



# Squamish Valley Agricultural Plan Community Engagement Summary

April 2020



## Acknowledgements

The Squamish Valley Agricultural Plan is a joint project of the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) and the District of Squamish, with support from the Squamish Food Policy Council and funding, in part, from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Government of British Columbia through programs delivered by the Investment Agriculture Foundation of B.C.

### Disclaimer Statement:

*The government of Canada, the government of British Columbia and the Investment Agriculture Foundation of B.C. are pleased to participate in the production of this publication. We are committed to working with our industry partners to address issues of importance to the agriculture and agri-food industry in British Columbia. Opinions expressed in this report are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the government of Canada, the government of British Columbia or the Investment Agriculture Foundation of B.C.*



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## Overview

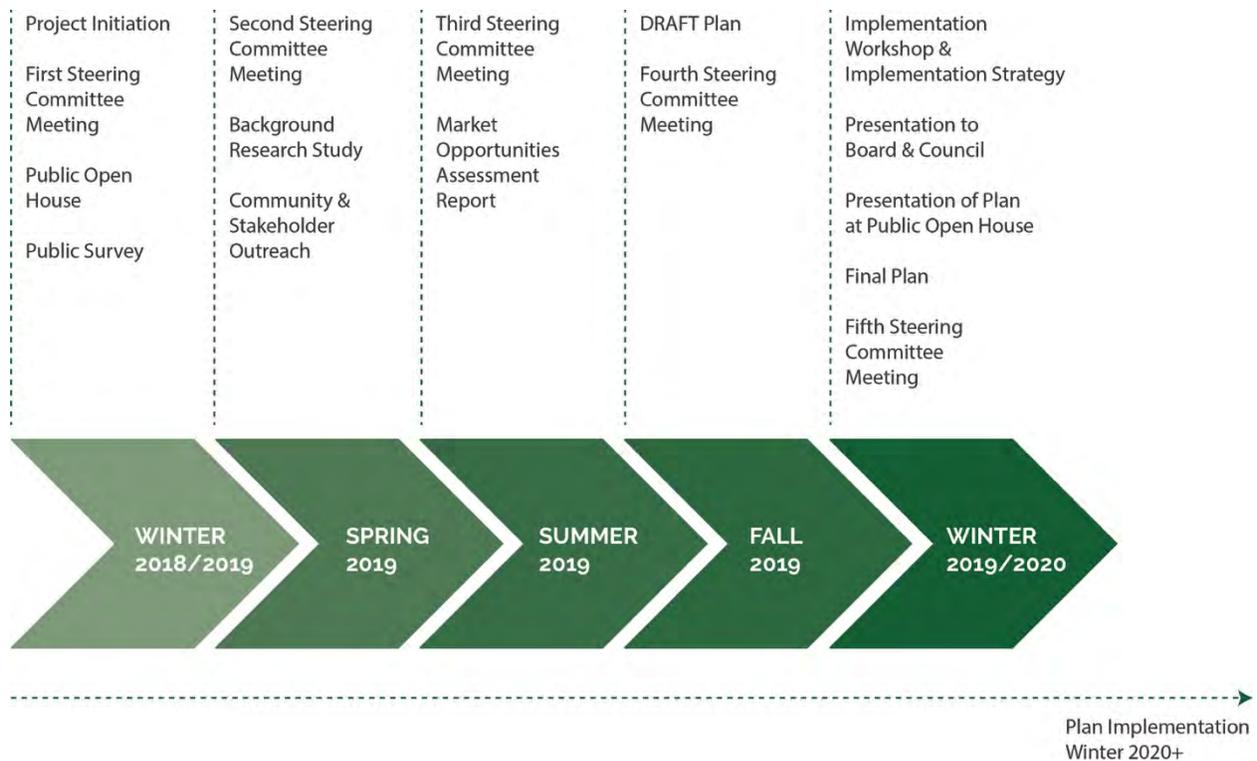
The Squamish Valley Agricultural Plan (the “Plan”) was built upon a desire by the agricultural and food systems community to assist growth in the agriculture and related sectors within Squamish and Area D. The Plan will consider agriculture and the food system in its regional context and will anticipate future changes and challenges.

The four specific objectives of the Plan were to:

1. Identify opportunities and actions to strengthen agriculture within the community of Squamish and Area D;
2. Protect and increase the productivity of foodlands and the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR);
3. Contribute to the long-term health and economic sustainability of the community; and
4. Integrate indigenous knowledge, perspectives and considerations for supporting indigenous food sovereignty within traditional lands and food systems in the region.

The development of the Plan involved engaging agriculture stakeholders as well as the general public. This engagement summary outlines the engagement objectives, engagement activities and the input we received throughout the project.

**FIGURE 1 SQUAMISH VALLEY AGRICULTURAL PLAN PROJECT TIMELINE.**



## Description of Engagement

### Overview

Initial engagement focused on introducing the project and gathering some high-level input related to a vision for food and agriculture and identify the key challenges and opportunities that exist through an open house and community survey. This was followed by further in-depth discussion and analysis with the Steering Committee, government staff, and other key stakeholders. Public outreach included hosting a table at the Squamish Farmers Market, presenting at the Ashlu Creek Foundation AGM, attending the Brackendale Fall Fair, and facilitating a discussion at a Squamish Nation Elders' lunch at Totem Hall. A final Open House was hosted to present the plan to the public. A final meeting of the Steering Committee will be held after endorsement of the plan by the District of Squamish Council and the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District.

### 1. Steering Committee meetings

The Squamish Valley Agriculture Plan Steering Committee was comprised of agriculture and food experts and stakeholders in the Squamish Valley. The Committee acted as a sounding board throughout the planning process, providing guidance and advice at key points in the process. In particular, the group provided input on vision, goals, and priorities; identified approaches to help engage the community the process; provided feedback on draft policy directions; and vetted the draft plan before it is presented to the public.

There were four Steering Committee meetings throughout the project:

- February 2019: To introduce the project, review deliverables and timeline, and discuss the engagement strategy.
- April 2019: To present the results of the survey, identify and prioritize issues, present the background report, and discuss the market opportunities analysis.
- June 2019: Confirm vision statement, review and confirm themes, and develop recommended actions.
- November 2019: Presentation of the first draft of the plan and discussion of implementation strategy.

### 2. Online survey

An online survey was developed to: solicit community input into a draft vision for agriculture in the Squamish Valley; conduct an inventory of existing food/agriculture businesses and organizations; identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats; and generate potential action ideas. The survey was promoted through the District of Squamish and SLRD websites, and by the Steering Committee members. 64 people completed the online survey, and two people completed a paper version of the survey.

### 3. Open House #1

A community drop-in style open house event was held on Sunday, March 10, 2019, 5:30 – 7:30 at the Brackendale Art Gallery. The purpose of the event was to inform the community of the process and inspire residents about agricultural planning, and to seek wide input on a vision for agriculture in the Squamish Valley, issues and concerns, and ideas for action. Approximately 40 people attended the event.

The event included presentations from:

- Sarah McJannet, District of Squamish – introduced the project
- Lone Smith, Project Consultant – gave an overview of agricultural planning
- Kim Sutherland, Ministry of Agriculture – presented on land use regulations and Ministry jurisdiction
- Sarah Petznick, Lillooet Food and Agriculture Society – presented on the benefits of an agriculture plan for Lillooet



The eight poster stations comprised the following information and sought input:

1. Demographics: who was there, and what was the personal connection to farming.
2. Information about the project and agriculture in the Valley.
3. Vision for agriculture in the Squamish Valley.
4. What's helping and hindering agriculture in the Squamish Valley.
5. Ideas for action.

There were conversation tables hosted by facilitators for attendees to have a dialogue with one another and project team members about about agriculture and food system issues and ideas.



#### 4. Community Meetings

Four meetings were held with specific stakeholders:

Squamish First Nation Elder's lunch: was attended at Totem Hall to discuss the plan and hear feedback regarding key issues.

Ashlu Creek Foundation AGM: SVAP goals and objectives were presented, and a discussion was held on priorities and funding opportunities.

Squamish Farmers Market: A table at a market in May 2019 provided public info and representatives of the project team answered questions from members of the public and heard from community members regarding key issues and priorities.

Brackendale Fall Fair: This event was organized by the Brackendale Farmers Institute in September 2019. Members of the project team hosted a station at the Fair to raise awareness of the project and answer questions from members of the public.



#### 5. Implementation Strategy Workshop

A workshop was held in December 2019 and a facilitated discussion was conducted with members of the Steering Committee, community organization representatives, and government staff. The purpose of the workshop was to delve into details regarding how the plan will be implemented at the community level once it is endorsed and/or adopted by local government. Approximately 12 individuals attended the workshop. The discussion resulted in the Squamish Food Policy Council coming forward and offering to lead the Implementation Group for actions that require leadership from a non-governmental representative.

#### 6. Presentations to Elected Officials

A final draft of the Squamish Valley Agricultural Plan was presented to District of Squamish Mayor and Council and SLRD Board members at official local government meetings (e.g. Committee of the Whole) in January 2020. The draft plan received unanimous support by both the District of Squamish and SLRD Board.

## 7. Open House #2

A second open house was held on February 20, 2020 from 5:30 to 8pm at the Squamish Adventure Centre. There were approximately 40 members of the public and Steering Committee members who attended the drop-in style event. Light refreshments were provided, and members of the project team were on hand to answer questions and receive feedback. Information boards outlining the process and key outcomes of the plan were displayed alongside detailed maps and results from some of the engagement events.



## **8. Expression of Gratitude for the Steering Committee**

A celebratory event (or gift) is scheduled to be held with the Steering Committee in early April or May 2020, once the final plan is officially adopted by the District of Squamish and SLRD.

### **What we heard**

The following summarizes the input from the engagement activities.

#### **1. Personal connection with farming.**

The largest group of participants in the first open house and on the survey indicated that they were a gardener (19% and 69% respectively). The second largest group of participants in the survey indicated they forage for food (22%), followed by a variety of other connections including previous generations of farmers, and supporters of local farming. The participants at the event also indicated they came from previous generations of farmers, and also indicated some small level of farming.

The survey respondents also indicated their main agricultural products, the type and number of products, major constraints to expanding their farm operations, which channels they used to sell their products, percentage of income generated through various channels, the geographic regions that their products are sold, and farm-related issues.

#### **2. Top strengths of farming and food production in the Squamish Valley**

Survey input indicated the two top strengths of farming and food production were ‘access to markets – local and regional’ and ‘good support from local consumers,’ followed by ‘public is well educated about local food,’ and ‘strong cultural history of farming’ and ‘good soils.’ Input from the event supported the survey input, and included good water supply.

