



AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

North Cariboo Rural Directors Caucus – Progress Report



NOVEMBER 30, 2020

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE – NORTH CARIBOO

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AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE NORTH CARIBOO

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.

Progress Report

ADAC STRATEGIC PLAN

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

1. Regional Food Hub

- ▶ Regional Food Hub 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.
- ▶ In 2020, the city of Quesnel received \$250,000 from Northern Development Initiative Trust to increase aggregation initiatives in the food production, processing and distribution sector and benefit the regional economy through the support, retainment and growth of local food producers and food product developers.

Sprout Kitchen

- ▶ The City of Quesnel hired Co-managers Amy Quarry and Diandra Oliver, who have worked throughout 2020 to develop the Regional Food Hub project in a phased approach.
- ▶ A location for the Sprout Kitchen has been selected at 101 Marsh Avenue, Quesnel and the City of Quesnel council has authorized the City staff to enter into a five-year lease agreement for the 2,689 square foot space. <https://www.sproutkitchen.ca/>
- ▶ 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.

2. Agriculture Education Program

- ▶ Rural Dividend Project Development grant funding of \$10,000 was received by FARMED and ADAC in March 2019 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.

- ▶ Most components of the program have been implemented and are between 70 – 100% complete. However, the closure of schools in the spring owing to COVID-19 and challenges with school start-up in the fall have impacted the progress of the Agriculture Education Program. A request for an extension to the completion date to December 14, 2021 has been submitted to the Rural Dividend Program.

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

Activities in 2020:

- ▶ The Agricultural Development Advisory Committee has been going through the process of collecting information on components of an Agriculture Area Plan, by inviting delegates of various agencies to the ADAC meetings. These representatives and presentations include:
 - Ian Hannah, a Land and Resource Specialist with FLNRORD, presented information on the Quesnel District Land Management Plan.
 - Josh Pressey, the District Manager of the Quesnel Natural Resource District provided an informative presentation on government challenges and opportunities in the region including a forestry update to explain how we got here, where we are today, and where are we going.
 - Elizabeth Sharpe and associate Nadine Waarne, from the Ministry of Social Development & Poverty Reduction Employment Labour Market Services Division provided information on programs related to Social Development and Poverty Reduction's Labour Market Partnership and possible opportunities available to support labour in the agriculture industry.
 - Lindsay Miles Pickup, Labour Specialist Partnerships & Outreach; Ministry of Agriculture: Agriculture Labour Market update

ADDITIONAL ADAC ACTIVITIES - 2020

- ▶ ADAC membership review: Two-year term members appointment approved by CRD Board
- ▶ Presentation in February on establishment of the Agricultural Development Advisory Committee to Central Cariboo Rural Caucus directors;

