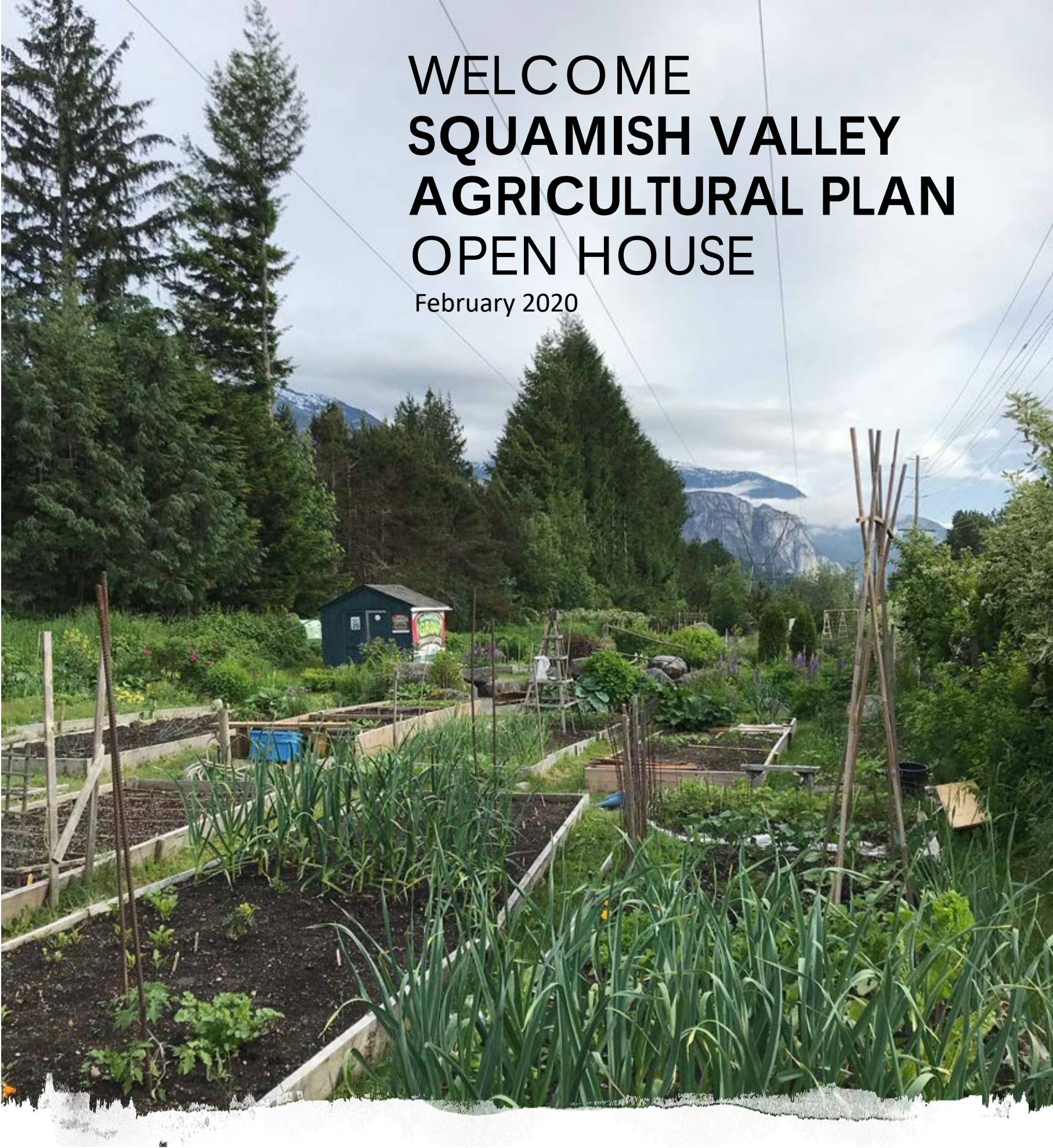


WELCOME SQUAMISH VALLEY AGRICULTURAL PLAN OPEN HOUSE

February 2020



The purpose of this open house is to:

