



Squamish Valley Agricultural Plan Implementation Agreement

April 2020

Purpose + Principles

This collaboration agreement between the District of Squamish (DoS), Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) and Squamish Food Policy Council (SFPC), an arm of local non-profit Squamish CAN (Climate Action Network), frames the commitment of participating partners to implement the [Squamish Valley Agricultural Plan \(SVAP\)](#). The non-binding agreement outlines roles, resources and reporting in ongoing agricultural plan initiatives and guides collective activities in order to fulfil the SVAP Vision and Goals and to advance identified plan Objectives and Actions.

Working together, partners will endeavour to:

- Maintain productive and close working relationships with food and agricultural community organizations and stakeholders throughout the Squamish Valley region.
- Work collaboratively and engage across sectors and with all levels of government (local, regional, provincial and federal, First Nations).
- Conduct early and ongoing engagement, adopting IAP2 principles, and inclusion of additional stakeholders as needed to ensure representation and informed discussion.

SVAP Background

The SVAP identifies opportunities and actions to strengthen agriculture within the District of Squamish and SLRD Electoral Area D¹. A core plan objective is to protect and increase the productivity of food lands and the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) within the plan area. The SVAP is the result of joint agriculture planning between the District of Squamish and SLRD, in close collaboration with the Squamish Food Policy Council and the BC Ministry of Agriculture. Plan development was informed by and benefitted from the advisement of a project steering committee composed of local producers,

¹ The Squamish Valley is a 3,047 km² area encompassing the floodplains of the Squamish and Cheakamus Rivers within the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District and the District of Squamish, situated within the unceded core traditional territory of the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation). The Squamish Valley includes 4,066 hectares of agricultural lands. See SVAP Section 1.2 and Figure 1 for a map of the SVAP study area.

community organization representatives, members of the public, as well as the Squamish Food Policy Council members and government staff.

Implementation Roles + Key Contacts

As determined through the SVAP process, a non-profit/hybrid approach to SVAP implementation is best suited to the context for Squamish Valley and both local and regional governments.

Squamish Food Policy Council (Non-profit Implementation Lead)

The SFPC is well positioned and will take the lead to convene the SVAP Implementation group/table and advance identified *non-governmental* actions. The SFPC has been advancing sustainable place-based food systems and food security initiatives in the region since 2015. The local non-profit Squamish CAN (Climate Action Network) is the backbone for the SFPC, providing an established organizational structure including a Board of Directors and staff. Squamish CAN has worked on sustainable food systems since the organization's inception in 2009. The SFPC Terms of Reference are included in Appendix II.

Key implementation tasks for the SFPC include, but are not limited to:

- Convening and chairing project-based meetings for:
 - Specific SVAP projects and initiatives
 - Annual SVAP Implementation Review session and work plan setting
- Ongoing tracking and reporting SVAP progress according to identified SVAP measures (Section 4.3.2 of the plan)
- Maintaining the Squamish-Lillooet Food Asset Map (also tied to Squamish2040 OCP Performance Indicator #25)
- Identifying opportunities to increase land under production and to grow the number of farmers and farm operations in the Squamish Valley region
- Providing supports, resources, and educational opportunities for food producers
- Prioritizing agriculture development through a climate and sustainability lens.

Staff Contacts

Krystle tenBrink and Constance Wylie
Co-staff of the Squamish Food Policy Council (SFPC)

Local and Regional Government Supporting Partners

Together, the District of Squamish (DoS) and Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) will jointly offer governmental support in the form of in-kind staff support (planning, communications, legislative services), public meeting space, as well as dedicated annual funding to enable collaborative SVAP activities. Staff liaisons representing each government partner will participate with the SVAP Implementation group on annual work planning and in sub-working groups, as created from time to time. Government staff liaisons will work with SFPC on annual updates, grant applications and resource requests for DoS Council and SLRD Board, respectively.

In the spirit of intergovernmental and community cooperation, in advancing the SVAP goals for increased food productivity and resilience, both the DOS and SLRD will work to hold and make space for meaningful engagement with Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) to strengthen relations, cultivate shared understandings and show respect for Indigenous values, knowledge, and land and food sovereignty in the region.

Governmental Liaisons/Contacts

Sarah McJannet, Senior Planner
Community Planning & Infrastructure
District of Squamish

Alix MacKay, Planner
Planning and Development Services
Squamish-Lillooet Regional District

Provincial Agriculture Advisors. The SVAP Implementation group will continue to engage with AGRI-BC and Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) staff as needed to strengthen agricultural knowledge, build local capacity and advance SVAP actions.

Governmental Liasons/Contacts

Alison Fox, Land Use Agrologist
Strengthening Farming Program
BC Ministry of Agriculture

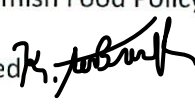
Angela Boss, Regional Agrologist
South Coastal Region
BC Ministry of Agriculture

Priority Actions and Annual Work Planning The SVAP Implementation group lead by the SFPC will develop detailed annual workplans highlighting the estimated budget, action summary with proposed deliverables for individual actions identified in Appendix I for sign off by the implementation partners.

