

April 24, 2019

File: 6500-20

Victoria Mayor and Council  
1 Centennial Square  
Victoria, BC V8W 1P6  
Via email: mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca

Dear Mayor and Council:

**RE: ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT INTEREST IN A REGIONAL FOODLAND ACCESS PROGRAM**

The Capital Regional District (CRD) recently completed a [Foodlands Access Program Feasibility Study](#) ('the Study'). Completion of the Study was recommended in the [Regional Food and Agriculture Strategy](#).

The purpose of the Study was to determine the best way to increase farmers' access to land. With input from new and established farmers, non-profits, existing incubator farm programs, local farmland trusts and local/provincial government representatives, the Study examined seven land access tools.

The Study recommends that the CRD partner with a non-profit organization to operate a foodlands trust to manage inactive local government-owned land formerly used for agriculture.

On April 10, 2019 the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board passed the following motion:

1. That the Foodlands Access Program Feasibility Study be received for information;
- 2a. That staff be directed to canvas all municipalities to assess whether there is a desire to have the CRD operate a foodlands trust in partnership with a non-profit organization, and;
- 2b. Whether any municipal lands could be made available for inclusion in a trust; and
3. That staff, upon receiving municipal feedback (due May 31, 2019), report back to the Planning and Protective Services Committee.

This letter is being sent further to the above-noted Committee direction.

It would be appreciated if you could reply with an indication of support by **May 31, 2019** in the following (as outlined on the attached form):

- a) CRD operation of a foodlands trust in partnership with a non-profit organization; and
- b) Adding Victoria lands to a CRD-operated foodlands trust.

Staff will report municipal feedback to an upcoming meeting of the Planning and Protective Services Committee.

To assist you with providing feedback, please reference the information provided in the [March 20, 2019 Staff Report](#) and [January 24, 2018 Staff Report](#).

For convenience, a Question/Answer sheet is also attached. If you have additional questions or require more information please contact Jeff Weightman (250-360-7668; [jweightman@crd.bc.ca](mailto:jweightman@crd.bc.ca))

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Colin Plant', is positioned above the printed name.

Colin Plant  
Chair, Capital Regional District Board

Attachment

cc: Corporate Officer, Chris Coates  
Robert Lapham, Chief Administrative Officer  
Kristen Morley, Corporate Officer  
Kevin Lorette, General Manager, Planning & Protective Services