- Unveil the final draft plan to the community
- Seek support for recommended actions
- Present the implementation strategy

PLAN OVERVIEW

Objective: Assist growth in agriculture and related sectors

Key Goals:

- (i) Identify opportunities to strengthen agriculture
- (ii) Protect and increase productivity of foodlands
- (iii) Contribute to long-term health and economic sustainability
- (iv) Integrate Indigenous knowledge and support Indigenous food sovereignty



FUNDERS

DELIVERED BY

FUNDING PROVIDED BY



This project is funded in part by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Government of British Columbia through programs delivered by the Investment Agriculture Foundation of B.C., and is being led by the SLRD in partnership with the DoS and Squamish Food Policy Council.

PROJECT VISION

The Squamish Valley supports an **ecologically sound and economically diverse agricultural sector**, where **foodlands and water resources are accessible, protected, and productive**.

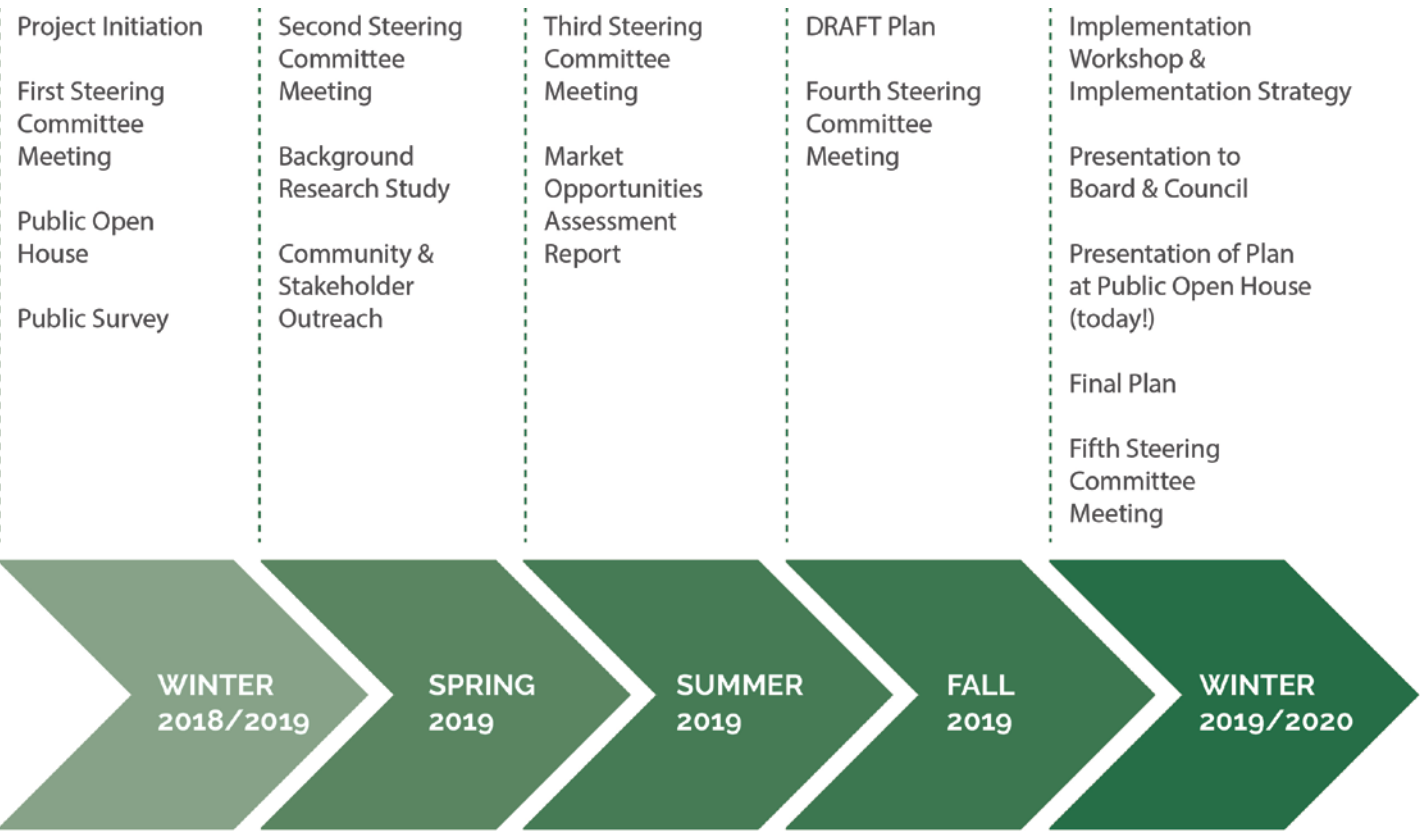
Farmers and processors have the knowledge and skills to be nimble in a dynamic economic environment, are **adaptive to a changing climate**, and are part of the solution to mitigate climate impacts while **contributing to food security**.

