



## ***Expanding the Influence of Regional Agricultural Support***

**A special pre-Islands Agricultural Show event -**

**10:30am - 12:30pm on Thursday, Feb 6.**

*The ACRD's 'Systems Change' project seeks to develop a model for Regional Agricultural Support that will better influence and inform Provincial frameworks, ensuring accommodation of the unique contexts of various BC geographical regions and producer populations.*

**Coffee and snacks starting at 10:15am.**

**Registration online at [IAS](#). For more info email [ACRDagriculture@gmail.com](mailto:ACRDagriculture@gmail.com)**

---

### ***Panel Discussion***

Representatives from a variety of Regional Agricultural Support (RAS) initiatives from around the Province share their program history and models along with regional perspectives about needs, challenges, and emerging opportunities.



**Jill Hatfield P.Ag., Regional Agrologist-Vancouver Island North  
Ministry of Agriculture**

Regional Agrologists leverage regional attributes and encourage economic growth and stability in conjunction with social and environmental health through innovation, adaptation and local market development. Through long term relationships in the local community, strategic extension, and with a client service focus, they provides effective implementation of ministry programs and initiatives.

Jill Hatfield is a registered Professional Agrologist working for the Ministry of Agriculture for 29 years, 24 years in her current position as Regional Agrologist for the North Island. Jill has an undergraduate degree in horticulture and a master's degree in Agribusiness Management. She works with farmers, all levels of government and community organizations to support agriculture on the North Island.



**Rachael Roussin, MLWS  
Kootenay-Boundary Farm Advisors Program, Coordinator and General Advisor**

In 2017, the Regional Districts of Central Kootenay, East Kootenay and Kootenay Boundary and Columbia Basin Trust partnered to provide technical extension services to the agricultural sector within the Basin. KBFA provides free agricultural information, resources and expertise through telephone or on-line exchanges, farm visits, field day presentations and workshops.

Rachael has a Masters' degree in Land and Water Systems from the faculty of Land and Food at UBC and brings over nine years' experience with program coordination. Rachael is an Environmental Farm Plan Advisor for BC, is an educator on soil health and agricultural land, has operated a market garden, managed her local farmers' market, and sits on several food and agriculture boards and committees.



**Michelle Tsutsumi, Communications Lead  
Kamloops Food Policy Council**

Formed in 1995, Kamloops Food Policy Council is the oldest independent, grassroots food policy council in Canada. Focusing on programs, policy development and implementation, as well as strengthening cross sector partnerships, the Kamloops Food Policy Council is working towards a food system that is regenerative, sovereign, and just.

Michelle Tsutsumi is part of a three-person shared leadership model that fosters organizational capacity, creativity, and resiliency. Michelle is also a member of the Thompson Nicola Regional District Agricultural Advisory Committee and is an organic farmer in Chase.



**Linda Geggie, Executive Director  
Capital Region Food and Agriculture Initiatives Roundtable (CRFAIR)**

CRFAIR was initiated as an informal network in the 1990s and evolved into an independent organization and legal entity in 2013. CRFAIR seeks to achieve a healthy, local, sustainable, and equitable food system working through collaboration. In 2015 CRFAIR became the backbone organization to the Good Food Network, and launched Good Food 2025 a collective impact process for food and sustainability in the Capital Region.

Linda has been instrumental in building and shaping CRFAIR into the organization it is today, believing that collaboration is a meaningful path to getting results. In addition to her work with CRFAIR, she is a member of the Peninsula and Area Agricultural Commission, a member of the BC Food Systems Network, and a past Community Research Fellow with the University of Victoria's Institute for Study and Innovation in Community University Engagement. Linda is an avid food grower and fisher.



**Heather Shobe, Agricultural Support Worker  
Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD)**

The ACRD has directly funded implementation of its area Agricultural Plan since 2014. Contracted Agricultural Support Workers serve the region with guidance from the ACRD's Agricultural Development Committee (ADC) and the diverse communities it represents.

With a Masters degree in Interdisciplinary Studies, Heather seeks to bridge people and initiatives across seemingly great divides. She has strong connections within the region and the industry and a high level understanding of the intricacies of local and Provincial frameworks. She is also owner of a teeny-tiny, permaculture-inspired farm.



**Sarah Petznick, Executive Director  
Lillooet Agriculture and Food Society**

The Lillooet Agriculture and Food Society (LAFS) was convened as a non-profit society by the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) Area B, District of Lillooet & St'at'imc Agricultural Plan (Ag Plan) Working Group 2016. LAFS works to support local farmers, ranchers, growers and other passionate individuals in building a sustainable food system.

Sarah moved to Lillooet from the coast in March 2018, where she worked for Emergency Management British Columbia. She spent the last six years there, including five studying Sustainable Agriculture at UBC in Vancouver. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Global Resource Systems. Sarah is very excited to be a part of the LAFS community, and to be working towards a vision of a strong agricultural future for the Lillooet region. She thinks that Guaranteed Rugged or not, it's definitely BC's little nugget.

---

**Mini-Presentations**



**Colin Dring** - Colin is a Phd student in the Faculty of Land and Food Systems at the University of British Columbia whose research focuses on regional agri-food systems in the Lower Mainland. He'll describe local governments' role in agricultural planning and how it contributes to creating regional food systems by integrating land-use, agricultural development, and Municipal/Regional/Provincial governance.

**Analisa Blake, Island Health** - Food Security Hubs are a collective of organizations working together with Island Health and other community partners across the Vancouver Island Region to support healthy food systems, address food insecurity and ultimately improve health. Analisa will describe the Food Hub model for connecting regional interests with a Provincial Ministry.



**Alana Wilson, Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC** - IAFBC creates funding opportunities to support a thriving BC agriculture and food sector through the effective delivery of programs. Since 1999, IAF has provided funding to assist local governments and their agricultural communities to work together to develop a shared vision for the future of agriculture and to support agriculture area planning activities.



**Facilitated by: Ben Hyman, Chair - BC Cooperative Association**

A community infrastructure architect, Ben's work strengthens collaborative, innovative communities. His recent experience includes support for uptake of cooperative models within agriculture, and he is well-connected with the Ministry of Agriculture. He is a past co-presenter at the Island Ag show and a keen facilitator for emerging and collaborative ideas. Ben also owns a hobby farm & a veterinary/farm supply business in the mid-island.



---

**Project funding by the Vancouver Foundation**



Vancouver Foundation is dedicated to creating healthy, vibrant and livable communities across BC. Since 1943, our donors have created 1,800 endowment funds and together we have distributed more than \$1 billion to charities. From arts and culture to the environment, health and social development, education, medical research and more, we exist to make meaningful and lasting improvements to communities in BC.

