



# Local Food Security

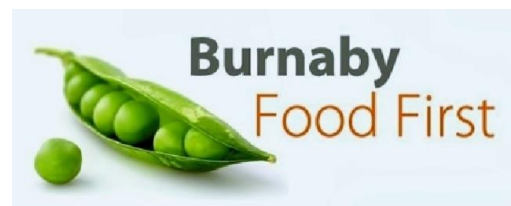
Turning Policy into Action in Metro Vancouver



## Acknowledgements

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**Grant Rice, M.Urb**  
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## Executive Summary

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The Metro Vancouver Board – representing 21 municipalities, 1 electoral area, and 1 treaty First Nation – initiated the idea of a regional food system strategy in 2008 during a time of high fuel costs, rising food prices, and growing concerns about the global food system. Within this context and a growing demand for local food, Metro Vancouver’s board unanimously adopted the Regional Food System Strategy (RFSS) on February 25, 2011. The RFSS represents a regional focus on the entire food system with specific goals and strategies and provides some examples of success stories and best practices.

The level of policy response and corresponding action by member municipalities to Metro Vancouver’s Regional Food System Strategy has varied widely since its adoption in 2011. This report briefly discusses the desire for a national food policy and the roles played by the BC provincial government and its regional health authorities. The report then evaluates the actions of 4 municipalities – Burnaby, Richmond, Surrey and Vancouver – and the North Shore communities of the City of North Vancouver, the District of North Vancouver, and the District of West Vancouver in relation to the goals and strategies of the RFSS. *Table 2. Best Practices of Metro Vancouver Municipalities* on pages 22 and 23 provides a scorecard of municipal actions from this report. Details about notable actions on a few of the strategies highlighted in this Executive Summary can be viewed by “clicking” on the *italicized headings* in this section. The Executive Summary is followed by a series of recommended actions for local governments.

*Goal 1: Increase Capacity to Produce Food Close to Home.* The most impressive action in this first goal is in *Strategy 1.4: Invest in a new generation of food producers.* The City of Richmond has provided educational space at their Terra Nova Rural Park for Kwantlen Polytechnic University’s (KPU) Department of Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems. Each graduate is provided with up to half an acre of land for a 3-year period at the city’s Gardens Agricultural Park. The City of Vancouver provides leadership in the strategy to *Strategy 1.5: Expand commercial food production in urban areas* by providing grants to the Vancouver Urban Farm Society and the West End Urban Farming Initiative. There are currently 16 urban farms in Vancouver, and the Vancouver Food Strategy (2013) has set a goal of 35 urban farms by 2020.<sup>1</sup>

*Goal 2: Improve the Financial Viability of the Food Sector.* Burnaby and Vancouver address *Strategy 2.2: Include local foods in the purchasing policies of large public institutions* through their food concessions, restaurants at their municipal golf courses, and other leased restaurants on city park properties. While several municipalities have adopted food charters or embedded food policies within their Official Community Plans (OCPs), the City of Vancouver has developed action plans to address *Strategy 2.5: Review government policies and programs to ensure they enable the expansion of the local food sector.* These include the Greenest City 2020 Action Plan, the Vancouver Park Board Urban Agriculture Policy, the Vancouver Food Strategy (2013), and the Local Food Action Plan (2013).

*Goal 3: People Make Healthy and Sustainable Food Choices.* The City of Vancouver and Vancouver Foundation's joint Greenest City Fund provides grants to a number of community and school-based organizations to address *Strategy 3.3: Enhance food literacy and skills in schools*. The City of Richmond supports the Richmond Schoolyard Society and their programs that are based out of Terra Nova Rural Park. The City of Surrey embraces *Strategy 3.4: Celebrate the taste of local foods and the diversity of cuisines* through a variety of large festivals including Party for the Planet and Fusion Fest. In 2015, the City of Burnaby highlighted its agricultural history with its summer theme of 'Homegrown Harvest' at the Burnaby Village Museum.

*Goal 4: Everyone has Access to Healthy, Culturally Diverse and Affordable Food.* The City of Richmond leads the region in *Strategy 4.1: Improve access to nutritious food among vulnerable groups* through its partnership with The Sharing Farm by supplying the organization with 4 acres of land, facilities, grants, and in-kind services at the Terra Nova Rural Park. In its 13 years, the Sharing Farm has donated over 230,000 pounds of produce to low-income families in Richmond.<sup>2</sup> The City of Vancouver has set aggressive goals in its 2020 Greenest City Action Plan initiative under *Strategy 4.2: Encourage urban agriculture* by providing public lands for community gardens. There are currently 45 gardens on city-owned property including 19 on city parkland.<sup>3</sup> The City of Surrey currently has 6 community gardens on city-owned land and have committed funding for 2 additional gardens per year through their Community Garden Expansion Project in partnership with Can You Dig It. The City of North Vancouver offers periodic grants, access to public land, and staff time to nonprofits to operate 4 community gardens on city-owned parkland including Earthwise Garden Project's social enterprise at Loutet Farm.

*Goal 5: A Food System Consistent with Ecological Health.* Several municipalities in this study have taken measures under *Strategy 5.1 Protect and Enhance Ecosystem Goods and Services* by providing habitat for pollinators. The Vancouver Park Board collaborates with the Environmental Youth Alliance, VanDusen Botanical Garden, and Hives for Humanity to create pollinator projects like the Nectar Trail and the Pollinator Corridor Project. The City of Richmond is creating a linear pollinator pasture/art installation with the Emily Carr University of Art and Design in an Industrial Park. The City of Burnaby and the City of North Vancouver promote native bee conservation by locating bee boxes or condos for native bees in city parks. Metro Vancouver has set aggressive targets to tackle *Strategy 5.2: Reduce waste in the food system*. The City of Richmond partners with the Richmond School District in its Green Ambassadors program where secondary students learn about environmental sustainability and volunteer to promote recycling at community events. Youth-led waste diversion plans at 3 Vancouver Community Centres have resulted in food being rescued from local grocers and set aside for use in meal preparations or for redistribution.

Many of the aforementioned initiatives have been implemented by non-profit organizations with assistance from their respective local governments and other agencies. The findings of the report suggest several key ingredients for successful implementation of food policy actions. These include a strong community of grassroots organizations that tackle food security issues at the neighbourhood level; strong support from cities through staff time, city resources including land, and funding to assist the nonprofit sector; and the presence of municipal politicians that champion the food security cause.

## Recommendations

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These recommendations are based on the successful food security practices of the municipalities reviewed in this document. The recommendations identify some of the initiatives that local governments can undertake to safeguard and improve food security.

Non-profit organizations, agencies, and individual households play an important role in advocating for food policy and encouraging government actions that address the urgent work of building food security. This work is essential so that everyone has enough food to eat – food that is healthy, enjoyable, and safe for us and for the planet.

**A. Farming needs land. To produce enough food to feed our populations, we need to use the agricultural land we have, and we need to put more land into food production. We recommend that local governments**

- A.1 Provide staff resources to identify available city-owned properties and parkland for potential food growing opportunities.
- A.1 Dedicate portions of parkland and other municipally owned land for urban agriculture and provide space to establish community gardens on public land.
- A.4 Provide incentives to put underutilized agricultural land, both within and outside of the ALR, into active farming.
- A.5 Enact bylaws that establish maximum house-sizes for residential buildings in the Agricultural Land Reserve so that i) the land available for farming is not reduced and ii) higher land assessments do not negatively affect land affordability for future farmers.
- A.6 Enact bylaws like Surrey’s 2 for 1 policy regarding exclusion of land from the Agricultural Land Reserve to ensure that total arable land available for farming in municipalities is maintained or increased. Preserve existing farmland outside the ALR boundaries by maintaining the General Agriculture zoning and identify potential land for inclusion in the ALR.

**B. Farming and food gardening require skills, knowledge and resources. We recommend that local governments**

- B.1 Establish relationships with academic institutions to support “incubator farm” programs, so that potential farmers can develop the skills and knowledge needed for farming.
- B.2 Provide municipal staff resources, infrastructure, and operating guidelines to support community gardens.
- B.3 Create bylaws and information resources to support urban farming, including backyard farms, institutional farms, rooftop farms, and farms on private property.



- C. Farmers need to have markets, food needs to be distributed, and some food needs to be processed. We recommend that local governments**
- C.1 Invest in “food hubs,” centres that bring together local food producers, processors, retailers and individual consumers.
  - C.2 Provide funding for food-processing initiatives such as commercial-grade “incubator kitchens” for new businesses and for teaching purposes.
  - C.3 Increase financial and infrastructure support for direct market opportunities through farmers’ markets and community food markets (e.g. market trucks) to provide fresh, nutritious food closer to residents who may experience physical or economic difficulties.
  - C.4 Develop purchasing policies at city and park facilities to support locally grown and processed food.
- D. In order to support local farming, processing and distribution, people need to understand the problems and take part in food security solutions. We recommend that local governments**
- D.1 Provide public education on strategies to support food security including the need to protect the Agricultural Land Reserve and enhance agricultural production.
  - D.2 Invest in nonprofit food security organizations.
  - D.3 Dedicate a portion of Community Amenity Contributions (charged to developers to build) to local food initiatives and offer density bonuses to developers who provide urban farming opportunities.

## Introduction

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With concerns about the sustainability of the region’s food system and its resilience in the face of a sometimes unstable global food supply, cities across the region are reviewing their food policies. In Metro Vancouver there are many food policy groups and other non-profit, grassroots organizations that focus on urban sustainability as it relates to our regional food supply. The local food movement has prompted numerous municipal and regional planning initiatives. After a lengthy consultation process, Metro Vancouver’s board adopted a Regional Food System Strategy (RFSS) on February 25, 2011. Local governments, public health authorities, environmental and community groups, food security organizations, and citizens were involved in the consultation process leading to these strategies. The goals that all members of the region agreed upon are:

- Goal 1. Increase capacity to produce food closer to home
- Goal 2. Improve the financial viability of the food sector
- Goal 3. People make healthy and sustainable food choices
- Goal 4. Everyone has access to healthy, culturally diverse, and affordable food
- Goal 5. A food system consistent with ecological health



This report looks at the actions of the 4 individual municipalities of Burnaby, Richmond, Surrey, and Vancouver as well as the North Shore as they relate to the Regional Food System Strategy. The North Shore collaborates on food policy initiatives through Table Matters and includes the City of North Vancouver, the District of North Vancouver, and the District of West Vancouver. Richmond and Surrey have substantial lands that are protected within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), while the others have more limited access and influence over farmland practices.

Municipal policies and actions are set within the broader context of federal, provincial, and regional governance. The first section of the report discusses the need for a national food policy and the issue of identifying genetically engineered foods in Canada. The following section looks at two areas of responsibility of the BC provincial government including the Ministry of Agriculture, the Agricultural Land Commission, and the role of the regional health authorities in the various food security organizations. Next the lead groups or food networks that provide the impetus for much of the actions in food policy are discussed. The paper provides background information on 5 food security networks and how they have worked with their respective municipalities to develop food policies and turn those policies into action. These networks are: Burnaby Food First, the Richmond Food Security Society, Table Matters from the North Shore, the Surrey/White Rock Food Action Coalition, and the Vancouver Food Policy Council. While there are many other individuals and organizations making valuable contributions towards food security in these locales, their activities often intersect with these food networks. Several examples of these contributions and the significant influence on municipal food policy are highlighted in this report.

The body of the paper is dedicated to the concrete actions that municipalities and their partners have accomplished in supporting the 5 goals of the Regional Food System Strategy. The actions are captured in a scorecard in *Table 2. Best Practices of Metro Vancouver Municipalities*. The details of those actions and the partnerships that produced those actions are detailed in the *Appendix: Food Actions by Municipality*. The conclusion provides examples of best practices that other neighbouring communities may wish to aspire to as they review their own policies and actions.

## A National Food Policy for Canada

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Nonprofit groups, policy institutes, dieticians, farmer's organizations, and industry associations are among the diverse groups that have been calling on the federal government to establish a national food policy. The reasons for this advocacy vary according to the focus of each group. Food Secure Canada (FSC) identifies that a root problem of food insecurity is that "food is treated as a market commodity rather than as a necessity of life."<sup>4</sup> Food Secure Canada's People's Food Policy identifies the loss of farmland, a lack of support for farmers and fishers, the dominance of the global food system by multinational corporations, and the fact that Canada is the only G8 country without a nationally funded school meal program as issues contributing to the epidemic of food insecurity.<sup>5</sup> The National Farmers Union are concerned about investors buying up farmland, massive farm debt, and contracts for seed, chemical, fertilizer, and crop delivery that favour large corporations.<sup>6</sup> The Canadian Federation of Agriculture's (CFA) report, *Towards*

*a National Food Strategy: A Framework for Securing the Future of Food*, promotes strategies for Canadian grown, fresh and processed products; healthy eating patterns; access to safe and nutritious food; diverse, sustainable, innovative and profitable farms; and developing the food value chain in a sustainable way.<sup>7</sup> The CFA promotes the common interests of more than 200,000 farm families across the country through their provincial councils and commodity groups.

Despite Canada's standing as one of the wealthiest developed nations in the world, hunger and malnutrition is prevalent.<sup>8</sup> Food Banks Canada's 2015 Hunger Count observed that 852,137 individuals used food banks in March 2015 across the country, with 100,086 of those in BC.<sup>9</sup> According to Statistics Canada's most recent estimates, about 1.1 million Canadian households, or nearly 4 million individuals, experience food insecurity due to low income levels.<sup>10</sup> Insufficient income support for seniors, inadequate social assistance programs, and low minimum wages for the working poor have created a society where people are often forced to choose between shelter and food. Canada is a signatory of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) that includes the right to food [Article 25 (1)]<sup>11</sup> and the Food and Agriculture Organizations of the United Nations (FAO) Right to Food Guidelines (RtFG) (2004).<sup>12</sup> The RtFG provides specific recommendations on legislation and policy guidelines, access to natural resources, education, markets, safety nets, and human rights institutions. Canada is failing its citizens in addressing their right to food.

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Olivier De Shutter, visited Canada in May of 2012 to gather information and report on Canada's progress on national food security.<sup>13</sup> De Shutter met with representatives of seven federal ministries, Opposition Leader Thomas Mulcair, and Liberal Leader Bob Rae. Although it is customary for UN delegates to have access to cabinet ministers, De Shutter's only meeting occurred at the last minute with Minister of Health, Leona Aglukkaq. The consultation also involved provincial ministers, municipal representatives, farmers' organizations, food security groups, human rights organizations, academics, researchers, community members, and a wide range of First Nations and Inuit representatives. De Shutter found a growing number of food insecure households, an inadequate social safety net, and he was "disconcerted" by the severe food insecurity faced by indigenous people both on and off reserve.<sup>14</sup>

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo expressed his gratitude to De Schutter for engaging with First Nations leaders and communities and for drawing attention to food insecurity in northern communities.<sup>15</sup> While participating groups were grateful for the opportunity to raise the issue of food insecurity in Canada, the federal Conservatives disparaged De Shutter's report. Minister of Health, Leona Aglukkaq called De Shutter's depiction of aboriginal challenges "ill-informed" and "patronizing," while Immigration Minister Jason Kenney stated that "the UN should focus on development in countries where people are starving, and we think it's simply a waste of resources to come to Canada to give them political lecturing."<sup>16</sup> These reactions to academic and scientific evidence were typical of the federal government at that time. The reactions were also contrary to the Conservative's pledge of establishing a national food policy in their 2011 federal election platform.

Four years later, the election of a new federal government in October 2015 has provided a sense of guarded optimism that a framework for a national food policy will finally transpire. Immediately following the federal election and a change in government, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau provided each cabinet minister with mandate letters. The Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Lawrence MacAulay was directed to “develop a food policy that promotes healthy living and safe food by putting more healthy, high-quality food, produced by Canadian ranchers and farmers, on the tables of families across the country.”<sup>17</sup> Minister of Health Jane Philpott was directed to “promote public health by restricting the commercial marketing of unhealthy food and beverages to children, introduce regulations to eliminate trans fats and to reduce salt in processed foods, and improve food labels to give more information on added sugars and artificial dyes in processed foods.”<sup>18</sup> Ministry of International Trade Chrystia Freeland’s mandate includes the promotion of “Canadian agricultural interests during future trade negotiations” and the reduction of impediments to trade within North America.<sup>19</sup>

The fragmentation of food policy is evident in that there are other ministries whose responsibilities also touch on food security including Environment and Climate Change; Indigenous and Northern Affairs; Families, Children and Social Development; and Transport. In a critique of Canada’s domestic food security Rideout et al found that “the separation of food, nutrition, agriculture and trade policies has threatened food security in terms of the sustainability of the food supply, the availability of fresh nutritious foods and the balance of power over the food supply and access to food by vulnerable groups.”<sup>20</sup> Food Secure Canada’s People’s Food Policy calls for an independent, arms-length organization with stable government funding and strong grassroots support.<sup>21</sup> Concrete strategies are needed to implement the right to food including repairing a failed social safety net, addressing inadequate wages, and resolving the practice of relying on food banks as a means of addressing hunger. As the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to food Olivier De Shutter suggested in 2012, addressing the food insecurity of indigenous people should be a top priority for the federal government. In October 2015, the BC Food Systems Network’s Working Group on Indigenous Food Sovereignty (WGIFS) called upon the newly elected government to recognize the assertion of Indigenous jurisdiction, stop further environmental harm by corporate entities, and protect Indigenous hunting, fishing, farming and gathering areas.<sup>22</sup>

## **Food Labelling and Genetic Engineering (GE)**

One area of federal jurisdiction that is often cited as problematic for local food systems is food labelling. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), under the Ministry of Health, establishes food safety rules and standards, oversees food safety inspections, and provides food labelling guidelines.<sup>23</sup> Health Canada is the federal department responsible for “helping Canadians maintain and improve their health, while respecting individual choices and circumstances.”<sup>24</sup> Health Canada requires that product developers follow specific guidelines to get approval to market “novel foods and novel feeds.”<sup>25</sup> Novel foods is the term used by Health Canada to identify genetically modified or genetically engineered foods but also to identify over a hundred other crops grown by farmers using traditional cross breeding of hybrid crops. Rather than using separate terms for GE food, Health Canada chooses to lump them together. The only GE crops currently grown in Canada are canola, corn, soy, and white sugar beets. GE crops imported from

the US include squash, papaya, cottonseed oil used in snacks, and milk products containing Bovine Growth Hormone. It is estimated that 70% of the food that North Americans eat contains GE ingredients because of the predominance of corn, soy and canola in processed foods.<sup>26</sup>

The Canadian Biotechnology Action Network (CBAN) defines genetic engineering (GE) and genetic modification (GM) as the use of “recombinant DNA (rDNA) technology (changing plants or animals at the molecular level by inserting genes or DNA segments from other organisms).”<sup>27</sup> The issues surrounding the safety and long-term effects of GE food (GM is the term used internationally; GE is commonly used in the United States) are often clouded by the definitions and terms that are used. Some of the issues around the use of genetic engineering of food include the lack of independent testing by Health Canada, the fact that consumers’ right to know what is in their food has been denied, the problems of contamination and cross-pollination with other crops, the corporate control of seeds, and the adverse effect on trade to jurisdictions that ban GE products. Large multinational seed and food companies hire their own scientists to establish whether these foods are safe for human or animal consumption. In Canada, labelling of these foods is voluntary, and if consumers want to avoid genetically engineered food, they need to seek out those products on their own. Most developed countries outside of North America, including the European Union, Japan, Australia, Brazil, Russia, and China require labeling of genetically engineered foods.<sup>28</sup> Canadians have a right to know which foods on the grocery shelf contain GE ingredients.

