

#BCfoodsummit

FINDING COMMON GROUND 2016 SUMMIT

Presented by the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group

BCIT Downtown



Vancouver, BC



May 4 to 5, 2016

Social Media



#BCfoodsummit

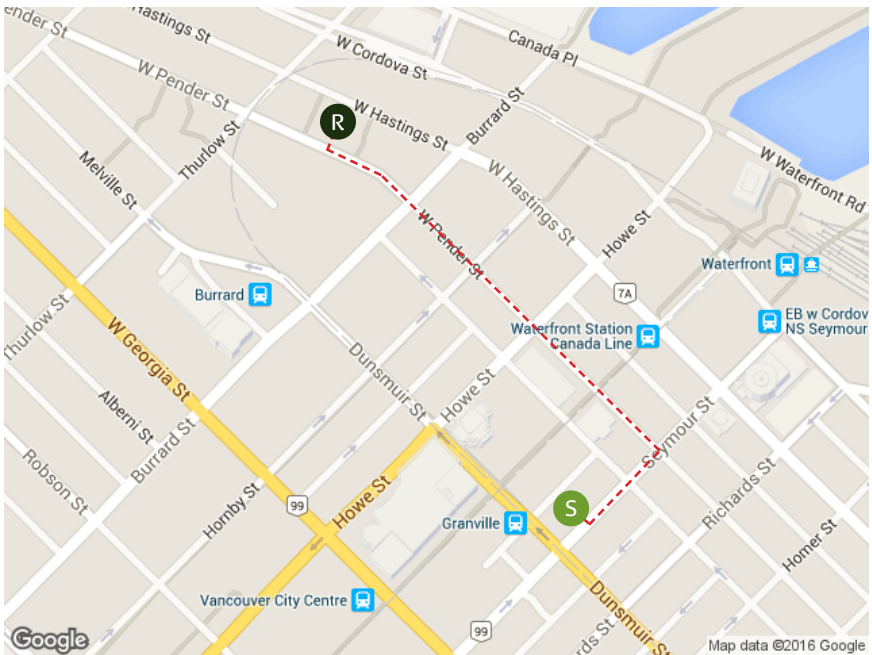
Getting Around



Summit: BCIT Downtown Campus (555 Seymour St.)



Reception: Oceanic Plaza Towers (1066 W Hastings St.)



Downtown Vancouver (enlarged)



Welcome from the Hosts

Dear Finding Common Ground 2016 Summit participant,

We are thrilled that you are able to join us on May 4th and 5th for the Finding Common Ground 2016 Summit. As Co-Chairs of the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group, we are extremely excited to be part of this unique and important event that will build on so much good work that has taken place to advance local and sustainable food systems in BC.

We have purposely invited a range of participants with a variety of perspectives on BC food systems in order to build new relationships and synergies; there are key contributions that can be made by you and others from your sector! With such a rich mix of talents and knowledge in the room, we are confident that we will come out of the Summit with new inspiration and tangible next steps for working together to move the dial towards more local and sustainable food systems in BC.

For your information, included in this package is:

- A primer to the Summit, including some key context and the goals of the Summit
- An agenda outlining the two days
- A map showing the locations of the BCIT Downtown Campus, where the Summit will take place, and the Oceanic Plaza Towers, where our reception will take place on May 5th.

We look forward to seeing you in a few days!

Sustainable Food Systems Working Group Co-Chairs,



David Hendrickson
Grants Manager
Real Estate Foundation of BC



Brent Mansfield
Director
BC Food Systems Network



Schedule: Wednesday, May 4, 2016

- 9:00 to 9:30 **Breakfast**
- 9:30 to 10:30 **Plenary / Welcome and Setting the Stage**
- 10:30 to 11:05 **Plenary / Panel: Increasing Production**
- Ione Smith: Director, Upland Agricultural Consulting
 - Deborah Curran: Professor and Program Director, Environmental Law Centre, Uvic
- 11:05 to 11:15 **Break**
- 11:15 to 12:30 **Working Groups / Session One**
- 12:30 to 1:15 **Lunch**
- 1:15 to 1:50 **Plenary / Panel: Building Domestic Markets**
- Victoria Wakefield: Purchasing Manager, UBC
 - Dave Wilson: Program Lead- Produce, Choices Markets
 - Darren Stott: Principal, Greenchain Consulting
- 1:50 to 2:00 **Break**
- 2:00 to 3:00 **Working Groups / Session Two**
- 3:00 to 3:10 **Break**
- 3:10 to 3:45 **Plenary / Panel: Training and Supporting New Entrants**
- Rebecca Harbut: Faculty, Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems at KPU
- 3:45 to 4:00 **Plenary / Wrap-Up**