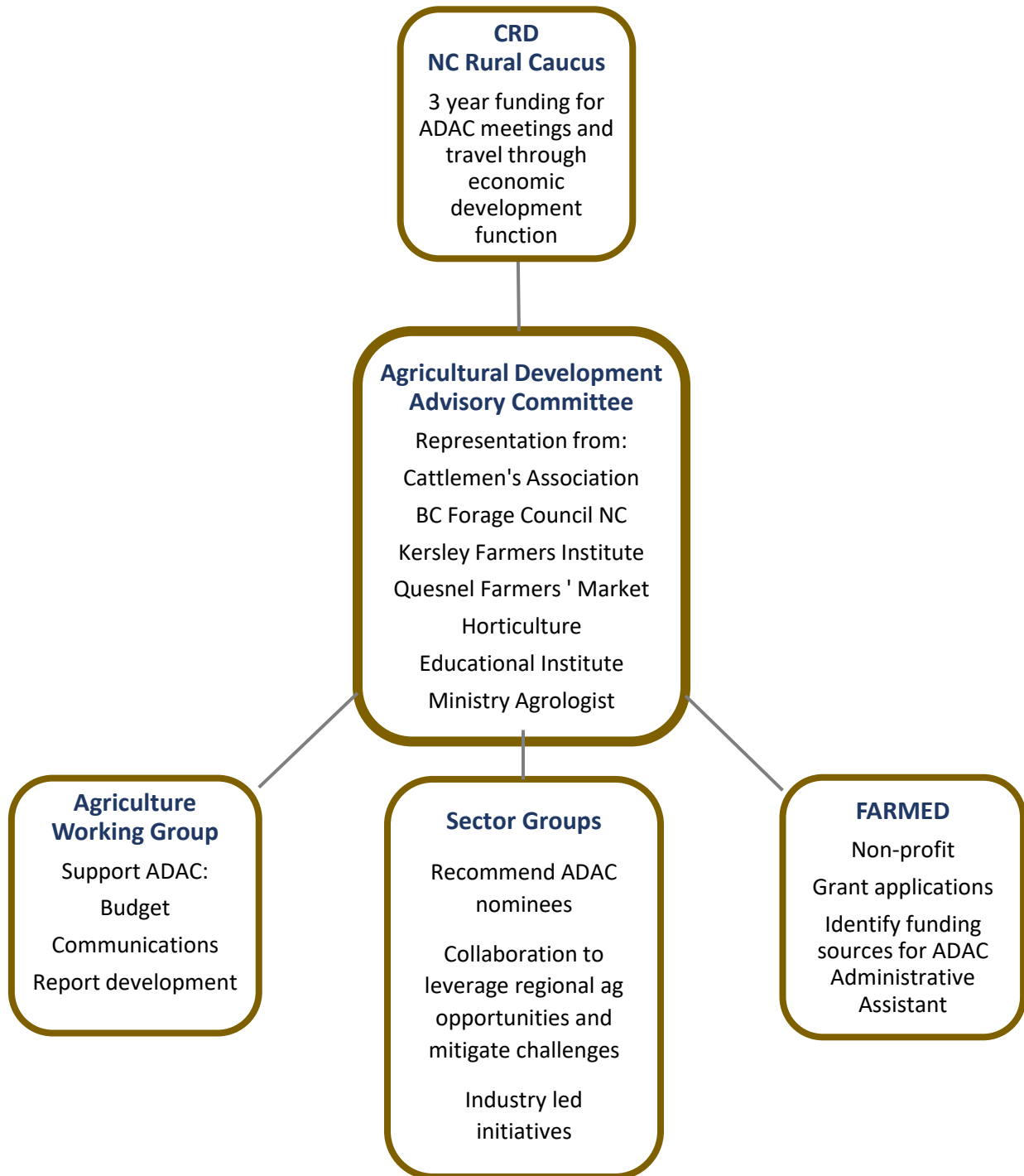
- ▶ Requested a change to Bylaw 5137 Sections 3.1 and 3.1e to provide the opportunity to increase the number of potential Agricultural Development Advisory Committee members and their representation. This request was approved by the CRD Board as Bylaw 5262;
- ▶ Information letter to North Cariboo First Nations outlining the purpose of ADAC and an invitation to participate in the work of the committee;
- ▶ Provided reports to the CRD Board of Directors on the:
 - Ministry of Agriculture Policy Intentions Paper: Residential Flexibility in the Agricultural Land Reserve
 - Ministry of Agriculture Intentions Paper: Rural Slaughter Modernization;
- ▶ Provided letters of support for:
 - City of Quesnel grant application to Northern Development Initiative Trust for Regional Food Hub support;
 - ?Esdilagh First Nations grant application for the establishment of a Class A Abattoir;
- ▶ Meeting with John MacLean and Maureen LeBourdais: Agriculture, Connectivity and the CRD;
- ▶ Meeting with Nigel Whitehead, Manager of Planning Services – CRD: Proposed Agricultural Land Reserve Exclusion Application Policy;
- ▶ Conducted an assessment of the Agricultural Development Advisory Committee, which is included in this report in Appendix A;
- ▶ ADAC membership review: Three-year term member appointment initiated; and
- ▶ Conducted administrative duties for Agricultural Development Advisory Committee.

