capacity to make this vision a reality.
- Co-develop action plans that build on existing efforts and work towards shared outcomes that align with the BC Agrifood and Seafood Strategic Growth Plan.
- Have participants commit to action teams who examine and implement these action plans.
- Gain input into ways we can track our progress and support ongoing communication.

Armed with the draft 2018 outcomes provided by the planning committees, Summit participants broke into five working groups to create action plans that support the five outcomes described above.



## SUMMIT NUMBERS

**94%**

of participants thought the goals of the Summit were clear.

**100%**

of participants felt that the goals of the Summit were met (91%) or almost met (9%).



**59**

participants



**43**

organizations



Top three words used to describe the Summit:

**Productive**

**Informative**

**Well-structured**

## Action Plan #1: Increasing production through protecting and increasing access to agricultural land (outcome #1)



### Overarching 2020 Target

Increase farmland in production by 91,000 hectares (three per cent) and increase production yields.

### 2018 Outcome #1

The provincial government, local governments and other agencies are working together to encourage land use planning, assessment regulations and bylaws that support increased production on agricultural land.

### Immediate Actions

**Support a number of policy reform initiatives: The policy reform initiatives outlined below are designed to solve an intractable agricultural problem in BC. Specifically, in an international marketplace, the economics of regional/local food systems are largely unworkable. Accordingly, there need to be policy and civil society interventions to support societal goals. The ALR was one such mechanism. Today in light of (1) climate risk to lands and waters, (2) reconciliation imperatives with First Nations, and (3) increasing international speculation by investors in farmland, we need new, targeted and innovative policy solutions.**

**Revisit the farm tax system and identify incentives to increase production:** A white paper should be collaboratively created for the province. A useful place to start would be to promote and build on the existing work and paper written by Theresa Duynstee (Regional Planner with Metro Vancouver) on taxation instruments. This discussion paper presents land tax reform options at the provincial level. This work would necessarily involve the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, who is responsible for the Assessment Act.

**Address access to water and the effect of this on agricultural activity and land:** Water availability affects land value and BC has a new Water Sustainability Act with emerging opportunities to address this complex issue. Specifically, an assessment of the opportunities to support the interests of sustainable food for BC by reviewing the Water Sustainability Act and its new regulations in addition to the Agricultural Land Commission Act is necessary. Existing resources and people include Deborah Curran (University of Victoria), the BC Agriculture Council and Coreen Moroziuk and her work at the Investment Agriculture Foundation, who have developed agricultural land use inventories and water stewardship plans.

**Policy to support and track existing foodland trust initiatives:** The goal is to take land out of the international market and put it into structures that can be managed for regional and local food production. Examples of models to replicate: agricultural parks and foodland trusts. Specifically, a first step would be to track and support replication of the foodland trust initiatives currently under way in BC with CR-FAIR and FarmFolk CityFolk.



**Immediate  
Actions**  
(cont.)

These **other actions** support the immediate above actions as well as the outcome, and should be considered:

- **Promote recognition and adoption of ecological goods and services provided by agriculture:** The ecological goods and services idea is significant in other jurisdictions (such as the EU) where agricultural practices are seen as serving many functions. There are also pilots to take inspiration from locally, specifically from the Canadian Cattlemen who have been running pilots in BC. Findings from these pilots need to be packaged with a goal of extending such approaches around the province.
- **Limitation of ownership on agricultural land:** Take best practices from other provinces (as this already exists in seven other provinces) to implement in BC. Some examples could include prerequisites such as food-growing qualifications and restrictions on foreign ownership.
- **Leasing arrangements for food production:** Create a discussion paper with contextual information about where we want to see the next generation of farmers in BC. Other jurisdictions have interesting models to consider such as making agricultural training and expertise mandatory for lessees.

**Support community-based initiatives to increase production: specifically, follow a model where an NGO works with local government and the land owner/manager to increase production on select parcels of idle, or non-remunerative, land.**

**Learn from, and amplify, existing models:** In Pemberton and Lillooet there are promising approaches using a similar model to increase production on several parcels of land that had been idle. Replicable characteristics from these cases should be identified and then used elsewhere. In addition, there is a need to set up a way to track success, because these projects are still in early stages.