Consumers and farmers’ organizations are concerned about genetically engineered foods. Cross contamination of crops would result in a loss of organic farm certification. There are 11.6 million hectares of GE crops growing in Canada.<sup>29</sup> Canada does not track these statistics or the location of GE crops that are cultivated, allowing the industry to self-regulate. The Certified Organic Associations of BC (COABC) and the BC Fruit Growers Association have strongly opposed the introduction of the Arctic Apple, a genetically engineered apple that has been altered to not turn brown after slicing. The proponents, Okanagan Specialty Fruits, claim that the new fruit is an “apple to apple” transformation yet the Arctic Apple DNA is inserted along with genetic sequences from at least three different species.<sup>30</sup> Despite widespread protests by conventional and organic growers and consumers the CFIA approved the growing and selling of the Arctic Apple in March 2015.<sup>31</sup> Another crop that is a threat to organic farming is GE Alfalfa. Alfalfa is a high-protein source of feed for livestock that also returns nutrients and organic matter to the soil.<sup>32</sup> Farmers have so far successfully resisted the introduction of Monsanto’s GE Alfalfa. The federal government needs to address the impact GE foods have on sustainable agriculture.

## Provincial Food Policy

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Much like the federal governance over a variety of food policies, the province has several ministries whose mandates touch on the food system. The Ministry of Agriculture focuses on food production, marketing, research, and the collection and distribution of statistics. The Ministry of Health plays a prominent role in the areas of food safety, and the education and promotion of healthy eating. The Ministry of Environment oversees the Water Sustainability Act which regulates the use of ground water for irrigation and monitors

water flows to ensure the health of migrating fish stock. The Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) is an independent quasi-judicial tribunal established under the Agricultural Land Commission Act. The purpose of the act is to preserve agricultural land; encourage farming; encourage local governments and First Nations to enable and accommodate farm use of agricultural land; and ensure their plans, bylaws and policies are compatible with agriculture.<sup>33</sup>

## Ministry of Agriculture

The Ministry of Agriculture works with BC's agrifoods industry to improve the sustainability and security of BC's food supply.<sup>34</sup> The Ministry runs a variety of programs including AgriServiceBC where farmers are connected to information on marketing, managing staff, and effective resource management. The Canada-BC Agri-Innovation Program provides innovation funding; the Buy Local Program helps promote local foods; the Environmental Farm Plan supports farm operations in completing agri-environmental risk assessments; and Business Risk Management programs provide insurance against weather-related losses.<sup>35</sup>

Despite the importance of the agricultural sector to the provincial economy, the Ministry of Agriculture and the ALC have seen their resources cut over the past 15 years. Between 2001/2002 and 2004/2005 the budget was slashed from \$81 million to \$45 million.<sup>36</sup> At \$80.3 million in 2015, the support for agriculture has yet to return to 2001 levels while the population has increased 15% and the Consumer Price Index has risen by 20%.<sup>37</sup> In a critique of the 2015/2016 BC budget, the BC Government Employees Union stated that B.C. invests "significantly less in agriculture as a percent of GDP than most other provinces."<sup>38</sup> The budget cuts have resulted in fewer trained staff in the field and a loss of agricultural knowledge through employee attrition. In the face of these constraints, ministry staff continue to do important work including providing advice on Agriculture Advisory Committees, producing publications, and assisting local governments in the Strengthening Farming Program through the expertise of trained agrologists.<sup>39</sup>

The BC Ministry of Agriculture, in partnership with regional and local governments, undertook land use inventories throughout Metro Vancouver in 2010 and 2011. The survey identified land that is actively farmed, parcels that are unavailable for farming, and those that have the potential for agricultural use.<sup>40</sup> Richmond and Surrey, along with Delta, Langley, and Pitt Meadows account for 90% of the Agricultural Land Reserve and the majority of agricultural activity in Metro Vancouver.<sup>41</sup> Richmond has 8% and Surrey 14% of the ALR in Metro Vancouver. The North Shore has no land in the reserve and Burnaby and Vancouver have less than 1% each.

The surveys went beyond the ALR to examine farm uses on lands designated as rural in Metro Vancouver's Regional Growth Strategy. *Table 1. Metro Vancouver Agricultural Land Use Inventory* on the following page provides a compilation of the data from those surveys and includes land that is currently being farmed in rural areas outside the ALR boundary. The row **Available for Farming** illustrates the potential for increasing the amount of food that can be produced locally, and how some of the protected land has been lost to non-farm uses despite its protected status. The survey data on golf courses is segregated to

show the amount of land that has been lost in these municipalities to this specific non-farm use. Burnaby has one 54 hectare golf course that covers approximately 25% of its ALR, while Vancouver golf courses cover 150 hectares or half of their ALR. In 1988 the provincial government allowed golf courses as an outright use in the ALR, thus opening the floodgates on proposals. By the time there was a change of government in October 1991, there were 181 golf course proposals, covering 8,400 hectares of ALR land, many with residential components and resort hotels.<sup>42</sup> Eventually 89 proposals were allowed, subject to compliance with local government bylaws and conditions set by the Commission. The remaining proposals were disallowed, and golf courses were removed as outright uses in the ALR. The ALR has seen renewed development pressures with recent changes to the ALC Act in May, 2014 and the subsequent firing of the ALC Chair in May of 2015.

**Table 1. Metro Vancouver Agricultural Land Use Inventory**

	Burnaby	North Shore	Richmond	Surrey	Vancouver
Land in ALR (hectares)	234		5,176	9,290	297
Actively Farmed or Supporting Farming	103		2,797	4,827	31
Inactively Farmed (unmaintained crops, forage etc.)			60	1	
Not Farmed (Golf courses)	54		281	503	150
Not Farmed (residential, managed vegetation, transportation etc.)	23		751	919	55
Natural & semi-natural	42		927	2362	21
Not Surveyed (Rights of Way and foreshores)	11		420	620	39
Available for Farming	40		908	2,465	13
Farmed Agricultural land not in the ALR	15		15	430	

Burnaby and Vancouver data retrieved from Ministry of Agriculture Richmond Land Use Inventory (Feb. 14, 2014) Richmond data from the Ministry of Agriculture North Metro Land Use Inventory (March 22, 2013)  
Surrey data retrieved from Ministry of Agriculture Surrey Land Use Inventory (Sept. 6, 2013)

Concerns over foreign ownership of agricultural land is another area of concern. This issue prompted the BC Agriculture Council to call on the Minister of Agriculture to consider changes to the Agricultural Land Commission Act to address this issue.<sup>43</sup> While most farms in BC are family-owned the purchase of large tracts of agricultural land is an issue. Ranchers looking to purchase rangeland for cattle or to grow forage crops are being outbid by multinational companies that plant trees for carbon credits.<sup>44</sup> According to the ALC Act growing trees is an allowable use of farmland. The province must address this loophole in the legislation to prevent the conversion of prime farmland into forests especially when there are large tracks of cleared forests outside of the ALR that require reforestation.

## Provincial Agricultural Land Commission

Prior to the 1970's, nearly 6,000 hectares of prime agricultural land were lost each year in British Columbia to urban development and other non-farm uses.<sup>45</sup> In an effort to reverse this trend, the newly elected NDP government established the Agricultural Land Reserve on April 18, 1973. Through a collaborative process with regional and local governments, boundaries were established between 1974 and 1976.<sup>46</sup> Despite the legislation, 6,572 hectares of ALR land have been excluded in Metro Vancouver between 1974 and 2010.<sup>47</sup> In his November 2010 review of the ALC, former Commission Chair Richard Bullock commented on the effectiveness of the commission's role in protecting agricultural land: "The application process, whether it be for exclusion, subdivision or non-farm use, is a "built-in" mechanism in the Act that perpetuates speculation and fuels pressure for land use change. Since the inception of the Act the ALC has considered almost 40,000 applications."<sup>48</sup> The net effect of this speculation has been that farmland is less affordable, and margins for farmers and processors that use local produce have been squeezed. After a period of relative quiet, the ALR is again under threat.

In November 2013 the provincial government signaled that changes to the ALC Act were coming when then Minister of Agriculture Pat Pimm proposed that cabinet restrict the powers of the ALC, bring the agency under his direct control, and split the province into two zones.<sup>49</sup> This was perceived by many as a means of facilitating oil and gas development in Northern BC where resource companies were in conflict with farmers and ranchers. Prior to being elected to the legislature in 2009 Pimm had spent 25 years working in the oil and gas industry. In May 2013, prior to his appointment as Minister of Agriculture, Pimm had been in conflict with Richard Bullock, the ALC Chair, over a non-farm use issue when Pimm intervened to support a constituent's use of farmland to build a rodeo and campground in the ALR. The ALC criticized MLA Pimm and the mayor of Fort St. John for lobbying on behalf of a constituent who built the rodeo facility on his land: "In our respectful view, those representations were not appropriate. They could create the impression for both the Commission and the public that these officials were attempting to politically influence the Commission."<sup>50</sup> The changes to the ALC Act proposed by Pimm in November were introduced in the legislature on March 27, 2014 by the Minister of Energy and Mines Bill Bennett. This created a significant backlash throughout the province.

A group of experts including academics from 4 BC universities condemned the changes in *The Vancouver Sun* opinion piece directed at Premier Christy Clark.<sup>51</sup> A coalition of 60 organizations formed the Farmland Protection Coalition to protest the changes contained in Bill 24.<sup>52</sup> Pimm was subsequently replaced as Minister of Agriculture by Norm Letnick on April 11, 2014. Letnick immediately promised to open a consultation process on the legislation. Without offering clarification on how future ALR exclusions and non-farm issues would be dealt with, Bill 24 was passed into law on May 29<sup>th</sup>. The legislation split the province into two zones. For Zone 1, current restrictions on development would remain in the South Coast, the Okanagan, and Island regions. Zone 2, in the BC interior and northern region, would see significant changes in how decisions are made in removing lands from the ALR. Rushed consultations over a nine day period in the middle of summer and a biased on-line survey failed to persuade British Columbians that change was necessary. Voicing the opinion of several noted agrologists in *The Vancouver Sun*, Wendy



Holm stated “these regulatory changes, if enacted, would gravely compromise the ability of the Agricultural Land Commission to protect the public interest in BC’s ALR, arguably one of the finest systems of farmland protection in North America.”<sup>53</sup>

As details of the ALC Act changes emerged the friction between ALC Chair Richard Bullock and the provincial government became more apparent. Bullock was fired on May 15, 2015 with half a year left in his 5-year term. After being fired over the phone, Bullock provided the following comment to CBC News regarding the governments consultation process, “I don't think they expected to hear what they heard, which was, 'keep the ALC in place, make sure it has the tools to do the job, and basically leave it alone.” Bullock’s firing stirred up public sentiment against the provincial government.<sup>54</sup> West Coast Environmental Law’s Anna Johnston sent a letter to Premier Clark requesting clarification on whether Bullock was fired without cause and asked that he be reinstated for the remaining six months if that were the case.<sup>55</sup> Significant changes to the ALC Act followed a month after Bullock’s firing including allowing owners of 50 hectares of land in Zone 2 to build a second single family dwelling for family or rental income purposes (as long as the total area for residential purposes is less than 43,000 square feet).<sup>56</sup>

A 2014 Real Estate Foundation of BC (REFBC) commissioned poll indicated 95% of respondents support the ALR and the policy of preserving farmland.<sup>57</sup> Despite this public support the province has moved forward on another contentious project, the Site C dam in the Peace River Valley. The construction of the dam requires the flooding of thousands of hectares of farmland including “protected” ALR land. Ignoring its own Joint Review Panel, and bypassing the step of submitting the project to the BC Utilities Commission for scrutiny, the province forged ahead with the largest exclusion in the ALR’s 43-year history. On April 8, 2015, through an Order in Council, the province removed approximately 4,000 hectares of ALR land in the Peace River Valley so it could be cleared and flooded for an 83 kilometre long reservoir. Despite several court cases pending against the government action, logging and road construction is taking place. There are three court cases underway in which First Nations, farmers, citizens, and environmental groups oppose the federal and provincial approvals of Site C. The Union of BC Indian Chiefs Grand Chief Stewart Phillip has called on the federal government to stop Site C.<sup>58</sup> This issue is seen as a litmus test of the newly elected federal government’s resolve to consult and accommodate First Nations people in the decision making process.

## **Ministry of Health: The Role of BC Health Authorities**

The municipalities in this study are located within 2 different health regions. Burnaby and Surrey are part of the Fraser Health Authority region while the North Shore, Richmond, and Vancouver are part of the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority. BC has 5 regional health authorities and the province-wide Provincial Health Services Authority and First Nations Health Authority. While these health authorities primarily deal with delivery of health care, BC’s Ministry of Health identifies health improvement as a core program in *BC’s Guiding Framework for Public Health*.<sup>59</sup> The framework identifies its first goal is to increase healthy living and healthy communities. It provides a baseline measurement in 2009/2010 of 44% of BC residents ages 12 and up eating 5 fruits and vegetables per day and sets a target to increase this to 55% by 2023.

The Ministry of Health's framework calls for collaboration with local governments in creating community-based programs that encourage healthy choices. The individual health authorities take an active role in these collaborations.

In 2005, the Ministry of Health adopted food security as one of its 21 core programs for public health. Community food security became an integral function for regional health authorities and a strategy of ActNow BC (2006) in support of its healthy eating target for the province.<sup>60</sup> The Provincial Health Services Authority's Population and Public Health Program works with a variety of partners to improve food security in BC. The PHSA's Community Food Action Initiative (CFAI), in partnership with the Union of BC Municipalities and BC Healthy Communities, published a resource guide for municipal governments to promote food secure communities. *A Seat at The Table: A resource guide for local governments to promote food secure communities* (2008) looked at ways that local governments could strengthen their local food systems by supporting community gardens, farmers' markets, and strategies to support local food production in community planning decisions. The guide also examined ways and provided examples of how local governments can provide access to healthy foods at concessions and vending machines in public places.<sup>61</sup>

The Vancouver Coastal Health Authority (VCHA) administered the Community Food Action Initiative funding to its 8 communities in the VCH region. Each community completed an environmental scan, a food system assessment and gap analysis and a 3-year action plan.<sup>62</sup> The VCHA serves approximately 1 million residents of Vancouver, Richmond, the North Shore and Coast Garibaldi, Sea-to-Sky, Sunshine Coast, Powell River, Bella Bella, and Bella Coola.<sup>63</sup> The VCHA is an active partner in the North Shore's Table Matters and has a history of participation and funding projects in Richmond and Vancouver. The Healthy Food Retail Study is a Richmond Food Security Society project that is funded by the Vancouver Foundation and Vancouver Coastal Health to assess the availability of healthy foods in retail stores across Richmond.<sup>64</sup> The Vancouver Coastal Health Authority's Sharon Martin Community Health Fund (SMART Fund) provides funding for a variety of food security programs throughout the VCHA region.

Burnaby and Surrey are part of the Fraser Health Authority (FHA) that extends from Burnaby roughly 200 kilometers east to Boston Bar. The Fraser Health Authority serves approximately 1.6 million people. The FHA has developed Free and Low-cost food directories for 15 municipalities or sub-regions in its area including Burnaby and Surrey.<sup>65</sup> FHA staff has been involved with the food networks in Burnaby and Surrey for many years. Surrey/White Rock Food Action Coalition received CFAI funding in 2005 that enabled Fraser Health to pilot and evaluate Developing Organizational Food Policy. In 2006, the coalition developed a food policy toolkit to help organizations implement food policies in their workplace.<sup>66</sup> A Fraser Health staff member attends monthly Burnaby Food First Steering Committee meetings and contributes to a number of the organization's Action Teams.

## Food Security Networks

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There are many organizations and individuals that are tackling food insecurity through food rescue, providing access to urban agriculture, offering educational opportunities, or by advocating for access to nutritious, sustainable food products. This section focuses on the organizations that act as networks for collaboration, advocacy, and action. The participation of city staff in these organizations can also provide for more direct access to municipal decision makers.