Looking Forward-2021

The Agricultural Development Advisory Committee members are appreciative of the support provided by the North Cariboo Rural Caucus and Cariboo Regional District Board over the last three years. As we look forward to 2021 and the future, it is the hope of the committee that funding will continue to be provided to further the development of the agriculture industry in the region.

Members of the ADAC have completed an assessment of the purpose of the committee, including comments, which are summarized in Appendix A. Appendix B compiles a summary of the in-kind contributions of the committee and AWG support team members and Appendix C summarizes the administrative costs of the functioning of the 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	Matt Ziemer
BC Forage Council – North Cariboo Representative	Christa Pooley
Post-Secondary Education-College of New Caledonia	Tim Lofstrom
Ministry of Agriculture (non-voting member)	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; Chair FARMED; Vice-chair 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	First Vice Chair, Union of BC Municipalities
Greg Brink	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
Tim Lofstrom	CNC Quesnel – Regional Principal
Serena Black	Manager; BC Forage Council
Rob Borsato	Chair, Kersley Farmers Institute; Chair District H Institute

APPENDIX A

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2020 ASSESSMENT

PART A: Role of the Agricultural Development Advisory Committee:

The Committee's purpose as outlined in the bylaw, is to advise the Cariboo Regional District 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.

SECTION 1

Using the agreement scale noted below, check the column representing your opinion of how well the Agricultural Development Advisory Committee achieved each purpose since its inception in 2018 to the present.

Purpose of Agricultural Development Advisory Committee	I strongly disagree	I disagree	I don't know	I agree	I strongly agree
Partnering with local government to further economic development and build critical mass within the industry				3	3
Providing a coordinating body for accessing funding for major projects		1		1	4
Providing links between producers, processors, agriculture organizations, Farmers Institutes and government at all levels				2	3
Raising awareness of agriculture				3	3
Enhancing an understanding of agriculture's role in the local and/or regional economy				4	2

SECTION 2

Looking to the future, provide comments, ideas and recommendations as to the focus of the Agricultural Development Advisory Committee for each of the listed roles/purposes:

Purpose of Agricultural Development Advisory Committee	Comments, ideas and /or recommendations
--------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------

<p>Partnering with local government to further economic development and build critical mass within the industry</p>	<p>We have an opportunity to work with the Food Hub (and the focus/energy it brings), the City, and FN's to accomplish more for local agriculture.</p> <p>Explore the role of ADAC in supporting Regional Immigration Sponsorship/Recruitment for the retention of skilled labour in meat slaughter/processing.</p> <p>Explore the role of ADAC to support a partnership with Small Scale Meat Processors/TRU/UNBC in establishing a Red Seal Trade Program for Meat Slaughter/Processing Training.</p> <p>Continue to advocate for easing of restrictive review policies.</p> <p>Do we have a city of Quesnel contact? Or is it accomplished through the CRD?</p> <p>We have a good working relationship with Director Massier. We need to continue to build that relationship with all the North Cariboo Rural Directors.</p> <p>Updating the ADAC Strategic Plan and/or developing an Agricultural Area Plan would provide strategic direction to build on existing, and develop new partnerships.</p>
<p>Providing a coordinating body for accessing funding for major projects</p>	<p>Under the umbrella of FARMED, we are well positioned to do this.</p> <p>Coordinate dissemination of economic & labour industry data to support economic development within the industry.</p> <p>Partner with other organizations such as CNC to enlist local letters of support or advocate with local government.</p> <p>I believe we have been fairly successful of being the face of some of the funding, but we need to become more involved in the actual application process.</p> <p>ADAC, and the support team are exceptional at this</p>
<p>Providing links between producers, processors, agriculture organizations, Farmers Institutes and government at all levels</p>	<p>This is a relatively easy one for us to continue to be involved. Because members of ADAC represent a broad scope of agriculture, we can cast a wide net.</p> <p>Important!</p> <p>Continue to provide a point of contact & communication dispersal within the industry; across</p>