Growers, foragers, and fishers are supported by **well-developed harvesting, processing, storage, distribution, and marketing systems**.

A combination of **traditional and innovative practices** ensures that a **legacy between generations is sustained**.

Nutritious food is plentiful and appreciated as part of a resilient food system that **reinforces** human, ecological, and economic health.

PROJECT TIMELINE



FOOD + AG PLANNING PROGRESS

SQUAMISH
FOOD CHARTER
ENDORSED
SQUAMISH
FOOD POLICY
FORMATION

VCH
COLLABORATION
AGREEMENT_ FOOD
SYSTEMS PRIORITY
AREA

20
15

SQUAMISH2040
FOOD DEEP DIVES
SQUAMISH
FOOD SYSTEM +
ASSET MAPPING

20
16

AGRICULTURE
LAND USE
INVENTORY

20
17

SQUAMISH2040
OCP ADOPTION
FOOD POLICY

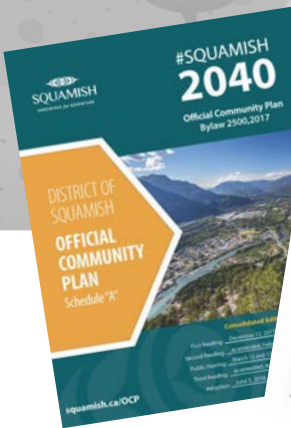
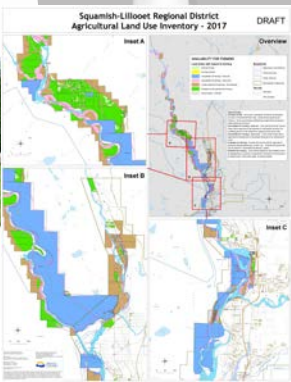
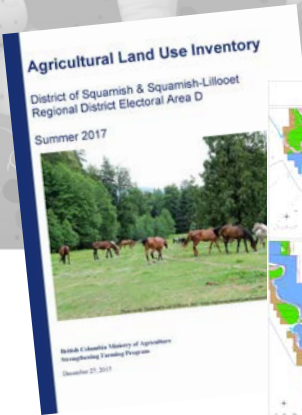
SVAP
INITIATION

20
18

20
19

20
13

SLRD REGIONAL
GROWTH STRATEGY:
AG PLANNING
IDENTIFIED NEED



SQUAMISH FOOD CHARTER



Food Security exists when ALL members of the local communities have access to enough nutritious, safe, ecologically sustainable, and culturally appropriate food at all times.