### **Burnaby Food First**

Burnaby Food First (BFF) is a non-registered, non-profit community group concerned with food security. Burnaby Food First was started in 1997 by members of the Eastburn Interagency Council. They wanted to make healthy food more available to people with low incomes. Burnaby Food First (BFF) held its first fundraising event in 1999. The money that was raised went to food programs for low-income families. BFF held a public “Food Forum” in 2010 to broaden the organization’s reach. Today, Burnaby Food First works on a wide range of food issues to help bring food security to Burnaby.

Current membership of Burnaby Food First includes residents, the public sector, and community organizations such as Burnaby Neighbourhood House, Burnaby Meals on Wheels, MOSAIC, Literacy Now Burnaby, the City of Burnaby, Burnaby Public Library, and Fraser Health. BFF welcomes all Burnaby residents, but their target audience is low-income families and individuals, including newcomers to Canada. Literacy Now Burnaby supports editing for clear language to make activities inclusive of people with low levels of literacy and/or English as an additional language. BFF hosts workshops on growing produce and herbs, cooking healthy meals, and preserving local products. Their goal is to increase accessibility of sustainably produced food to as wide an income range as possible. Recent initiatives include the Sharing Backyards program that matches homeowners with available land with people who are looking for a place to grow their own food. BFF has recently started a community garden mentoring project that connects elders with food-growing experience with secondary students from local high schools. Burnaby Food First is also involved in advocacy work in providing food policy advice to the various orders of government. Recent examples include sending letters to the provincial government regarding changes to the ALC Act and the firing of the ALC Chair.

Burnaby Food First (BFF) is identified by the City of Burnaby in their Social Sustainability Strategy as the logical choice to lead the conversation on the city’s food system strategy. BFF has included 3 components in their recently adopted 3-year Strategic Plan. The first component is “Education and Building Awareness” of BFF by increasing their members’ understanding of food security, increasing engagement with the broader community with a particular focus on youth, and developing a clear public message about the organization and what food security means. The second strategy focuses on “Advocacy.” This includes plans for a spring 2016 forum on food security in Burnaby to develop an action plan for Burnaby. The third strategy is “Collaboration.” BFF will strengthen community networks by building links with other agencies, organizations, and food security networks in the region.

Burnaby Food first does not receive government funding. They do have a dedicated City of Burnaby staff member who sits on the Steering Committee and several of the Action Teams. The Burnaby Public Library also supports the work of the organization by providing staff support and meeting space for monthly meetings and workshops. A Fraser Health Authority staff representative is a member of the Steering Committee and provides assistance on some of the Action Teams. The backbone of the organization is its individual volunteers and their collaboration with the community organizations. The funding BFF receives is project based and is held by partners with charitable status. Some of the current main funders include the United Way of the Lower Mainland and Vancity Credit Union. BFF is currently collaborating with the city and UBC Land and Food Systems students on providing additional layers to a food mapping project.

## **Table Matters - North Shore**

Table Matters (TM) is a food security network on the North Shore of the Burrard Inlet. Table Matters is a diverse group of citizens, community organizations, businesses, schools, and local governments. Three main municipalities — the City of North Vancouver, the District of North Vancouver and the District of West Vancouver — are regular participants and are part of this study. The other 2 local governments are the Village of Lions Bay and Bowen Island Municipality. Table Matters has played a large role in food policy advocacy on the North Shore. Starting in 2010 Table Matters initiated a research project with the District of North Vancouver (DNV) to assess the public's interest in local food security and community gardens. Subsequent delegations to DNV Council members provided the impetus for enhanced food policies in their Official Community Plan and the development of a North Shore Community Food Charter with the other North Shore municipalities.<sup>67</sup> The City of North Vancouver, the District of North Vancouver, and the District of West Vancouver all adopted the food charter in 2014.

Vancouver Coastal Health plays a key role in the organization of monthly meetings of the Table Matters Network and in supporting community food project groups and action groups. Table Matters organizes an annual forum each fall to discuss food security issues and urban agriculture on the North Shore. The forum attracts participants from government, community agencies, non-profit organizations, businesses, and individuals. Table Matters provides a searchable North Shore Food Resource listing on its web site, links to its community organizations' sites, a highlight of funded projects, and links to funding sources. A current TM project to prevent food waste is the North Shore Foodprint Challenge. During a 5-day period in April, community members weighed and reported their preventable food waste. The program offers meal planning, shopping, food storage and leftover ideas designed to reduce food waste.<sup>68</sup> Another program that focuses on reducing food waste is the Scaling-up Food Rescue Project. Table Matters is offering conferences and workshops that connect food retailers with food recovery and community service groups.

One of the key organizations in the Table Matters network that receives municipal funding is the Edible Garden Project (EGP) of the North Shore Neighbourhood House. The EGP utilizes front-yards, parks, boulevards, rooftops, and schoolyards in the North Shore area to grow fresh produce. Their Sharing Gardens program includes picking up unsold produce at the farmers' markets, supporting garden plots in

social housing, and inspiring folks to grow an extra row to share from their own veggie patch. At Loutet Farm on City of North Vancouver parkland, EGP operates a social enterprise farm where they have farm-gate sales twice a week and host community events and their annual Farm to Feast fundraising dinner. EGP offers many educational programs including its Strong Roots educational workshops and the GardenSmart Workshop Series.<sup>69</sup>

### **Richmond Food Security Society**

The Richmond Food Security Society is a not-for-profit community organization involved in advocacy, community garden management, educational workshops, and food-related special events. The Richmond Food Security Society had its origins in the Food Security Task Force, which was established in 2002 by the Richmond Poverty Response Committee. Vancouver Coastal Health provided \$35,000 per year funding for the Task Force from 2008 to 2010, and the present day Richmond Food Security Society was incorporated in 2009.<sup>70</sup>

The Richmond Food Security Society currently manages 9 community gardens that are located on city-owned land. This form of governance provides consistent rules across all of the gardens and allows new entrants the opportunity to be waitlisted for their first 2 location choices. There is currently a 1 to 2 year waiting list. The society also offers workshops on gardening, composting and cooking classes, and they provide assistance to school gardens and educational programs. They also organize special events such as Seedy Saturday and World Food Day.<sup>71</sup> The society is noted for their strong advocacy work in influencing municipal policies on pesticide use and genetically modified food. Richmond was the first municipality in Metro Vancouver to adopt a GE Free resolution. In May of 2012, the City of Richmond agreed to oppose the cultivation of genetically engineered (GE) plants and trees with the exception of 3 dairy farms that were already growing GE corn. The resolution also called for Richmond council to send letters to senior levels of government requesting mandatory labelling of products containing GE foods.<sup>72</sup>

Other projects that the Richmond Food Security Society has initiated include the Richmond Foodland Asset Report (2013) that identified available food growing land, the Richmond Community Seed Library, the Healthy Food Retail Study, Richmond Fruit Recovery Project, Good Food Access Program, Richmond Incubator Farm Program, Stir it Up Youth Kitchen, Intercultural Food Security Program, and Food For Thought Book Club. The strength of the society lies in its collaborative approach and strong partnerships with a wide range of groups. With their office and meeting space in the same location as the Richmond Farm School and The Sharing Farm Society, the collaborative process is consistent and ongoing. The City of Richmond has provided land, buildings, and staff resources in assisting the work of Richmond Food Security Society.

### **Surrey/White Rock Food Action Coalition**

The Surrey/White Rock Food Action Coalition (SWRFAC) does advocacy work with municipal governments and the school district on food policy, and both the City of Surrey and the Surrey School District have regular representation on the committee. The coalition currently has a fairly even mix of individual citizens

and non-profit organizations including Sources Community Resources Society, Alexandra Neighbourhood House, Can You Dig It, and the Surrey Food Bank. Other partners include Fraser Health and the Kwantlen Student Association. SWRFAC works with a variety of local agencies and city staff to locate potential community garden locations and other urban agriculture opportunities. SWRFAC's current focus is on building organizational capacity, supporting the establishment of community gardens, and offering food preservation workshops. SWRFAC is currently working in collaboration with the City of Surrey, Surrey School District, Fraser Health, local food banks, and other non-profit groups in instituting solutions to food insecurity in 2 Surrey communities with high child poverty rates. The initiative receives support from the PlanH program. PlanH is a partnership between BC Healthy Communities Society and Healthy Families BC that supports local government engagement and partnerships across multiple sectors with a goal of creating healthier communities.<sup>73</sup>

SWRFAC started as a partnership of agencies that coalesced behind the Moving Food Policy Forward in Surrey and White Rock project. Agency partners included the Directorate of Agencies for School Health, Fraser Health, Canadian Cancer Society, Kwantlen University College, Peace Arch Community Services Food Bank, and Food for Kidz.<sup>74</sup> The foundation for the coalition started in 2001 when the Food for Kidz project led the Community Child Hunger Assessment involving over 400 people in Surrey and Langley affected by hunger or living on low income. In 2003 Food for Kidz (Fraser Health) partnered with the Surrey Food Bank and Surrey Social Futures to create a database of low and no-cost food sources and food action projects in Surrey and White Rock. These projects were supported by the United Way and by Fraser Health, as well as numerous other community partners. Between 2005 and 2006 an environmental scan of food policies at 25 organizations in Surrey and White Rock was completed. Surveys highlighted several key recommendations for advancing food policy and a community forum ensued. The surveys and forum created the foundation for a food policy toolkit including a toolkit that focused on newcomers and immigrants with versions translated into other languages.

By 2010 the SWRFAC had lost its primary source of support from the United Way of the Lower Mainland (UWLM) and was inactive for 3 years. It restarted in 2013 and received fresh funding from the UWLM for its Food for All program. The initiative supports the Cooking for Kids program, the development of 2 inter-generational community gardens, addressing acute food needs, and capacity building. SWRFAC, and its host funder Sources, is launching a mobile food bank with a food truck that can also be operated as a mobile community kitchen for use in targeted areas of Surrey. They also contributes resources to a food asset mapping project with city staff and Fraser Health. The SWRFAC is addressing municipal engagement strategies and the policies required to address the underlying causes of food insecurity.

## **Vancouver Food Policy Council**

The Vancouver Food Policy Council (VFPC) is an appointed advisory group to Vancouver City Council. There are 21 voting members appointed for 2-year terms; 3 each from the food system categories of production, processing and distribution, retail, access and consumption, and waste management, as well as 6 members at large.<sup>75</sup> There are also elected officials from city council, the Vancouver Park Board, and the

Vancouver School Board, and 2 social planners from the city. The VFPC works on food policy initiatives and provides ideas and policy recommendations to council.<sup>76</sup> Regular monthly meetings are hosted at City Hall with occasional meetings at other venues around the city. The meetings usually include guest speakers or panel discussions after the council's business is complete.

Prior to the establishment of the Vancouver Food Policy Council there was already an important tradition of food policy advocacy in Vancouver. Food policy advocacy in the city dates back to at least the early 1990's with the Vancouver Food Policy Coalition. The coalition had been hosting workshops, conferences and producing policy documents since 1994 and the city's Chief Medical Officer made 2 presentations to council in 1995 to raise awareness of the conversations about creating a Vancouver Food Policy.<sup>77</sup> In December 2002 the Vancouver Food Policy Organization hosted a public meeting at UBC School of Social Work and invited Wayne Roberts from the Toronto Food Policy Council to discuss the possibility of creating a Food Policy Council.<sup>78</sup> The establishment of the Vancouver Food Policy Council in 2004 was the culmination of a decade of food policy advocacy by a number of organizations including FarmFolk/CityFolk, City Farmer, Your Farmers' Market Society, the Greater Vancouver Food Bank, the Network of East Vancouver Community Organizations, and the British Columbia Dieticians and Nutritionists Association.<sup>79</sup>

The Vancouver Food Policy Council has formalized the relationship between various food systems organizations and the City of Vancouver. This relationship has led to a number of municipal policies that have strong food-related strategies and action plans. These include the Vancouver Food Charter (2007), Greenest City Action Plan (2011), Vancouver Food Strategy (2013), and the Healthy City Strategy (2014). Two things set the VFPC apart from other food networks in the region: the dedication of staff resources to the council and their work, and the 4-year, \$1 million investment by the city in the Greenest City 2020 Action Plan. Moving forward the VFPC is looking to build diversity within its membership including representation from neighbourhood food networks, advance urban farming policy and resiliency, and advance support for school-based food programs.<sup>80</sup>

## Municipal Food Policy Action Plans

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In 2008 a comprehensive research study was conducted to gauge the perceptions of the role of municipal government in addressing health inequities. A survey was sent to 637 senior-level employees and elected officials from 17 Metro Vancouver municipalities with populations of 10,000 or more. The researchers found that respondents perceived municipal governments as bearing little responsibility for addressing health inequities.<sup>81</sup> When ranking policies, plans, or programs that could affect health inequities, only 6 of 345 chose food security programs. Despite the apparent lack of focus on food security issues at the senior management and political levels, municipal staff and regional planners have championed the food systems' agenda. Metro Vancouver municipalities have collaborated on a Regional Food System Strategy that examined ways of creating a more resilient and sustainable food system.<sup>82</sup> This 2011 document provides 5 goals that highlight current actions and suggests proposed actions and performance



measurements. The regional government adds another layer of protection for the Agricultural Land Reserve designation, as changes require a 2/3 weighted vote of the Metro Vancouver directors.<sup>83</sup>

**Table 2. Best Practices of Metro Vancouver Municipalities**

Table 2 on the following pages illustrates the policy areas where municipal action plans support the key strategies outlined in Metro Vancouver's Regional Food System Strategy. The table was compiled on the basis of the input of staff members from the various municipalities and a search of documents produced by the cities in this study. These include municipal policy documents, meeting minutes, and reports that are available on their websites. Other sources include public health authority publications, nonprofit organizations' websites and publications, and provincial government resources. The background information for the table is detailed in the *Appendix: Food Actions by Municipality* with some of the most progressive food policy actions highlighted in the chapter immediately following this table. The municipalities' scores are based on the 5 goals and 21 strategies of the Regional Food System Strategy.

☆ Strong support/action    ✓ Actions, but could be stronger    □ Little or no action

Metro Vancouver Regional Food System Strategy	Burnaby	North Shore	Richmond	Surrey	Vancouver
<b>Goal 1: Increase Capacity to Produce Food Close to Home</b>					
<b>Strategy 1.1</b> Protect agricultural land for food production	✓		✓	✓	
<b>Strategy 1.2</b> Restore fish habitat and protect sustainable sources of seafood	☆			☆	✓
<b>Strategy 1.3</b> Enable expansion of agricultural production			☆	✓	
<b>Strategy 1.4</b> Invest in a new generation of food producers			☆	✓	
<b>Strategy 1.5</b> Expand commercial food production in urban areas		✓			☆
<b>Goal 2: Improve the Financial Viability of the Food Sector</b>					
<b>Strategy 2.1</b> Increase the capacity to process, warehouse and distribute local foods			✓		✓
<b>Strategy 2.2</b> Include local foods in the purchasing policies of large public institutions	✓				✓
<b>Strategy 2.3</b> Increase direct marketing opportunities for local foods	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

<b>Metro Vancouver Regional Food System Strategy</b>	<b>Burnaby</b>	<b>North Shore</b>	<b>Richmond</b>	<b>Surrey</b>	<b>Vancouver</b>
<b>Strategy 2.4</b> Further develop value chains within the food sector					
<b>Strategy 2.5</b> Review government policies and programs to ensure they enable the expansion of the local food sector	✓	✓	✓	✓	☆
<b>Goal 3: People Make Healthy and Sustainable Food Choices</b>					
<b>Strategy 3.1</b> Enable residents to make healthy food choices	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Strategy 3.2</b> Communicate how food choices support sustainability					
<b>Strategy 3.3</b> Enhance food literacy and skills in schools	✓		☆		☆
<b>Strategy 3.4</b> Celebrate the taste of local foods and the diversity of cuisines	✓		✓	☆	✓
<b>Goal 4: Everyone has Access to Healthy, Culturally Diverse and Affordable Food</b>					
<b>Strategy 4.1</b> Improve access to nutritious food among vulnerable groups	✓	✓	☆	✓	✓
<b>Strategy 4.2</b> Encourage urban agriculture	✓	✓	☆	✓	☆
<b>Strategy 4.3</b> Enable non-profit organizations to recover nutritious food	✓	✓			✓
<b>Goal 5: A Food System Consistent with Ecological Health</b>					
<b>Strategy 5.1</b> Protect and Enhance Ecosystem Goods and Services	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Strategy 5.2</b> Reduce waste in the food system			✓		✓
<b>Strategy 5.3</b> Facilitate adoption of environmentally sustainable practices	✓	✓	✓	✓	
<b>Strategy 5.4</b> Prepare for the impacts of climate change	✓		✓	✓	✓

## **Goal 1: Increase Capacity to Produce Food Close to Home**

Municipalities in Metro Vancouver recognize the growing demand for local food and the Regional Food System Strategy discusses the abundance of cheap, unhealthy foods and their effect on vulnerable groups. When comparing BC's current production to Canada's Food Guide to Healthy Eating, the province's food self-reliance is 34%.<sup>84</sup> As the population increases, so will the need to grow more fruits and vegetables.

Richmond and Surrey, along with Delta, Langley, and Pitt Meadows account for 90% of the Agricultural Land Reserve and the majority of agricultural activity in Metro Vancouver.<sup>85</sup> Richmond has 8% and Surrey 14% of the ALR in Metro Vancouver. The North Shore has no land in the reserve, and Burnaby and Vancouver have less than 1% each.

### ***Strategy 1.1: Protect agricultural land for food***

Renewed development pressures and weakened provincial protections of the ALR require renewed commitment from municipal governments to fill that legislative void. **Surrey** has been lauded for their policy that requires 2 hectares of land to be put into the reserve for every hectare that is removed. **Burnaby, Richmond, and Surrey** all have soil deposition and removal bylaws that strengthen the ALC legislation. Richmond's Soil Watch program includes signage and directs the public to contact the city if they witness illegal dumping. A lack of bylaws restricting residential building size has made it possible for "estate homes" to be built in the ALR, which has driven up the cost of agricultural land throughout Metro Vancouver. **Surrey** adopted a farm residential footprint or "Farm Home Plate" bylaw in November 2012 that provides guidelines for siting, setbacks, maximum footprint and soil deposition. While falling short of house-size limits that exist in Pitt Meadows and Delta, Surrey has taken a first step in protecting their farmable land base.

