

PUBLIC ENCOURAGED TO HELP SHAPE THE DRAFT AGRICULTURAL AREA PLAN

The Regional District of Nanaimo has partnered with the Investment Agriculture Foundation of B.C. to develop a region-wide Agricultural Area Plan. After extensive public dialogue including focus groups, open houses and suggestions submitted by telephone and email, the first draft of the Plan is now complete, and was shared with RDN Board members at the May 8 RDN Committee of the Whole meeting.

“The Agricultural Area Plan is intended to celebrate and expand local food production in our Region by identifying barriers and opportunities for growth in the local agriculture industry,” said RDN Chairperson Joe Stanhope. “The Draft Plan has been developed with input from farmers, food producers and consumers. As work on the Plan progresses, we encourage all residents to share their ideas to help us build this important document in support of local agriculture.”

Members of the public are encouraged to visit the AAP web site at www.growingourfuture.ca to view the Draft Plan, watch engaging videos about local food production in our region, and complete a brief public survey. Additional background reports and information are also available on the site.

The RDN Agricultural Area Plan process began in the summer of 2011. It is funded in part by the RDN, and by the Investment Agriculture Foundation of B.C. through programs it delivers on behalf of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture. Upland Consulting is guiding the project in collaboration with the RDN’s Agricultural Advisory Committee. To date, the process has included the completion of an agricultural land use inventory and the development of a technical background report and a public consultation report.

For more information, visit www.growingourfuture.ca or contact the RDN Development Services Department at 250-390-6510.

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