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# **AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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**North Cariboo Rural Directors Caucus – Progress Report**



**JANUARY 15, 2019**

**AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE – NORTH CARIBOO**

# AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## NORTH CARIBOO

### Purpose of the Committee

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The Cariboo Regional District approved the establishment of a North Cariboo Agricultural Development Advisory Committee (ADAC) through the North Cariboo economic development function and the adoption on April 13, 2018 of the CRD North Cariboo Rural Agricultural Development Advisory Committee Bylaw No. 5137, 2018. <https://cariboord.bc.ca/uploads/news/id562/Board%20Highlights%20-%202018.04.13.pdf>

The Committee's purpose is to advise the Board on matters referred to the Committee respecting agricultural development in Electoral Areas A, B, C and I in the north Cariboo. The following matters shall generally be referred to the Agricultural Development Advisory Committee for its consideration and advice:

- Partnering with local government to further economic development and build critical mass within the industry;
- Providing a coordinating body for accessing funding for major projects;
- Providing links between producers, processors, agriculture organizations, Farmers Institutes and government at all levels;
- Raising awareness of agriculture; and
- Enhancing an understanding of agriculture's role in the local and/or regional economy.

The following matters may also be referred to the Agricultural Development Advisory Committee by the Board of Directors, for its consideration and advice:

- Farm 'edge' policies;
- Agricultural area plans;
- Legislation to identify improvements to support agriculture;
- Official community plans within or impacting the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) or for agricultural uses.

### Project Background and Description

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The North Cariboo Community Opportunities Session was held on September 20, 2016 to support increased economic development and diversification with a focus on small business. Representatives from First Nations, other levels of government, and community leaders collaborated with North Cariboo region stakeholders on future economic opportunities.

Following the session, the Quesnel Small Business Resource Team and other key stakeholder groups including agriculture, moved forward the implementation of the priority actions identified at the meeting, by holding a "Working Group" session on October 7th, 2016. During this session, the status of the priority actions was discussed and working group team leaders identified. The North Cariboo Agricultural Marketing Association (dba FARMED) was selected as the team leader for the Agriculture Working Group. Through further outreach members of the Agriculture Working Group were identified and a Terms of Reference developed.

With the establishment of the Agricultural Development Advisory Committee, the Agriculture Working Group led by the North Cariboo Agricultural Marketing Association (dba FARMED) is supporting the committee to move forward its strategic plan recommendations and providing administrative support.

## **Progress Report**

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Since the establishment of the Agricultural Development Advisory Committee members have prioritized the strategic plan recommendations, which include:

- Continuing work towards the development of a Regional Agriculture Centre;
- Introducing the Agriculture in the Classroom program to elementary and secondary school classrooms;
- Supporting the Forage Action Plan Project recommendations for the Cariboo region as outlined in a report prepared for the Ministry of Agriculture in March 2018;
- Initiating a market and labour assessment for the agriculture sector in the North Cariboo; and
- Supporting the development and expansion of local and regional food business enterprises to increase domestic consumption of, and access to, locally and regionally produced agricultural products.

Members of the committee joined the City of Quesnel Regional Agriculture Centre Steering Committee, to work with the consulting team hired to prepare a business plan, which will be presented to the Joint Planning Committee in early 2019.

