

The Cariboo Regional District approved the establishment of the North Cariboo Agricultural Development Advisory Committee (ADAC) through the North Cariboo Economic Development Function and its adoption in 2018.¹ Its purpose is to advise the Board on matters referred to ADAC respecting agricultural development in the region.

The following matters shall generally be referred to ADAC for its consideration and advice:

- Partnering with local governments 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, farmer's institutes, and government at all levels.
- Raising awareness of agriculture.
- Enhancing an understanding of agriculture's role in the local and/or regional economy.

The following matters may also be referred to ADAC 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.

The Committee's Mission is to work with agriculture stakeholders within the Cariboo region to sustainably expand agricultural production, capacity, and diversity.

The work of ADAC

The top 3 strategic plan recommendations developed in 2018, when the NC ADAC was established, the committee recommended that these move forward, and we have seen positive progress made in the form of the following:

- Regional Agri-food Center
- North Cariboo Agriculture Education Program
- CRD Agriculture Area Plan

We can see the positive progress made on these recommendations:

- **Sprout Kitchen**
 - Sprout Kitchen is a small-scale food processing, innovation hub and business incubator, located in Quesnel, BC, that serves the North Cariboo Food Hub. As a member of the BC Food Hub Network, Sprout Kitchen provides space and support for emerging and existing food entrepreneurs to get their ideas off the ground or scale their business for new markets. Sprout

¹ See [Agricultural Development Advisory Committee - Cariboo Regional District](#) for further details.

Kitchen is an initiative of the City of Quesnel with generous support from the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Northern Development Initiative Trust.²

- The food hub offers training & mentorship for food processing entrepreneurs, houses a licensed commercial kitchen, specialized processing, testing & packaging equipment, cooler & freezer storage, and offers delivery and distribution infrastructure.
- Successful Sprout Kitchen businesses include the Hixon Falls Cracker Company³ and Melissa's Klassy Kitchen⁴.

- **Agriculture Education Program**

- The North Cariboo Agriculture Education Program is a multi-faceted initiative involving the agriculture sector and career awareness education for students attending elementary, secondary and post-secondary schools in the North Cariboo, as well as agriculture workshops for agriculture producers and new entrants to the industry. This program incorporates the BC Agriculture in the Classroom (BCAIRC) foundation⁵ into School District 28 Quesnel classrooms, providing experiential activities such as farm tours, demonstrations, and work experience. Work on the North Cariboo Agriculture Education Program has been underway since 2019.
- The North Cariboo Agriculture Marketing Association, doing business as FARMED, applied for and received funding from the Rural Dividend Project Development grant to implement the NC Agriculture Education Program.
- The NC Agriculture Education Program Team is made up of members of the Agricultural community of the North Cariboo. These include Lori Fogarty, Lynda Atkinson, Wilma Watkin (retired educators), Joleen Morrison (Program Facilitator), and Cindy Sherstan (Jr. High Home Economics teacher in the Quesnel School District. She is the BCAIRC Ambassador).
- Further components of the program have included the following:
 - Promoting awareness of careers in agriculture (e.g., Guest Speakers).
 - Providing experiential opportunities for students (e.g., Field trips).
 - Partnering with the Kersley Farmers Institute & CNC to provide Winter Workshops (e.g., “Changing Opportunities in Agriculture”) to producers, new entrants, and students.
 - Partnering with BCAIRC to expand the teacher ambassador program to the North Cariboo, in order to deliver information to teachers and connect them to BCAIRC resources, programs, and professional development.
 - Early 2020 saw presentations to staff at Correlieu Secondary School, Riverview, and Bouchie Lake.
- Following BCAIRC's development of numerous online learning resources since 2020, feedback from educators indicated that while the resources were extensive, they were challenging to navigate and choose age-appropriate content for. There was also difficulty in avoiding duplication of curriculum presented in successive years.