### ***Strategy 1.2: Restore fish habitat and protect sustainable sources of seafood***

The Metro Vancouver region has a rich history of harvesting fish and other seafood from the Fraser River, streams, and shoreline throughout the region. First Nations rely on the abundant harvest from the sea and the Regional Food System Strategy recognizes this important source of protein in the local food system. Municipalities provide guidance on protecting habitat through bylaws and development-permit guidelines. Several local governments provide grants to nonprofit groups that work on habitat restoration projects.

In addition to its Streamside Protection and Enhancement Area Bylaw, the **City of Burnaby** provides in-kind support to environmental stewardship groups that help protect and restore waterways and watersheds throughout the city. Burnaby contributes \$12,500 annually to World Rivers Day celebrations and supports the Great Salmon Send-off event where salmon chum are released into Stoney Creek. Burnaby has made significant improvements to fish habitat with new and restored waterways, expanded wetlands, streamside plantings and culvert improvement to facilitate fish migration. The Brentwood Town Centre mixed-use development included the conversion of 5 acres of asphalt to create wetlands and meadow habitat to enhance Still Creek.<sup>86</sup>

Much of **Surrey**'s farmland is the floodplain of the Nicomekl and Semiahmoo Rivers. The city is developing Riparian Area Development Permit Guidelines to encourage farmers to establish and protect riparian buffers on their land. The Nicomekl, Semiahmoo, and Little Campbell Rivers are important parts of the inland salmon fisheries habitat and contain several fish hatcheries. The city provides annual funding of \$350,000—\$400,000 to the SHaRP initiative (Salmon Habitat Restoration Program). The program identifies and protects sensitive fisheries' habitat in wetlands and riparian areas. Surrey also features and showcases Salmon Stewardship Groups for focused fundraising initiatives.

The **City of Vancouver** works with Metro Vancouver and Evergreen to restore the health of Still Creek. Evergreen engages community volunteers in its Uncover Your Creeks program that includes the Renfrew Ravine area of Still Creek. Through its Generation Green Grants, the city and Vancouver Foundation provided \$10,000 in 2012 to the Still Creek Stewardship – Still Moon Arts Society. The program funded a mentorship project to teach habitat restoration skills to Windermere Secondary students in the Renfrew Ravine.<sup>87</sup> Still Creek is one of the few remaining visible streams in urban Vancouver and is a part of the Brunette River system, which flows into the Fraser River. The project to naturalize Still Creek includes daylighting (uncovering previously buried sections of the creek), removing concrete, and naturalizing creek banks with native plants. In 2012 Chum salmon returned to the creek for the first time in 80 years.

### ***Strategy 1.3: Enable expansion of agricultural production***

The **City of Burnaby**, the **City of North Vancouver**, and the **District of North Vancouver** support Kwantlen Polytechnic University's Southwest BC Bio-Region Food System Design Project with funding and staff resources. The 3-year project explores the economic, environmental stewardship, and food self-reliance potential of a bio-regional food system in Southwest BC (SWBC).<sup>88</sup> This is one of several projects undertaken by KPU's Institute for Sustainable Food Systems (ISFS), a research institute based at their Richmond campus.

The **City of Richmond** has been leading the way in expanding its agricultural production by utilizing city-owned land. Richmond is advancing phase 1 of its Garden City Lands Legacy Landscape Plan with a Capital Budget of \$2.1 million starting in 2015. The project includes perimeter trails, water management infrastructure, creating the first section of farm fields, and installing interpretive signage. They are establishing community partnerships and stewardships on the Garden City Land and researching potential partnership agreements with KPU for a research farm.

Water is often a problem for farmers in Metro Vancouver: too much in the spring; too little in the summer. The **City of Surrey** is investing \$3 million over 10 years on its Strategic Plan for Lowlands Flood Control for the Serpentine River and Nicomekl River floodplains. The funds are being used to manage dyke upgrades, pump upgrades, and ditch conveyancing to support agriculture production in these flood-prone areas. Surrey is working in cooperation with farmers and the Ministry of Environment on its Agriculture Water Accessibility Project Work. Surrey's goal is to improve access to an adequate and safe water supply for agricultural operations such as livestock watering, crop irrigation, produce washing, and food processing.

### ***Strategy 1.4: Invest in a new generation of food producers***

The **City of Richmond** leads in the area of assisting new farmers. Kwantlen Polytechnic University's Department of Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems operates the Richmond Farm School. It is a 10-month program focused on providing training for individuals interested in local production, processing and distribution, human-scale systems that provide sustainability to local farms, and natural production methods that value ecological resources and local health.<sup>89</sup> The city provides educational space at the Terra Nova Rural Park and provides up to half an acre per student for a 3-year period at their incubator farms. Incubator farms are lands that allow students and new farmers the opportunity to grow crops and/or raise livestock and begin their agricultural enterprises. These incubator farms often include ongoing technical support, shared equipment, and mentorship opportunities.<sup>90</sup> Richmond's incubator farms include city-owned land at the south end of No. 3 Road and the Gardens Agricultural Park (No. 5 Road and Steveston Highway). KPU's Department of Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems also operates a Farm School on the Tsawwassen First Nation's land in Metro Vancouver.

The **City of Surrey** is embarking on a plan to increase agricultural production and develop incubator farms at 2 city-owned parks. The Mound Farm Park Master Plan Agricultural Production Project and the Colebrook Park Master Plan Agricultural Production Project are included in the next 3–6 years under the Economy section of the Official Community Plan. The city is working on a Virtual Incubator Farm Project, an online system designed to connect potential farmers with agriculture related resources such as underutilized farm properties that are available for lease. Surrey is dedicating staff resources to support the research and development of innovative production technologies and practices, such as 'vertical farming', rooftop farming, and advanced irrigation and fertilization systems.

### ***Strategy 1.5: Expand commercial food production in urban areas***

The **City of North Vancouver** staff is involved in the Steering Committee of the Edible Garden Project (EGP). They provide input into EGP initiatives including Loutet Farm, Sutherland farm, and other gardens. Given the lack of available agricultural land within the City of North Vancouver, this project demonstrates the potential for productive urban farming outside of the ALR. The Sutherland Schoolyard Market Garden is a partnership between the Edible Garden Project and the school district. The city provides \$15,000 per year of core funding through the North Shore Neighbourhood House, and the EGP raised over \$20,000 through an online indiegogo campaign in 2014.

The **City of Vancouver's** Greenest City 2020 Action Plan calls for a doubling of green jobs from 16,700 to 33,400 between 2010 and 2020. The number of green jobs (including those in the local food sector) in the city increased by 19% from 2010 to 2013. While most of these were related to building and transportation, local food jobs increased 21% during this time. (In consultation with industry experts, the Vancouver Economic Commission's 2014 report, *Green and Local Food Jobs in the City of Vancouver*, defines local food jobs as those that include wholesale, processing, restaurants and food service, food retail, and food production that originates in BC) The report attributes the increase in jobs to strong consumer demand, public sector procurement policies, urban farms, craft breweries, food trucks, and expanded farmers'

markets.<sup>91</sup> City programs and policies have also facilitated greater access to local food by supporting urban farms, farmers' markets, street food vendors, and craft breweries.

Vancouver is currently working on developing policies to enable commercial food production (urban farming) as a permissible land use in designated zones. There are currently 16 urban farms listed on the Vancouver Urban Farm Society website, and the Vancouver Food Strategy (2013) has set a goal of 35 urban farms in Vancouver by 2020. Urban farming is defined as backyard farms, institutional farms, rooftop farms, and farms on private property. In support of these goals the City of Vancouver's Greenest City Community Grants program gave a \$20,000 grant to the West End Urban Farming Initiative through Gordon Neighbourhood House. The funds will be used to work with members of the West End community to identify and support potential farm sites within the neighbourhood. Another \$25,000 Greenest City Community Grant went to the Expanding the Urban Farming Sharing Economy initiative. This grant to the Vancouver Urban Farmers Society and Shifting Growth Garden Society is for urban farming projects, a farm tool-share program, and volunteer training program.

## **Goal 2: Improve the Financial Viability of the Food Sector**

The second goal of the Regional Food Systems Strategy (RFSS) is to improve the financial viability of the food sector. This includes strengthening the supply chain by building capacity for distribution and processing, providing more opportunities for purchasing local food, and encouraging local procurement policies among large institutions.

### ***Strategy 2.1: Increase the capacity to process, warehouse and distribute local foods***

There is an interest in creating local food hubs among several food security networks, food banks, and local food advocates in the Metro Vancouver region. Food hubs expand the reach of farmers from traditional farm gate sales, farmers' markets, and community supported agriculture (CSAs) by providing additional supply-chain services. Food hubs can provide a location for the collection and distribution of products to wholesalers, processors, retailers, and consumers to enable the expansion of local food in the regional economy. Research has shown that nonprofit food hubs go beyond the role of aggregation and distribution by providing educational services that promote the environmental and social benefits of direct exchange of local food.<sup>92</sup> In Vancouver Local Food First is leading the New City Market initiative. Research on food hubs is ongoing through the efforts of FarmFolk CityFolk. A feasibility study commissioned by FarmFolk CityFolk examines the challenges of the current food distribution system, how regional systems have performed, and whether smaller distribution systems can meet the needs of small and medium-scale farmers.<sup>93</sup> In addition to FarmFolk CityFolk's efforts in Vancouver, the **City of Richmond** has provided a \$5,000 grant to the Richmond Food Security Society to support a Food Hub Feasibility Study.

While efforts to establish food hubs in the region are still a work in progress, the **City of Vancouver** has provided funding to 2 processing initiatives that support the goals of the Vancouver Food System Strategy. The city contributed \$100,000 for the development of a Vancouver Incubator Kitchen in collaboration

with Save on Meats and Vancouver Community College. They also provided a \$25,000 grant to the Living Oceans Society and the T. Buck Suzuki Environmental Foundation for its Sea to Fork Seafood Processing project. The intent of the grant is to establish an independent fish processing plant and training facility in the Vancouver area.

***Strategy 2.2: Include local foods in the purchasing policies of large public institutions***

The Regional Food System Strategy (RFSS) cites the BC Climate Action Plan (2008) support for lowering greenhouse gas emissions in the food system through changes in food procurement policy. It provides the example of the University of Victoria's policies and the work that is being developed by the University of BC and Vancouver Coastal Health. Burnaby and Vancouver have made some progress on adopting local food purchasing policies through their concession and restaurant operations. Free trade agreements are sometimes cited as a reason for municipalities to avoid embedding local food requirements into their purchasing policies. However, a 2013 report by the Columbia Institute, LOCO BC, and ISIS Research Centre at the Sauder School of Business titled *BUYING LOCAL: Tools for Forward-Thinking Institutions* refers to a lack of understanding of legislation that leads to a reluctance on the part of municipal politicians to commit to local food purchasing. The study recognizes the need for a local political champion and cites the example of Markham, Ontario, Councillor Erin Shapero's leadership in making her municipality the first "in North America with a formal commitment to purchase local, sustainable and fair trade food" in 2007.<sup>94</sup> The study found that interprovincial barriers are more restrictive than the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). However, full details of more recent trade agreements – the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) with the European Union and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade agreement between twelve Pacific Rim countries – may prove more challenging to local food-procurement policies in the near future.

The **City of Burnaby's** Green Team reviews Food Services purchases, and they have incorporated more sustainable food items into available menus including organic, fair-trade coffee, and eggs that are organic and locally sourced.<sup>95</sup> The city's Food Services department operates 10 food concessions and there are 4 city-owned restaurants that are leased out. Burnaby has restaurants at its 2 municipal golf courses and a couple of fine dining establishments at 2 park sites. Hart House is a heritage building located on 13 acres at Deer Lake. The menu features fresh local ingredients and herbs from the restaurant's own on-site herb garden, and Hart House is a member of Oceanwise, a sustainable seafood certification program.

The **Vancouver Park Board** started offering local food options at snack bars in a 2013 pilot project to support the Local Food Action Plan. There are 13 concessions operated by independent concessionaires and full-service restaurants at each of the 3 municipal golf courses.<sup>96</sup> The Park Board has a Central Warehouse for bulk purchasing and distribution. There are also 11 privately operated restaurants that lease Park Board land. Many of them use sustainable food purchasing practices and feature meats and produce from regional and urban farms, and most are members of Oceanwise. City staff tracks and reports to council and the public in these 3 categories: local food purchased, sustainable food purchased, and both local and sustainable food purchased. Street-food vendors are encouraged to source local and



sustainable ingredients for their menus and are required to use reusable, recyclable, or compostable packaging

### ***Strategy 2.3: Increase direct marketing opportunities for local foods***

The most noticeable way in which direct marketing of local products has grown is in the number of farmers' markets in Metro Vancouver. There are currently 27 markets listed on the BC Association of Farmers' Markets (BCAFM) website, several smaller community food markets, and non-affiliated markets. Vancouver, in particular, has embraced the farmers' markets like no other community in BC.

The **City of Burnaby** supports the Burnaby Artisan Farmers' Market at City Hall from May to October by offering subsidized space at \$75 a year. The City Planning Department purchases \$500 of market certificates to hand out at the annual Environment Festival that is held on the same day as the market during Environment Week. Burnaby permits farmers to sell agricultural products produced on their site, and city staff is working with Burnaby Food First, Tourism Burnaby, and Urban Digs Farm to develop a tour of farms and agriculture-related stops in the Big Bend farming area, similar to the Farm Circle Tours in the Fraser Valley.

The **North Shore** has 2 summer markets. The **City of North Vancouver** has the Lonsdale Quay Farmers' Market. Established in 2002, the market is located on the East Plaza of Lonsdale Quay every Saturday from the beginning of May until the end of October. The market is ideally situated at the Seabus terminus in a shady, cool location.<sup>97</sup> **West Vancouver's** Ambleside Farmers' Market is located close to the entrance to Ambleside Park and Beach. The market began in 2006 and runs every Sunday from the beginning of May until the end of October.<sup>98</sup>

The **City of Richmond** supports the Steveston Farmers' and Artisans' Market. The market was launched in May 2008, by the Steveston Community Society. The summer market is held outside the Gulf of Georgia Cannery, a Parks Canada Heritage site. The city offers in-kind support including assistance in road closures and the use of vehicles. Richmond launched a pilot food truck program in 2013 in several locations and the Lang Park Redevelopment incorporates 3 food truck parking spots along Buswell Street. Lang Park is a small urban park plaza adjacent to the City Centre Community Centre.<sup>99</sup>

The **City of Surrey** supports the Surrey Urban Farmers' Market by allocating free outdoor space, secure equipment storage, and an annual community grant of approximately \$1,000. However, since moving to the new City Hall, the market is required to submit a \$2,000 damage deposit. The City of Surrey prepares a Farm Fresh guide on a bi-annual basis that highlights organic, u-pick, crop information, and agri-tourism sites at Surrey farms. Surrey has raised public awareness of agriculture through initiatives such as farm tours, media materials, and community events. A resurrection of the Surrey Farm Tour is planned for 2016/2017.

The Vancouver Food Strategy (2013) goal is to increase the number of farmers' markets in Vancouver from 9 to 22 by the year 2020. There are listings and web links to the various farmers' markets including

the 7 run by Vancouver Farmers Markets and 2 other regular summer markets. **The City of Vancouver** offers guidelines and a checklist on how to set up a farmers' market on their website.<sup>100</sup> They direct inquiries to one of their Development and Services Building Centre officers to discuss plans. The Vancouver Food Strategy also calls for an increase in the number of community food markets (markets with less than 10 booths) from 4 to 15 by the year 2020. These are typically held at neighbourhood houses, seniors' centres, social housing complexes, or office buildings.

#### ***Strategy 2.4: Further develop value chains within the food sector***

At the time of this report, there was no indication of current municipal actions in developing value chains within the food system. Value chains involve the collaboration between 2 or more sectors of the food system (producers, processors, distributors, or retailers) that reduces risk, improves profit margins, or addresses social or environmental concerns.<sup>101</sup>

#### ***Strategy 2.5: Review government policies and programs to ensure they enable the expansion of the local food sector***

Through their collaboration with Table Matters, all 3 **North Shore** municipalities adopted a Food Charter in 2014. The **City of North Vancouver** previously adopted an Urban Agriculture and Food Security Action Plan in 2013, and their Official Community Plan includes language about food security, urban agriculture, and sustainable food systems. The City of North Vancouver is currently developing a Development Permit Application Sustainability Checklist that will include items that pertain to food systems. As part of the Food Charter implementation, the Edible Garden Project received \$50,000 in funding to work with municipal staff members to help educate them around adding a food lens to municipal work in economic and community development. The **District of North Vancouver** Parks and Open Space Strategic Plan includes a chapter on Urban Agriculture and Community Gardens. An example of this policy is contained in the Seylynn and Bridgman Parks Conceptual Parks Master Plan (April 2015) that includes a community garden at Seylynn Park (to be developed in 2016). The **West Vancouver** Parks Master Plan (2012) includes a section on Urban Agriculture. The district has community gardens at Gleneagles Community Centre and 54 plots along the Ambleside waterfront area. EcoUrbia, a nonprofit group on the North Shore, has proposed a West Vancouver Community EcoCenter that will utilize the vacant Kleewyck Nursery site. The EcoCenter will be a place for conservation, education and innovation, native and edible plant species, holistic food cultivation, low-impact gardening practices, and energy and water conservation. EcoUrbia hosted 2 informational open houses in September and the District conducted an on-line survey to determine public acceptance prior to deciding on issuance of a license for EcoUrbia to occupy the site.<sup>102</sup>

In the **City of Richmond** the Richmond Food Security Society, Vancouver Coastal Health, and other groups are developing a Richmond Food Charter to present to Council for endorsement and to establish a working group to advance food security through the development of a Richmond Food Strategy. The Richmond Food Security Society manages the city's 300 community garden plots at 8 locations. The city entered into the *Agreement with Richmond Food Security Society for Community Gardens* in 2010 and included a one-time grant of \$15,000 from the Council Contingency fund to operate the gardens and provide educational

workshops.<sup>103</sup> The agreement was renewed for 3 years in May 2013. The City of Richmond works with a variety of partners to strengthen the local food system and increase the range of urban agriculture opportunities. These partners include Kwantlen Polytechnic University's Department of Sustainable Agriculture and Food System's Richmond Farm School; The Sharing Farm, a non-profit organization that grows healthy produce for charitable food distribution organizations; and the Richmond Schoolyard Society that brings children into the outdoor classroom where programs promote community building, local organic food, healthy eating choices, and food sustainability.

