



AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

North Cariboo Rural Directors Caucus – Progress Report



FEBRUARY 11, 2020

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE – NORTH CARIBOO

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Purpose of the Committee

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

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

ADAC STRATEGIC PLAN

- ▶ Regional Agri-food Centre
- ▶ Agriculture Education Program
- ▶ Agriculture Area Plan

1. Regional Agri-food Centre

- ▶ Regional Agri-food Centre business plan completed in early 2019
- ▶ Funded through a Ministry of Agriculture grant to the City of Quesnel
- ▶ In July 2019, the Minister of Agriculture announced a direct award of up to \$500,000 to the City of Quesnel to establish a Small-Scale Food Processing and Innovation Hub as part of the BC Food Hub Network.

BC Food Hub Network

- ▶ Core Food and Beverage Innovation Centre at the University of British Columbia (UBC) Vancouver Campus with multiple Regional Food Hubs across the province.
- ▶ Regional Food Hubs will offer agriculture and food businesses access to:
 - shared processing infrastructure;
 - processing and testing equipment;
 - business advisory services;
 - product development services;
 - analytic services;
 - applied research opportunities; and
 - education and training related to food processing and food safety.

Sprout Kitchen

- ▶ The City of Quesnel hired Co-managers Amy Quarry and Diandra Oliver to develop the Regional Food Hub in a phased approach.
- ▶ Sprout Kitchen will provide space and support for emerging and existing food entrepreneurs to get their ideas off the ground or scale their business for new markets.

<https://www.sproutkitchen.ca/>

2. Agriculture Education Program

- ▶ Rural Dividend Project Development grant funding of \$10,000 was received by FARMED and ADAC in March to implement the Agriculture Education Program;
- ▶ Components of the program include:
 - Support implementation of Agriculture in the Classroom in SD 28 classrooms;
 - Promote awareness of careers in agriculture;
 - Provide experiential activities for students; and
 - Partner with Kersley Farmers Institute to support “Changing Opportunities in Agriculture” workshop series.

Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC)

- ▶ A partnership with AITC has been formed and Cindy Sherstan, the Teacher Ambassador for the North Cariboo participated in a training session in August;
- ▶ AITC Program & Educational Resources have been shared with SD 28 teachers at NI Day and Summer Institute Workshops;
- ▶ Assisted with organization of a field trip to Fox Dairy and La Belle Vallee Fromagerie for Correlieu students in October; and
- ▶ Agriculture career awareness unit developed for Career Life students.



3. Agriculture Area Plan

Premise:

- ▶ Long term planning for agriculture is essential for the continuing viability and sustainability of the agricultural sector;
- ▶ Acknowledges that the participation of local governments, senior levels of government, agricultural businesses, community organizations, and the public is essential to realize a resilient and profitable regional agricultural sector.

**Agriculture Area Plans are initiated by
local or regional governments with
50/50 cost sharing through Investment Agriculture Foundation**

ADDITIONAL ADAC ACTIVITIES - 2019

- ▶ Input into the Alex Fraser Park Multipurpose Agriculture Facility
- ▶ Presentation to the CRD Board of Directors June meeting
- ▶ Participated in the Interior Forest Renewal session
- ▶ Provided assistance with the Cariboo Chilcotin Labour Market Survey
- ▶ Provided reports to the CRD Board of Directors on the:
 - Meat Inspection Program – Class D licence
 - Agricultural Land Reserve changes - Bill 52
- ▶ Regional Food Hub article for the BC Cattlemen’s Association “Beef in BC” magazine - January publication

Agriculture Sector Changes since 2016

Support from:

Ministry of Agriculture

- ▶ Addition of 2 Resource Development Agrologists
- ▶ Regional Agri-food Centre business plan
- ▶ Provincial Indigenous Agriculture Business Officer
- ▶ Direct award to the City of Quesnel to establish a Small-Scale Food Processing and Innovation Hub

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

- ▶ Special Circumstances funding for new Alex Fraser Park multipurpose agriculture building
- ▶ Rural Dividend Project Development funding for ADAC and Agriculture Education Program

