

An update from CR-FAIR, October 2008

CR-FAIR continues to act as a communications hub and promote sharing of information and networking around food issues in BC's Capital Region. If you are looking for more information and to connect to other groups working on food, agriculture, and health, subscribe to the **quarterly "Making Food Matter" electronic newsletter**, attend the **Monthly Food Roundtable**, and attend our **Annual Food Matters! Forum** in March.

More on what we are doing....

Local Government Engagement:

- Working alongside our community partners to highlight local food issues during the elections
- Continuing to take the Regional Food Charter out to local Municipalities to "adopt or adapt"

Take Action: Become part of our working group on the Regional Food Charter and take it to your local Council to "adopt or adapt".

[Regional Food Charter](#)

- Working to establish a Food Policy Council for the Capital Region: working with CRD staff we presented to the Planning and Protective Services Committee of the CRD who recommended that a staff report be created and presented to the Board in October. We need your letters of support!

Take Action: Write a letter supporting the establishment of a Regional Food Policy Council

[Template letter of support for a Food Policy Council in the CRD](#)

- Presentation alongside many others from this region to the Farm Assessment Review Panel on September 15, 2008, to ensure that any changes to Farm Tax policy guarantee: enhanced production and productive lands, support for young, new and developing farm operations, the fostering of responsible land stewardship, and encouragement and respect of the viability of farmers and farming. Read more about the [Farm Tax Assessment Process](#).

Supporting Local Capacity Building:

- Wide range of partners working on a Farmlands Forum in November. communication

Take Action: Participate in the Focus on Farmlands Forum on November 27. For a conference package or to register contact Karen Platt kdplatt@shaw.ca.

- Working with LifeCycles on a Spring Urban Agriculture Forum
- Winter Food Access Forum and release of the Food Resources Directory
- Working with local emergency food producing groups to develop a centralized food recovery and redistribution center in Victoria

Take Action: Volunteer or donate to the creation of the Quest food recovery and redistribution center in Victoria. Contact info@communitycouncil.ca

Research and Education:

- Working with the Office of Community Based Research as the Community Lead to forge better community university partnerships
- Exploratory phase of the compilation of a Food Inventory/Mapping Project and updating our Regional Food Security Assessment

Networking with other Groups and Organizations:

- Many of our members attended the 10th annual BC Food Systems Network gathering in Sorrento BC in September. The focus this year was on food and climate change. Linda Geggie, a member of CRFAIR was elected to the Board of Directors of the BCFSN. The BCFSN builds relationships between communities, organizations and individuals working to create sustainable food systems across the province. The network recognizes the importance and legitimacy of community knowledge in building locally rooted food security.

The primary roles of the Network are to strengthen connections and support each other in our communities; to increase understanding of the context of sustainable food systems work; and to undertake and share policy analysis that can better foster communities in which all are nourished. For more information on the Network www.fooddemocracy.org