**Key aspects to include in this approach:** identifying target parcels of land; convincing, engaging and relating to local government and its processes; convincing, engaging and relating with land owners and managers; identifying farming options. Ideally there should also be outreach to local government associations, regional districts, and food policy councils, where they exist.

**Potential barriers faced by municipalities:** Potential barriers and difficulties should be noted, such as the difficulties municipalities can have with interpretation of provincial regulations, and the lack of resources municipalities have given their level of responsibilities.

**Publish a primer on foodlands: create a framing document to establish a common understanding of the basic groundwork regarding foodlands.**

The paper, at a minimum, needs to include the following:

- **Who owns what:** a discussion of who owns different foodland including an explicit recognition of unceded territory.
- **Management regimes and land use:** a discussion of the different management regimes used regarding foodlands (public, private, restricted zones) including the primary uses of foodlands and waters (note: IAF has data on this).
- **Key outstanding issues:** the following outstanding issues need to be included: non-edibles in production (forage, trees) and processing.
- **Existing resources:** products from the Food, Fuel and Fibre inter-ministerial discussions, including maps.

## Action Plan #2: Training and support for new entrants (outcome #1)



### Overarching 2020 Target

Increase farmland in production by 91,000 hectares (three per cent) and increase production yields.

### 2018 Outcome #1

Together, academia, NGOs, industry and government offer (and communicate about) education, training and extension opportunities that support new entrants.

### Immediate Actions

#### **Inventory of available training: Create an inventory of what training exists among NGOs, academia, government and industry associations.**

**Facilitating collaboration:** in addition to building the inventory itself, creating an inventory needs to also facilitate collaboration by identifying people and resources available to use the inventory to reduce duplication, differentiate between training available and inform future direction.

**Setting the scope:** Confirmation of the scope of the inventory will be necessary from one of, or all of: new entrants, farmers in transition, and continuing education.

**Existing resources:** There are many existing resources to tap into and support. For example, both KPU and UFV have students working on an inventory. In addition, Young Agrarians has an existing framework education list.

#### **Initial meeting followed by ongoing collaborative meetings: Bring together academics, NGO leaders, industry representatives for a large initial meeting followed up by regular, predictable meetings to identify ongoing focus, needs and strategies to achieve the outcome.**

**Goal of meetings:** to facilitate ongoing coordination through visioning and planning so that educators in all four sectors can meet the training and extension needs of the industry.

**White paper:** The first meeting should inform a white paper that will support further decision making in subsequent meetings.

**Existing resources:** KPU has funding to support regional meetings.

#### **Responsible umbrella organization: Identify or create a body that is responsible for ongoing coordination.**

**Governance:** governance of this organization will need to be determined, but will likely require a steering committee, transparent decision making, and will definitely require a champion who is responsible and accountable for ongoing coordination.

**Existing resources:** UBC can provide Post Doc (Alexandra Lyon) to support writing of, for example, a white paper or proposal for a steering committee for a network or umbrella organization.

## Action Plan #3: Training and support for new entrants (outcome #2)



### Overarching 2020 Target

Increase farmland in production by 91,000 hectares (three per cent) and increase production yields.

### 2018 Outcome #2

New entrants have support to access the land and financing needed for a successful business.

### Immediate Actions

**Land matching pilots: Support land matching pilots in addition to municipal land engagement and disseminate information with emphasis on land readiness.**

**Amplify existing efforts:** Focus on how existing land matching efforts could expand to different regions through, e.g. varied funding and other resources.

**UBCM workshop:** Create a workshop to deliver at the Union of BC Municipalities (September 26-30, 2016) identifying different models for municipal land sharing, current bottlenecks and creative solutions that exist and are emerging (e.g. in the City of Surrey, and District of North Saanich). Note: proposals at UBCM are received until June 17

#### Resources required for the UBCM workshop:

- Financial: funds to support a team to come together to craft workshop, and engage with the appropriate organizations.
- Human: a team to craft the workshop, a delegate to present, a champion from North Saanich and City of Surrey, Banque de Terre representative (Quebec initiative Young Agrarians is collaborating with and modelling the Surrey pilot after) if we would like to hear from outside province.
- Infrastructure: material from emerging initiatives, information about bottlenecks, method for presenting in an effective and engaging manner.

