

Squamish Valley Agricultural Plan Steering Committee
Terms of Reference
January 2019

The *Squamish Valley Agricultural Plan Steering Committee (SVAPSC)* will guide and contribute to the development of a comprehensive Agricultural Plan for the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) and the District of Squamish (DoS). 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.

The four specific objectives of the Plan are 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

Mandate:

- The mandate for the SVAPSC is to act as an advisory body for the development of a comprehensive Agricultural Plan for the Squamish Valley.
- The SVAPSC will be established for approximately 12-15 months (February 2019 to March 2020) to support this project.

Scope:

The scope of work for developing a comprehensive *Squamish Valley Agricultural Plan*, including public and stakeholder engagement at the appropriate stages, will generally include the following steps, to be lead by the consultant with input from the SVAPSC:

1. Engage with farmers and stakeholders to discover strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats affecting the agricultural sector and land base;
2. Conduct a market opportunities analysis for agricultural crops;
3. Identify policy, regulations, and specific actions on a wide range of pertinent issues, to be determined through the Agricultural Plan process; and
4. Create an implementation strategy to facilitate a community-based approach to strengthening agriculture, as identified through the Agricultural Plan process

Role:

The key role of the SVAPSC is to assist in the development of an Agricultural Plan for the Squamish Valley by providing advice and insight based on each member's background and experience. Note the SVAPSC is not a formal DoS Council committee nor a SLRD Board committee at this time.

Responsibilities:

The responsibilities of the SVAPSC members are to:

- Attend Committee meetings and workshops during the planning process (four or five meetings and a workshop over the course of the project);
- Contribute expertise to agriculture and food system issues;
- Review and provide feedback on background research, and issues and gap analysis;
- Review and provide feedback on recommendation options;
- Attend public engagement sessions, when requested, to listen and gather information from the public for use in project development;
- Communicate with openness and equity;
- Speak only on behalf of the SVAPSC if delegated to do so; and,
- Work collaboratively and be open to views of all aspects of the local food system.

Committee Structure:

- The Committee will include a range of food system and agriculture stakeholders and will be drawn from existing local agriculture and food security expertise in Squamish and the surrounding region.
- The maximum number of Committee members is eleven.
- The Committee members will participate on a voluntary basis.

Member Representation:

A balanced representation that reflects the agriculture and food system will be sought. This will include:

- A variety of food system disciplines (e.g. production, processing, distribution, etc.)
- A range of ages and backgrounds, including those who are interested in starting to farm in the community
- Squamish First Nation representative
- Local government staff representatives (District of Squamish and SLRD)
- General community

Member Qualifications:

Candidates should have experience in the food system and/or agriculture industry in topics such as:

- Cultivation and production
- Animal husbandry
- Food sales and retail
- Farmers' markets
- Food distribution and logistics
- Agriculture land management
- Indigenous Food Systems
- Community gardens
- Education
- Nutrition
- Waste management and composting
- Food access
- Policy research

DELIVERED BY

FUNDING PROVIDED BY