The North Cariboo Educator's Resource Guide was developed by the NC Agriculture Education Program Team to compile the resources relevant to the North Cariboo and provide a progression of learning and a framework for educators to follow. The Guide was presented to the School District 28 Education Committee in April 2022. This comprehensive, 69-page document was

² [Sprout Kitchen](#) and [Sprout Kitchen - Facebook](#)

³ [Hixon Falls Company](#)

⁴ [Melissa's Klassy Kitchen](#)

⁵ <https://www.bcairc.ca/homepage>

prepared as a component of the NC Agriculture Education Program implementation. Funding for this project has been provided by the government of British Columbia Rural Dividend Project Development Grant. The work of the NC Agriculture Education Program is on hold until further funding is secured.

In 2021 ADAC Strategic Planning Sessions were significant in supporting the Cariboo Regional District North Cariboo Agriculture Development Advisory Committee's Mission. The members of the committee are grateful for the support of the many agricultural stakeholders, industry groups, and government representatives as we work to move forward the development of the agriculture industry in the region.

Late 2021 saw the Cariboo Regional District successful in its grant application for \$40,000 from the Investment Agriculture Foundation, for the development of a Cariboo Region Agricultural Area Plan (AAP), with the CRD contributing an additional \$40,000 to the project. The CRD approached the North Cariboo ADAC with the opportunity to evolve and become a committee of the whole region. The suggestion was to establish Cariboo ADAC (C-ADAC), including member representatives from the north, central & south Cariboo. The CRD requested that Cariboo ADAC act as a steering committee working with the consultants hired to develop the AAP for the region. A new release was then published, requesting the nomination of new members from across the Region.⁶

November 2021 saw the CRD board approve a new bylaw, thus the creation of the region-wide *Cariboo Agriculture Development Advisory Committee*. The current members of the committee are comprised of representatives from across the region and across the industry as noted in the chart below:

⁶ [ADAC Seeks New Members - Cariboo Regional District.](#)

Cariboo Regional District ADAC Members

Committee Member	Regional Representation	Organization Representation
Jennifer Roberts	North Cariboo	Quesnel Cattlemen's Association
Martin Rossmann	North Cariboo	Kersley Farmers Institute
Lynda Atkinson	North Cariboo	Regional Food and Innovation Hub
Megan Flatt	Central Cariboo	Cariboo Chilcotin Sheep Producers Association
David Zirnhelt	Central Cariboo	Cariboo Cattlemen's Association
Robin Hunt	South Cariboo	Farmers' Market
Gillian Watt	Central Cariboo	Post-Secondary Education
Cynthia Fell	Central Cariboo	Indigenous Government
Tammy Briggs	South Cariboo	Greenhouse Production
Tyrone Johnston	Central Cariboo	Agribusiness
Director John Massier	Liaison	Cariboo Regional District
Nicole Pressey	Liaison	BC Min of Ag, Food & Fisheries

Our membership continues to evolve to be inclusive of region-wide representation & diverse industry groups. The committee currently has a recommendation for a new member submitted to the CRD Board of Directors to fill a role representing Urban Indigenous Advocacy.

The Current Work of ADAC

In 2022, the CRD hired Upland Agricultural Consulting, and with Cariboo ADAC acting in the role of a steering committee the development of the Agricultural Area Plan was initiated. The primary aim of the project was to produce a comprehensive agricultural planning document that focuses on the CRD's jurisdiction and provides guidance in identifying opportunities to strengthen the regional agricultural sector and contribute to its long-

term sustainability. This plan strongly emphasizes economic development and climate change adaptation, including emergency management and informing broad land use objectives within the region. Specific project objectives include:

1. Protecting and enhancing the agricultural land base in the Region.
2. Strengthening the local agricultural economy.
3. Addressing the current needs of the agriculture industry.
4. Addressing environmental sustainability and climate change adaptation.
5. Promoting awareness, education, and value of local agriculture.
6. Promoting broad land use objectives.
7. Informing future Official Community Plan reviews and amendments.
8. Supporting a region-wide Agriculture Land Reserve boundary study.
9. Creating an implementation plan.