**Loan accessibility and guarantees for new entrants: Explore how to increase loan accessibility and guarantees for new entrants in both development and expansion phases. Review potential for other funding sources such as dedicated fund through BC Assessment, microloans and/or regional levy.**

**Inventory existing financial resources:** Inventory these existing resources for new entrants (in their development and expansion phases) and assess: what exists, where there are gaps, what the needs are (by region, sector, what stage the new entrant is in, etc.), and what range of financial tools are available (e.g. which community funded initiatives farmers with no equity can access).

#### Resources required:

- Financial: funds to support lead/team to do the research.
- Human: lead/team to do research.
- Infrastructure: knowledge of where to start (suggestions include the Ministry of Finance, Bank of Montreal, Farm Credit Canada, Ministry of Agriculture (Brent Barclay), and making a call out for information from the BC Food Systems Network.

**Immediate  
Actions**  
(cont.)

**Review of farmland assessment and threshold: Review farmland assessment / farm property class threshold and structure to determine how it could better incentivize landowners to actively farm land and be better nuanced for new entrants.**

**Study and consultation:** Conduct a study and consultation process with BC Assessment Authority giving key consideration to: the definition of “farm status”, current nuances for new entrants, and compliance and enforcement mechanisms. This study needs to research existing gaps and the potential impact that changes to the assessment process would have in and across regions.

**Resources needed:**

- Financial: funds to support lead/team to do the research.
- Human: lead/team to do research.
- Infrastructure: knowledge of where to start. Suggestions made include reviewing metro Vancouver review, and connecting with BC Assessment Authority.

**Work towards a revamped AgriInvest program: Draft an approach and connect with key influencers and move forward a revamped AgriInvest program to work as a registered farm succession savings plan where money can be invested and later removed to support a farmer to retire and a new entrant to step in.**

**Information sharing and connecting:** At this stage we need to share information; the Young Cattleman’s Council (sponsored by Canadian and BC Cattleman’s Associations) is conducting a review of the Business Risk Management (BRM) Suite (AgriInvest, AgriStability, AgriInsurance) and can ideally explore adding a succession module to AgriInvest (contact: Kevin Boon, BC Cattlemen’s Association).

## Action Plan #4: Building domestic markets through institutional procurement and local value chains (outcome #1)



### Overarching 2020 Target

Build the domestic market by increasing domestic purchases of BC products by \$2.3 billion (43 per cent).

### 2018 Outcome #1

A suite of services supports local producers of fresh and processed food to get their products to the domestic market.

### Immediate Actions

#### **Create a platform that clarifies the location, volume, and availability of food produced in BC to supply domestic markets throughout the value chain.**

**Best practices:** Research best practices from other regions that aggregate product, location, prices, etc. into a platform. Specifically, determine if there is an economic value for producers and buyers for such a platform.

**Understand how and if buyers/producers would engage with a platform:** determine who the producers and buyers would be and focus on how they would use and engage with the platform

**Support existing efforts:** Celebrate and support the work of institutions already purchasing local food (e.g. [Village of Cumberland's social procurement](#)) and determine how a platform could support their work.

**Existing resources:** Agriculture Land Use Inventory as means to populate supply side of platform (e.g. [Beyond the Market's](#) regional food system assessment and value chain opportunity analysis).

#### **Create an aggregation service for small/medium scale producers and processors.**

**Scoping:** Scope what such a service would look like, including research of best practices from other aggregation services with a goal of expanding current successful aggregation services in regional areas to a provincial service. Part of the scoping needs to be determining a business plan for a brokerage/distribution models for larger scale buyers; that is, how do we help local producers best access larger scale buyers through.