#### **3. Top challenges affecting farming and food production in the Squamish Valley**

The survey responses indicated the most significant challenge was the ‘high costs and capital inputs of land,’ followed by ‘limited supporting infrastructure,’ ‘flooding and other natural hazards,’ and ‘local government land use policies and regulations.’ Additional input from the event participants included threat of land development.

The Steering Committee also identified the most significant challenges as being cost of land for farming; the difficulty in converting forested land to farmland; zoning requirements; and lack of enforcement.

#### **4. Action ideas**

A large number of ideas for actions to strengthen agriculture in the Squamish Valley were received from the survey and the public event. All of the input is included in the appendices; the main categories of action ideas offered were:

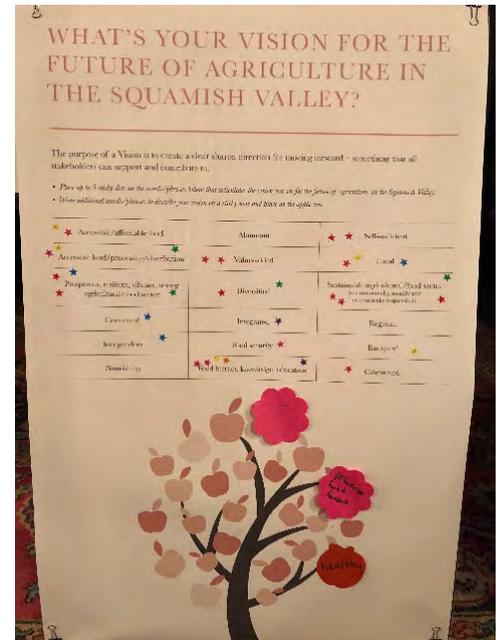
- Systemic support (e.g. create agricultural group, food hub)
- Support for farmers (e.g. tax incentives, advocate, identifying new market opportunities)
- Education/promotion
- Regulation (e.g. regulate urban development, tax implications for non-farming use of ALR land)

## 5. Vision

The survey and the public event sought input on words that would help describe a vision for the future of agriculture in the Squamish Valley. From the survey, the top three words or themes that were identified as most important to be included in a vision for agriculture were (in order of popularity):

1. Sustainable agricultural/food sector (environmentally, socially and economically responsible)
2. Accessible land/processing/distribution
3. Prosperous, resilient, vibrant, strong agriculture/food sector

The responses at the public event were similar to the ones from the survey, but also included food literacy, knowledge and education as part of the vision.



## Appendices

Appendix A: Steering Committee Input on Issues

Appendix B: Open House #1 Input

Appendix C: Open House #1 Poster Boards

Appendix D: Survey Responses

Appendix E: Open House #2 Input

Appendix F: Open House #2 Poster Boards

## Appendix A: Steering Committee Input on Issues

Issues identified by the Steering Committee included:

- challenge of moving from a resource based industry to agricultural land
- confusion regarding zoning in the area in regard to land mapping/planning
- ALR and ALC have a lot of rules; local communities only have some jurisdiction
- lots of farmland properties are still treed/in timber; people are sitting on land that is potentially agricultural, but people are not farming
- challenge in how agriculture is being enforced
- need for local governments to make zoning changes to support agriculture
- too much focus on recreation rather than agriculture in Upper Valley
- need more opportunities to expand agritourism
- barriers (cost, time, resources) in converting forest to farm
- land prices are too high for farming; large parcels are too expensive (an acre of land is worth \$197,000 in the Squamish Valley)
- subdivision of lots for agriculture is difficult
- potential to use developed spaces to be more accessible and productive to better support urban agriculture
- changes of zoning from agriculture to high density housing
- need alternative models for supporting shared economies and smaller, intensive farming
- smaller lots tend to move towards estate homes in 20-30 years; evidence shows that the smaller the lot, the less likely it is to be farmed
- planners like to see a wide range of parcel sites available
- legally binding lease requires subdivision (land title), which is needed for business loans

## Appendix B: Open House #1 Input

What is your personal connection with farming and/or food production in the area?

I grow crops	3	7
I raise livestock	3	7
I am a beekeeper	5	12
I care for horses	5	12
I am a gardener (I grow food for personal use)	8	19
I forage for food (e.g. wild mushroom or berry picking)	4	10
I hunt to feed myself and/or my family	2	5
I make food to sell to others	3	7
Previous generations of my family were food producers	4	10
My family has been involved in food processing or retail	1	2
I am not directly involved with agriculture	1	2
Other: In the ALR	1	2
Other: Extension/AG consultant	1	2
	41	100%

What's your vision for the future of agriculture in the Squamish Valley?

Accessible/Affordable food	2
Accessible land/processing/distribution	3
Prosperous, resilient, vibrant, strong agricultural/food sector	4
Connected	1
Independent	1
Nourishing	0
Abundant	0
Value-Added	2
Diversified	2
Integrated	1

Food Security	1
Food literacy, knowledge, education	5
Self-sufficient	2
Local	3
Sustainable agriculture/food sector (environmentally, socially and economically responsible)	4
Regional	0
Backyard	1
Celebrated	1
Other: Affordable Food + Farmland	1
Other: Healthy	1

## What's helping and hindering agriculture in the valley?

### Helping

- Land leasing programs
- Sharing of crop harvesting, fruit picking
- The farmers market
- Trend to support local, organic
- Would agricultural tourism be better than clearing (forest bathing, intrinsic value)
- More info available to support local movement

### Hindering

- Land affordability (x2)
- People interested in farming
- District of Squamish – bylaws don't conform to farming bylaws
- Burning bylaws
- Affordable housing for farm workers (x2)
- Finding staff
- No support network for farmers – lone voice
- Lack of education in leadership
- Non-farm use competing for AG land
- Water rights

## What are your action ideas for strengthening agriculture in the valley?

(numbers signify a star placed on the proposed idea)

- Clearing land to increase productivity (x1)
- Accessing information about leasing and other tenure arrangements (x1)
- Attracting farm labour
- Making connections with local retailers (x1)
- Preparing for climate change (e.g. drought, flooding) (x1)
- Identifying new market opportunities (x1)
- Developing partnerships (x1)
- Creating more supportive regulations (x1)

- Identifying funding
- Increasing awareness of local food (x1)

### Additional ideas (on sticky notes):

- Creation of more diverse selection of land parcel sizes zoned for farming use
- Ongoing partnerships + consultation with Squamish Nation
- Helping people interested in farming to access land – long-term so that they can make infrastructure
- investment (e.g. drainage)
- Tax assessment reform (stick)
- Incentive for farming ALR (carrot)
- Most land needs to be drained need \$ and long-term commitment to land
- Support system for farmers
- Lower cost land
- Land-matching can't be the solution

## Conversation Table Input

### Ideas to Actions

- Backyard farming support
- Infill gardening
- More education for politicians
- ALR needs to support more enforcement
- Protect aquifers (e.g. policy development) (x2)
- Strong restrictions against non-farm use
- Collectives/shared resources/collaborations
- Land trusts to address availability/cost
- Relay information idea/farm workshops
- Festivals + celebrations
- Tiny home community in Squamish Valley to help look after farm property – intentional agricultural community
- Flood-oriented farming
- Strengthen zoning/bylaws re agriculture

## Agricultural Challenges

## Market concerns

Is there enough interest from the public/locals in farming? E.g. if we are able to create and/or sustain more land for people to farm, will there be systems in place to support that (is there enough of a market, is there enough variety in parcel sizes/affordability)

## Water access concerns

- Concerns over aquifers
- Garibaldi at Squamish = no water!
- Developments are drawing our water reserves

## Non-Farm Use Concerns

- Non-farm uses in AG areas
- What is “good” agriculture? Stables?
- Need unified farming voice in Squamish
- No local enforcement on AG issues
- Pressure from development is stronger than the zoning

## Capacity/Social concerns (e.g. housing, staff)

- Agriculture losses to jobs
- Concerns re disenfranchising the voices they need to hear
- Depression with farmers related to instability/social isolation

## Land concerns

- Land affordability
- Access to land
- Land needs improvement – needs drainage + clearing – can’t do with leasing
- Floods!
- Flooding/loss of land – climate change – bigger floods

## Education concerns

- Encouraging more locals to adopt farming practices
- Need more education for council – need an advocate

## Agricultural Strengths

- History of farming
- Government funding and initiatives

- AG plan process = united voice
- Water supply
- Market – farmers’ market/town/outlets
- Requiring developers to strengthen farming (community gardens)
- Supportive community
- Young Agrarians
- Existing community events/supports
- Climate

## Appendix C: Open House #1 Poster Boards

WELCOME TO THE

# SQUAMISH VALLEY AGRICULTURAL PLAN

Thank you for coming and sharing your ideas for the future of agriculture in our community!

## AGENDA

5:30 – 6:00	Poster gallery – add input and share your ideas Table conversation(s) – share your ideas and hear from others
6:00 – 6:30	Presentations
6:30 – 7:30	Poster gallery continues Table conversation(s) continues
7:30	End

## Take the survey and tell others

A detailed online survey is also available.  
Share more input after tonight and ask others to complete it too.

- Ask us for a hard copy version of the survey, or
- Visit the page [surveymonkeys.com/r/SqValAgPlan](https://surveymonkeys.com/r/SqValAgPlan)
- Scan the code

*Survey open until March 31, 2019*



This project is generously funded by:



## WHO'S HERE?

### Why ask this?

It helps us tell who we are hearing from, and if there are certain demographics missing we can try and encourage them to participate at other opportunities.

*Please put a sticky dot on the choices that best describe yourself.*

AGE RANGE	
15 - 25	
26 - 35	
36 - 45	
46 - 55	
56 - 65	
66 - 75	
76 +	

### What is your personal connection with farming and/or food production in the area?

*(Place dots on all that apply)*

I grow crops	
I raise livestock	
I am a beekeeper	
I care for horses	
I am a gardener (I grow food for personal use)	
I forage for food (such as mushroom or berry picking)	
I hunt to feed myself and/or my family	
I make food to sell to others	
Previous generations of my family were food producers	
My family has been involved in food processing or retail	
I am not directly involved with agriculture	
Other <i>(add a sticky note)</i>	

# SQUAMISH VALLEY AGRICULTURAL PLAN

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**WHY:**

Assist growth in agriculture and related sectors

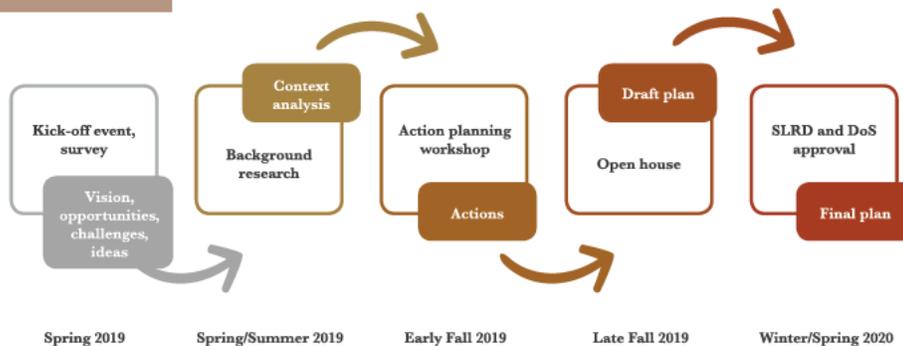
**WHERE:**

Within Squamish and Electoral Area D

**WHAT:**

- (i) Identify opportunities to strengthen agriculture
- (ii) Protect and increase productivity of farmland
- (iii) Contribute to long-term health and economic sustainability of the sector
- (iv) Integrate Indigenous knowledge and support Indigenous food sovereignty

**TIMELINE:**



**WHO:**

Development of the Squamish Valley Agriculture Plan is a joint project of the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District and the District of Squamish, in partnership with the Squamish Food Policy Council. The project has received financial assistance from the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC.