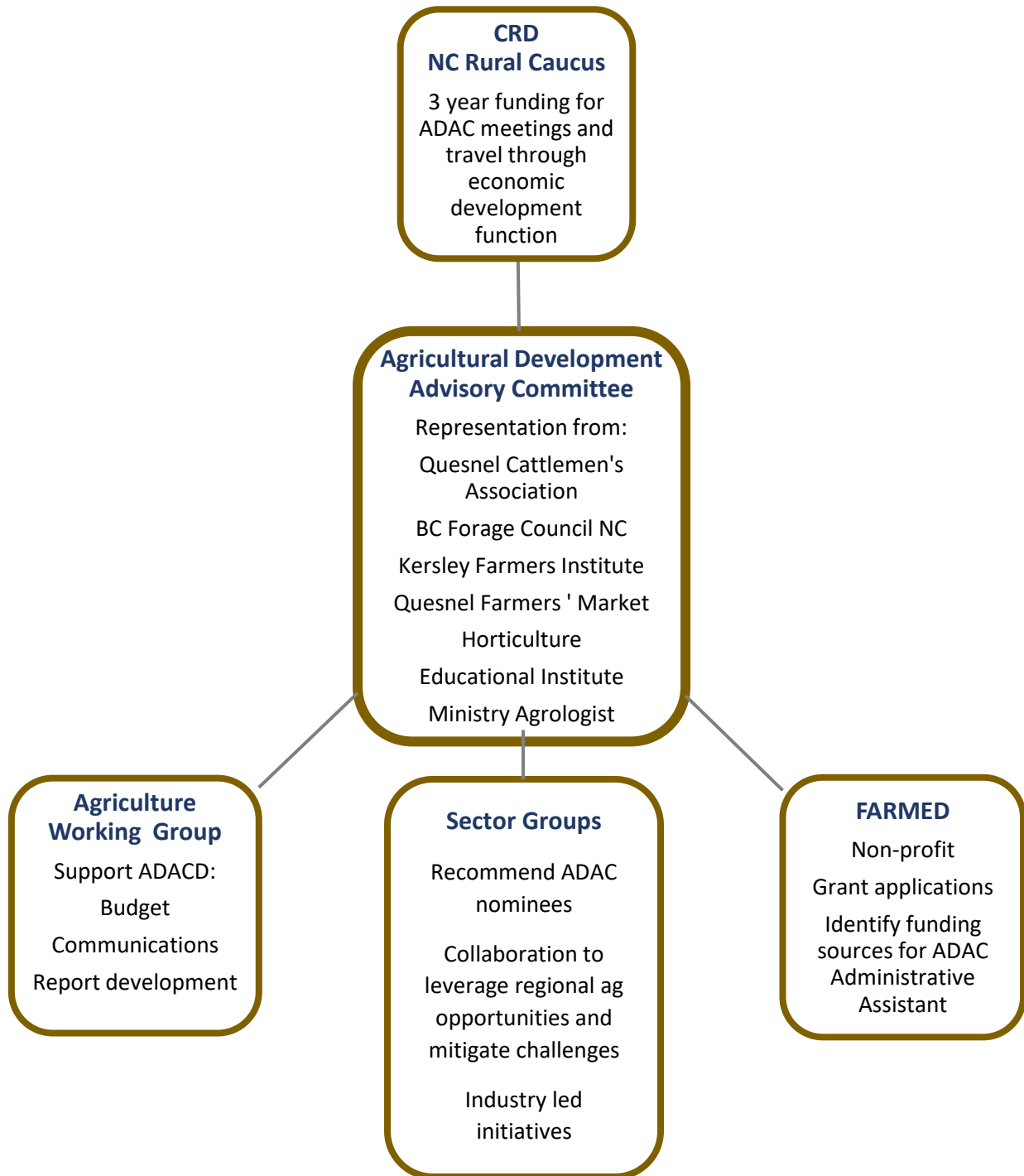
Contact has been made with the Executive Director of the Agriculture in the Classroom program to organize a presentation of the program to elementary and secondary teachers in School District 28 at the January 28<sup>th</sup> Non-instructional Day.

In November members of the committee participated in the focus group session being undertaken by the Community Development Institute at the University of Northern British Columbia for the Ministry of Agriculture Northern BC Agri-foods Industry Needs Assessment. The committee members also met with MP Todd Doherty to provide an update and discuss the key issues, which impact the expansion and diversification of the agriculture sector in the North Cariboo. These reports are attached to this progress report.

The Agriculture Working Group has been working with the Cariboo Regional District staff to develop a webpage on the CRD website. Meeting dates for the Agricultural Development Advisory Committee will be posted on the CRD calendar of events and the meeting agendas and minutes will be posted on the webpage. Go to [www.cariboord.ca/agriculture](http://www.cariboord.ca/agriculture) to access the webpage. A brochure has also been developed and printed.

In 2019, the committee will continue to move forward their strategic plan recommendations. The committee appreciates the support of the North Cariboo Rural Directors Caucus and looks forward to working with the directors.

# AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE NORTH CARIBOO



## AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE NORTH CARIBOO

ORGANIZATION	NAME
Kersley Farmers Institute	Martin Rossmann – Chair
BC Forage Council – North Cariboo Representative	Sheri Schweb – Secretary
Quesnel Farmers’ Market	Rob Borsato – Treasurer
Quesnel Cattlemen’s Association	Erin Durrell
Horticulture	Roy Josephy
Post-Secondary Education-CNC	Sonya Spiers
Ministry of Agriculture	Nicole Pressey
CRD Liaison	CRD Vice-Chair John Massier

## AGRICULTURAL WORKING GROUP NORTH CARIBOO

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Lori Fogarty	Agriculture Working Group Team Leader; Secretary FARMED; Secretary Growing North Cariboo Society
Nicole Pressey	Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Agrologist, Cariboo Chilcotin Coast
Lynda Atkinson	Secretary Kersley Farmers Institute; Vice- President FARMED & Growing North Cariboo Society; Director BC Agriculture Council & Canadian Federation of Agriculture
Wilma Watkin	Treasurer FARMED; Treasurer Growing North Cariboo Society; Treasurer Kersley Farmers Institute
Wylie Bystedt	President, BC Association of Farmers’ Markets (BCAFM); Director, Quesnel Farmers’ & McLeese Lake Farmers Market; President, North Cariboo Sheep Producers Association and Cariboo Central Interior Poultry Producers Association
Emily Colombo	Community Wildfire Recovery Branch – Acting Manager, Cariboo Region; Rural Development, Lands and Innovation Division Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development
Laurey-Anne Roodenburg	North Central Local Government Association
Greg Brink	President, Alex Fraser Park Society
Janet Knopp	FARMED; Growing North Cariboo Society
David Zirnhelt	Applied Research-BC Cattlemen’s Association; TRU Applied Sustainable Ranching; Chair-Cariboo Agricultural Research Alliance
Martin Rossmann	Quesnel Cattlemen’s; Kersley Farmers Institute
Sonja Spiers	CNC Quesnel – Operations Manager
Serena Black	Manager; BC Forage Council
Rob Borsato	Chair, Kersley Farmers Institute; Director, Quesnel Farmers Market