	<p>producers, organizations, Farmers Institutes & Government.</p> <p>I don't believe we have been too good at keeping our various sectors aware of the actual functioning of the ADAC committee.</p> <p>The ADAC is designed to do this and they are very good at it. The challenge for all volunteer associations is to engage various demographics and commodities</p>
<p>Raising awareness of agriculture</p>	<p>Our efforts to work with SD 28 have been promising, but we need to stay with this initiative to help it get off its feet.</p> <p>Include factual industrial data to support communications.</p> <p>Partner with CNC on virtual lectures, seminars, etc., open to all CNC regions.</p> <p>Need to work harder with educational bodies to introduce young generations to Agriculture in the Classroom.</p> <p>The NC ADAC is doing this in partnership with other NC groups, namely KFI, FARMED and SD28. I would like to see this expanded to the public, and believe the group intends to as well.</p>
<p>Enhancing an understanding of agriculture's role in the local and/or regional economy</p>	<p>It might be interesting to find funding to look again at the economic role of agriculture in our economy. (An update of what George Powell did for CCBAC two decades ago.)</p> <p>"Producer/Processor Profiles"-Economic Data Adjustments/corrections –Government data is often not complete because of the nature of our industry, i.e. Family member labour contributions...</p> <p>Need to be able to attend public events, fairs, etc. to raise awareness.</p> <p>The group was formed because agriculture is seen as a player/diversifier in the local and regional economy. I would like to see closer connection to the Chamber of Commerce, the Ec Dev Strategic Plan of the CRD (agriculture is identified and supported in the City of Quesnel Ec Dev SP). Once the ADAC SP is developed, it could be implemented in partnership with the Chamber, City and CRD plans. Ideas are farm tours with partner businesses and elected officials, meetings with these groups (and others) on specific topics or prior to industry/local government AGMS so they can develop motions or resolutions at higher</p>

	<p>levels. This is dependent of course, on the ADAC's interest and the industry's willingness to partner.</p>
Matters that may also be referred by the CRD Board	
Farm 'edge' policies;	<p>Review/update the CRD "Living in the Country" information pamphlet.</p> <p>Agree the ADAC can provide local, regional input on this and similar policies. The ADAC has proven that it provides thoughtful insight and recommendations on larger issues.</p>
Agricultural area plans;	<p>It might be helpful to contact Dr. Dave Connell from UNBC, who specializes in AAP's.</p> <p>Identify potential zones for industrial activities that support Agriculture Production, e.g. further food processing, Wool/fibre processing, Animal feed processing, etc.</p> <p>The committee needs to convince the CRD Board of the need and benefits of creating an Agriculture Area Plan.</p> <p>Strategic Plans, such as an Agriculture Area Plan can provide the North Star for the CRD and the ADAC to ensure it stays on the path, as leadership, membership, or funding changes. Many challenges in agriculture require a long-term solution, which is found in an Agriculture Area Plan (AAP). The AAP can also be used when submitting funding applications (along with annual reports to show how progress is being made). It needn't start from scratch. The CCBAC-funded agriculture study, the new NDP platform and the City of Quesnel's Agriculture Centre of Excellence Business Plan are sound documents that can be starting (or continuation) points.</p>
Legislation to identify improvements to support agriculture;	<p>More freedom for farmers to develop their farms to support agriculture.</p> <p>ADAC needs to continue the push for food security. The Regional Food Hub is a great tool to raise the importance of agricultural producers.</p> <p>Agree the ADAC can provide local, regional input on proposed legislative changes. The ADAC has proven that it provides thoughtful insight and recommendations on larger issues.</p>