**Information to include:** An aggregation service should include and share information on what regulatory/certifications/other practices the producer has (e.g. HACCP, CanadaGAP certification, organic certifications, etc.). Ideally, such a service would also facilitate access to these practices for small/medium scale producers (e.g. through cost sharing, peer learning, etc.) by including industry associations and government.

**Amplifying existing efforts:** current services need to be promoted and amplified such as Vancouver Farmers Market Direct, Discovery Organics, BC Fresh, etc.

**Immediate  
Actions**  
(cont.)

**Establish marketing / brokerage services for producers and processors.**

**Support meetings:** Establish and support regional production and processing meetings to encourage local farms to sell to local processors. This may include determining an incentive to support these relationships. This will likely require a champion to get these meetings started and continuing. It will also require some investigation into models that have been successfully used to move local production into local processors.

**Establish marketing / brokerage services for buyers and suppliers.**

**Regional buyers' meetings:** Establish regional buyers' meetings connecting appropriate suppliers/aggregators to purchasers. This will likely require an initial champion to bring people together, followed up with resources to continue the momentum through a series of ongoing meetings and connection points.

**Establish contractual templates and structures:** Establish these templates and structures to allow suppliers/aggregators and purchasers make contracts for growing options. These types of templates are likely already created, but would need to be shared.

**Put risk supports in place:** Risk supports would need to be in place to protect both buyers and processors. Many of these supports are happening already, and would need to be identified through research.

**Existing resources:** A number of existing resources exist that need to be further communicated. Three examples can be found [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

**Other  
Actions**

These other actions support the immediate actions, and should be considered in time:

- **Establish infrastructure for local processing:** Further develop storage, abattoir, refrigeration, freezing, cooling, processing facilities to support primary production and processing.
- **Ensure public health of all processors and producers:** Develop framework to protect small scale processors/producers and aggregators and food service processors.

## Action Plan #5: Building domestic markets through institutional procurement and local value chains (outcome #2)



### Overarching 2020 Target

Build the domestic market by increasing domestic purchases of BC products by \$2.3 billion (43 per cent).

### 2018 Outcome #1

Selected public sector institutions have begun pilot projects to implement and measure buy-local food purchasing policies.

### Immediate Actions

**Readiness mapping: A mapping exercise to identify the people (champions) and public sector institutions where there is the most readiness to take on a pilot to implement buy-local policies (looking at higher education, K-12 education, health, and correctional facilities).**

Existing initiatives: mapping will reveal some existing initiatives that should be amplified where possible and learned from (potential examples: FEED Comox Valley, CR-FAIR work, UBC Hospital work with UBC Farm).

Political and public will: concurrent work with UBCM and the BC government and other proponents to increase political will and public demand for buy-local policies in public sector institutions.

Identifying opportunities: the goal is to identify a larger opportunity where there is support and ideal conditions to launch a pilot. For example, the BC health care sector seems to be an emerging opportunity, with a first phase potential targeting Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA). A pilot grow-to-order contract with VIHA remains a great opportunity if there can be farmers identified plus a procurement contract to be negotiated with those farmers.

Involving allies: Consistently seek allies to support this work. For example, the McConnell Foundation is working to support pilots in the health care sector.

**Targeted professional development for procurement managers: create an education and training program for public sector institutional procurement managers to learn to navigate the regulatory framework so they can purchase local food.**

**Overcoming the barriers:** Many procurement managers and officers believe they are not freely able to buy locally due to a regulation, policy or trade agreement. As part of a training program, there is a need to create a consensus understanding of, and then freely disseminate, a 'regulatory/trade barrier fact sheet' to clarify what the different regulations are, what they mean, how you get them, and in what public procurement scenarios are they necessary. Some examples that need clarification are: HACCP, CanadaGAP certification, organic certifications, and international trade agreements such as CETA and TPP. The overarching purpose is to lay out what is possible legally in different contexts.

**Immediate  
Actions**  
(cont.)

**Tools to increase local purchasing:** For example, providing guidance on how to write request for proposals (RFPs) strategically to increase local procurement.

**Peer to peer learning:** Catalyze and amplify peer to peer procurement officer training and learning networks within the different sectors (for an emerging example, see Meal Exchange).