The Squamish Valley Agriculture Plan Steering Committee will assist in the development of the Plan, and includes diverse representation from the Squamish area, with stakeholders representing different aspects of the agriculture and food system, including: agriculture, food security, Indigenous food systems, soil and water management, food processing and distribution, and/or agri-tourism and value-added businesses.

# WHAT IS AN AGRICULTURAL PLAN?

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An Agriculture Plan is a comprehensive set of recommendations and an associated implementation strategy with the objective of enhancing the viability and long-term sustainability of agriculture and food systems. The Plan will identify opportunities to establish partnerships in the community with individuals who have a working knowledge of local agriculture and food systems including the areas of: production; food processing; distribution; marketing; and recovery.

## Role of Government

Agriculture and food are regulated by several levels of government. As a result, local producers may be subject to municipal, regional, provincial and federal government policies. The Agriculture Plan will assist in clarifying the role of these jurisdictions, and will focus on actions that local government can undertake.

In particular, local government has a role in enabling agriculture and food security through:

- Policies set out in Official Community Plans;
- Land use regulations as described in Land Use Bylaws and Zoning Bylaws; and
- Other initiatives such as Climate Adaptation Plans, Watershed Plans and the Regional Growth Strategy.

A local government may also consider providing support, assistance or partnership with local non-governmental organizations in an effort to ensure that goals and objectives around agriculture and food security are met.

## Examples of Other Agriculture Plans

### **Sunshine Coast Agricultural Area Plan (2012)**

This plan led to the establishment of a Southern Sunshine Coast Farmers Institute to assist local and regional government in implementing many of the plan's recommendations.

### **SLRD Area B, District of Lillooet, and St'at'imc Agricultural Plan (2014)**

This plan resulted in the establishment of Lillooet Agriculture and Food Society (LAFS) a non-governmental, non-profit society, to implement many of the plan's recommendations

### **City of Kelowna Agricultural Plan (2017)**

Local government took over 3 dozen recommendations from the plan and translated them into updates to the OCP and Zoning Bylaw to strengthen policies and regulations around farming and food production.

### **District of Saanich Agriculture and Food Security Plan (2018)**

This plan established a new Task Force that helped to shape the plan's objectives and recommended actions. Next steps for this new plan include implementation, and dedicated funding has already been identified.

# SQUAMISH VALLEY MAP



# WHAT'S YOUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE IN THE SQUAMISH VALLEY?

The purpose of a Vision is to create a clear shared direction for moving forward – something that all stakeholders can support and contribute to.

- Place up to 5 sticky dots on the words/phrases below that articulates the vision you see for the future of agriculture in the Squamish Valley.
- Write additional words/phrases to describe your vision on a sticky note and place on the apple tree.

Accessible/affordable food	Abundant	Self-sufficient
Accessible land/processing/distribution	Value-added	Local
Prosperous, resilient, vibrant, strong agricultural/food sector	Diversified	Sustainable agricultural/food sector (environmentally, socially and economically responsible)
Connected	Integrated	Regional
Independent	Food security	Backyard
Nourishing	Food literacy, knowledge, education	Celebrated



# WHAT'S HELPING AND HINDERING AGRICULTURE IN THE VALLEY?

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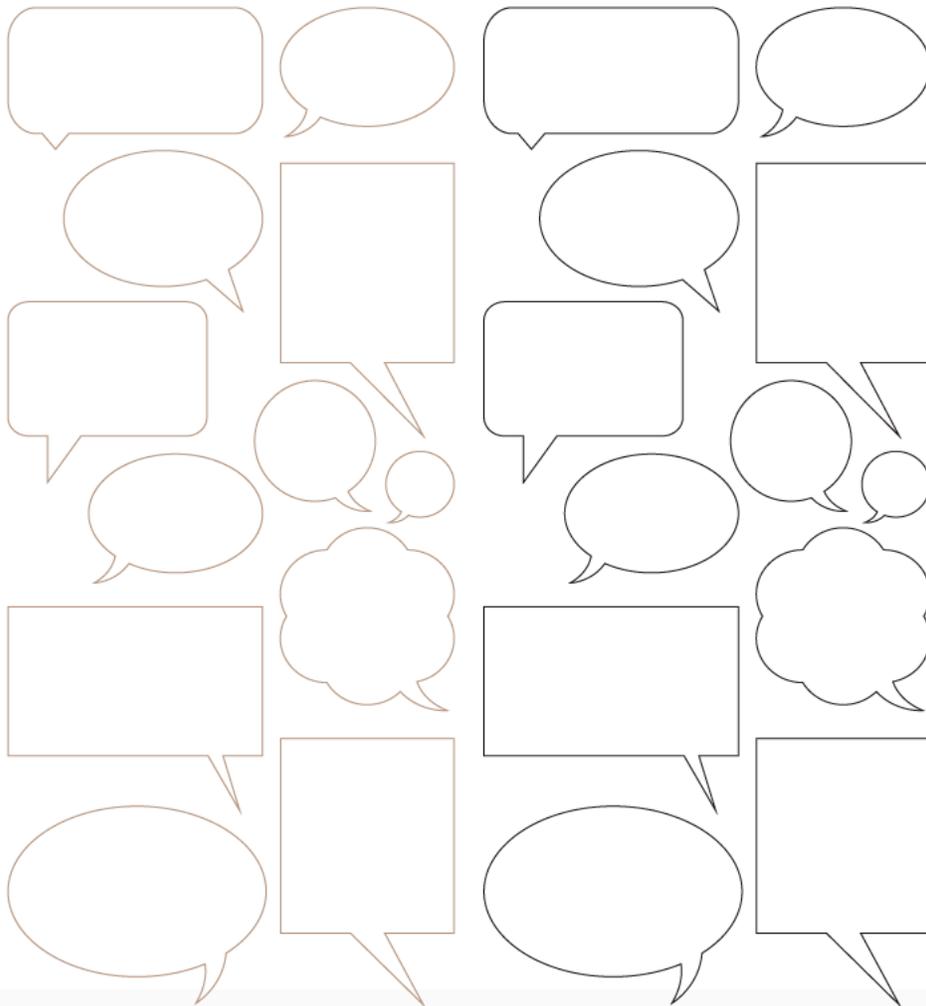
*Place sticky notes with your suggestions.*

## **Helping**

Positive influences, trends and assets (e.g. programs, policies/regulations, organizations, land availability)

## **Hindering**

Negative influences, trends, gaps and challenges (e.g. land, soils, market, regulations)



# WHAT ARE YOUR ACTION IDEAS FOR STRENGTHENING AGRICULTURE IN THE VALLEY?

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Place sticky notes with your ideas for actions or initiatives (projects, policies, programs, etc.) that should be implemented to strengthen agriculture in the Valley.

Some areas for action could include:

- clearing land to increase productivity,
- accessing information about leasing and other tenure arrangements,
- attracting farm labour,
- making connections with local retailers,
- preparing for climate change (e.g. drought, flooding),
- identifying new market opportunities,
- developing partnerships,
- creating more supportive regulations,
- identifying funding, and
- increasing awareness of local food.

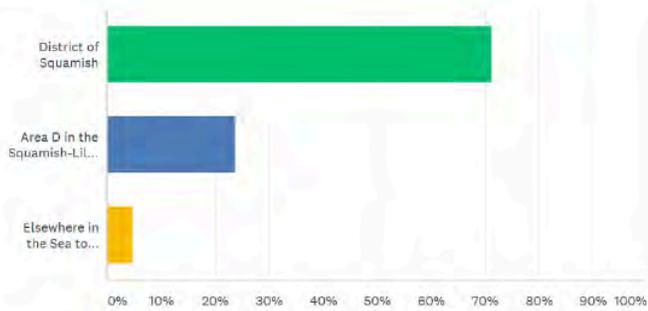
Please be as specific as possible.

## Appendix D: Survey Responses

### Q1

Where do you reside?

Answered: 63 Skipped: 1

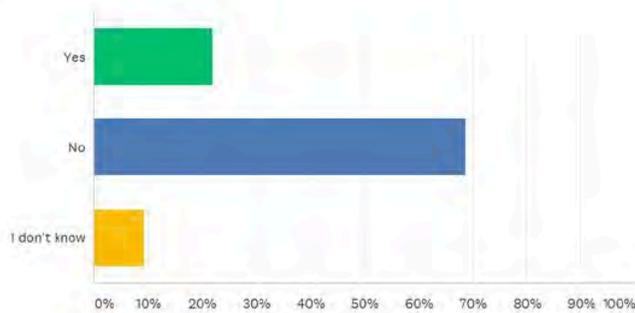


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ District of Squamish	71.43%	45
▼ Area D in the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD)	23.81%	15
▼ Elsewhere in the Sea to Sky/SLRD	4.76%	3
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>63</b>

### Q2

Do you reside in the Agriculture Land Reserve (ALR)?

Answered: 64 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Yes	21.88%	14
▼ No	68.75%	44
▼ I don't know	9.38%	6
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>64</b>

**Q3 WHAT IS YOUR PERSONAL CONNECTION WITH FARMING AND/OR FOOD PRODUCTION?  
(CHOOSE ALL THAT APPLY)**

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I grow crops	9.38%	6
I raise livestock	12.50%	8
I am a beekeeper	10.94%	7
I care for horses	7.81%	5
I am a gardener (I grow food for personal use)	68.75%	44
I forage for food (such as mushrooms or berry picking)	34.38%	22
I hunt to feed myself and/or my family	9.38%	6
I make food to sell to others	4.69%	3
Previous generations of my family were food producers	21.88%	14
My family has been involved with food processing or retail	4.69%	3
I am not directly involved with agriculture	12.50%	8
Other (please specify)	Responses	20.31% 13
<b>Total Respondents: 64</b>		

**OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)**

**SUPPORTER/ADVOCATE**

I like to support local farmers and buy locally made food.