The **City of Surrey**'s Official Community Plan (OCP) offers protection for farming and agri-food operations from the impacts of traffic, flooding, nuisance complaints, trespassing, and noxious substances. A special Farming Protection Development Permit area has been created and restrictive covenants are required on developments within 300 metres of the ALR boundary. Economic policies within Surrey's OCP provide guidance for infrastructure that accommodates farm use and access, storm water management, and access to water. As part of the Agricultural Protection and Enhancement Strategy, Surrey is advocating for tax assessment changes at a provincial level to provide incentives for landowners to use their lands productively.

The **City of Vancouver** adopted a food charter in 2007 and has set aggressive goals in the Greenest City Action Plan to increase their food assets by 50% from 2010 baseline levels by 2020 (3,340 assets to 5,158). The Vancouver Park Board has developed guidelines in its Park Board Urban Agriculture Policy for gardens on parkland, Operational Guidelines for Community Gardens on City Land Other Than City Parks, and the board adopted a Local Food Action Plan in July 2013.

### **Goal 3: People Make Healthy and Sustainable Food Choices**

Regional and provincial health authorities, dietitians, and nutritionists provided input into the Regional Food System Strategy. There are growing concerns about the dietary choices of consumers, and the regional strategy recognizes the role that municipalities can play as partners in providing information.

#### ***Strategy 3.1: Enable residents to make healthy food choices***

The **City of Burnaby**, along with the Fraser Health Authority and the Burnaby School District, are part of the Healthy Community Partnership. They work on strengthening partnerships and offering educational community events that focus on healthy living. Burnaby staff supports Burnaby Food First projects including workshops on nutritional meal planning and cooking, food preservation, food gardening, and the Sharing Backyards program.

On the **North Shore**, the North Vancouver Recreation and Culture Commission is piloting the Play Well Eat Well Project at the Harry Jerome Community Recreation Centre. Working with Vancouver Coastal Health dietitians, they are providing vending and café food choices that meet the Nutritional Guidelines for Vending Machines in BC Public Buildings (May 2007). Food and beverages sold in vending machines, concessions, sports programs, facility-hosted birthday parties, fundraisers, and staff meetings include

selections of healthy choices such as milk, bottled water, diet pop, 100% fruit juices, baked chips, trail mix, and granola bars.<sup>104</sup>

The **City of Richmond** supports Sharing Farm Society programs that encourage healthy eating and increase food-related skills and knowledge. The Sharing Farm, the Richmond Schoolyard Society, and the Terra Nova Nature School collaborated on the delivery of the Family Food Camp Pilot in the fall of 2015. Parents attended weekly cooking classes and prepared meals made with freshly harvested produce grown on the farm.<sup>105</sup> After a shared meal each week, the participating families went home with a harvest box of Sharing Farm produce. The City of Richmond partners with the Richmond Food Security Society, the Steveston Community Society, the East Richmond Community Association, the Richmond Society for Community Living, and the Richmond School District to deliver the Stir it Up Youth Kitchen. The program provides a place for youth at risk to learn about nutrition, learn how to cook healthy foods, and gain valuable experience that can lead to employment opportunities.<sup>106</sup>

The **City of Surrey** offers a number of youth programs at the Stewart Farm, a heritage farm with an organic garden and orchard operated by city staff and volunteers. Stewart Farm Day Camps offer children hands-on agricultural experience. Stewart Farm also offers Sustainable Gardening, Seed Saving, and Fruit Tree Pruning Workshops to the broader public.

The **City of Vancouver** Park Board Commissioners passed the Local Food Action Plan in July 2013. The plan requires that their beach concessions work with food suppliers to offer local, healthy food options.

### ***Strategy 3.2: Communicate how food choices support sustainability***

At the time of writing this report there was no indication of current municipal actions on communicating how food choices support sustainability.

### ***Strategy 3.3: Enhance food literacy and skills in schools***

The **City of Burnaby** offers in-kind staff support for a project led by Burnaby Food First that is working to increase the capacity of student groups to manage and expand the school gardens at 3 of Burnaby's secondary schools. The program includes matching students with adult gardening mentors.

The **City of Richmond** is one of the key partners of the Richmond Schoolyard Society's Schoolyard Project. The Richmond Schoolyard Society promotes community building, local organic food, healthy eating choices, sustainable farming, and the integration of the school curriculum in an outdoor classroom setting. Nearly 1,500 students from 8 elementary schools in Richmond School District 38 currently participate in the program with many of its programs based out of Terra Nova Rural Park.<sup>107</sup> Chef Ian Lai of the Northwest Culinary Academy of Vancouver supervises 2 lots at the Terra Nova Rural Park, and the farm is equipped with an outdoor wood-fired cob oven and an indoor kitchen facility.<sup>108</sup>

The **City of Vancouver** and Vancouver Foundation's Greenest City Fund provide grants to a number of community and school-based organizations that provide educational opportunities. These include several

grants that focus on growing organic food, preparing and preserving food, seed saving, and pollinator habitat. These grants are available each year in 3 categories. Greenest City Neighbourhood Small Grants of up to \$1,000 are available to individuals living in Vancouver for community-led green projects. Greenest City Generation Green Grants of up to \$10,000 are available for organizations in Vancouver for youth-led initiatives on how to make schools, communities, or neighbourhoods greener. Greenest City Community Grants up to \$50,000 are for Vancouver-based organizations with ideas about how to make residential and commercial areas greener. Some of the school-based food initiatives that have benefited include the Lord Kitchener Outdoor Classroom (\$10,000) grant to transform part of the school grounds into a food garden; the Windermere Organic Garden (\$3,000) grant to expand the organic garden at Windermere Secondary School and produce enough food to sell to the school cafeteria; and the Greening Henderson (\$1,260) grant to increase the size of the Spirit Garden at John Henderson Elementary School.<sup>109</sup>

### ***Strategy 3.4: Celebrate the taste of local foods and the diversity of cuisines***

In the **City of Burnaby** in the summer of 2015, the Burnaby Village Museum highlighted and celebrated Burnaby's long history of agriculture with its summer theme of 'Homegrown Harvest.' There was a demonstration garden with heritage food varieties and a farmer in residence. The museum partnered with Burnaby Food First to offer 7 workshops in July and August that included container gardening, beekeeping, jam making, pickling and preservation, and meal planning using local seasonal ingredients. Burnaby's Community Festival and Events Grant provides funding to eligible Burnaby organizations for new or existing events and festivals. Many of these festivals feature cultural or specialized food items as a component of the event. The city, in partnership with Burnaby Food First, Tourism Burnaby and Urban Digs Farm, is developing a Farm Circle Tour of farms and agriculture-related businesses in the Big Bend area of Burnaby.

**In the City of Richmond** Seedy Saturday is an annual event held each spring to educate the community about seeds, planting, and growing organically. In its seventh year, the 2015 event was held at the Thompson Community Centre. The event was presented by the Richmond Food Security Society and featured a seed swap table, seed vendors, seed library display, and community information tables. There were also sales of fruit trees, berry bushes, edible and native plants, small trees and shrubs, horse manure, and worms. The city offers a venue and staff support for this event as well as for the Garlic Festival and the Chefs to the Field events that celebrate local agriculture. The City of Richmond piloted a food truck program in 2013 at several locations and incorporated 3 roadside food truck parking spaces at the Lang Park Redevelopment in the city's centre.

The **City of Surrey** holds several events throughout that year that have a local food component. Party for the Planet Event is held each year around Earth Day. The city provides \$100,000 funding for the event. A portion of that supports a food-related component that includes farmers, prepared foods, the Farmers' Market, and environmental groups. The Cloverdale Rodeo and Country Fair is a large community event that celebrates Surrey's agricultural and rural history. One of the most popular parts of the 127-year-old Country Fair is the educational displays featuring animals and hands-on demonstrations. This popular area includes cow-milking demonstrations, little farmers' exhibit, informational exhibits, and various animals

such as horses, llamas, piglets, and other livestock. In July the Flavours of Surrey, part of Fusion Fest, showcases local producers and increases public awareness of farming practices. The city allocates \$22,000 per year and considerable staff resources to the Flavours event.

Each spring Stewart Farm hosts a Seed Sale and Exchange where people can purchase heritage vegetable, flower and herb seeds, fruit trees, and nursery plants. In the fall Stewart Farm Olde Harvest Fair is held with a heritage orchard tour, vendor markets, cider pressing, and butter making. The city provides Surrey Tourism with farm and food producer information to showcase in their new Food with Thought tourism publication. The North Surrey Recreation Centre provides transportation support for refugee families to visit local farms to access fresh, local food, and to learn about where their food is grown. The city is supporting a Surrey Farm Tours put on by the Surrey White Rock Food Action Coalition. The city implemented a Mobile Food Truck program in May 2014. There are 10 approved vendors that participate at city events and at approved sites within Surrey, and the city has initiated food truck festivals in the city centre. The Surrey Urban Farmers Market also has a number of food trucks that fall into a separate approval process. Staff is developing a food-specific layer on Surrey's main mapping program, COSMOS. It will be available on the website and will provide locations of local food sales sites such as farm markets.

The **City of Vancouver**, through its 2014 Greenest City Community Grant program, provided \$25,000 to the Hua Foundation for The Choi Project Phase II. The grant is used to empower the Hua (ethnic Chinese) community to take part in the local food movement. The project developed a guide on where to find BC grown, pesticide-free daikon, pea shoots and choy sum. They have developed a Seasonal Choi Guide, engaged small business partnerships, and provided cooking workshops.<sup>110</sup> The Healthy Local Food Fieldhouse Residency Program helps organizations engage with Vancouver residents to grow and share food. Vancouver Park Board provides free field-house spaces in locations like Norquay and Strathcona Parks for groups to provide public programs and develop projects. In 2010 Vancouver launched a pilot project with 17 food cart licenses that were selected by lottery. All applications were reviewed by a nutritionist. There are now over 100 food trucks, carts, and vendors permitted to sell healthy, interesting, convenient, culturally diverse, and delicious food on Vancouver streets. Vendor locations can be found on a smartphone app.

#### **Goal 4: Everyone has Access to Healthy, Culturally Diverse and Affordable Food**

This goal goes to the heart of much of the work that the food security networks are trying to accomplish. These networks include individuals from food banks and other organizations that focus on low-income clients, hunger, and unhealthy diets. The Regional Food System Strategy acknowledges that most of Metro Vancouver's population growth will come from immigration and that there is a need for appropriate responses to these culturally diverse needs.

##### ***Strategy 4.1: Improve access to nutritious food among vulnerable groups***

The **City of Burnaby** is a gold-level sponsor of the bi-annual Empty Bowls Fundraising Gala. This community initiative raises money for food projects like school breakfast programs. Staff assists with printing services,

organizing, and promoting the event. Food is prepared by celebrated local chefs, and tasty samplings are also created by the Burnaby School District's ACE-it Culinary Program.<sup>111</sup> Staff also provides in-kind services and support to Burnaby Food First. The organization is composed of community members and local agencies that work together on food security issues in Burnaby. Projects include food preservation and food gardening workshops that target low-income and newcomer residents of Burnaby. The city offers an annual grant of \$9,000 to the Burnaby Meals on Wheels program and Burnaby's seniors' centres offer nutritious meals for Burnaby residents 55+ at discounted prices. The city-owned Brentwood Community Resource Centre has a learning kitchen for food-based programs and community kitchens programs. The \$2.1 million, 6,100 square foot resource centre was developed in cooperation with Embassy Development through the city's Community Benefit Bonus Policy.<sup>112</sup> Its tenants include Burnaby Community Services, Burnaby Meals on Wheels, MOSAIC, and the YMCA. The city is currently collaborating with Burnaby Food First and UBC Land and Food Systems students on providing additional layers to a food mapping project.

On the **North Shore**, City of North Vancouver staff is currently involved with Table Matters in the Scaling-Up Food Rescue Project. The project goals are to raise awareness that surplus food is safe to eat; to design a food rescue model; and to create partnerships with food retailers, food recovery organizations, community organizations, regional and municipal councils, and food security organizations. The learned outcomes will be shared with stakeholders and the public.<sup>113</sup>

The Sharing Farm Society is a non-profit organization whose mandate is to grow healthy food in a sustainable manner for charitable distribution. The **City of Richmond** is the largest supporter and partner of The Sharing Farm, supplying facilities, grants, and in-kind services, and 3 acres of land in Terra Nova Rural Park.<sup>114</sup> In May 2014 council endorsed a 5-year agreement for The Sharing Farm Society to continue to engage in growing organic produce. Since 2008, 230,000 pounds of produce has been donated to low-income families in Richmond.

The City of Richmond, Vancity Credit Union, StrongStart BC, and the Richmond School District partner with the Richmond Food Security Society to provide the Good Food Access Program. The project provides healthy, nutritious, affordable foods to low-income households through a Good Food Box and a bulk-buying club.<sup>115</sup> The boxes are distributed through schools, early learning programs, and social housing providers. The City of Richmond subsidizes harvest boxes for food bank users with produce purchased through a CSA (community-supported/shared agriculture) from The Sharing Farm. The City of Richmond has 3 staff on the Richmond Children First Steering Committee. The Richmond Children First's project, "It's Not Fair: The Face of Child Poverty in Richmond," contains a child's right to nutritious food.<sup>116</sup> This is embedded in the Richmond Children's Charter that over 3,000 children helped create.

The Richmond Fruit Tree Project is a gleaning project that rescues fruit that would otherwise be wasted. This project is managed by the Richmond Food Security Society, and the fruit is donated to the Richmond Food Bank. There is also a Fruit Tree Sharing Project operated by The Sharing Farm Society with fruit and



vegetables grown on site donated to the food bank. Seniors from the Minoru Seniors Society mentor youth in growing food at The Sharing Farm. The food is donated to the Richmond Food Bank.

The Healthy Food Retail Project is a Richmond Food Security Society project that will map food retail businesses by category and analyze access and barriers to healthy foods. Program partners include the City of Richmond, Vancouver Coastal Health, the University of British Columbia, the Richmond Food Bank, the Richmond Poverty Response Committee, and the West Coast Convenience Store Association.<sup>117</sup> The city is partnering in a research project with students from the UBC Land and Food System faculty to examine the food security needs of the Chinese community. Interviews will be conducted with low-income families, seniors living in social housing, and shoppers outside supermarkets. The City of Richmond also supports the Community Kitchen programs at the Caring Place.

The **City of Surrey**'s Official Community Plan has a section on Society and Culture that includes improved access to healthy and affordable food with a focus on lower-income neighbourhoods. The city has a partnership with DIVERSEcity Community Resources Society, a social service agency, to operate 2 community market gardens on city-owned land.<sup>118</sup> The Hazelnut Meadows Community Garden in Newton has 80 plots, a greenhouse, and an orchard. The Lionel Courchene Growing Roots Community garden is located in Guildford and has 21 garden plots. DIVERSEcity Community Resources Society currently offers cooking classes for new immigrants and refugee populations at 4 city-owned recreation facilities. Participants in the program receive workshops on nutrition, meal planning and creating recipes using local foods. They are also taught about budgeting, safe food handling, canning, and preserving.

The **City of Surrey** gave initial support of \$30,000 to the Oak Avenue Neighbourhood Hub Society (OANHS). OANHS provides free lunches to seniors, community dinners, and community kitchen/cooking club programs for seniors, immigrants, and low-income and refugee families. OANHS is also a participant in the Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program (FMNCP). The program is an initiative of the BC Association of Farmers' Markets (BCAFM) and is supported by the Ministry of Health's Healthy Families BC. The city also provides pick-up venues for the Harvest Box Program. Seasonal fruits and vegetables are delivered for \$8 a box to 8 recreation centres and to City Hall once per month. With stronger staff promotion and new management, the Harvest Box Program delivered 1,870 boxes in 2014.<sup>119</sup>

The **City of Vancouver**'s Greenest City 2020 Action Plan and Vancouver Food Strategy has set a target of 15 community food markets from the present 4 and has detailed instructions on how to create them on its website.<sup>120</sup> These markets provide a way to bring fresh, nutritious food closer to residents who may experience physical or economic difficulties in accessing a grocery store or farmers' market. Community food markets can operate year-round. Current locations include Cedar Cottage Food Network, Fresh Roots Good Food Market, Westside Community Food Market, and Westside Mobile Food Market. The Vancouver Foundation and the City of Vancouver 2014 Greenest City Community Grants Program provided a \$4,750 grant to Chylan Emergency Gear Inc. and Atira Women's Resource Society for their Self Reliance Project for Women.<sup>121</sup> The grant is for teaching vulnerable women sustainable skills in the areas of food, cleaning products, and production of goods. The city's Vancouver Food Strategy encourages the

installation of community kitchens at city facilities, new developments, and social housing sites. While the city is not directly involved in these kitchens, they assist in their establishment through grants to neighbourhood houses.<sup>122</sup> Britannia Food Share partners with local grocers who set aside produce for weekly pick-up to be used in use meal preparations or for redistribution. The Grandview Woodland Food Connection (GWFC) is a community organization that operates food security programs at the Britannia Community Centre. Last year 566 pounds of quality organic food was rescued.<sup>123</sup>

#### ***Strategy 4.2: Encourage urban agriculture***

The **City of Burnaby** currently has 6 community gardens and 10 learning gardens on school district or institutional lands. There are 3 community gardens on city-owned land including the 14-acre Burnaby and Region Allotment Gardens Association. BARAGA was founded in the mid-1970s with a grant from the provincial government and the City of Burnaby. It has 337 large plots and close to 1,000 gardeners. The community garden application, approval, and establishment process is currently under review by staff members, and they will be making recommendations to council. City of Burnaby staff offers in-kind staff support for Burnaby Food First's Sharing Backyards project. The project matches Burnaby homeowners willing to share their backyards with fellow community members looking for gardening space. Burnaby City Council approved bylaw modifications in 2009 to permit beekeeping in 7 residentially zoned districts and 3 agriculturally zone districts.<sup>124</sup>

On the **North Shore** the City of North Vancouver, the District of North Vancouver, Vancouver Coastal Health, the North Shore Recycling Program, the North Shore Neighbourhood House, community agencies, and volunteers are all part of the Edible Garden Project (EGP). The organization has grown from a \$30,000 budget, 1 part-time staff, 20 volunteers, and 6 square metres of food growing space in 2006 to a \$250,000 budget, 3 full-time and 2 part-time positions, over 400 volunteers, over 3,500 participants each year, and 4,050 square metres of food growing space in 2014.