Schedule: Thursday, May 5, 2016

- 9:00 to 9:30 **Breakfast**
- 9:30 to 10:00 **Plenary / Welcome Back**
- 10:00 to 10:30 **Plenary / Getting to Action**
- Hannah Wittman: Academic Director, Centre for Sustainable Food Systems, UBC
- 10:30 to 11:30 **Plenary / Review of Action Plans**
- 11:30 to 11:45 **Break**
- 11:45 to 12:45 **Working Groups / Session Three**
- 12:45 to 1:30 **Lunch**
- 1:30 to 2:30 **Working Groups / Session Four**
- 2:30 to 2:45 **Break**
- 2:45 to 3:45 **Plenary / Tracking our Collective Progress**
- 3:45 to 4:00 **Plenary / Wrap-Up**
- Walk to Reception (1066 West Hastings Street)**
- 4:00 to 6:00 **Reception**
Sponsored by Inniskillin, part of the Great Estates Okanagan
- Rapporteur: Linda Geggie, Capital Region Food and Agriculture Initiatives Roundtable



Finding Common Ground

In November 2015, the Finding Common Ground Forum brought together a group of thought leaders from key sectors of the BC agri-food system who collectively identified a series of high level actions needed to foster local and sustainable food systems in BC bit.ly/FCGreport. Participants also indicated areas where there was underlying interest to take collective action.

The Province then released the BC Agrifood and Seafood Strategic Growth Plan that also included a series of proposed actions bit.ly/BC-ASSGP.

We compared actions from the Finding Common Ground Forum with the Strategic Growth Plan and many overlapped into general thematic areas, providing a rationale to prioritize concrete next steps.

Three focus areas:



Increasing production through protecting and increasing access to agricultural land



Building domestic markets through institutional procurement and local value chains



Training and support for new entrants



Summit Goals

During the Finding Common Ground 2016 Summit, we aim to take advantage of opportunities presented by these overlapping areas. Specifically, relating to the three areas of focus, the goals of the Finding Common Ground 2016 Summit are to:

- Deepen our shared understanding of what sustainable local food systems looks like in BC while building our capacity and intention to collectively work towards making it a reality.
- Co-develop tangible action plans that build on existing efforts and work towards shared outcomes that align with the BC Agrifood and Seafood Strategic Growth Plan and result in actions within the three areas of focus.
- Have participants commit to action teams who ground-truth and help implement action plans after the Summit.
- Gain input into ways we can collectively track our progress and support ongoing communication after the Summit.

Our purpose is to create a set of action plans in each focus area that can be initiated in the next six months and collectively contribute to strengthening local and sustainable food systems in BC.

The actions that arose from the Finding Common Ground Forum and the Province's Strategic Growth Plan overlap with our three areas of focus.



Summit Primer



Focus Area:

Increasing production through protecting and increasing access to agricultural land

Finding Common Ground Forum Actions:

Acquire land and place into trust for food production (various mechanisms, e.g. donating land), and reduce the amount of land from the ALR that gets taken out of the ALR.

“Farm Home Plate Bylaw” embedded into provincial legislation.

Consider tax implications on the ALR.

Reduce non-farm use of the ALR.

Encourage local government zoning to more closely align with Provincial objectives to better protect agricultural land.

Province’s Strategic Growth Plan Actions:

1. Identify options for increasing and intensifying production on unused or underutilized land.

5. Implement changes to the Agricultural Land Commission and ensure the Agricultural Land Reserve is working for British Columbia.



Focus Area:

Building domestic markets through institutional procurement and local value chains

Finding Common Ground Forum Actions:

Identify what food is currently available in BC (e.g. a Provincial inventory of food produced in BC).

Request BC Government to provide information/data on local food (supply & demand) within government institutions, such as hospitals, universities and correctional facilities that would identify opportunities to develop locally-produced food markets.

Province's Strategic Growth Plan Actions:

13. Work with industry to promote local agrifood and seafood through the buy local initiatives.

14. Encourage the development and adoption of buy local policies for food retail, food services, and public sector institutions.

16. Support access to retail for local producers and processors, including commercial kitchen space, cold chains and distribution necessities.



Focus Area:

Training and support for new entrants

Finding Common Ground Forum Actions:

Better coordinate research, education and extension.

Training programs.

Apprenticeship/ mentorship programs (formal and informal).

Extension Services

Inventory and coordination of farmland available for lease.

Financial support for new farmers & agricultural program graduates (e.g. \$50,000 grant or low-interest loans for new graduates).

Province's Strategic Growth Plan Actions:

3. Participate in and support labour market initiatives:
1) Promote the sector's interests and encourage industry to leverage labour partnerships, labour training, youth employment, seasonal agriculture workers and temporary foreign worker programs.
2) Identify and implement opportunities to support the success of new entrants, youth, and First Nations in the agrifood and seafood sector, including succession planning.



Thank You!

Sustainable Food Systems Working Group Members

BC Food Systems Network, Capital Region Food and Agriculture Initiatives Roundtable, FarmFolk CityFolk, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Real Estate Foundation of BC, Vancity, and the Vancouver Foundation.

Summit Sponsors



Reception Sponsor



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Notes

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