I buy locally grown products

I work for a sustainable agriculture non-profit organization

I support sustainable food systems education and advocacy in the Vancouver Area

I am concerned about unsustainable foraging in protected areas as well as those not protected.

Our company, SFM Consulting LLC, has an Agricultural Grant program whereby we give grants up to \$10,000 to local farmers who utilize sustainable practices to grow food. See our link:

<https://sfmconsultingllc.org/research-grant-application>

I teach children about bees/pollinators, gardening and ethnobotany

I support sustainable food systems education and advocacy in the Vancouver Area

I plan to raise laying hens and bees in my backyard

**VENDOR**

Oversee multiple urban community gardens and an edible school yard

Chickens (for eggs)

We would like to expand and raise livestock & crops in the future

We used to raise pigs and laying hens, but haven't the last few years.

I grow vegetable seedlings to sell to others

Oversee multiple urban community gardens and an edible school yard

#### Q7 LAND OWNERSHIP – PLEASE CHOOSE WHICH OPTION BEST FITS YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ I rent or lease my farmland	0.00% 0
▼ Combination of owning and renting/leasing farmland	0.00% 0
▼ I am employed as a farm worker	18.18% 2
▼ I own my farmland	81.82% 9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11</b>

#### Q8 HOW LARGE IS THE ENTIRE AREA THAT YOU FARM?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Less than 5 acres (2.0 ha)	27.27% 3
▼ 5 - 10 acres (2.0 - 4.0 ha)	18.18% 2
▼ 10 - 20 acres (5.0 - 8.0 ha)	9.09% 1
▼ 20 - 40 acres (8.0 - 16.0 ha)	27.27% 3
▼ > 20 acres (> 16.0 ha)	18.18% 2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11</b>

**Q9 WHAT ARE YOUR MAIN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS? (CHOOSE ALL THAT APPLY)**

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Livestock	50.00%	6
▼ Horses	16.67%	2
▼ Poultry	50.00%	6
▼ Vegetables	33.33%	4
▼ Herbs	16.67%	2
▼ Berries	0.00%	0
▼ Fruit orchard	0.00%	0
▼ Mushrooms	0.00%	0
▼ Nursery plants	0.00%	0
▼ Grapes for wine making	0.00%	0
▼ Flowers	8.33%	1
▼ Nuts	0.00%	0
▼ Grains	0.00%	0
▼ Medicinal crops (e.g. cannabis, herbs to support medicine etc.)	0.00%	0
▼ Honeybees	25.00%	3
▼ Other (please specify)	Responses	25.00% 3
<b>Total Respondents: 12</b>		

**OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)**

**Hops x 2**

**No products for sale**

**Q10 PLEASE SPECIFY THE TYPE AND NUMBER FOR EACH WHERE POSSIBLE.**

**LIVESTOCK (PLEASE SPECIFY TYPE AND NUMBER)**

**Sheep 50, Pigs 20, Cattle 350 but not all in Squamish obviously**

**Pigs 45**

**Sows 5, Boar Pigs 1**

**Pigs numbers based on litter size**

**Sheep 40+, hogs 40+, cattle 20+**

**HORSES (PLEASE SPECIFY TYPE AND NUMBER)**

**Various breeds 5**

**Ranch 2**

---

POULTRY (PLEASE SPECIFY TYPE AND NUMBER)

Varies, but this year we plan on 200 meat birds

Laying hens 80

Laying hens 399

Laying hens 399, Turkeys (from May to October) 300

Meat chickens. Approved for 2000

---

VEGETABLES (PLEASE SPECIFY)

Greens, tomatoes, carrots, squash, zucchini, cucumbers approx. 500-1000lbs

Beans, lettuce, kale, soy Choi, rhubarb

Carrots, potatoes, pumpkins, zucchinis, tomatoes, kale, garlic

---

HERBS (PLEASE SPECIFY)

Parsley, chives, garlic

Basil, oregano, thyme, mint

---

BERRIES, FRUIT ORCHARD, MUSHROOMS, NURSERY PLANTS, GRAPES FOR WINE MAKING,  
FLOWERS, NUTS, GRAINS, MEDICINAL CROPS

No growers indicated

---

HONEYBEES (PLEASE SPECIFY NUMBER OF HIVES)

2 hives

5 hives

2 hives

2 – 5 hives

---

OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY TYPE AND NUMBER)

Hops 2 acres

Hops 1 ½ acres

**Q11 COULD YOU EXPAND YOUR FARM OPERATIONS ON YOUR CURRENT SITE (EITHER PRODUCTION LEVELS OR AREA OF PRODUCTION)?**

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	41.67%	5
No	50.00%	6
I don't know	8.33%	1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>12</b>

**Q12 WHAT DO YOU FEEL ARE THE MAJOR CONSTRAINTS OR RESTRICTIONS TO EXPANDING YOUR FARM OPERATION? (SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)**

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Size of parcel	25.00%	3
Lack of investment capital	58.33%	7
Lack of support from the local food system (storage, distribution, retail)	16.67%	2
Lack of labour	33.33%	4
Lack of local market	0.00%	0
Lack of non-local market	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	Responses 41.67%	5
Total Respondents: 12		

**OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)**

Focused on other priorities right now

Thin profit margins in raising ethical livestock

City lot, no farm land

Inability to spend time and resources in order to be profitable/cannot leave current employment to do so

Municipal restrictions, slow Provincial application processing times and high fee structure severely hamper the ability for agriculture to develop with in the area. IE over a year turn around on water license applications provincially and bring Municipal bylaws in line with provincial recommendations for agriculture within municipal boundaries.

**Q13 DOES YOUR FARM CURRENTLY HAVE FARM TAX STATUS AS CONFERRED BY BC ASSESSMENT?**

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	36.36%	4
No	63.64%	7
I don't know	0.00%	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>11</b>

**Q14 THROUGH WHICH CHANNELS DO YOU SELL YOUR PRODUCTS AND MAKE YOUR INCOME?**

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Farm gate retail	45.45%	5
▼ Grocer retail	9.09%	1
▼ Wholesale	27.27%	3
▼ Farmers' Markets	36.36%	4
▼ Home delivery	27.27%	3
▼ Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)	9.09%	1
▼ Other (please specify)	Responses	27.27%
<b>Total Respondents: 11</b>		

**OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)**

**Non-profit grants**

**Pork: When we did pork we pre-sold sides to customers. We also sold a small amount to the local grocery store. We sold our eggs to our customer base and to local restaurants.**

**Q15 PLEASE INDICATE THE PERCENT OF YOUR INCOME YOU GENERATE THROUGH EACH OF THE CHANNELS.**

**FARM GATE RETAIL (% OF INCOME)**

2%

20%

100%

10%

25%

**GROCER RETAIL (% OF INCOME)**

**No farmers indicated this method**

**WHOLESALE (% OF INCOME)**

60%

**In the negative**

**FARMERS MARKETS (% OF INCOME)**

50%

**Very little**

75%

---

HOME DELIVERY

75%

Q16 PLEASE IDENTIFY WHERE YOUR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS ARE SOLD.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Locally (within the Squamish area)	90.00%	9
Regionally (Sea to Sky and Lower Mainland)	60.00%	6
Provincially	20.00%	2
Nationally	10.00%	1
Internationally (Washington)	0.00%	0
I don't know	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	Responses 0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 10		

Q17 HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ISSUES RELATED TO YOUR FARM ACTIVITIES? (SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Noise, smell or dust complaints	20.00%	2
Trespass	30.00%	3
Vandalism	0.00%	0
Wildlife conflicts	80.00%	8
Flooding/fire	40.00%	4
Other (please specify)	Responses 10.00%	1
Total Respondents: 10		

---

OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)

Processing difficulties where you cannot get your meats processed. Neighbourhood dog getting in fully fenced farm and killing animals

Q18 HOW DO YOU ACCESS WATER FOR IRRIGATION AND/OR LIVESTOCK WATERING? (SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)

---

OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)

District Water

Q19 HOW DO YOU MANAGE AGRICULTURAL WASTE (E.G. MANURE, AGRICULTURAL PLASTICS, ETC.)?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Compost on-site	100.00%	10
Compost off-site	10.00%	1
Hauling for off-site recycling	30.00%	3
Other (please specify)	Responses 10.00%	1
<b>Total Respondents: 10</b>		

OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)

Manure made available to gardeners

Q20 DO YOU ENGAGE IN ANY ON-FARM PROCESSING OR VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTS?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	30.00%	3
No	70.00%	7
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>10</b>

Q21 PLEASE LIST YOUR ON-FARM PROCESSING OR VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTS.

- Potted/rooted plant cuttings
- Butchering
- Pork lard soaps made from left over pork lard
- Dehydrated organs for dogs
- Soup bones are sold to a soup company

OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)

**Manure made available to gardeners**

**Q20 DO YOU ENGAGE IN ANY ON-FARM PROCESSING OR VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTS?**

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	30.00%	3
No	70.00%	7
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>10</b>

**Q21 PLEASE LIST YOUR ON-FARM PROCESSING OR VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTS.**

**Potted/rooted plant cuttings**

**Butchering**

**Pork lard soaps made from left over pork lard**

**Dehydrated organs for dogs**

**Soup bones are sold to a soup company**

**Q22 ARE YOU INVOLVED IN ANY AGR-TOURISM ACTIVITIES ON YOUR FARM?**

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	10.00%	1
No but I would be interested in participating	40.00%	4
No, and I am not interested in participating	50.00%	5
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>10</b>

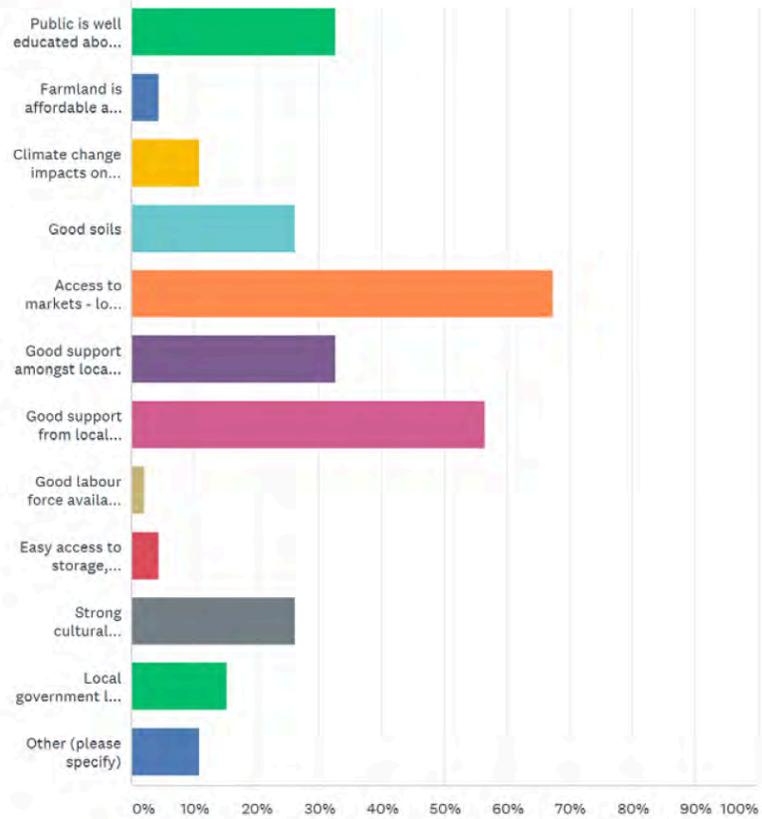
**Q23 PLEASE LIST THE AGRI-TOURISM ACTIVITY/ACTIVITIES ON YOUR FARM.**

**Tours and events**

Q24

What do you think are the top STRENGTHS of farming and food production in the Squamish Valley? (select top 4)