The **City of North Vancouver** provides \$15,000 per year of core funding through the North Shore Neighbourhood House (NSNH) to support the urban agriculture initiatives of the Edible Garden Project. The city also offers periodic grants, access to public land, and staff time for the North Shore Community Garden Society to run community gardens on city-owned land at City Hall, Charros, and Queen Mary. A fourth community garden, the Lower Lonsdale Community Gardens, is next to the North Shore Neighbourhood House. NSNH operates the garden in partnership with the North Shore Community Garden Society and the City of North Vancouver. It has approximately 50 garden plots for growing vegetables and flowers.

The City of North Vancouver adopted the Hobby Bee Keeping Bylaw on May 25, 2009. The bylaw permits keeping 2 hives in single-family zoned residential lots (RS-1 Zone).<sup>125</sup> The hobby beekeeping was adopted to support the sustainability of the urban agricultural movement. The city website offers advice on beekeeping practices, links to appropriate websites, and staff and a resident beekeeper's contact information. The City of North Vancouver Council passed amendments to the Zoning and Small Creatures Bylaw on September 17th, 2012. The Urban Chicken Guidelines permit residents to keep up to 8 chickens

(hens only) each in the same Single Unit Residential (OCP-R1) zone.<sup>126</sup> New chicken keepers are encouraged to contact fellow chicken owners through the North Vancouver chapter of the Canadian Liberated Urban Chicken Klub (CLUCK).

Since 2009 **District of North Vancouver** (DNV) staff has been working with the North Shore Community Garden Society to establish community gardens across the District. There are currently 4 community gardens including Lillooet Park Community Garden, the Lynn Valley Lions Community Garden, and the Garibaldi Park Community Garden.<sup>127</sup> There are waitlists for each garden. Staff looks at opportunities to integrate urban agriculture in planning Town and Village centres including the possible use of Community Amenity Contributions from developments. The DNV Parks and Open Space Strategic Plan's Seylynn and Bridgman Parks Conceptual Parks Master Plan was approved in April 2015 and included the development of a community garden at Seylynn Park in 2016. The District of North Vancouver has a Bee Keeping Bylaw (amended in March 2012) that allows no more than 2 colonies of bees to be kept on a parcel having an area less than 1,100 square metres.

The **City of Richmond** manages 242 hectares of publicly owned agricultural land including the Garden City Lands, Richmond Nature Park, Terra Nova Park, and several trails through agricultural land. The Richmond Food Security Society manages the city's 300 community garden plots at locations throughout Richmond. There are 4 privately run allotment gardens in Richmond including the city-owned London Heritage Farm with 80 community garden plots located along the south arm of the Fraser River. The city maintains the property except for the heritage gardens that are maintained by society volunteers. The City of Richmond and the Real Estate Foundation of BC funded a research project to identify available land that could be utilized for food production activities. The Richmond Food Security Society created the Richmond Foodland Asset Report (2013) that identified 638 underutilized properties that could be used for a variety of food growing activities.<sup>128</sup>

The **City of Surrey** currently has 368 community garden plots at 6 community gardens with the 2014 addition of the Lionel Courchene Community Garden. The city's Community Garden Expansion Project has a goal of adding 2 gardens per year with a total annual budget of \$50,000. The city's cost of construction per plot ranges from \$400 to \$500 where water is readily available, to \$1,000 or more if drainage or water access proves difficult. The city also provides funding of \$7,500 for each new community garden to Can You Dig It to assist community groups in establishing community garden design and governance structures for their initial 3-year period. Can You Dig It, a posAbilities non-profit project, has "created and supported nearly 40 community gardens on public and private lands throughout the Lower Mainland."<sup>129</sup> The city established an Orchard Tree Pilot Project at a cost of \$8,000 to plant fruit-bearing trees in parks and natural areas throughout Surrey. Surrey instituted a Backyard Chicken Pilot Project in 2013 to determine appropriate property size, animal care, and disease control. The pilot allows registered participants to keep up to 4 hens on single-family residential lots that are less than 1 acre but larger than 7,200 square feet. In 2014, a total of 26 single-family lots were registered, and results of the project were to be reviewed in the fall of 2015.

As part of the 2020 Greenest City initiative, the **City of Vancouver**'s website provides an interactive map that includes community gardens and a listing that provides contact information. The City of Vancouver is not involved in the governance of the gardens but does provide land. There are 26 gardens on city-owned property, 19 on city parkland, and 47 gardens on non-city lands including churches, schools, hospitals, and co-ops.<sup>130</sup> In 2014 Vancouver had 4,166 community garden plots, including the 452 new plots added in that year. This includes privately owned land used for community food gardens. The city offers garden compost donations from the landfill's compost yard to community-based projects in Vancouver. The Vancouver Park Board provides guidelines in its Park Board Urban Agriculture Policy for gardens on parkland and Operational Guidelines for Community Gardens on City Land Other Than City Parks.<sup>131</sup> According to the *Greenest City 2020 Action Plan 2013-2014 Implementation Update*, the Vancouver Park Board has approved or renewed license agreements for 17 community gardens in parks, approved 8 new community gardens, and supplied 170 fruit trees to existing community gardens.<sup>132</sup> Garden leases are typically renewed for 5-year terms. In 2012 the Environmental Youth Alliance (EYA) received a Generation Green Grant from the Greenest City Grants for the Community Nursery (\$9,500) project. Their project goal was to train 700 people in sustainable food growing in small spaces and to give away 7,000 plants.<sup>133</sup>

Vancouver allows hobby beekeeping in 1 and 2-family dwelling districts, community gardens, and sites where beekeeping forms part of an educational program.<sup>134</sup> The website lists contact information for registering beehives with the province, and phone numbers of local beekeepers that can assist in dealing with swarms. The Greenest City Community Grant program provided \$28,800 to Hives for Humanity for Pollinators and People.<sup>135</sup> In collaboration with PHS (Portland House Society) Community Services Society, this grant is to be used to build on their Therapeutic Beekeeping program. Participants are engaged in the local economy with training, volunteerism, and opportunities for green employment.

#### ***Strategy 4.3: Enable non-profit organizations to recover nutritious food***

The **City of Burnaby** participates in the Greater Vancouver Food Bank's Food Runners program. The program includes picking up perishable food items like sandwiches from city sites and distributing them to local non-profits.

On the **North Shore** the **City of North Vancouver** is involved in the Scaling-Up Food Rescue Project. This is a Table Matters initiative that is funded through a PlanH Grant (a partnership between BC Healthy Communities Society and Healthy Families BC) and BC Healthy Communities. The Food Recovery Plan will create partnerships between potential donors and social agencies. The **District of North Vancouver** has provided a \$20,000 grant for the food recovery project. In collaboration with Vancouver Coastal Health and Table Matters, the food recovery project examines food access for vulnerable populations and makes connections between food retailers, social service providers, and recipients.

The **City of Vancouver** supports youth-led waste diversion plans at 3 Vancouver Community Centres through CityStudio. CityStudio is a project school where students tackle complex issues in cooperation with city staff.<sup>136</sup> Britannia Food Share partners with local grocers who set aside produce for weekly pick-

up to be used in meal preparations or for redistribution. The Grandview Woodland Food Connection (GWFC) is a community organization that operates food security programs at the Britannia Community Centre. Last year GWFC rescued 566 pounds of quality organic food.

## **Goal 5: A Food System Consistent with Ecological Health**

### ***Strategy 5.1 Protect and Enhance Ecosystem Goods and Services***

The **City of Burnaby** has a bee condo program that is managed by Parks staff. Native pollinators like the Blue Orchard Mason Bee are important to berries, fruit trees, and certain vegetables. These bee condos are located in City Parks.

On the **North Shore** the Bee Friendly Conservation Society receives **City of North Vancouver** Parks and Environment Grants to promote native bee conservation. The city has several bee boxes located at 5 sites on public land.

The **City of Richmond** oversees a Winter Crop Cover Program as part of its snow geese management program.<sup>137</sup> Richmond is on a migratory path for several species of birds and planting cover crops has several benefits. The crops help to keep birds off sports fields and other grass fields and prevent overgrazing of perennial grass crops that are used for livestock. The City of Richmond adopted the Bath Slough Revitalization Initiative in April 2014.<sup>138</sup> The city is partnering with the Emily Carr University of Art and Design to create a linear pollinator pasture along Bath Slough in the Bridgeport Industrial Park. This project merges public art with promoting the importance of protecting and promoting native pollinator species.

The **City of Surrey** will use a portion of its Green City Fund for a Biodiversity Farm Trust Review. City staff will work with farmers to identify opportunities for wildlife habitat protection and enhancement in agricultural lands. The city is providing \$5,000 to a Pilot Apiary Program to support programs and find locations in the city for the installation and running of apiaries.

In the **City of Vancouver** the Park Board has initiated the Pollinator Project to improve the habitat in parks and gardens for bumble bees, honey bees, mason bees, butterflies, and other pollinators. The Vancouver Park Board collaborates with the Environmental Youth Alliance, VanDusen Botanical Garden, and Hives for Humanity to create pollinator friendly places. Projects include the Nectar Trail, Shaughnessy, the Pollinator Corridor Project, Downtown Eastside, and the flower meadow at Empire Fields in the Hasting-Sunrise area.<sup>139</sup>

The Vancouver Park Board and the Environmental Youth Alliance created 4 pollinator gardens in city parks to attract native bees. EYA trains youth scientists to monitor pollinator activity in neighbourhood blocks, community gardens, or greenway in their communities. EYA collects and analyzes data to help advise city-wide pollinator conservation in Vancouver. EYA's Citizen Scientists share space with the gardeners at Strathcona Community Garden where they run spring and summer workshop series and are involved in

the Nectar Trail project that builds bee-friendly gardens along corridors to create a habitat network for pollinators.<sup>140</sup>

### ***Strategy 5.2: Reduce waste in the food system***

The **City of Richmond** has partnered with School District 38 in developing the Green Ambassadors program. In this program secondary school students participate in monthly workshops to learn about environmental sustainability. In 2013, 185 students contributed 3,250 volunteer hours to promote recycling at community events and organized the Richmond Earth Day Youth Summit. The city provides a Special Event Recycling program for applicants. Organizers can rent recycling stations, garbage carts and/or litter pickers from the city on a first-come, first-served basis. This encourages food waste to be diverted from landfills. Richmond instituted its Multi-Family Green Cart program in April 2015 with full implementation on July 1<sup>st</sup>.<sup>141</sup> The program includes 1 or 2 pick-ups per week and a monthly bin cleaning service. The website includes the cart implementation plan, property manager's responsibilities, and information for commercial operators.

The Vancouver Foundation and the **City of Vancouver** 2014 Greenest City Community provided a \$25,000 grant to The Elements Society for its Destination Conservation Zero Waste Pilot. The grant is to pilot a student-led, 3-year project to initiate a zero-waste culture within the Vancouver School Board district as part of VSB's goal to be the greenest school district in Canada. In 2014 the Vancouver Foundation and the City of Vancouver provided a \$25,000 Greenest City Community grant to Be the Change Earth Alliance Society for its Waste Watchers – Community Youth Leadership Initiative.<sup>142</sup> The Waste Watchers program is a youth-led campaign to meet Metro Vancouver's Zero Waste Challenge in partnership with community centres across Metro Vancouver.<sup>143</sup>

### ***Strategy 5.3: Facilitate adoption of environmentally sustainable practices***

The **City of Burnaby** gives an annual discretionary grant of approximately \$100,000 to the Burnaby Board of Trade (BBOT). The BBOT has The Pledge for a Sustainable Community program that offers a comprehensive online resource with the goal of helping businesses large and small reduce their environmental footprint.<sup>144</sup> Participating companies pledge to carry out various initiatives such as supporting the local economy by buying local, purchasing organic or Fair Trade products, or supporting waste reduction, and lowering emissions, water, and resource use. Burnaby stopped using pesticides on public lands in 1988 and implemented a Pesticide Use Control Bylaw in April, 2009 for private lands.<sup>145</sup>

On the **North Shore**, the **City of North Vancouver** (CNV) instituted its Cosmetic Pesticide Use Control Bylaw in January 2010, restricting the use of pesticides for cosmetic purposes on private and public lands.<sup>146</sup> CNV became the second Metro Vancouver municipality to and The **District of North Vancouver** established its Pesticide Control Use Bylaw in January 2009 on public and private lands.<sup>147</sup>

The **City of Richmond** adopted a Pesticide Use Control Bylaw in 2008 as part of their Enhanced Pesticide Management Program (EPMP). It includes a combination of public education for natural lawn care and organic gardening with a restrictive bylaw for the use of traditional pesticides. Richmond Council

unanimously passed a motion to become GE Free in May 2012.<sup>148</sup> The motion bans genetically modified shrubs, plants, and food crops from being grown in Richmond. Three farmers who were growing genetically engineered (GE) corn for cattle feed were exempted from the ban. The motion also calls on senior government to require labelling of GE foods.

The **City of Surrey**'s Biodiversity Conservation Strategy promotes working with the farming community to encourage sustainable farming practices and the use of the Integrated Pest Management Program (IPM) standards to support food production. The Biodiversity Farm Trust Review works collaboratively with the Agriculture and Food Security Advisory Committee to identify opportunities to protect and enhance wildlife habitat in agricultural lands. Partial funding comes from the \$3 million Green City Fund.

#### ***Strategy 5.4: Prepare for the impacts of climate change***

Most of the focus within this strategy as it relates to agriculture is to mitigate the effects of storm water runoff and lowland flooding.

The **City of Burnaby** has been applying a Total Storm Water Management Policy to development since the late 1990's.<sup>149</sup> This approach includes erosion and sediment control, peak runoff reduction, flood protection, and water quality enhancement. In 1995 the city conducted master drainage studies for the watersheds that drain into the Big Bend area that includes Burnaby's agricultural lands. Major drainage and creek improvements took place in Byrne Creek, Nelson Creek, Froggers Creek, and Jerry Rogers' Creek.<sup>150</sup>

The **City of Richmond**'s 2008- 2031 Flood Management Strategy includes plans to accommodate up to 1 metre of sea level rise by 2100.

The **City of Surrey**'s Climate Adaptation Strategy works with all levels of government to evaluate long-term flood management options in response to sea-level rise impacts with considerations for agricultural vulnerability.<sup>151</sup> The Climate Adaptation Strategy includes a section on Agriculture and Food Security. Action items include access to irrigation and mitigating risks such as flooding and soil salination to agricultural lands. The Strategic Plan for Lowlands Flood Control was implemented in 1997 to control flooding in the Nicomekl and Serpentine floodplain. The city has implemented various components of the plan since 1998 at a total cost of \$35 million.<sup>152</sup> The plan supports farming activities by managing storm water runoff from upland development on agricultural properties in accordance with the Agriculture and Rural Development Subsidiary Agreement (ARDSA).

The **City of Vancouver** adopted a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in July 2012. Vancouver's climate change adaptation measures provide guidelines for the built and natural environments and include the possible effects of climate change on urban agriculture. The 9 primary actions of the strategy include a coastal flood risk assessment, amended flood-proofing policies, a storm-water management plan, the separation of sewer systems, a back-up power policy, water conservation actions, support and expansion



of extreme heat planning, climate change adaptation measures in the next Vancouver Building Bylaw update, and implementation of a comprehensive urban forest management plan.<sup>153</sup>

## Conclusion

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There are common ingredients for success in moving food policy forward among some of the municipalities in this study. The first is a strong community of grassroots organizations that tackle food security issues at the neighbourhood level and a collaborative forum where these groups meet, either through umbrella organizations or councils, to advocate for food policy. This usually includes participation of the public health sector, charitable food organizations, neighbourhood groups, individual volunteers, school districts, and municipal staff. The second factor contributing to the advancement of food policy is the investment of staff time, city resources including land, and funding to assist the nonprofit sector. It may not be economically practical for smaller municipalities to devote full-time staff to urban agriculture and food security initiatives, but some level of participation from municipal staff is necessary for these groups to succeed. Lastly is the presence of municipal politicians that champion the food-security cause.