Official community plans within or impacting the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) or for agricultural uses.	ADAC must ensure a presence at the table when there is a renewal of the Official Community Plan. Agree the ADAC can provide local, regional input on CRD planning documents. The ADAC has proven that it provides thoughtful insight and recommendations on larger issues.
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PART B: Structure of the Agricultural Development Advisory Committee

The current structural component of the Agricultural Development Advisory Committee is noted in the first column of the chart below. Rate your satisfaction of the structural component and then overall structure of the committee using a numerical scale rating of: **1 2 3 4 5 (1 = low, 5 = high)**

NOTE: Comments may be made below each structural component.

Structural Component	1 (low)	2	3	4	5 (high)
Cariboo Regional District <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide matters to ADAC for its consideration and advice Administrative support for budget 			1	2	3
Comment: I would prefer to see administrative support too. It would allow our fantastic current support to step back, and provide future continuity when membership changes.					
NC Rural Caucus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-year funding for ADAC meetings and travel through economic development function Provide matters to ADAC for its consideration and advice 			1	2	3
Comment: I truly appreciate the leadership and support this Caucus has and continues to provide. It is a large reason for the committee's existence, and a reason why some new entrants want to locate to the North Cariboo; Quesnel and NC are seen to support agriculture.					
ADAC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain membership of 5-11 members representative of the agriculture industry Hold up to 6 meetings per year to conduct the matters outlined in Bylaw 5237 & 5262 (see Part A – Section 2) 			1	3	2
Comment: We need to ensure that the committee members are committed. The history has been good and we need to maintain that. This model is working. However, I think a roster of other producers/processors should be developed to be invited to sub-committee or special topic meetings. A roster would avoid "scrambling" to identify someone when response deadlines are short.					
Agriculture Industry		1		2	3

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommend ADAC nominees • Collaboration to leverage regional agriculture opportunities and mitigate challenges • Industry led initiatives 					
<p>Comment: The agriculture industry organizations are not really engaged. ADAC members are there more because of their interest, individually, rather than for the organization.</p> <p>See roster comment above to add potential robustness and diversity (age, demographic, scale, and commodity)</p>					
<p>Agriculture Working Group Support ADAC by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing budget • Managing communications • Developing reports 				1	5
<p>Comment: The AWG, chiefly Lori Fogarty, has been very efficient and effective; it has made participation on the committee much easier for members.</p> <p>Could not ask for better support.</p> <p>See my volunteer comments above - I would prefer to see administrative support too. It would allow our fantastic current support to step back, and provide future continuity when membership changes.</p>					
<p>FARMED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit and administer ADAC recommended grant applications • Identify funding sources for ADAC Administrative Assistant 				2	4
<p>Comment: Thank goodness for Lori!</p> <p>See my volunteer comments above</p>					
<p>Overall Structure of ADAC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRD • North Cariboo Rural Caucus • ADAC members • Agriculture Industry • Agriculture Working Group • FARMED 				3	3
<p>Comment: We need better communication with the Agriculture producer organizations and also with the producers themselves.</p> <p>It can be challenging to work with groups where one/two voices are louder and more persistent than others. This can be off-putting and requires the Chair and other members to temper such points of view so the group's reputation is known as one that welcomes and acknowledges diverse viewpoints, while being able to provide valuable input in a timely manner.</p>					

Additional Comments:

I appreciate the work of ADAC and look forward to working more closely with them as CNC moves to find further ways to support the local agricultural economy and develop strategies and links to aid with solving food-security issues brought up by COVID-19 supply chain challenges.