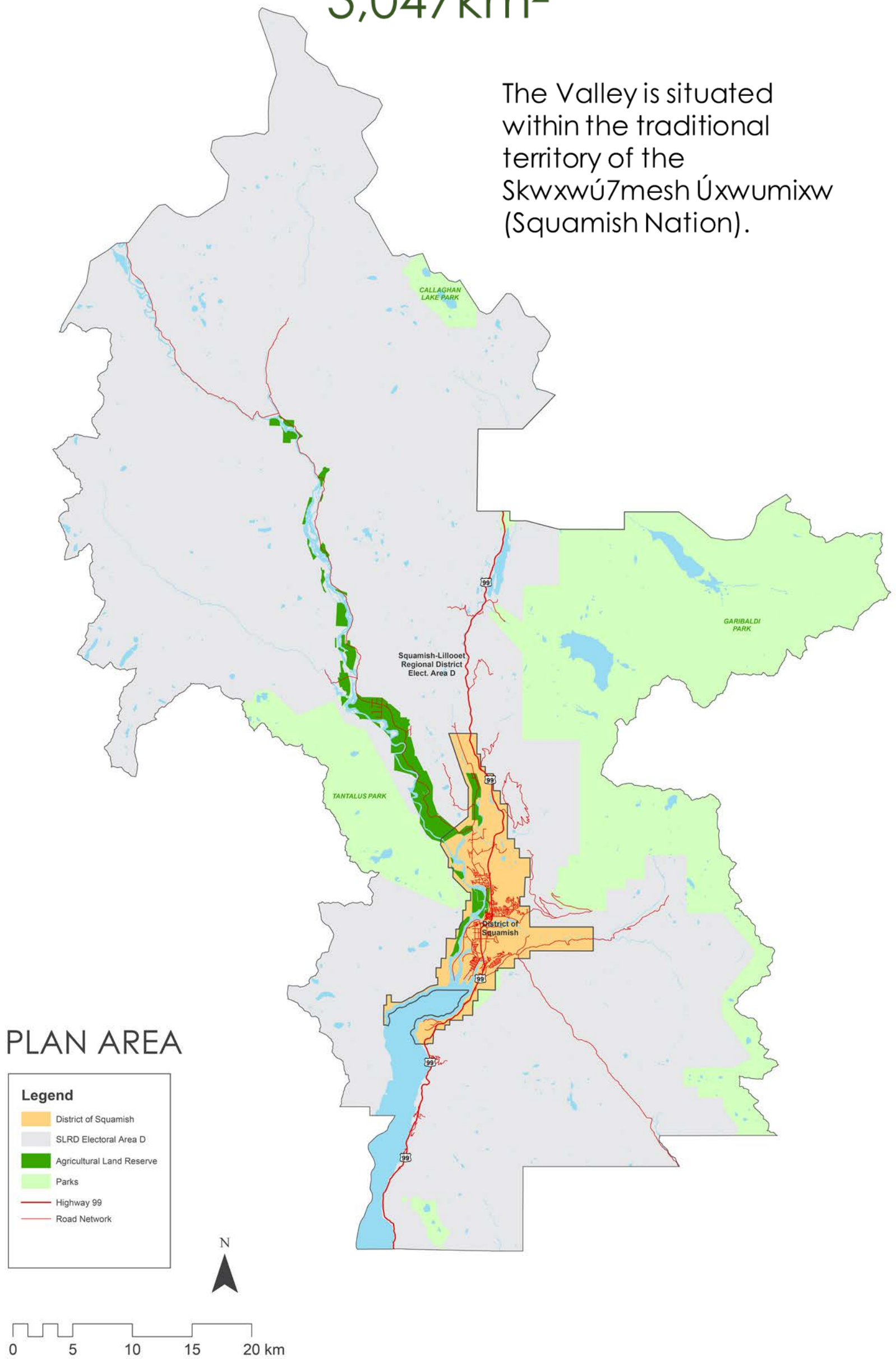
In 1976, Canada signed the United Nations Covenant on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights, which includes “the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger.” The district of Squamish supports our national commitment by using a food security lens when addressing relevant community issues. This is done through pursuit of the vision.