### **Collaboration among Grassroots Organizations**

The food policy networks featured here all include the presence of strong grassroots organizations that meet in a collaborative format. Generally food policy councils serve as venues for discussing food issues, cultivating connections between the various sectors in the food system, influencing food policy, and supporting programs and services that focus on local needs.<sup>154</sup> The City of Vancouver has formalized the inclusion of the 5 food system sectors by appointing 3 members from each sector and 6 at-large appointees to the Vancouver Food Policy Council. The VFPC is the only city-council appointed food network in the region, and it receives significant staff resources from the city. Burnaby Food First, the North Shore's Table Matters Network, and the Surrey White Rock Food Action Coalition operate as coordinating networks for community organizations and individuals and have city staff, health authority, and school district liaisons on their steering committees. The Richmond Food Security Society is registered with the province as a separate nonprofit organization but has regular contact with city staff.

The approaches taken to address the goals of the Regional Food System Strategy by the municipalities in this study vary depending on several factors: the availability of existing city-owned land for growing food; the adoption of progressive food policies; and the development of concrete strategies to turn those food policies into action. In 2012 the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), the umbrella organization for Canada's municipal governments, undertook a Sustainable Food Systems Survey. Of the 115 survey respondents, 60% said they have food "champions" working for them, 56% view sustainable food systems as a medium to high priority, and most have integrated sustainable food systems into their current or future planning. Having at least 1 food champion working at the municipal level is a likely scenario. However, the food champions need to be allocated time and resources in order to be effective at assisting food security groups. They also need the support of senior management and elected officials to be effective advocates for their respective food networks and food security issues. Burnaby, the North Shore,

Richmond, and Surrey have all provided staff liaisons to work with their food networks. However, even when population size is taken into account, none of the other municipalities in this report approach the level of staff resources that Vancouver has allocated to food policy and urban agriculture.

## **Municipal Resources and Staff Time**

The City of Vancouver stands out among these food networks in the investment in staff resources and financial assistance to food security organizations. The city allocates 2 social planners to look after a portfolio of food policies that include community gardens, food trucks, community food hubs and working with the Vancouver Food Policy Council. The city set aggressive targets for building capacity in urban agriculture and other local food initiatives through its Greenest City 2020 policy and the Vancouver Food Strategy. The investment of funds through the city's partnership with the Vancouver Foundation has helped many nonprofit groups add capacity to their local food initiatives. In a city with an annual operating budget of \$1.2 billion, a relatively small investment of \$250,000 per year has paid large dividends. Vancouver Foundation's \$1 million funding towards the Greenest City Grants and their involvement as the administrator underscores the importance of municipalities working with charitable foundations in supporting local food initiatives, particularly at a time when senior levels of government have not invested significantly in food security.

The primary connection between Richmond's food security groups and the City of Richmond is the Terra Nova Rural Park in West Richmond. The city has invested in food security by making lands available for 8 community gardens, the Sharing Farm at Terra Nova, and incubator farms for new farmers that graduate from KPU's Richmond Farm School. Richmond continues to provide support for new farmers by investing in Garden City Lands through the city's capital budget and increasing partnerships with KPU. The City of Richmond provides Health Social and Safety grants to various organizations that provide emergency food and other food security programs. The Richmond Food Security Society provides a leadership role in urban agriculture, educational programs and in hosting food related festivals. The Richmond Food Security Society operates 8 public community gardens in Richmond and collaborates with other organizations on education and research projects. Among these projects, the Richmond Food Security Society initiated a food land inventory in 2012 that identified under-utilized land with food production potential. The Richmond Foodland Asset Report, released the following year, involved Kwantlen Polytechnic University's Institute of Sustainable Horticulture, the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Land, and the City of Richmond. It also included the input of local farmers, city staff, academics, consultants, entrepreneurs, school district staff, and staff from nonprofit organizations.<sup>155</sup>

While each municipality has made some strides in encouraging urban agriculture, a few actions stand out from the others. The City of Vancouver's Greenest City Action Plan contains a target of increasing local food assets both city wide and at a neighbourhood level by a minimum of 50% over 2010 levels by 2020. Vancouver identifies food assets as community garden plots, farmers' markets, community orchards, community composting facilities, community kitchens, community produce stands, and urban farms. The 2010 baseline levels were 3,340 assets. By the end of 2013 the assets had increased by 30% to 4,332 with

5,158 as the 2020 goal. The City of Richmond has created a unique situation whereby the community gardens on publicly owned land, except for the London Heritage Garden, are all managed by the Richmond Food Security Society. This provides continuity in governance, organic gardening practices, information sharing, and the ability to be waitlisted at more than 1 garden. The City of Surrey has set a goal of adding 2 community gardens per year on city-owned land with infrastructure investment and seed money to help groups establish governance models with the help of Can You Dig It.

## **Political Champions**

Having a political champion who is willing to push the food security agenda has a significant effect not only on the policies of local government but how those policies are put into action. On the Richmond City Council, Harold Steves is a strong advocate for food security. Steves is an organic farmer and was one of the initiators of the Agricultural Land Reserve while in the provincial legislature.<sup>156</sup> The City of Richmond invests more infrastructure than any of the other municipalities. The City of Vancouver has several local food champions on council with the present mayor having hands-on experience in the local food sector. Table Matters on the North Shore has been enthusiastically endorsed by the mayors of their respective cities and districts, and they have adopted the North Shore Food Charter. Since the adoption of the Regional Food System Strategy in 2011, several of the municipalities in this study have made significant progress, and all can learn from each other's best practices.

## Appendix: Food Actions by Municipality

Metro Vancouver Regional Food System		
Strategy	Action and Policy	Municipality
<b>Goal 1: Increase Capacity to Produce Food Close to Home</b>		
<b>Strategy 1.1</b> Protect agricultural land for food production	a) Burnaby's Soil Removal Bylaw (1961) regulates the removal of soil, including agricultural land. b) Burnaby's Soil Deposit Bylaw (1971) regulates the deposit of soil, including agricultural lands.	<b>Burnaby</b>
<b>Strategy 1.1</b>	a) Richmond adopted a Soil Watch Program in 2013, and 36 signs were placed in agricultural areas directing callers to a dedicated phone line to report bylaw violations related to soil matter in the ALR. b) As of Apr. 2015, Richmond Bylaw Officers can ticket offenders for illegal soil removal and deposit activities under the Soil Removal and Fill Regulation Bylaw. c) City staff works with the council-appointed Agricultural Advisory Committee to ensure land uses adjacent to the ALR are compatible, minimize conflict among agricultural, recreation, conservation and urban activities, and support servicing and infrastructure.	<b>Richmond</b>
<b>Strategy 1.1</b>	a) Surrey's Official Community Plan (OCP) calls for 2 hectares of land (with equal or better soil) to replace 1 hectare of land removed from ALR lands. Staff and the Agriculture and Food Security Advisory Committee are looking to identify potential sites outside the ALR that would be suitable for inclusion. b) Surrey's OCP limits the subdivision of agricultural land to 4 hectares or more within the ALR, and 2 hectares on designated agricultural lands outside the ALR, and encourages the consolidation of farmland to increase its viability. c) Surrey adopted a farm residential footprint or "Farm Home Plate" bylaw in November 2012 that provides guidelines for siting, setbacks, maximum footprint and soil deposition. d) Surrey's edge planning guidelines limits densities to 5 units per hectares for areas within 200 m of the ALR boundary.	<b>Surrey</b>
<b>Strategy 1.2</b> Restore fish habitat and protect sustainable sources of seafood	a) Burnaby's Streamside Protection and Enhancement Area Bylaw establishes setbacks for development and variance applications are reviewed by the city's Environmental Review Committee. b) The City of Burnaby provides in-kind support to environmental stewardship groups that help protect and restore waterways and watersheds throughout the City. c) Burnaby contributes \$12,500 annually to World Rivers Day celebrations and supports the Great Salmon Send-off event where salmon chum are released into Stoney Creek. d) Burnaby has made significant improvements to fish habitat with new and restored waterways, expanded wetlands, streamside plantings and culvert improvement to facilitate fish migration. The Brentwood Town Centre mixed-use development included the conversion of 5 acres of asphalt to create wetlands and meadow habitat to enhance Still Creek. <sup>157</sup>	<b>Burnaby</b>

<b>Strategy 1.2</b>	<p>a) The SHaRP initiative (Salmon Habitat Restoration Program) identifies and protects sensitive fisheries habitat in wetlands and riparian areas. The city provides annual funding of \$350,000 - \$400,000 and includes partnerships with the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation and RBC Blue Water Project.</p> <p>b) Surrey features and showcases Salmon Stewardship Groups for focused fundraising initiatives. These organizations include Little Campbell Watershed Society; A Rocha's Brooksdale Environmental Centre; BC Spartina Working Group; Cougar Creek Streamkeepers; Elgin Creek Rescue; Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society; Nicomekl Enhancement Society; Semiahmoo Fish and Game Club; and Serpentine Enhancement Society.</p> <p>c) Surrey is developing Riparian Area Development Permit Guidelines to encourage farmers to establish and protect riparian buffers on agricultural land that are consistent with flood return levels.</p>	<b>Surrey</b>
<b>Strategy 1.2</b>	The City of Vancouver works with Metro Vancouver and Evergreen to restore the health of Still Creek. Evergreen engages community volunteers in its Uncover Your Creeks program that includes the Renfrew Ravine area of Still Creek. <sup>158</sup> Still Creek is one of the few remaining visible streams in urban Vancouver and is a part of the Brunette River system, which flows into the Fraser River. The project to naturalize Still Creek includes daylighting sections of the creek, removing concrete and naturalizing creek banks with native plants. <sup>159</sup> In 2012 Chum salmon returned to the creek for the first time in 80 years.	<b>Vancouver</b>
<b>Strategy 1.3</b> Enable expansion of agricultural production	The City of Burnaby supported the Kwantlen Polytechnic University's Southwest BC Bio-Region Food System Design Project with an initial \$12,000 grant and offers infrequent, ongoing staff support.	<b>Burnaby</b>
<b>Strategy 1.3</b>	The City of North Vancouver supports the Kwantlen Polytechnic University's Southwest BC Bio-Region Food System Design Project with an initial \$5,000 grant and City council endorsed the project in February, 2013.	<b>North Shore City of North Vancouver</b>
<b>Strategy 1.3</b>	The District of North Vancouver supports the Kwantlen Polytechnic University's Southwest BC Bio-Region Food System Design Project with a commitment to provide staff resources.	<b>North Shore District of North Vancouver</b>
<b>Strategy 1.3</b>	<p>a) Richmond is advancing the Garden City Lands Legacy Landscape Plan with Phase 1. The 2015 Capital Budget of \$2.1 million includes perimeter trails, water management infrastructure, first section of farm fields and interpretive signage.</p> <p>b) The city is establishing community partnerships and stewardships on the Garden City land and researching potential partnership agreements with Kwantlen Polytechnic University for a research farm.</p> <p>c) The city is working on licensing agreements, one for a farm management strategy (1 farm, multiple farmers approach) for 2016, and another to develop Community Gardens.</p> <p>d) Richmond is performing hydrogeology studies, establishing a water management strategy, and doing detailed design and engineering for water management.</p>	<b>Richmond</b>
<b>Strategy 1.3</b>	a) Surrey is working on the Ag Water Accessibility Project Work. In cooperation with farmers, the Ministry of Environment, and irrigation districts, Surrey aims to improve access to an adequate	<b>Surrey</b>

	<p>and safe water supply for agricultural operations such as livestock watering, crop irrigation, produce washing, and food processing.</p> <p>b) The city is investing \$3 million over 10 years on its Strategic Plan for Lowlands Flood Control for the Serpentine River and Nicomekl River floodplains. The funds are being used to manage dyke upgrades, pump upgrades, and ditch conveyancing to support agriculture production in these areas.</p> <p>c) The city is developing a Road Design Criteria Project to reduce impacts on farmland and to facilitate farmers' transportation routes and farm access.</p>	
<p><b>Strategy 1.4</b> Invest in a new generation of food producers</p>	<p>a) Kwantlen Polytechnic University's Department of Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems operates the Richmond Farm School. It is a 10-month program focused on providing training for individuals interested in local production, processing and distribution, human-scale systems that provide sustainability to local farms, and natural production methods that value ecological resources and local health.</p> <p>b) Richmond has offered city-owned land for incubator farms. In February 2012 council approved the licensing of 4.5 acres of land at the south end of No. 3 Road with several of these spots reserved for Richmond Farm School graduates. In July 2012 council endorsed the allocation of 1.5 acres at the Gardens Agricultural Park (No. 5 Road and Steveston Highway) for the development of an Incubator Farm. Incubator farming is an opportunity for graduates of the Richmond Farm School program to continue learning by actively farming in an applied, cooperative, and supported manner for up to 3 years. The Gardens Agricultural Park is a 12.2 acre park at the former Fantasy Gardens site. Phase 3 of the council-approved master plan includes incubator farms and community gardens.</p>	<p><b>Richmond</b></p>
<p><b>Strategy 1.4</b></p>	<p>a) City-owned lands that are in the ALR are included in strategies to increase production and develop incubator farms for new farmers. Mound Farm Park Master Plan Agricultural Production Project and the Colebrook Park Master Plan Agricultural Production Project are included in the next 3–6 years under the Economy section of the OCP.</p> <p>b) The city is working on a Virtual Incubator Farm Project, an online system designed to connect potential farmers with agriculture-related resources.</p> <p>c) Surrey is dedicating staff resources to support research and development of innovative production technologies and practices, such as 'vertical farming', rooftop farming, and advanced irrigation and fertilization systems.</p>	<p><b>Surrey</b></p>
<p><b>Strategy 1.5</b> Expand commercial food production in urban areas</p>	<p>City of North Vancouver staff is involved in the Steering Committee of the Edible Garden Project (EGP). Staff provides input into EGP initiatives including Loutet Farm, Sutherland farm, and other gardens. The Sutherland Schoolyard Market Garden is a partnership between the Edible Garden Project and the school district. The city provides \$15,000 per year of core funding through the North Shore Neighbourhood House, and the EGP raised over \$20,000 through an online indiegogo campaign in 2014.</p>	<p><b>North Shore City of North Vancouver</b></p>
	<p>a) Surrey is partnering with BC Agricultural Centre of Excellence to provide agri-business financial training for the John Volken Academy BioPod students. The BioPod initiative will focus on the diversification of agricultural operations and the production of new</p>	<p><b>Surrey</b></p>

	<p>crops and commodities, particularly high-value crops and those serving new markets with growth potential.</p> <p>b) The city is developing agri-technology and crop science research and development for the commercial greenhouse industry with the BC Agricultural Centre of Excellence Network. Partners include Kwantlen Polytechnic University, British Columbia Institute of Technology, Simon Fraser University, and SMK Farms and Research Centre.</p>	
<b>Strategy 1.5</b>	<p>a) The City of Vancouver's Greenest City 2020 Action Plan calls for a doubling of green jobs from 16,700 to 33,400 between 2010 and 2020. The city increased green jobs (including those in the local food sector) by 19% from 2010 to 2013.<sup>160</sup> While most of these were related to building and transportation, local food jobs increased 21% during this time.</p> <p>b) City programs and policies have also facilitated greater access to local food by supporting urban farms, farmers' markets, street food vendors, and craft breweries.</p> <p>c) The city is currently working on developing policies to enable commercial food production (urban farming) as a defined use on zoned lands with appropriate limitations and mitigation strategies. There are 16 urban farms listed on the Vancouver Urban Farm Society website. The Vancouver Food Strategy (2013) sets a goal of increasing the number of urban farms in Vancouver to 35 by the year 2020.<sup>161</sup> Urban farming is defined as: backyard farms, institutional farms, rooftop farms, and farms on private property. In 2014 the City of Vancouver's Greenest City Community Grants program gave a \$20,000 grant to the West End Urban Farming Initiative through Gordon Neighbourhood House. The funds will be used to work with members of the West End community to identify and support potential farm sites within the neighbourhood.<sup>162</sup></p> <p>e) Another 2014 Greenest City Community Grant of \$25,000 went to the Expanding the Urban Farming Sharing Economy initiative. This grant to the Vancouver Urban Farmers Society and Shifting Growth Garden Society is for urban farming projects, a farm tool-share program, and volunteer training program.</p>	<b>Vancouver</b>
<b>Goal 2: Improve the Financial Viability of the Food Sector</b>		
<b>Strategy 2.1</b> Increase the capacity to process, warehouse and distribute local foods	The City of Richmond provided a grant to the Richmond Food Security Society to support a Food Hub Feasibility Study.	<b>Richmond</b>
<b>Strategy 2.1</b>	<p>a) The city of offers sustainable food system grants for services or programs that support the goals of the Vancouver Food System Strategy.<sup>163</sup> The city contributed \$100,000 for the development of a Vancouver Incubator Kitchen in collaboration with Save on Meats and Vancouver Community College.</p> <p>b) The City of Vancouver provided a \$25,000 grant to the Living Oceans Society and the T. Buck Suzuki Environmental Foundation for its Sea to Fork Seafood Processing project. The intent of the grant is to establish an independent fish processing plant and training facility in the Vancouver region.<sup>164</sup></p>	<b>Vancouver</b>
<b>Strategy 2.2</b>	a) The City of Burnaby's Green Team reviewed Food Services purchases and has incorporated more sustainable food items into	<b>Burnaby</b>