Communications and Annual Reporting

- Implementation group communications will be directed through designated contacts.
- External communications – the partners agree to provide press releases and other communications materials for joint review and sign off prior to release, pursuant to the established communications standards, graphic standards and protocols of partner organizations.
- SVAP annual summary reporting will be made publicly available once presented to project partners, respectively.
- The SLRD will continue to web host the main online portal for SVAP reports and resources (<https://www.slrd.bc.ca/inside-slrd/current-projects-initiatives/squamish-valley-agricultural-plan>)

Signatories

District of Squamish Signed  Date 24 April 2020	Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Signed  Date May 14, 2020	Squamish Food Policy Council Signed  Date July 7, 2020
--	--	---



Appendix I. SVAP Top Eleven Priority Actions

For the first phase of plan implementation executed in the next 12 - 24 months, actions in the table below are identified high or ongoing priorities where the SFPC is lead, as determined by the SVAP project team. SFPC will play a supporting role, as needed, in the implementation of actions where other stakeholders are in the lead role. Once these more critical actions are accomplished, the focus will turn to Phase Two Implementation. Phase Two will address SVAP actions in the three to five year range, where SFPC is identified as lead.

Actions	Urgency
1.1 Continue to support and facilitate land-linking programs locally.	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.	High
2.2 Identify a location and develop a funding strategy to establish a permanent year-round Squamish Farmers Market.	High
3.1 Continue to encourage policies and practices for maintaining and increasing pollinator health.	Ongoing
3.3 Work with urban and rural producers on reducing conflicts between food production, agriculture, and wildlife.	Ongoing
3.4 Encourage farmers to participate in the Environmental Farm Plan Program.	High
3.5 Encourage regenerative agricultural practices.	High
4.1 Continue to support wildfire risk reduction initiatives with agricultural stakeholders.	High
6.1 Continue maintenance of the Regional Food Asset Map.	Ongoing
6.2 Work with Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) to integrate Indigenous food system and resource management perspectives and knowledge within food plans and initiatives.	High
6.4 Facilitate educational workshops for farms and agri-food businesses.	High



Appendix II: Squamish Food Policy Council Terms of Reference

SFPC Terms of Reference

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.

Mission

Our mission is that ALL members of Squamish have access to enough nutritious, safe, ecologically sustainable, and culturally appropriate food at all times. Squamish Valley food and agricultural lands are protected and productive, and producers, processors, growers, foragers, and knowledge holders are valued and supported.

Values

- Resilient local food system
- Productive foodlands
- Environmental, social health, and economic sustainability
- Social Justice
- Indigenous Food Sovereignty
- Food Literacy
- Celebration

The Food Policy Council will achieve our Vision and Mission through:

Collaboration

- Actively foster partnerships with other agencies working on food and agriculture initiatives
- Provide a platform for community to network and share resources
- Support Indigenous Food Sovereignty
- Participate in regional, provincial and national initiatives and conversations that impact our local food system

Policy

- Influence and advise on policies, regulations, and bylaws that support a resilient local, sustainable, fair, accessible, and healthy food system, at all levels of government.
- Convene members from the community, non-profit, health, education, agriculture, business, and governance sectors to provide input into food policy and initiatives.

Education

- Engage in community outreach to advance public education on food literacy, agricultural skills, and traditional food ways, and to encourage public participation



- Facilitate intergenerational knowledge transfer and sharing of best practices and research to enhance local food production and strengthen the agri-food economy
- Exchange information across sectors to bridge gaps and build support

Projects

- Undertake high value, meaningful projects
- Support groups developing and implementing projects to enhance the food system
- Lead implementation of the Squamish Valley Agricultural Plan, in collaboration with the District of Squamish and Squamish-Lillooet Regional District

How we operate:

Planning and Reporting

- Produces an annual work plan and budget at the beginning of each year with specific objectives and outcomes, guided by the actions in the Squamish Valley Agricultural Plan
- Presents annually to the District of Squamish and the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District outlining its work plan, deliverables and budget, progress and annual report

Meeting Frequency

The Council meets quarterly. Meetings can be added or cancelled at the call of the chair or staff.

Format

The Squamish Food Policy Council (SFPC) is a Hybrid Model with Indirect Links to Government (Category three in Municipal Food Policy Entrepreneurs by MacRae and Donahue, 2013, pg. 10 http://www.ensser.org/fileadmin/files/2013_MacRae%26Donahue.pdf).

These food policy initiatives are a hybrid of civil society organizations and government (not an official committee of Squamish Council or SLRD Area D) with significant linkages to local and regional governments via departments and government staff. Public health structures and staffing are important, with financial support from a mix of sources. This format allows us the benefit of blending municipal and civil society organization resources (i.e. funding, additional regional and national support) and expertise, and allows for a more flexible agenda. Examples of communities that use this model are Kamloops, BC and Hamilton, ON.

Connection to Squamish CAN (Climate Action Network)

The Squamish Food Policy Council is its own entity that is supported by Squamish CAN as the backbone organization. Squamish CAN manages the finances and human resources, including staff for administration and communication. These connections are subject to change over time as the group grows.