The Vision

Our food system will be economically viable and ecologically sustainable; our community will grow, harvest, process, preserve, and distribute food to all of its members while eliminating waste. A thriving local food culture that celebrates eating locally and eating together will support us in living healthier, happier, and richer lives connected to the land, to growers, and to each other.

SQUAMISH VALLEY is an area of 3,047km²

The Valley is situated within the traditional territory of the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation).





OVERVIEW OF AGRICULTURE

TOTAL ALR IN THE AREA

47 HA

FARMED WITHIN THE ALR

4,066 HA

21 HA

FARMED OUTSIDE THE ALR

LIVESTOCK



Horses are the most abundant livestock (68%) followed by small-scale sheep, goats, beef, swine and poultry.

CROPS

The most common agricultural use of land is pasture (87%) followed by small amounts of hops, vegetables, fruit trees, mixed berries and tomatoes.



49% OF ALR LANDS FALL UNDER LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENT JURISDICTION



The majority of these ALR lands are covered in wetlands and trees



The remainder are on the Squamish First Nation Reserve or outside legally surveyed parcels



Or the land contains land uses not suitable for agriculture such as parks, roadways and railways

551 HA have potential for agricultural activities

79%

Of participants from the 1st Open House in March 2019 and survey responses indicated that they were a gardener. The second largest group of participants in the survey indicated they forage for food (22%), followed by a variety of other connections including previous generations of farmers, and supporters of local farming.

STRENGTHS AND CHALLENGES



STRENGTHS

- Access to markets – local and regional;
- Good support from local consumers;
- Opportunities to increase production on agricultural lands and good soils.



CHALLENGES

- High costs of capital inputs and land;
- Limited supporting infrastructure;
- Flooding and other natural hazards;
- Local government land use policies and regulations.





COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

4

STEERING COMMITTEE
MEETINGS



66

SURVEY
RESPONSES

Producer and community surveys were promoted through the District of Squamish, SLRD websites, and by the Steering Committee members.

40

Attendees

➤ March 2019

PROJECT KICK-OFF



5

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Squamish Nation Elders Lunch at Totem Hall
- Ashlu Creek Foundation (AGM)
- Squamish Farmers Market
- Brackendale Fall Fair
- Open House (Today!)



KEY GOALS AND ACTIONS

6 Goals

37 Recommended actions

Lead and supporting roles identified

ACF	Ashlu Creek Foundation
AGRI	BC Ministry of Agriculture
ALC	Agricultural Land Commission
BCAFM	BC Association of Farmers Markets
BCAI	BC Climate Action Initiative
BCYA	BC Young Agrarians
BFI	Brackendale Farmers Institute
DoS	District of Squamish
EMBC	Emergency Management BC
ENV	BC Ministry of Environment
FLNRORD	BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development
IAF	Investment Agriculture Foundation
LAFS	Lillooet Agriculture and Food Society
MAH	BC Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
SD48	School District 48
SES	Squamish Environmental Society
SFMS	Squamish Farmers Market Society
SFPC	Squamish Food Policy Council
SLRD	Squamish-Lillooet Regional District
SLRFTF	Squamish-Lillooet Regional Food Task Force
SSFPA	Small Scale Food Processors Association
SSMPA	Small Scale Meat Producers Association
VCH	Vancouver Coastal Health

Level of urgency

- Ongoing (must keep supporting)
- High (focus on these first)
- Medium
- Low

Tell us what you think!
Place a sticky dot on the actions you support.