C-ADAC helped to guide the development of the AAP and provided important local context to the research and reporting. Its strategic plan and member contributions helped inform the process. The committee also reviewed the consultant's work and provided valuable feedback. The consultant team engaged with ADAC in a series of meetings throughout the process of developing the plan. Some stakeholders were also asked to review and provide feedback on the first draft of the AAP. These included the following:

- Kersley Farmer's Institute
- Cattlemen's Associations
- BC Forage Council
- FARMED
- Sprout Kitchen Food Hub
- Cariboo Agricultural Research Alliance
- Cariboo-Chilcotin Poultry Producers Association
- Farmers' Market Associations
- Young Agrarians
- Agriculture Land Commission Planning Staff
- Ministry of Agriculture Food and Fisheries Regional Agrologist

Completion of the work of Upland Consulting on the Agriculture Area Plan and endorsement of the AAP by the CRD Board of Directors occurred in December 2022. The CRD AAP is available on the CRD website and outlines 5 goals & 25 recommendations in the Implementation Strategy.⁷ There are organizations identified as leads and supporting roles of these recommendations and goals including C-ADAC, among others. The goals for which C-ADAC has been identified as a lead or support role, are:

- 2.4 – Promote the development of a regional meat processing sector.
- 3.1 – Continue to incorporate agriculture in ongoing Climate Action planning initiatives and strategies.

⁷ <https://www.cariboord.ca/en/business-and-development/agricultural-area-plan.aspx>

- 4.1 – Advocate for strengthening agriculture education in the classroom environment.
- 4.2 – Provide agricultural learning opportunities for CRD staff and Elected Officials.
- 4.4 – Celebrate the past, present, and future of agriculture in the Cariboo.
- 5.1 – Ensure that sector development and diversification occur with climate change and the environment as key priorities.
- 5.2 – Support the protection of ecological services on farmland.
- 5.5 – Support the protection of native grasslands within the ALR.

In addition to these significant projects, ADAC has offered consultation to the CRD on matters such as:

- Provincial Meat Processing Regulation
- ALR/ALC Residential Flexibility
- Request for support from the Kwantlen Polytechnic University Institute for Sustainable Food Systems Extension Service

In 2023 the work of the committee has included:

- Member engagement in the Quesnel Forest Landscape Planning Advisory Group,
- Consultation with CRD Economic Development Officer, Beth Holden on the agriculture education program and agritourism.
- Draft an ADAC Logo; to support ADAC’s public-facing role in the implementation of the CRD Agriculture Area Plan.
- Members participation, reporting & engagement on the Min of Agriculture & Food Regional Extension Committees for North Cariboo/Hwy 16 & South Cariboo/Thompson-North Okanagan,
- Collaborative engagement with Timber License holders and the Min of Agriculture and Food on the demand & potential to supply wood fibre for agricultural use within the region.
- Collaboration with CRD Waste Management Program Lead regarding Specified Risk Material Disposal in the District.
- Welcomed presentations & updates on the work of:
 - North Cariboo FARMED⁸ & their Agri-Connect⁹ website development,
 - BCSSMPA¹⁰ & 2022 SSMP survey recommendations specifically for the Cariboo Chilcotin Coast region,
 - Matt Henderson, UNBC Undergrad, ALR Policy Review Project¹¹,
 - Community Futures Cariboo Chilcotin – in the development of “Planning a Successful Succession¹²” for the Agriculture Community.
- Letters to the CRD Board:
 - Proposal to evaluate the feasibility of a LSAF Fencing project,

⁸ [FARMED](#)

⁹ [Agri-Connect](#)

¹⁰ [BCSSMPA](#)

¹¹ [ALR Policy Review Project](#)

¹² [Planning a Successful Succession](#)

- Develop Drought Emergency Preparedness & Response planning,
- Requesting collaborative development of content on Fencing in a Livestock District for distribution in the CRD's spring newsletter.

The committee continues to fulfill its role to support the implementation of the 2022 CRD Agricultural Area Plan and to support the CRD with consultation when indicated. C-ADAC is dedicated to increasing awareness and understanding of the agriculture industry across the CRD Board of Directors and the community at large.

We are excited about the growth potential of agriculture in our region and look forward to the future and working with the CRD and industry partners to see this potential unfold.



Christa Pooley

Cariboo Regional District

Agricultural Development Advisory Committee

Acting Chair