Answered: 46 Skipped: 18



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Public is well educated about local food	32.61%	15
Farmland is affordable and accessible through either purchase or lease	4.35%	2
Climate change impacts on growing conditions	10.87%	5
Good soils	26.09%	12
Access to markets - local and regional	67.39%	31
Good support amongst local farmers and ranchers	32.61%	15
Good support from local consumers	56.52%	26
Good labour force available when needed	2.17%	1
Easy access to storage, value-added processing, and distribution channels for food products	4.35%	2
Strong cultural history of farming in the area	26.09%	12
Local government land use policies and regulations	15.22%	7
Other (please specify)	Responses 10.87%	5
<b>Total Respondents: 46</b>		

**OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)**

Proximity to rapid urban development, no pollution (with the exception of illegal fill that must be halted).

Free-range pigs are well suited to the valley

Not fair to say there are any real strengths or viability inherent to the area

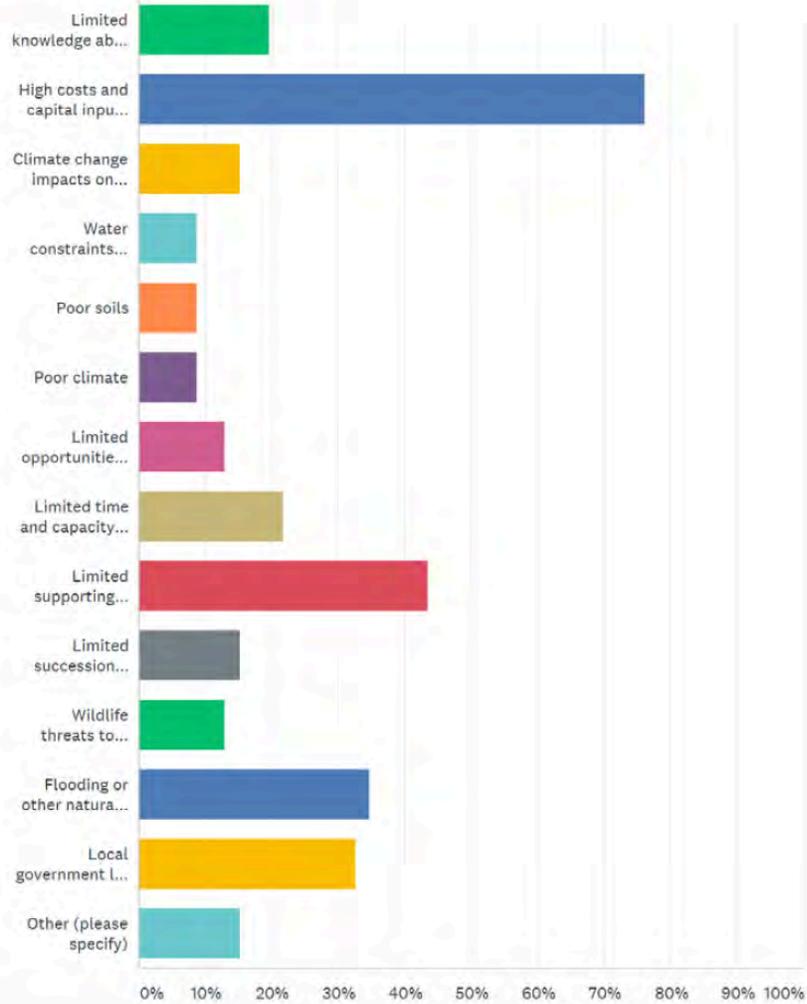
Growing interest at grassroots level for local food and home gardening

There are not many strengths. Many constrictive bylaws and hurdles

Q25

What do you think are the top CHALLENGES affecting farming and food production in the Squamish Valley Area? (select top 4)

Answered: 46 Skipped: 18



## Other (please specify)

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Limited knowledge about local food amongst the public	19.57%	9
▼ High costs and capital inputs of land	76.09%	35
▼ Climate change impacts on growing conditions	15.22%	7
▼ Water constraints (access or cost barriers)	8.70%	4
▼ Poor soils	8.70%	4
▼ Poor climate	8.70%	4
▼ Limited opportunities and support to sell locally	13.04%	6
▼ Limited time and capacity for farm/ranching industry to work to support each other	21.74%	10
▼ Limited supporting infrastructure (processing, cold storage, distribution etc.)	43.48%	20
▼ Limited succession planning (age of farmers, no new young farmers)	15.22%	7
▼ Wildlife threats to livestock and crops	13.04%	6
▼ Flooding or other natural hazards	34.78%	16
▼ Local government land use policies and regulations	32.61%	15
▼ Other (please specify)	Responses 15.22%	7
Total Respondents: 46		

### Don't know

Limitations with ALC/ALR regulations - As new entrant get creative in accessing land, they are constantly shut down due to out of date ALR/ALC regulations.

Development pressure taking farmland options away

Persistent droughts in June to September will make irrigation more important in the future. Bank erosion and flooding on Squamish R. will continue to take a toll, but the fine overbank sediments are also key to keep the soils fertile.

Accessing to good processing and butchering is very problematic

Required scale for viability does not exist in these valleys

Fledgling economy, so lack of local peer support, infrastructure and business partnerships

Lack of urgency to proceed with real action to fight climate change

Q26 WHAT ACTIONS SHOULD BE TAKEN OR WHAT OPPORTUNITIES SHOULD BE LEVERAGED TO ACHIEVE A STRONGER AGRICULTURAL SECTOR IN THE SQUAMISH VALLEY?

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SYSTEMIC SUPPORT

Establish agriculture group with clear leadership and collaborative network x 3

Create Squamish Valley food hub x 3

Funding to establish food self-reliance

Encourage and lead in sustainability and reduce carbon footprint (e.g. rainforest preservation) x 2

Discourage industrialized farming, herbicides, insecticides x 2

Promote land-based fish farming

Fund and take action to protect salmon

Stronger union/cooperation with local First Nations

Develop a strategic plan for processing/storage/transportation infrastructure (e.g. shared infrastructure) x 2

Infrastructure

---

SUPPORT FOR FARMERS

Involve as many community members as possible

Develop larger market for "local" (e.g. Lower Mainland)

Support for farmers market

Grow support systems and subsidies x 3

Support existing farmers

Identify best fit local crops

Processing units/abattoirs/butchers development or increase of on-site (including legalization) x 3

Commissary kitchens

Tax incentives

Incentives/help for new farmers x 3

Streamline farming initiatives

Better access to farmland

Ease leasing rules

Government support for affordable land for farming local crops and livestock

Subsidize agricultural land & make more available for existing & new farmers, with financial support to develop as required

Access to funding for high-cost land purchases (e.g. develop pathways) x 2  
Government support for local small farms and farmers x 3  
Advocate for farmers to government  
Funding (e.g. business support, general funding) x 3  
Expand understanding of AG loans  
Develop knowledge building strategy x 2  
Identify ways and means to improve the soil  
Develop marketing and sales co-operative  
Land-matching initiatives x 3  
Incubator farms  
Subsidize/provide access to capital for season extending measures, such as greenhouses x 2

---

#### EDUCATION

Education/Promotion on benefits of local food & local farmers (e.g. food processing, production, reducing imports, buy Squamish food campaign like Lillooet's) x 9  
Education/Promotion on benefits of organic food (e.g. seminars) x 2  
Education/Promotion of climate change impacts  
Incentivize "buy & sell local" food for shops and restaurants x 2

---

#### REGULATION

Remove red tape  
Bylaws should be adjusted/changed x 2  
Make the system completely transparent and easy to understand for all.  
Less interference by local government  
Predator control allowed by the ranchers  
Discourage industrial development  
Preserve and expand pollinators and insects  
Preserve farm land/affordable farm land x 2  
Create urban/ALR development strategies (e.g. regulate urban development, prevent land loss, strengthen protections, education for new ALR buyers, preserve Squamish Valley aesthetic and production) x 7  
Allow ALR subdivision in Squamish Valley x 2  
Allow other revenue on ALR land to subsidize farming on same land x2

Push Province to reduce red tape, increase speed and reduce cost of AG applications

Reduce roadblocks for agricultural land use

Disqualify horses as livestock

Improve access to arable land

Incentivize ALR landowners to lease land to farmers

Tax implications for non-farming use of ALR land

Prevent cannabis growing on ALR land

Revisit old policies re: ALR. i.e. two farms want to purchase a piece of land together and farm it they can only build one residence

Align local policies with recommendations in the Ag Strategy once developed

Current Municipal bylaws impede agricultural growth within the community. Bring municipal bylaws in line with Provincial guidelines for agriculture within municipal boundaries, i.e. building codes, fire permits for agricultural burning, irrigation

---

#### GENERAL CONCERNS

Land is expensive because it needs to be cleared

Need property owners willing to deed-restrict their land

Need to open food market

Grow organic leafy greens and vegetables

Do not consider diking as it would be cost prohibitive and severely disturb a delicate ecosystem

Capitalizing on south properties within the DOS boundaries - as that is prime sun exposure, gets most light, less risk of flooding area and closer to market

**Q27 WHICH FIVE (5) OF THE FOLLOWING WORDS/THEMES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE INCLUDED IN THE VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE IN THE SQUAMISH VALLEY? (SELECT UP TO 5)**

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Accessible/affordable food (healthy food for all, equitable/dignified access affordability)	54.76%	23
▼ Accessible land/processing/distribution	52.38%	22
▼ Prosperous, resilient, vibrant, strong agriculture/food sector	45.24%	19
▼ Connected	11.90%	5
▼ Independent	11.90%	5
▼ Nourishing	7.14%	3
▼ Production	9.52%	4
▼ Abundant	4.76%	2
▼ Value-added	9.52%	4
▼ Diversified	21.43%	9
▼ Integrated	2.38%	1
▼ Focused	0.00%	0
▼ Food security	26.19%	11
▼ Food literacy, knowledge, education	35.71%	15
▼ Self-sufficiency	30.95%	13
▼ Sustainable agricultural/food sector (environmentally, socially, and economically responsible)	64.29%	27
▼ Local	33.33%	14
▼ Regional	9.52%	4
▼ Backyard	7.14%	3
▼ Celebrated	9.52%	4
▼ Other (please list)	Responses 7.14%	3
<b>Total Respondents: 42</b>		

**OTHER (PLEASE LIST)**

Humanely-raised and processed animals

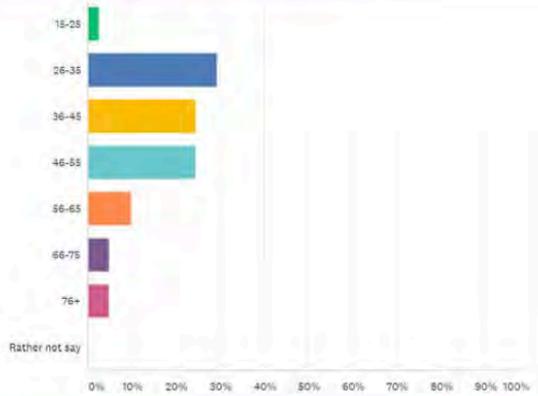
Following Indigenous wisdom and methods and ORGANIC!!