**Other  
Actions**

These other actions support the immediate actions, and should be considered in time:

- **Food aggregators:** expanding local food aggregators (some emerging examples include Vancouver Farmers Market Direct, and Discovery Organics) to serve the institutional market. The goal is to provide an easier way for procurement officers to choose local among the many options they have.
- **Provincial policy:** target and promote policy levers such as social procurement policy and a school food policy.
- **National policy:** target and promote policy levers such as a national food policy, or a national school lunch program. Work to ensure local food procurement is part of the conversation on global trade agreements.





# PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Panel discussions gave working groups a break while supporting learning through a series of informative speakers discussing various aspects of local, sustainable food systems in BC.

## Panel #1: Increasing production through protecting and increasing access to agricultural land



**Deborah Curran**

Professor and Program Director, Environmental Law Centre at the University of Victoria



**Ione Smith**

Director, Upland Consulting

## Panel #2: Training and support for new entrants



**Rebecca Harbut**

Faculty, Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems at KPU



**Sara Dent**

BC Coordinator, Young Agrarians

## Panel #3: Building domestic markets through institutional procurement and local value chains



**Victoria Wakefield**

Purchasing Manager, UBC



**Darren Stott**

Principal, Greenchain Consulting



**Dave Wilson**

Program Lead - Produce, Choices Markets



## “SOLUTIONS SOAPBOX”

*Solutions Soapbox allowed participants to sign up to take the stage and talk about what they are working on that other participants could connect with.*

### IDEA #1

Heather Pritchard on the [Farmland Access in British Columbia Booklet](#).

A publication with projects from:

- FarmFolk CityFolk - Provincial food land trusts.
- Young Agrarians - Land-Linking/ Matchmaking
- Deer Crossing the Art Farm - Housing densification on non-ALR farm land
- CRFAIR - Municipal farm land trusts

### IDEA #2

Darren Stott on [farm business advisory programs](#) offered through Growing Forward 2.

A farm business advisory program from the government:

- Business planning and strategy support across 9 areas.
- \$3,000 available for each area, so up to \$27,000 per applicant.

### IDEA #3

Carla Stewart on [Surrey Agriculture Week](#).

- Taking place in September 2016, the Surrey Agriculture Week will include:
- Agricultural Land Leasing Workshop (with Ministry of Agriculture)
- Speaker Series

Carla is looking for resources and speakers to support this initiative.

### IDEA #4

Alexandra Lyons on [BC Seed Trials](#).

Seed growers throughout the province are interested in scaling up and growing seed at a large scale (available to commercial growers) enabling the food system to be more robust and resilient by producing crops adapted to the region. To support this initiative, please contact Alex.

### IDEA #5

Celia White on the [Real Food Challenge](#). Meal Exchange is partnering with Universities in BC:

- To research and analyze university procurement (3 pilot campuses so far and 3 to come.)
- Food purchases will be measured. Goal: shift 20% of budget to local, sustainable producers.
- Feedback welcomed! Specifically, on any thoughts around criteria for local, and how to best include indigenous perspectives.

### IDEA #6

Marc Schutzbank on Fresh Roots and some of their initiatives on food security and food literacy in Vancouver.

- Check out the [Coalition for Healthy School Food](#) and support them
- Think about [what it would look like](#) if you were buying food from your local youth
- Encourage your local principal or teacher to think about what it would look like to have outdoor experiential learning for their students of the sort Fresh Roots provides.



# CONCLUSION

The Finding Common Ground 2016 Summit brought together individuals across BC's food systems who deepened a shared understanding about local and sustainable food systems. A set of action plans in each of three areas of focus can be initiated in the next six months and collectively contribute to strengthening local capacity in BC.

The action plans are just seeds we have collectively planted. Taking action requires champions to take on these plans, and resources to support their implementation.

For its part, the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group is committed to exploring how we can support and monitor advancing the action plans. Some examples include:

- Facilitate the bridging of relationships, sectors, partnerships and actors.
- Convene and coordinate for collective action.
- Mobilize resources, e.g. funding, research, and coordination.

