

***Insert letter head if you have one.

Date:

Board of Directors
Capital Region District
Main office address:
625 Fisgard Street
Victoria, British Columbia
Canada V8W 1R7

Re: Proposal to Establish a CRD Food Policy Council

We would like to write our support for the establishment of a Food Policy Council (FPC) for the Capital Region District. We understand that CR-FAIR (Capital Regional Food and Agriculture Initiatives Roundtable) is proposing that the Capital Regional District (CRD) establish a Food Policy Council (FPC), constituted as an Advisory Group to the CRD Hospital Board. The CRD FPC could be modeled on successful Food Policy Councils in other jurisdictions such as Ottawa, Toronto, Kamloops and Vancouver.

Having a Food Policy Council in the region would provide a vehicle for working on planning and policy issues related to food, agriculture, health, economic growth and the environment. A FPC brings together a cross-section of expertise from across the food system – farmers, processors, distributors, retailers, consumers, community groups, educators, nutritionists and policy makers. Such a group would provide their knowledge and expertise to improve the ecological sustainability, economic viability and social inclusiveness of the regional food system.

We (organization) believe a Food Policy Council brings many benefits to communities.
Or As a CRD resident I believe that a Food Policy Council is important because.....

What ways have you seen them make a difference?-such as....

- Better coordination of resources and linkage to government programs and projects
- A FPC connected to government gives recognition to food system issues in the region and access to decision makers that this work requires
- A FPC connected to the CRD also provides the political infrastructure to support and enact its findings
- Policy and planning changes that have direct impacts to accessing food, production and distribution of food, agriculture practices and food waste management
- A more inclusive, comprehensive “food systems” framework and approach
- A vehicle for the community to articulate specific priority objectives for the region and have a ‘voice’ with policy makers

A Food Policy Council would also have great benefits to the CRD. A Food Policy Council will provide an opportunity and vehicle to increase structured public engagement in CRD policy development and decision making processes. The establishment of a FPC would help the CRD realize its vision expressed in the Regional Growth Strategy.

With these things in mind, we would like to express our support for the CR-FAIR proposal to establish a Food Policy Council with the Capital Regional District.

Sincerely,