We don't need themes and catchy words that look good in the media. We need realistic goals and support from local government

### Q28 WHAT IS YOUR GENDER?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Male	48.78%	20
Female	48.78%	20
Other	0.00%	0
Rather not say	2.44%	1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>41</b>

### Q29 WHAT IS YOUR AGE RANGE?



### Q30 HOW MANY PEOPLE LIVE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD?

- 3 households have 1 person
- 17 households have 2 people
- 6 households have 3 people
- 6 households have 4 people
- 7 households have 5 people

### Q31 PLEASE INDICATE THE STAKEHOLDER GROUPS WITH WHICH YOU ARE AFFILIATED.

#### COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS

- Ashlu Creek / Upper Squamish Valley Residents
- OurSquamish
- Squamish CAN x 7
- Squamish Food Policy Council x 3
- Local government

Ashlu Foundation x 2

Streamkeepers x 2

Squamish Farmers Market x 2

Farm to School BC

Trails

Men's Shed

Community Garden

---

FARMER OR PRODUCER ASSOCIATIONS

Organic Hop Growers

BCFPA

Small Scale Processors

CHFA

Lower mainland sheep producers

BC cattlemen association

Hop Creek Farms/Murphy Meadow Ranch

Stony Mountain Farm

---

RESTAURANT OR FOOD RETAIL BUSINESS(ES)

Mutha Dukkan

---

EDUCATION INSTITUTION(S)

Quest University Canada x 2

Mamquam Edible Schoolyard

---

OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)

None x 3

Family

P Eng BC retired

Private LLC providing zoning, land use, and sustainability policies to local governments.

Food safety professional

WorkBC

Chamber of Commerce

Q32 ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANT TO SHARE AS THE AGRICULTURAL PLAN IS DEVELOPED FOR THE SQUAMISH VALLEY?

Supportive of survey or plan (e.g. thank you, we can do it) x 5

Clear ability for farmstay / b&b / cabin rentals / retreats / workshops creates revenue streams for small sustainable farming and forestry use. Make it diverse to make it strong!

It costs 20 thousand dollars to install a 10x20 plastic greenhouse on SLRD land. Changing that would be a good start.

Our plan should integrate with other plans in the SLRD. We need to think regionally to build a robust and resilient food system that can not only take care of local needs, but also feed into the needs of the Lower Mainland and beyond.

Tree farming is fundamental to a sustainable forest & green environment. Geoengineering & water conservation are critical to productive & sustainable farming

Diversification is key.

Don't rely on Squamish farmers market as means of distribution.

I am a 4th generation Cattle Rancher, my family and I recently moved to the Squamish area and decided to start a farm here as well as our cattle ranch in the Cariboo. While the climate and soils are well suited to agriculture the political climate is not. Traditionally there has been little profit margin in smaller scale agriculture. Therefore it is important when trying to promote agriculture with in a region there has to be efficient and cost effective bylaws that allow new farms to be built. The high cost of arable land combined with the difficulty that we have experienced with the inflexibility of municipal bylaws in building our farm here in Squamish makes starting any new agricultural project daunting for young farmers. Both provincial and municipal governments bureaucracy make agriculture in Southern BC incredibly difficult to do profitably.

Raise road to keep ahead of flood season.

It is crucial to leave the riparian vegetation along the river intact (flood protection through root strength and slowing the overbank flows by increased friction through trees). Equally important is not to drain environmentally sensitive wetlands and bogs in lieu of agricultural practices. Any land changes and agricultural practices need to be carefully examined in light of flood risk, especially potential risk transfer by surface water drainage alterations, placement of fills etc. Given that many people use groundwater as potable water any contamination from fertilizers and herbicides must be avoided as it could end up in people's drinking water. This valley is predestined for a sustainable organic-based low-impact agriculture, not any industrial wasteland agriculture that is exercised elsewhere. Any poultry or other meat production needs to be vetted carefully in terms of water pollution potential and possible changes in vegetation and surface water drainage.

"No major camping area development. The tourists speed through the community and kill pets and make the road unsafe."

I hope to see it focused on the new generation of farmers and our changing realities re expenses, social connection, climate change, environmental impact & small scale intensive sustainable solutions.

## Appendix E: Open House #2 Input

There were approximately 40 individuals who attended the Open House. During this event, the key themes and recommended actions were presented to the public. Participants were given stickers to place next to the actions that they felt were the most important. Key take-aways include:

- Goal 1: The most popular action was 1.3: Deepen dialogue with Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) on foodlands and agricultural activities.
- Goal 2: The most popular action was 2.3: Identify and pursue viable solutions for local meat processing.
- Goal 3: Many of these actions were given indications of supports but 3.7: Encourage regenerative agricultural practice received the most.
- Goal 4: The most popular recommended action was 4.5: Develop a climate adaptation and sustainable farming practices strategy for the Squamish Valley.
- Goal 5: There was a lot of support for this goal, with several actions receiving top levels of support: 5.1: Create and maintain Development Permit Area Guidelines for Farmland Protection, 5.2: Ensure zoning supports appropriately scaled processing and value-added activities, 5.3: Continue to include agriculture as a permitted use in non-ALR urban and residential areas, and 5.4: Update OCP and zoning bylaws to better align with the Agricultural Land Commission Act and Regulations.

Tell us what you think!  
Place a sticky dot on the actions you support.

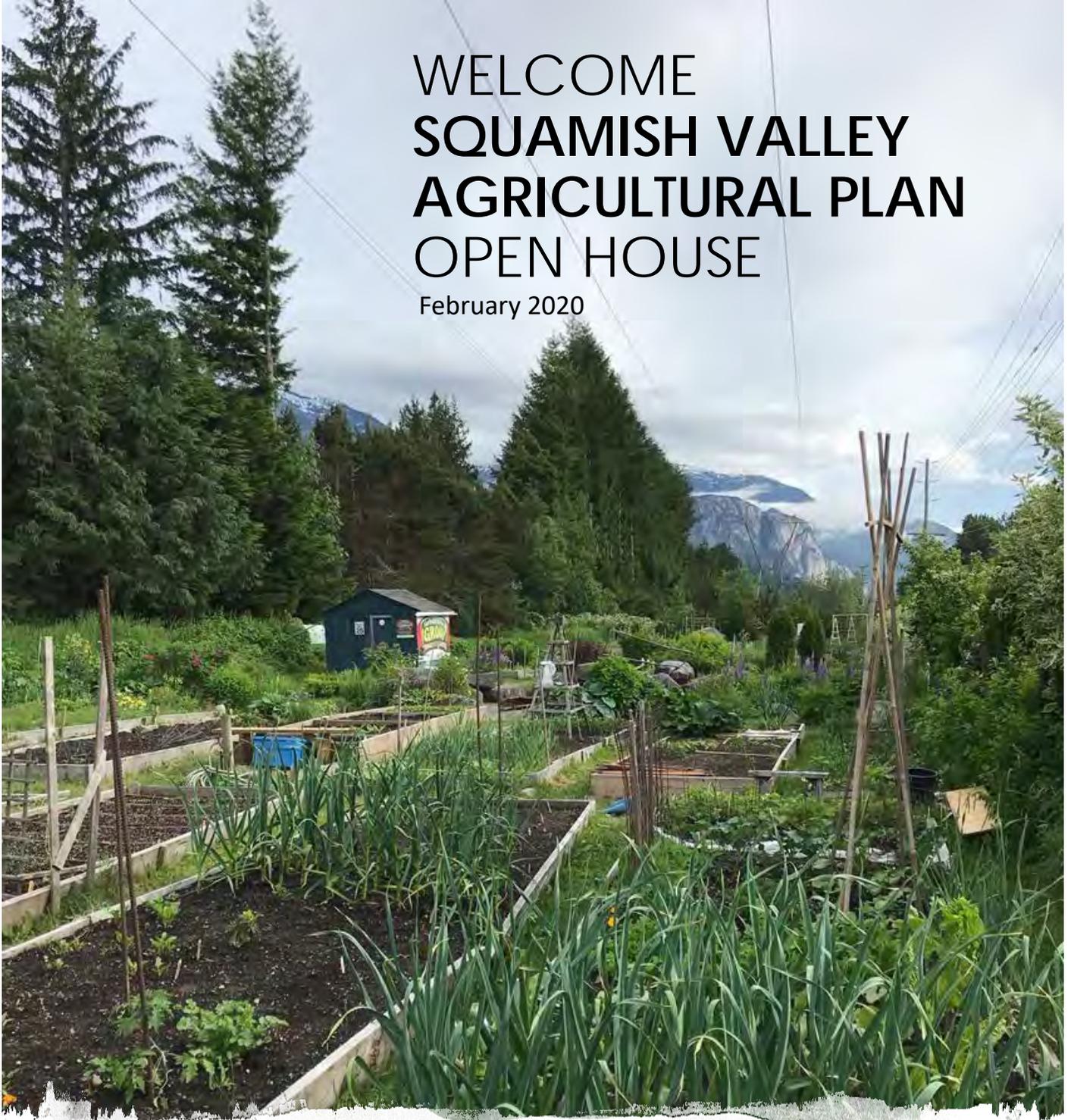
**Goal 4. Plan and Prepare for Climate Change and Emergencies**  
Actions:

#	Description	Role	Urgency	Support (Place Dots)
4.1	Continue to support wildfire risk reduction initiatives with agricultural stakeholders.	Lead: SFPC, EMBC Support: DoS, SLRD, ACF	Ongoing	Smiley face, heart
4.2a (DoS)	Include agriculture in ongoing Community Climate Action planning (mitigation measures for emissions reductions, sequestration and avoidance).  Incorporate agriculture in future DoS and SLRD climate change policies and strategies.	Lead: DoS, SLRD	High	Smiley face, heart, green dot
4.2b (SLRD and DoS)				Heart
4.3	Communicate with and involve agricultural stakeholders in emergency preparedness planning.	Lead: EMBC, DoS, SLRD Support: BFI, ACF	High	Smiley face, heart, star
4.4	Host educational events and workshops about flood risk management for agricultural stakeholders.	Lead: DoS, SLRD Support: SFPC, BFI, ACF	High	Smiley face, star
4.5	Develop a climate adaptation and sustainable farming practices strategy for the Squamish Valley.	Lead: SFPC, BCAI Support: AGRI	Medium	Multiple colored dots (blue, pink, green, purple)

Appendix F: Open House #2 Poster Boards

# WELCOME SQUAMISH VALLEY AGRICULTURAL PLAN OPEN HOUSE

February 2020



The purpose of this open house is to:

- Unveil the final draft plan to the community
- Seek support for recommended actions
- Present the implementation strategy

# PLAN OVERVIEW

**Objective:** Assist growth in agriculture and related sectors

**Key Goals:**

- (i) Identify opportunities to strengthen agriculture
- (ii) Protect and increase productivity of foodlands
- (iii) Contribute to long-term health and economic sustainability
- (iv) Integrate Indigenous knowledge and support Indigenous food sovereignty



# FUNDERS

DELIVERED BY

FUNDING PROVIDED BY



This project is funded in part by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Government of British Columbia through programs delivered by the Investment Agriculture Foundation of B.C., and is being led by the SLRD in partnership with the DoS and Squamish Food Policy Council.

# PROJECT VISION

The Squamish Valley supports an **ecologically sound and economically diverse agricultural sector**, where **foodlands and water resources are accessible, protected, and productive**.

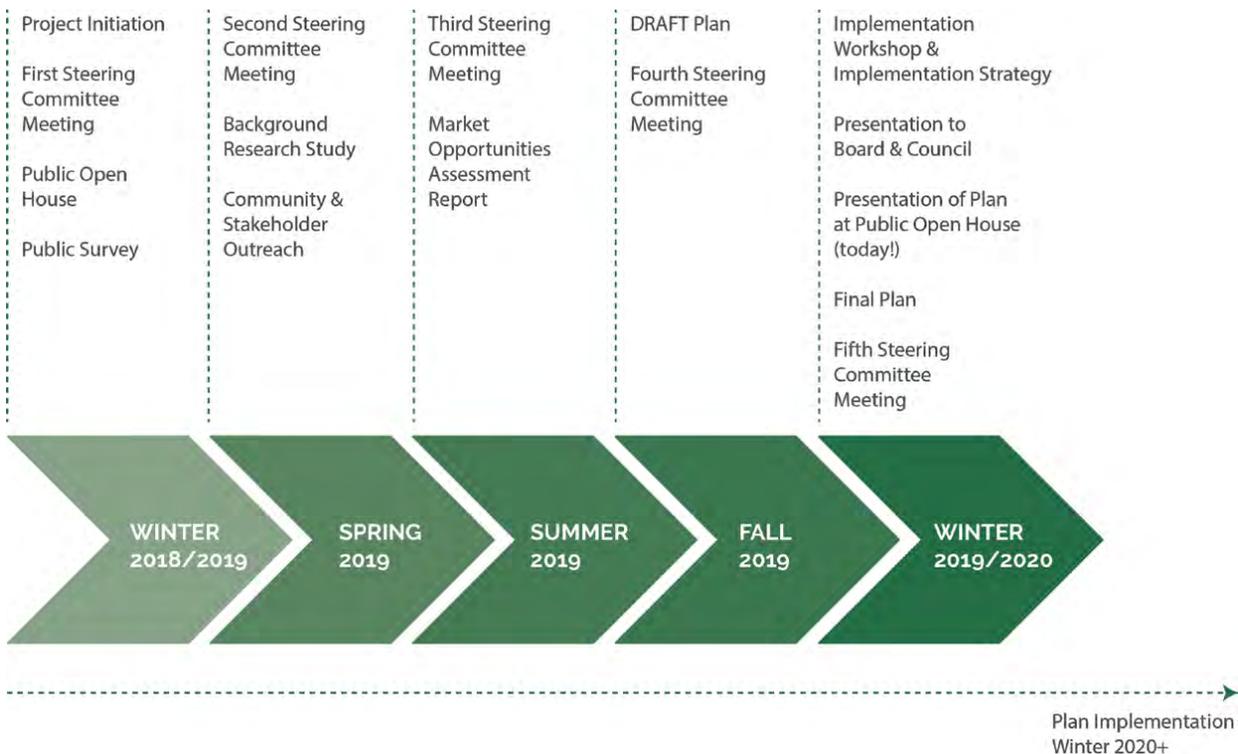
**Farmers and processors have the knowledge and skills** to be nimble in a dynamic economic environment, are **adaptive to a changing climate**, and are part of the solution to mitigate climate impacts while **contributing to food security**.

Growers, foragers, and fishers are supported by **well-developed harvesting, processing, storage, distribution, and marketing systems**.

A combination of **traditional and innovative practices** ensures that a **legacy between generations is sustained**.

**Nutritious food is plentiful** and appreciated as part of a resilient food system that **reinforces** human, ecological, and economic health.

# PROJECT TIMELINE



# FOOD + AG PLANNING PROGRESS



## 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.*

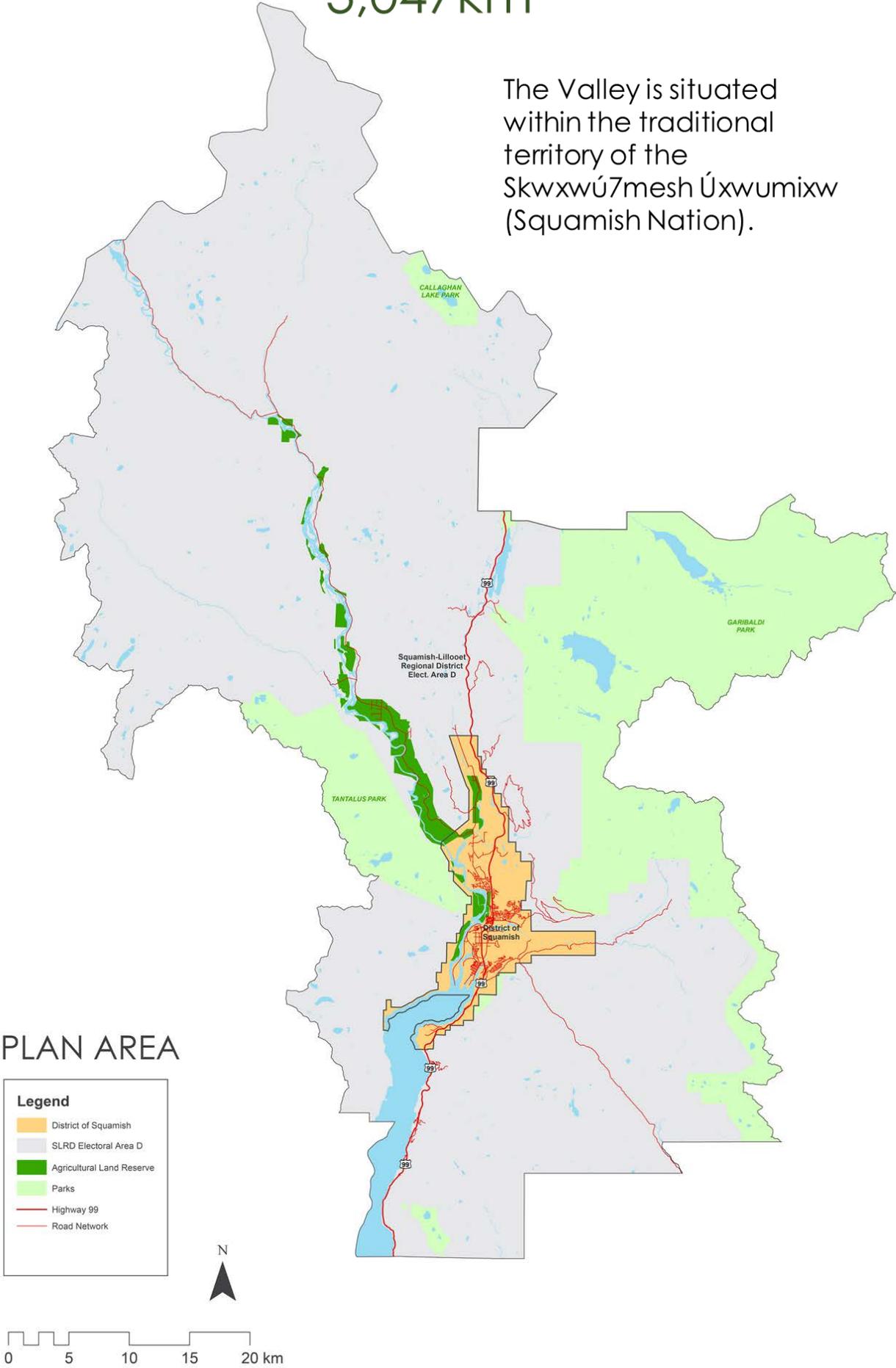
In 1976, Canada signed the United Nations Covenant on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights, which includes “the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger.” The district of Squamish supports our national commitment by using a food security lens when addressing relevant community issues. This is done through pursuit of the vision.

### The Vision

Our food system will be economically viable and ecologically sustainable; our community will grow, harvest, process, preserve, and distribute food to all of its members while eliminating waste. A thriving local food culture that celebrates eating locally and eating together will support us in living healthier, happier, and richer lives connected to the land, to growers, and to each other.

# SQUAMISH VALLEY is an area of 3,047km<sup>2</sup>

The Valley is situated within the traditional territory of the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation).



# OVERVIEW OF AGRICULTURE



## TOTAL ALR IN THE AREA

47 HA

FARMED WITHIN THE ALR

4,066 HA

21 HA

FARMED OUTSIDE THE ALR

## LIVESTOCK



Horses are the most abundant livestock (68%) followed by small-scale sheep, goats, beef, swine and poultry.

## CROPS

The most common agricultural use of land is pasture (87%) followed by small amounts of hops, vegetables, fruit trees, mixed berries and tomatoes.