APPENDIX B

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2018 – OCTOBER 2020 IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION

DATE	NAME	TYPE OF CONTRIBUTION	NO. OF HOURS	RATE	TOTAL
ADAC					
2018	Kersley Farmers Institute Quesnel Farmers'	Meeting/Sub-committee work	23	\$ 30.00	\$ 690.00
2018	Market	Meeting/Sub-committee work	23	\$ 30.00	\$ 690.00
2018	BC Forage Council-NC	Meeting/Sub-committee work	16	\$ 30.00	\$ 480.00
2018	Cattlemen's Association	Meeting/Sub-committee work	13.5	\$ 30.00	\$ 405.00
2018	Horticulture	Meeting/Sub-committee work	10	\$ 30.00	\$ 300.00
2019	Kersley Farmers Institute Quesnel Farmers'	Meeting/Sub-committee work	30.5	\$ 30.00	\$ 915.00
2019	Market BC Forage Council-NC	Meeting/Sub-committee work	17	\$ 30.00	\$ 510.00
2019	rep	Meeting/Sub-committee work	10.5	\$ 30.00	\$ 315.00
2019	Cattlemen's Association	Meeting/Sub-committee work	18.5	\$ 30.00	\$ 555.00
2019	Horticulture	Meeting/Sub-committee work	8.5	\$ 30.00	\$ 255.00
2020	Kersley Farmers Institute Quesnel Farmers'	Meeting/Sub-committee work	18	\$ 30.00	\$ 540.00
2020	Market	Quesnel Farmers' Market	17.5	\$ 30.00	\$ 525.00
2020	Cattlemen's Association	Meeting/Sub-committee work	20	\$ 30.00	\$ 600.00
2020	Horticulture	Meeting/Sub-committee work	10.5	\$ 30.00	\$ 315.00
2020	BC Forage Council-NC	Meeting/Sub-committee work	16.5	\$ 30.00	\$ 495.00
TOTAL IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION (ADAC)					\$ 7,590.00
AGRICULTURE WORKING GROUP					
2018	Ag Working Group	ADAC Establishment & Meetings	130	\$ 25.00	\$ 3,250.00
	Ag Working Group	ADAC meetings & reports	40	\$ 24.00	\$ 960.00
2019	Ag Working Group	ADAC meetings & reports	124.3	\$ 24.00	\$ 2,983.20
2020	Ag Working Group	ADAC meetings	62	\$ 24.00	\$ 1,488.00
TOTAL IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION (AWG)					\$ 8,681.20
FARMED Rural Dividend Ag Ed Program					
2019	Project Manage-	Agriculture Education Program	257	\$ 28.00	\$ 7,196.00
-2020	ment Team Teacher	Agriculture in the Classroom	60	\$ 28.00	\$ 1,680.00

Ambassador				
Agriculture	Field Trips & Room Rentals			\$ 125.00
Industry	Career Guest Speakers			\$ 525.00
Facilitator	Program Coordination	10	\$ 28.00	\$ 280.00
	Travel Expense			\$ 120.00
	TOTAL IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION (AEP)			\$ 9,926.00
2018 - 2020	GRAND TOTAL IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION			\$ 26,197.20

APPENDIX C

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2018 – NOVEMBER 2020 ADMINISTRATION COSTS

The Agricultural Development Advisory Committee was officially established in April of 2018 and held its first official meeting in June of that year. To assist the North Cariboo Rural Caucus and the Cariboo Regional District Board make decisions on the future direction of the North Cariboo ADAC, this estimate of the cost of administering the committee has been provided.

YEAR	MEETINGS - PREP & MINUTES	REPORTS & OUTREACH	COMMUNICATIONS & BUDGET	SUB-TOTAL	RATE	TOTAL
	NUMBER OF HOURS					
2018	80	40	30	150	\$24.00	\$ 3,600.00
2019	82	33	62	177	\$24.00	\$ 4,248.00
2020	68	45	44	157	\$24.00	\$ 3,768.00
TOTAL	230	118	136	484		\$ 11,616.00

NOTES:

#1 - The estimated number of hours includes both paid and in-kind administrative work.

#2 - The time required in the establishment of the ADAC committee is not included in this estimate, as the cost was covered by a Rural Dividend grant received by FARMED.