Goal 1 Expand and encourage agriculture and food production
Actions:

#	Description	Role	Urgency	Support (Place Dots)
1.1	Continue to support and facilitate land-linking programs locally.	Lead: SFPC, BCYA Support: AGRI, BFI, ACF	Ongoing	
1.2	Identify opportunities and locations for enhancing land access for agriculture initiatives and determine the feasibility of a community farmland trust for the Squamish Valley.	Lead: SFPC AGRI Support: DoS SLRD SD48 Quest University	High	
1.3	Deepen dialogue with Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) on foodlands and agricultural activities.	Lead: SFPC, DoS Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw Support: SLRD AGRI	Medium	
1.4	Disseminate information about range of crops that can be grown in the Squamish Valley.	Lead: SFPC BFI Support: AGRI SES BCYA	Medium	

Tell us what you think!
Place a sticky dot on the actions you support.

Goal 2 Improve Sector Growth and Viability
Actions:

#	Description	Role	Urgency	Support (Place Dots)
2.1	Develop an agri-food sector strategy for the Squamish Valley.	Lead: DoS EcDev Office Support: SLRD, SFPC, BFI, AGRI, IAF	Ongoing	
2.2	Identify a location and develop a funding strategy to establish a permanent year-round Squamish Farmers Market.	Lead: SFPC, SFMS DoS EcDev Office Support: BCAFM	High	
2.3	Identify and pursue viable solutions for local meat processing.	Lead: SFPC Support: BFI, SSMPA, LAFS	Medium	
2.4	Support local procurement initiatives.	Lead: SFPC DoS EcDev Office Support: AGRI, SD48 SLRFTF, VCH	Medium	
2.5	Create a “Made in the Squamish Valley” branding and marketing strategy.	Lead: SFPC Support: SFMS, BFI DoS EcDev Office, Squamish Chamber of Commerce, Tourism Squamish	Low	

Tell us what you think!
Place a sticky dot on the actions you support.

Goal 3 Promote Stewardship of Natural Resources and Regenerative Agricultural Practices
Actions:

#	Description	Role	Urgency	Support (Place Dots)
3.1	Continue to encourage policies and practices for maintaining and increasing pollinator health.	Lead: SFPC, DoS, SLRD Support: AGRI, IAF S2S Invasive Species Council	Ongoing	
3.2	Control invasive and noxious plants and pests through the enforcement of existing bylaws and protocols.	Lead: SLRD, DoS Support: S2S Invasive Species Council	Ongoing	
3.3	Work with urban and rural producers on reducing conflicts between food production, agriculture, and wildlife.	Lead: SFPC DoS Wildlife Coordinator Support: AGRI, ENV DoS Wildlife Working Group	Ongoing	
3.4	Encourage participation in Environmental Farm Plan Program.	Lead: SFPC Support: AGRI	High	
3.5	Promote water conservation practices and water licencing within the agricultural community.	Lead: SFPC, FLNRORD, BFI Support: AGRI, BC Hydro DoS, SLRD	Medium	
3.6	Promote agroforestry and other environmental best management practices for land clearing to increase land access and production.	Lead: SFPC, AGRI Support: BCAI, SES	Medium	
3.7	Encourage regenerative agricultural practices.	Lead: SFPC, Local farmers Support: AGRI	Medium	

Tell us what you think!
Place a sticky dot on the actions you support.

Goal 4 Plan and Prepare for Climate Change and Emergencies
Actions:

#	Description	Role	Urgency	Support (Place Dots)
4.1	Continue to support wildfire risk reduction initiatives with agricultural stakeholders.	Lead: SFPC, EMBC Support: DoS, SLRD ACF	Ongoing	
4.2a (DoS)	Include agriculture in ongoing Community Climate Action planning (mitigation measures for emissions reductions, sequestration and avoidance).	Lead: DoS SLRD	High	
4.2b (SLRD and DoS)	Incorporate agriculture in future DoS and SLRD climate change policies and strategies.			
4.3	Communicate with and involve agricultural stakeholders in emergency preparedness planning.	Lead: EMBC, DoS SLRD Support: BFI ACF	High	
4.4	Host educational events and workshops about flood risk management for agricultural stakeholders.	Lead: DoS SLRD Support: SFPC, BFI ACF	High	
4.5	Develop a climate adaptation and sustainable farming practices strategy for the Squamish Valley.	Lead: SFPC BCAI Support: AGRI	Medium	

Tell us what you think!
Place a sticky dot on the actions you support.