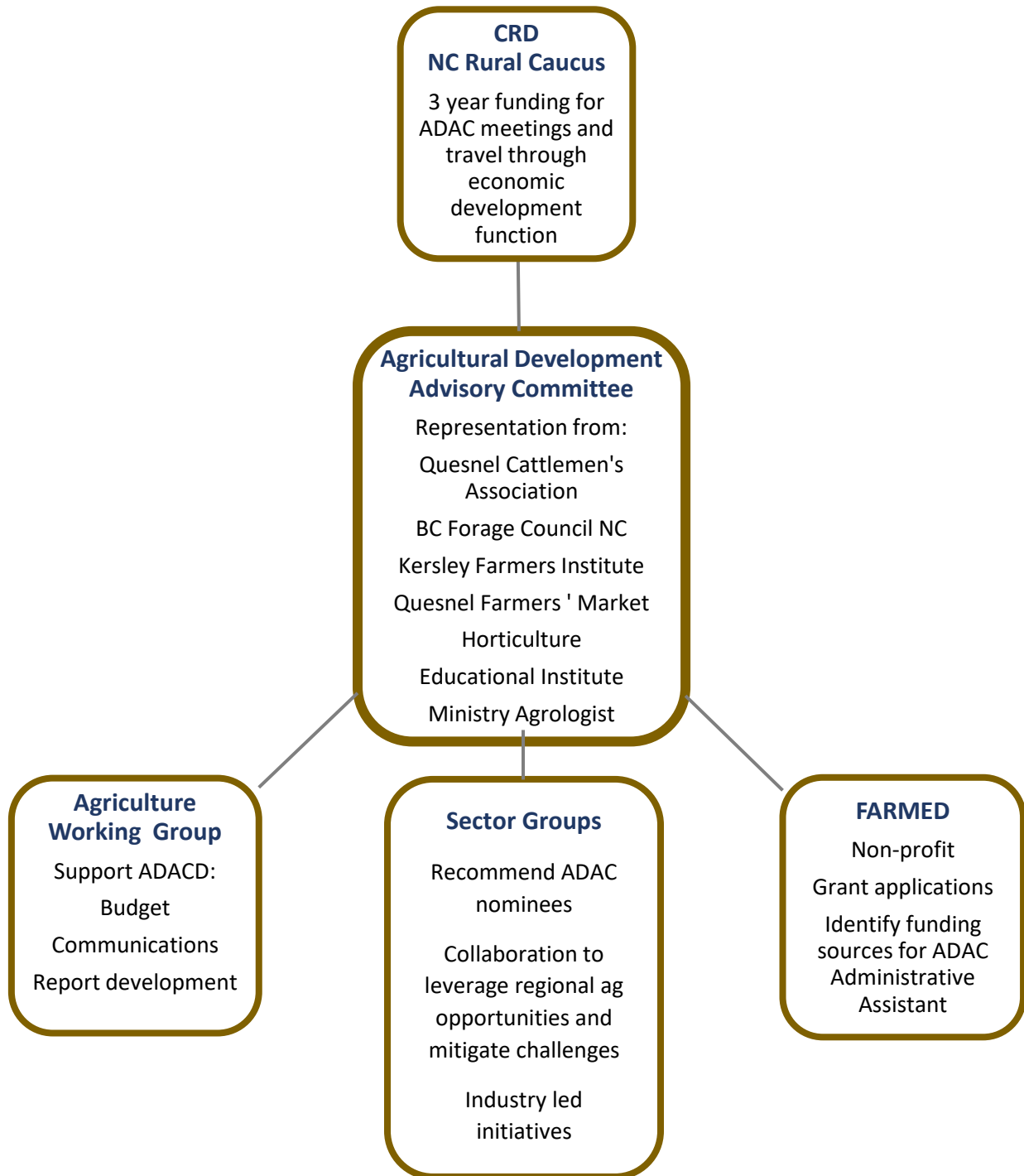
Agriculture Industry

- ▶ Addition of a second dairy operation – Artique Dairy in Strathnavor
- ▶ New cheese making business – La Belle Vallee Fromage
- ▶ Long Table Grocery – Local food distribution, catering and events
- ▶ Increased linkages with:
 - Climate Action Initiative
 - Cariboo Agricultural Research Alliance
 - Farmers’ Institutes
 - Regional Post-secondary institutes & School District 28
 - BC Forage Council
 - Ag in the Classroom
 - Young Agrarians

Looking Forward-2020

- ▶ ADAC membership review: Two-year term
- ▶ Continue work on ADAC strategic plan:
 - Regional Food Hub
 - Agriculture Education Program
 - Agriculture Area Plan
- ▶ Meeting with Central Cariboo Rural Caucus directors;
- ▶ Other matters referred by the CRD Board of Directors and agriculture community; and
- ▶ Assist with CRD review process of the Agricultural Development Advisory Committee.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE NORTH CARIBOO



AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE NORTH CARIBOO

ORGANIZATION	NAME
Kersley Farmers Institute	Martin Rossmann – Chair
BC Cattlemen’s Association	Erin Durrell - Secretary
Quesnel Farmers’ Market	Rob Borsato – Treasurer
Horticulture	Roy Josephy
BC Forage Council – North Cariboo Representative	Serena Black
Post-Secondary Education-CNC	Tim Lofstrom
Ministry of Agriculture	Nicole Pressey / Marisa Nightingale
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