**49%** OF ALR LANDS FALL UNDER LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENT JURISDICTION



The majority of these ALR lands are covered in wetlands and trees



The remainder are on the Squamish First Nation Reserve or outside legally surveyed parcels



Or the land contains land uses not suitable for agriculture such as parks, roadways and railways

**551 HA** have potential for agricultural activities

79%

Of participants from the 1<sup>st</sup> Open House in March 2019 and survey responses indicated that they were a gardener. The second largest group of participants in the survey indicated they forage for food (22%), followed by a variety of other connections including previous generations of farmers, and supporters of local farming.

# STRENGTHS AND CHALLENGES



## STRENGTHS

- Access to markets – local and regional;
- Good support from local consumers;
- Opportunities to increase production on agricultural lands and good soils.



## CHALLENGES

- High costs of capital inputs and land;
- Limited supporting infrastructure;
- Flooding and other natural hazards;
- Local government land use policies and regulations.





# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## 4 STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS



Producer and community surveys were promoted through the District of Squamish, SLRD websites, and by the Steering Committee members.

## 40 PROJECT KICK-OFF

Attendees

➤ March 2019



## 5 COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Squamish Nation Elders Lunch at Totem Hall
- Ashlu Creek Foundation (AGM)
- Squamish Farmers Market
- Brackendale Fall Fair
- Open House (Today!)



# KEY GOALS AND ACTIONS

6 Goals

37 Recommended actions

## Lead and supporting roles identified

ACF	Ashlu Creek Foundation
AGRI	BC Ministry of Agriculture
ALC	Agricultural Land Commission
BCAFM	BC Association of Farmers Markets
BCAI	BC Climate Action Initiative
BCYA	BC Young Agrarians
BFI	Brackendale Farmers Institute
DoS	District of Squamish
EMBC	Emergency Management BC
ENV	BC Ministry of Environment
FLNRORD	BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development
IAF	Investment Agriculture Foundation
LAFS	Lillooet Agriculture and Food Society
MAH	BC Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
SD48	School District 48
SES	Squamish Environmental Society
SFMS	Squamish Farmers Market Society
SFPC	Squamish Food Policy Council
SLRD	Squamish-Lillooet Regional District
SLRFTF	Squamish-Lillooet Regional Food Task Force
SSFPA	Small Scale Food Processors Association
SSMPA	Small Scale Meat Producers Association
VCH	Vancouver Coastal Health

## Level of urgency

- **Ongoing** (must keep supporting)
- **High** (focus on these first)
- **Medium**
- **Low**

## Tell us what you think!

Place a sticky dot on the actions you support.

### Goal 1 Expand and encourage agriculture and food production

Actions:

#	Description	Role	Urgency	Support (Place Dots)
1.1	Continue to support and facilitate land-linking programs locally.	Lead: SFPC, BCYA  Support: AGRI, BFI, ACF	Ongoing	
1.2	Identify opportunities and locations for enhancing land access for agriculture initiatives and determine the feasibility of a community farmland trust for the Squamish Valley.	Lead: SFPC AGRI  Support: DoS SLRD SD48 Quest University	High	
1.3	Deepen dialogue with Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) on foodlands and agricultural activities.	Lead: SFPC, DoS Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw  Support: SLRD AGRI	Medium	
1.4	Disseminate information about range of crops that can be grown in the Squamish Valley.	Lead: SFPC BFI  Support: AGRI SES BCYA	Medium	

## Tell us what you think!

Place a sticky dot on the actions you support.

### Goal 2 Improve Sector Growth and Viability

Actions:

#	Description	Role	Urgency	Support (Place Dots)
2.1	Develop an agri-food sector strategy for the Squamish Valley.	Lead: DoS EcDev Office  Support: SLRD, SFPC, BFI, AGRI, IAF	Ongoing	
2.2	Identify a location and develop a funding strategy to establish a permanent year-round Squamish Farmers Market.	Lead: SFPC, SFMS DoS EcDev Office  Support: BCAFM	High	
2.3	Identify and pursue viable solutions for local meat processing.	Lead: SFPC  Support: BFI, SSMPA, LAFS	Medium	
2.4	Support local procurement initiatives.	Lead: SFPC DoS EcDev Office  Support: AGRI, SD48 SLRFTF, VCH	Medium	
2.5	Create a "Made in the Squamish Valley" branding and marketing strategy.	Lead: SFPC  Support: SFMS, BFI DoS EcDev Office, Squamish Chamber of Commerce, Tourism Squamish	Low	

**Tell us what you think!**

**Place a sticky dot on the actions you support.**

**Goal 3** Promote Stewardship of Natural Resources and Regenerative Agricultural Practices

Actions:

#	Description	Role	Urgency	Support (Place Dots)
3.1	Continue to encourage policies and practices for maintaining and increasing pollinator health.	Lead: SFPC, DoS, SLRD  Support: AGRI, IAF S2S Invasive Species Council	Ongoing	
3.2	Control invasive and noxious plants and pests through the enforcement of existing bylaws and protocols.	Lead: SLRD, DoS  Support: S2S Invasive Species Council	Ongoing	
3.3	Work with urban and rural producers on reducing conflicts between food production, agriculture, and wildlife.	Lead: SFPC DoS Wildlife Coordinator  Support: AGRI, ENV DoS Wildlife Working Group	Ongoing	
3.4	Encourage participation in Environmental Farm Plan Program.	Lead: SFPC  Support: AGRI	High	
3.5	Promote water conservation practices and water licencing within the agricultural community.	Lead: SFPC, FLNRORD, BFI  Support: AGRI, BC Hydro DoS, SLRD	Medium	
3.6	Promote agroforestry and other environmental best management practices for land clearing to increase land access and production.	Lead: SFPC, AGRI  Support: BCAI, SES	Medium	
3.7	Encourage regenerative agricultural practices.	Lead: SFPC, Local farmers  Support: AGRI	Medium	

**Tell us what you think!**  
**Place a sticky dot on the actions you support.**

**Goal 4** Plan and Prepare for Climate Change and Emergencies  
 Actions:

#	Description	Role	Urgency	Support (Place Dots)
4.1	Continue to support wildfire risk reduction initiatives with agricultural stakeholders.	Lead: SFPC, EMBC  Support: DoS, SLRD ACF	Ongoing	
4.2a (DoS)	Include agriculture in ongoing Community Climate Action planning (mitigation measures for emissions reductions, sequestration and avoidance).  Incorporate agriculture in future DoS and SLRD climate change policies and strategies.	Lead: DoS SLRD	High	
4.2b (SLRD and DoS)				
4.3	Communicate with and involve agricultural stakeholders in emergency preparedness planning.	Lead: EMBC, DoS SLRD  Support: BFI ACF	High	
4.4	Host educational events and workshops about flood risk management for agricultural stakeholders.	Lead: DoS SLRD  Support: SFPC, BFI ACF	High	
4.5	Develop a climate adaptation and sustainable farming practices strategy for the Squamish Valley.	Lead: SFPC BCAI Support: AGRI	Medium	

**Tell us what you think!**  
**Place a sticky dot on the actions you support.**

**Goal 5** Align Policies and Regulations for Agriculture and Food  
 Actions:

#	Description	Role	Urgency	Support (Place Dots)
5.1	Create and maintain Development Permit Area Guidelines for Farmland Protection.	Lead: DoS, SLRD  Support: AGRI	Ongoing	
5.2a (DOS)  5.2b (SLRD)	Ensure zoning supports appropriately scaled processing and value-added activities.	Lead: DoS, SLRD  Support: ALC	Ongoing	
5.3a (DOS)  5.3b (SLRD)	Continue to include agriculture as a permitted use in non-ALR urban and residential areas.	Lead: DoS, SLRD  Support: SFPC, ALC	Ongoing	
5.4a (DoS)  5.4b (SLRD)	Update OCP and zoning bylaws to better align with the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) Act and Regulations.	Lead: DoS, SLRD  Support: ALC	High	
5.5	Enhance compliance and enforcement for farmland protection.	Lead: DoS, SLRD  Support: ALC	High	
5.6a (DoS)  5.6b (SLRD)	Ensure that existing and/or future bylaws related to cannabis production and processing protect farmland.	Lead: DoS, SLRD  Support: AGRI, ALC	High	
5.7	Support efforts to review and educate on farm tax policies.	Lead: SFPC  Support: BC Assessment MAH, DoS SLRD	Medium	
5.8a (DOS)  5.8b (SLRD)	Create clarity around options for agricultural burning for land clearing and crop disease management.	Lead: DoS, SLRD  Support: AGRI, ENV	Medium	

**Tell us what you think!**

**Place a sticky dot on the actions you support.**

**Goal 6** Increase Engagement, Communication, Awareness and Education

Actions:

#	Description	Role	Urgency	Support (Place Dots)
6.1	Continue maintenance of the Regional Food Asset Map.	Lead: SFPC  Support: BFI	Ongoing	
6.2	Work with Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) to integrate Indigenous perspectives and knowledge within food plans and initiatives.	Lead: SFPC, BFI Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw  Support: AGRI, SD48	High	
6.3	Support provincial-level stakeholder engagement to improve communications and education about agricultural rules and regulations.	Lead: AGRI, ALC  Support: DoS, SLRD	High	
6.4	Facilitate educational workshops for farms and agri-food businesses.	Lead: SFPC, BFI  Support: AGRI, BCYA Community Futures SSFPA, VCH	High	
6.5	Identify and support opportunities for school-aged children to learn about and engage in the food system.	Lead: SFPC, SD48, CSF Montessori schools Independent schools  Support: AGRI, BFI Farm-to-School BC	Medium	
6.6	Create an annual Squamish Valley Farm tour.	Lead: Tourism Squamish  Support: SFPC, BFI	Medium	
6.7	Engage and educate the financial sector and real estate industry in agri-sector land use issues.	Lead: SFPC, SLRFTF  Support: Real Estate Board and Assoc Financial institutions AGRI	Medium	
6.8	Encourage the establishment of a local 4-H club and other apprenticeship and mentorship programs.	Lead: SFPC, BFI  Support: AGRI, ACF, 4-H BC, BCYA	Low	

# Implementation Strategy



## Implementation Leaders

District of Squamish  
Squamish-Lillooet Regional District  
Squamish Food Policy Council

*\*working with community partners\**

- Collaboration, shared leadership and resourcing, will enable focused efforts on key priorities.
- Local and regional government will provide funding, support to SFPC to enable timely and efficient implementation.

**Which actions are you most excited to see implemented?**

# General Comments



Please feel free to leave your comments in the space below:



Thank-you for joining us!

To keep up-to-date on the plan please visit:  
[slrd.bc.ca/inside-slrd/current-projects-initiatives/squamish-valley-agricultural-plan](http://slrd.bc.ca/inside-slrd/current-projects-initiatives/squamish-valley-agricultural-plan)

Questions/Comments? Email: [amackay@slrd.bc.ca](mailto:amackay@slrd.bc.ca)