There is also a parallel process led by the Ministry of Agriculture to determine how to implement the BC Agrifood and Seafood Strategic Growth Plan that will also continue to build momentum around local and sustainable food.

Action plans were created knowing that they will require a collective approach to succeed and will rely on support of many. While support may take time to fully emerge, the creation of action plans is another significant step towards building local and sustainable food systems in BC.

## Keeping People Informed

We asked participants about ways we can keep everyone informed on the progress of action plans. Ideas included:

- Support for regular occurring summits/ meetings, likely annually, to bring this diverse group together.
- Web-casting and recorded webinars for those who cannot attend in person.
- A robust marketing and communications plan to establish a movement and sense of identity.
- Involve all of BC by hosting not just in the Lower Mainland.
- Using cloud services like Google Docs to share resources and information.
- Repeating, predictable (e.g. quarterly) updates.

## Thank you to all Finding Common Ground Summit participants:

- Candice Apppleby: Small Scale Food Processor Association
- Kevin Boon: BC Cattlemen's Association
- Abra Brynne: BC Food Systems Network
- Stephanie Butler: Real Estate Foundation of BC
- Veronik Campbell: Centre for Sustainable Food Systems at UBC Farm
- Stephanie Cottell: Thetis Island Nature Conservancy
- Deborah Curran: University of Victoria
- Nick Davies: Real Estate Foundation of BC
- Janine de la Salle: Urban Food Strategies
- Sara Dent: Young Agrarians, FarmFolk CityFolk
- Theresa Duynstee: Metro Vancouver
- Reg Ens: BC Agriculture Council
- Dave Eto: BC Dairy Association
- Garry Fehr: Agriculture Centre of Excellence, UFV
- Jen Gamble: COABC
- Dieter Geesing: Ministry of Agriculture
- Linda Geggie: CRFAIR
- Kathleen Gibson: Policy consultant
- Shannon Gordon: Whistler Centre for Sustainability
- Claire Gram: Vancouver Coastal Health
- Sandra Hamilton: North Island College
- Rebecca Harbut: Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems, KPU
- David Hendrickson: Real Estate Foundation of BC
- Chad Hershler: Deer Crossing the Art Farm
- Lorie Hrycuik: Ministry of Agriculture
- Scott Hughes: Capacity Build Consulting
- Dawn Johnson: Stewardship Pemberton Society
- Terra Kaethler: Vancouver Foundation
- Markus Kischnick: City of Surrey
- Hayley Lapalme: J.W. McConnell Foundation
- Virginie Lavallee-Picard: City of Victoria
- Alexandra Lyon: University of British Columbia
- Brent Mansfield: BC Food Systems Network
- Tara McDonald: Vancouver Farmers Markets
- Coreen Moroziuk: Investment Agriculture Foundation
- Keeley Nixon: Linking Land and Farmers
- Vanessa Perrodou: Farm to School BC
- Lisa Powell: UFV & UBC
- Heather Pritchard: FarmFolk CityFolk
- Elizabeth Quinn: BC Association of Farmers' Markets
- Hedy Rubin: Real Estate Foundation of BC
- Rebecca Salpeter: Ministry of Agriculture
- Sabrina Sandhu: Vancouver Coastal Health
- Marc Schutzbank: Fresh Roots
- Leanne Sexsmith: Real Estate Foundation of BC
- Ione Smith: Upland Agricultural Consulting
- Andrew Stegemann: Finding Common Ground 2016 Summit Facilitator
- Carla Stewart: City of Surrey
- Darren Stott: Greenchain Consulting
- Moira Teevan: Vancity
- Dave Thomson: Richmond Food Security Society
- Chris Thoreau: FarmFolk CityFolk
- Susan Tychie: CRFAIR
- Brian Underhill: Retired (formerly with the ALC)
- Victoria Wakefield: UBC
- Celia White: Meal Exchange
- David Wilson: Choices Markets
- Hannah Wittman: Centre for Sustainable Food Systems, UBC
- Jack Wong: Real Estate Foundation of BC