Goal 5 Align Policies and Regulations for Agriculture and Food
Actions:

#	Description	Role	Urgency	Support (Place Dots)
5.1	Create and maintain Development Permit Area Guidelines for Farmland Protection.	Lead: DoS, SLRD Support: AGRI	Ongoing	
5.2a (DOS) 5.2b (SLRD)	Ensure zoning supports appropriately scaled processing and value-added activities.	Lead: DoS, SLRD Support: ALC	Ongoing	
5.3a (DOS) 5.3b (SLRD)	Continue to include agriculture as a permitted use in non-ALR urban and residential areas.	Lead: DoS, SLRD Support: SFPC, ALC	Ongoing	
5.4a (DoS) 5.4b (SLRD)	Update OCP and zoning bylaws to better align with the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) Act and Regulations.	Lead: DoS, SLRD Support: ALC	High	
5.5	Enhance compliance and enforcement for farmland protection.	Lead: DoS, SLRD Support: ALC	High	
5.6a (DoS) 5.6b (SLRD)	Ensure that existing and/or future bylaws related to cannabis production and processing protect farmland.	Lead: DoS, SLRD Support: AGRI, ALC	High	
5.7	Support efforts to review and educate on farm tax policies.	Lead: SFPC Support: BC Assessment MAH, DoS SLRD	Medium	
5.8a (DOS) 5.8b (SLRD)	Create clarity around options for agricultural burning for land clearing and crop disease management.	Lead: DoS, SLRD Support: AGRI, ENV	Medium	

Tell us what you think!
Place a sticky dot on the actions you support.

Goal 6 Increase Engagement, Communication, Awareness and Education
Actions:

#	Description	Role	Urgency	Support (Place Dots)
6.1	Continue maintenance of the Regional Food Asset Map.	Lead: SFPC Support: BFI	Ongoing	
6.2	Work with Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) to integrate Indigenous perspectives and knowledge within food plans and initiatives.	Lead: SFPC, BFI Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw Support: AGRI, SD48	High	
6.3	Support provincial-level stakeholder engagement to improve communications and education about agricultural rules and regulations.	Lead: AGRI, ALC Support: DoS, SLRD	High	
6.4	Facilitate educational workshops for farms and agri-food businesses.	Lead: SFPC, BFI Support: AGRI, BCYA Community Futures SSFPA, VCH	High	
6.5	Identify and support opportunities for school-aged children to learn about and engage in the food system.	Lead: SFPC, SD48, CSF Montessori schools Independent schools Support: AGRI, BFI Farm-to-School BC	Medium	
6.6	Create an annual Squamish Valley Farm tour.	Lead: Tourism Squamish Support: SFPC, BFI	Medium	
6.7	Engage and educate the financial sector and real estate industry in agri-sector land use issues.	Lead: SFPC, SLRFTF Support: Real Estate Board and Assoc Financial institutions AGRI	Medium	
6.8	Encourage the establishment of a local 4-H club and other apprenticeship and mentorship programs.	Lead: SFPC, BFI Support: AGRI, ACF, 4-H BC,BCYA	Low	

Implementation Strategy



Implementation Leaders

District of Squamish
Squamish-Lillooet Regional District
Squamish Food Policy Council

working with community partners

- Collaboration, shared leadership and resourcing, will enable focused efforts on key priorities.
- Local and regional government will provide funding, support to SFPC to enable timely and efficient implementation.

Which actions are you most excited to see implemented?

General Comments

Please feel free to leave your comments in the space below:

Thank-you for joining us!

To keep up-to-date on the plan please visit:
slrd.bc.ca/inside-slrd/current-projects-initiatives/squamish-valley-agricultural-plan

Questions/Comments? Email: amackay@slrd.bc.ca