Include local foods in the purchasing policies of large public institutions	<p>available menus including organic, fair-trade coffee, and eggs that are organic and locally sourced.</p> <p>b) The city's Food Services department operates 10 food concessions and there are 4 city-owned restaurants that are leased out. Local food initiatives include on-site herb growing and produce purchases from local farms.</p>	
<b>Strategy 2.2</b>	<p>a) The Vancouver Park Board started offering local food options at snack bars in a 2013 pilot project to support the Local Food Action Plan. There are 13 concessions operated by independent concessionaires and full-service restaurants at each of the 3 municipal golf courses. The Park Board has a Central Warehouse for bulk purchasing and distribution.<sup>165</sup> There are also 11 privately operated restaurants that lease Park Board land. Many of them use sustainable food purchasing practices, feature meats and produce from regional and urban farms, and most are members of Oceanwise, a sustainable seafood certification.</p> <p>b) City staff tracks and reports to council and the public in these three categories: local food purchased, sustainable food purchased, and both local and sustainable food purchased.</p> <p>c) Street-food vendors are encouraged to source local and sustainable ingredients for their menus and are required to use reusable, recyclable, or compostable packaging.</p>	<b>Vancouver</b>
<b>Strategy 2.3</b> Increase direct marketing opportunities for local foods	<p>a) The city supports the Burnaby Artisan Farmers' Market by offering space at City Hall from May to October. The City Planning Department purchases \$500 of market certificates to hand out at the annual Environment Festival, which is held on the same day as the market during Environment Week.</p> <p>b) The city permits retail farm markets to sell agricultural products produced on their site.</p> <p>c) Burnaby staff, in partnership with Burnaby Food First, Tourism Burnaby and Urban Digs Farm, is developing a tour of farms and agriculture-related stops in the Big Bend agricultural area similar to the Farm Circle Tours in the Fraser Valley.</p>	<b>Burnaby</b>
<b>Strategy 2.3</b>	Lonsdale Quay Farmers' Market, established in 2002, is located on the East Plaza of Lonsdale Quay every Saturday between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. from the beginning of May until the end of October. The market is ideally situated at the Seabus terminus in a shady, cool location.	<b>North Shore City of North Vancouver</b>
<b>Strategy 2.3</b>	<p>a) The City of Richmond supports and promotes the Steveston Farmers' and Artisans' Market. The market was launched in May 2008 by the Steveston Community Society. Local farmers, artists and crafts persons make their products available in an open, fresh-air environment.</p> <p>b) Richmond launched a pilot food-truck program in 2013 in several locations, and the Lang Park Redevelopment incorporates 3 food truck parking spots along Buswell Street. Lang Park is a small urban park plaza adjacent to the City Centre Community Centre.</p>	<b>Richmond</b>
<b>Strategy 2.3</b>	<p>a) Surrey prepares its own version of a Farm Fresh guide on a semi-annual basis. The guide highlights organic, u-pick, crop information, and agri-tourism sites at Surrey farms.</p> <p>b) The city supports the Surrey Urban Farmers' Market by allocating free outdoor space, secure equipment storage, and an annual community grant of approximately \$1,000. Since moving to the new City Hall, the market is required to submit a \$2,000 damage deposit.</p>	<b>Surrey</b>

	<p>c) Surrey raises public awareness of agriculture through initiatives such as farm tours, media materials, and community events.</p> <p>d) A resurrection of the Surrey Farm Tour is being planned for 2016.</p>	
<b>Strategy 2.3</b>	<p>a) The city offers guidelines and a checklist on how to set up a farmers' market on their web site. They direct inquiries to one of their Development and Services Building Centre officers to discuss plans. The Vancouver Food Strategy (2013) goal is to increase the number of farmers' markets in Vancouver from 9 to 22 by the year 2020.</p> <p>b) There are listings and web links to the various farmers' markets including the 7 run by Vancouver Farmers Markets and 2 other regular summer markets.</p> <p>c) The Vancouver Food Strategy calls for an increase in the number of community food markets (markets with less than 10 booths) from 4 to 15 by the year 2020. These markets are typically held at neighbourhood houses, seniors' centres, social housing complexes, or office buildings.</p>	<b>Vancouver</b>
<b>Strategy 2.3</b>	The Ambleside Farmers' Market is located close to the entrance to Ambleside Park and Beach. The market began in 2006 and runs every Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. from the beginning of May until the end of October.	<b>District of West Vancouver</b>
<b>Strategy 2.4</b> Further develop value chains within the food sector		
<b>Strategy 2.5</b> Review government policies and programs to ensure they enable the expansion of the local food sector	<p>a) The City of North Vancouver adopted an Urban Agriculture and Food Security Action Plan in 2013.</p> <p>b) The city's Official Community Plan includes language about food security, urban agriculture, and sustainable food systems, and council adopted a Food Charter in 2014.</p> <p>c) The city is currently developing a Development Permit Application Sustainability Checklist that will include items that pertain to food systems.</p>	<b>North Shore City of North Vancouver</b>
<b>Strategy 2.5</b>	<p>a) The district adopted a Food Charter developed by Table Matters in January 2014. As part of the implementation, the Edible Garden Project received \$50,000 in funding to work with municipal staff to help educate them around adding a food lens to municipal work in economic and community development.</p> <p>b) The District of North Vancouver Parks and Open Space Strategic Plan includes a chapter on Urban Agriculture and Community Gardens. An example of this policy is the Seylynn and Bridgman Parks Conceptual Parks Master Plan (April 2015) that includes a community garden at Seylynn Park (to be developed in 2016).</p>	<b>North Shore District of North Vancouver</b>
<b>Strategy 2.5</b>	<p>a) The district adopted the Food Charter developed by Table Matters in April 2014.</p> <p>b) The West Vancouver Parks Master Plan (2012) includes a section on Urban Agriculture. The district has community gardens at Gleneagles Community Centre and 54 plots along the Ambleside waterfront area.<sup>166</sup></p> <p>c) EcoUrbia has proposed a West Vancouver Community EcoCenter that will utilize the vacant Kleewyck Nursery site. The EcoCenter will be a place for conservation, education and innovation, native and edible plant species, holistic food cultivation, low-impact gardening practices, and energy and water conservation.</p>	<b>North Shore District of West Vancouver</b>

<b>Strategy 2.5</b>	<p>a) Richmond Food Security Society, Vancouver Coastal Health, and other groups are developing a Richmond Food Charter to present to Richmond City Council for endorsement and to establish a working group to advance food security through the development of a Richmond Food Strategy.</p> <p>b) The city works with a variety of partners to strengthen the local food system and increase the range of urban agriculture opportunities. These partners include Kwantlen Polytechnic University's Department of Sustainable Agriculture and Food System's Richmond Farm School; The Sharing Farm, a non-profit organization that grows healthy produce for charitable food distribution organizations; and the Richmond Schoolyard Society, which brings children into the outdoor classroom where programs promote community building, local organic food, healthy eating choices, and food sustainability.</p> <p>c) The Richmond Food Security Society manages the city's 300 community garden plots at 8 locations. The Community Garden Administration agreement began in 2010 and included a one-time grant of \$15,000 from the Council Contingency fund to operate the gardens and provide workshops. The agreement was renewed for 3 years in May 2013.</p>	<b>Richmond</b>
<b>Strategy 2.5</b>	<p>a) As part of the Agricultural Protection and Enhancement Strategy, Surrey is advocating for provincial tax assessment changes to provide incentives for landowners who use their lands productively.</p> <p>b) Surrey's OCP also offers protection for farming and agri-food operations from impacts such as traffic, flooding, nuisance complaints, trespassing, and noxious substances. A special Farming Protection Development Permit area has been created, and Restrictive covenants are required on developments within 300 metres of the ALR boundary.<sup>167</sup></p> <p>c) Economic policies within Surrey's OCP provide guidance for infrastructure that accommodates farm use and access, storm water management, and access to water.</p>	<b>Surrey</b>
<b>Strategy 2.5</b>	Vancouver adopted a food charter in 2007 and has set aggressive goals in the Greenest City Action Plan to increase their food assets from 2010 baseline levels by 50% (3,340 assets to 5,158 by 2020).	<b>Vancouver</b>
<b>Goal 3: People Make Healthy and Sustainable Food Choices</b>		
<b>Strategy 3.1</b> Enable residents to make healthy food choices	<p>a) The City of Burnaby, along with Fraser Health-Burnaby and the Burnaby School District are part of the Healthy Community Partnership. They work on strengthening partnerships and offering educational community events that focus on healthy living.</p> <p>b) Burnaby staff support Burnaby Food First projects including food preservation and food gardening workshops and the Sharing Backyards program.</p>	<b>Burnaby</b>
<b>Strategy 3.1</b>	The North Vancouver Recreation and Culture Commission is piloting the Play Well Eat Well Project at the Harry Jerome Community Recreation Centre. Working with Vancouver Coastal Health dietitians, they are providing vending and café food choices that meet the Nutritional Guidelines for Vending Machines in BC Public Buildings (May 2007). Food and beverages sold in vending machines, concessions, sports programs, facility-hosted birthday parties, fund-raisers, and staff meetings include selections of	<b>North Shore District of North Vancouver</b>

	healthy choices such as milk, bottled water, diet pop, 100% fruit juices, baked chips, trail mix, and granola bars.	
<b>Strategy 3.1</b>	<p>a) The Sharing Farm, the Richmond Schoolyard Society, and the Terra Nova Nature School collaborated on the delivery of the Family Food Camp Pilot in the fall of 2015. Parents attended weekly cooking classes and prepared meals made with freshly harvested produce grown on the farm. After a shared meal each week, the participating families went home with a harvest box of Sharing Farm produce.</p> <p>b) The Stir it Up Youth Kitchen provides a place for youth at risk to learn how to cook healthy foods, learn about nutrition, and gain valuable experience that can lead to employment opportunities.<sup>168</sup> The City of Richmond partners with the Richmond Food Security Society, the Steveston Community Society, the East Richmond Community Association, the Richmond Society for Community Living, and the Richmond School District.</p>	<b>Richmond</b>
<b>Strategy 3.1</b>	<p>a) Stewart Farm Day Camp offers children hands on agriculture experience at an historical farm including “Farmhand Fever” where children can experience what it’s like to be a farmer. The Heritage Farm is operated by city staff and volunteers.</p> <p>b) Stewart Farm also offers Sustainable Gardening, Seed Saving, and Fruit Tree Pruning Workshops to the broader public.</p> <p>c) The North Surrey Recreation Centre provides transportation support for refugee families to visit local farms to access fresh, local food and to learn about where their food is grown.</p>	<b>Surrey</b>
<b>Strategy 3.1</b>	Park Board Commissioners passed the Local Food Action Plan in July 2013. The plan requires working with food suppliers to offer local, healthy food options at beach concessions.	<b>Vancouver</b>
<b>Strategy 3.2</b> Communicate how food choices support sustainability		
<b>Strategy 3.3</b> Enhance food literacy and skills in schools	The City of Burnaby offers in-kind staff support for a project led by Burnaby Food First that is working to increase the capacity of student groups to manage and expand the school gardens at 3 of Burnaby’s secondary schools. The program includes matching students with adult gardening mentors.	<b>Burnaby</b>
<b>Strategy 3.3</b>	a) The Richmond Schoolyard Society, in collaboration with the Richmond Food Security Society, The Sharing Farm Society, Richmond Farm School, and local schools, promote community building, local organic food, healthy eating choices, and food sustainability. Richmond Schoolyard Society promotes community building, local organic food, healthy eating choices, sustainable farming, and the integration of the school curriculum in an outdoor classroom setting. Nearly 1500 students from 8 elementary schools in Richmond School District 38 currently participate in the program with many of its programs based out of Terra Nova Rural Park. Chef Ian Lai of the Northwest Culinary School supervises 2 lots at the Terra Nova Rural Park, and the farm is equipped with an outdoor wood-fired cob oven and an indoor kitchen facility.	<b>Richmond</b>
<b>Strategy 3.3</b>	The City of Vancouver and Vancouver Foundation’s Greenest City Fund provide grants to a number of community and school-based organizations that provide educational opportunities. These include several grants that focus on growing organic food, preparing and preserving food, seed saving, and pollinator habitat. These grants	<b>Vancouver</b>

	<p>are available each year in 3 categories. Greenest City Neighbourhood Small Grants of up to \$1,000 are available to individuals living in Vancouver for community-led green projects. Greenest City Generation Green Grants of up to \$10,000 are available for organizations in Vancouver for youth-led initiatives on how to make schools, communities, or neighbourhoods greener. Greenest City Community Grants up to \$50,000 are for Vancouver-based organizations with ideas about how to make residential and commercial areas greener. Some of the school-based food initiatives that have benefited include the Lord Kitchener Outdoor Classroom (\$10,000) grant to transform part of the school grounds into a food garden; the Windermere Organic Garden (\$3,000) grant to expand the organic garden at Windermere Secondary School and produce enough food to sell to the school cafeteria; and the Greening Henderson (\$1,260) grant to increase the size of the Spirit Garden at John Henderson Elementary School.</p>	
<p><b>Strategy 3.4</b> Celebrate the taste of local foods and the diversity of cuisines</p>	<p>a) In 2015 the Burnaby Village Museum highlighted and celebrated Burnaby's long history of agriculture with its summer theme of 'Homegrown Harvest.' There was a demonstration garden with heritage food varieties, food preservation workshops, and a farmer in residence.</p> <p>b) Burnaby's Community Festival and Events Grant provides funding to eligible Burnaby organizations for new or existing events and festivals. Many of these festivals feature cultural or specialized food items as a component of the event.</p> <p>c) The city, in partnership with Burnaby Food First, Tourism Burnaby and Urban Digs Farm, is developing a Farm Circle Tour of farms and agriculture-related businesses in the Big Bend area of Burnaby.</p>	<b>Burnaby</b>
<p><b>Strategy 3.4</b></p>	<p>a) Richmond Seedy Saturday is an annual event held each spring to educate the community about seeds, planting, and growing organically. There are sales of fruit trees, berry bushes, edible and native plants, small trees and shrubs, horse manure, and worms.<sup>169</sup> In its seventh year, the 2015 event was held at the Thompson Community Centre. The event was presented by the Richmond Food Security Society and featured a seed swap table, seed vendors, seed library display, and community information tables.</p> <p>b) The city supports community events like the Garlic Festival and the Chefs to the Field events that celebrate local agriculture.</p> <p>c) The city piloted a food truck program in 2013 at several locations. The Lang Park Redevelopment in the city centre incorporates 3 roadside food truck parking spaces.</p> <p>d) The city is planning a revival of the Richmond Farm Tour program in 2016/2017 to raise awareness of the economic and cultural value of farming in Richmond.</p>	<b>Richmond</b>
<p><b>Strategy 3.4</b></p>	<p>a) Party for the Planet Event is held around Earth Day each year. The city provides \$100,000 funding for the event. A portion of that supports a food-related component that includes farmers, prepared foods, the Farmers' Market, and environmental groups.</p> <p>b) Cloverdale Rodeo and Country Fair is a large community event celebrating Surrey's agriculture and rural history. One of the most popular parts of the 127-year-old Country Fair is the educational displays featuring animals and hands on demos. This popular area includes cow-milking demonstrations, little farmers' exhibit, informational exhibits and various animals such as horses, llamas, piglets and more.</p>	<b>Surrey</b>

	<p>c) In July the Flavours of Surrey, part of Fusion Fest, showcases local producers and increases public awareness of farming practices. The city allocates \$22,000 per year and considerable staff resources to the Flavours event.</p> <p>d) Stewart Farm Olde Harvest Fair is held each fall with a heritage orchard tour, vendor markets, and cider pressing and butter making.</p> <p>e) Stewart Farm hosts a Seed Sale and Exchange where people can purchase heritage vegetable, flower and herb seeds, fruit trees and nursery plants.</p> <p>f) The city provides Surrey Tourism with farm and food producer information to showcase in their new Food For Thought food tourism publication.</p> <p>g) Staff is developing a food-specific layer on Surrey's main mapping program COSMOS. It will be available on the website and will provide locations of local food sales sites such as farm markets.</p> <p>h) The city is supporting a Surrey Farm Tours put on by the Surrey/White Rock Food Action Coalition. The Agriculture and Food Security Advisory Committee members will be included and approximately \$18,000 of the funds will be invested by the city.</p> <p>i) The city implemented a Mobile Food Truck program in May 2014. There are 10 approved vendors that participate at city events and at approved sites within Surrey. The Surrey Urban Farmers Market also has a number of food trucks that fall into a separate approval process.</p>	
<b>Strategy 3.4</b>	<p>a) The Healthy Local Food Fieldhouse Residency Program helps organizations engage with Vancouver residents to grow and share food. Vancouver Parks Board provides free field house spaces in locations like Norquay and Strathcona Parks for groups to provide public programs and develop projects.</p> <p>b) In 2010 Vancouver launched a pilot project with 17 food-cart licences that were selected by lottery. All applications were reviewed by a nutritionist. There are now over 100 food trucks, carts, and vendors permitted to sell healthy, interesting, convenient, culturally diverse, and delicious food on Vancouver streets. Vendor locations can be found on a smartphone app.</p> <p>c) The Greenest City Fund granted \$25,000 to the Hua Foundation for The Choi Project Phase II. The grant is used to empower the Hua (ethnic Chinese) community to take part in local food movement. The project has developed a guide on where to find BC grown, pesticide-free daikon, pea shoots, and choy sum. They have developed a Seasonal Choi Guide, engaged small business partnerships, and provided cooking workshops.</p>	<b>Vancouver</b>
<b>Goal 4: Everyone has Access to Healthy, Culturally Diverse and Affordable Food</b>		
<b>Strategy 4.1</b> Improve access to nutritious food among vulnerable groups	<p>a) The Empty Bowls Fundraising Gala is a bi-annual community initiative that raises money for food programs (e.g. breakfast programs in schools). The City of Burnaby is a gold-level sponsor, and staff assists with printing services, organizing, and promoting the event. Food is prepared by celebrated local chefs and tasty samplings are also created by the Burnaby School District's ACE-it Culinary Program.</p>	<b>Burnaby</b>

	<p>b) Staff provides in-kind involvement in and support of Burnaby Food First. The organization is composed of community members and local agencies working together on food security issues in Burnaby. Projects include food preservation and food gardening workshops, which target low-income and newcomer residents of Burnaby.</p> <p>c) The city offers an annual grant of \$9,000 to the Burnaby Meals on Wheels program.</p> <p>d) The city-owned Brentwood Community Resource Centre has a learning kitchen for food-based programs and community-kitchens programs. The \$2.1 million, 6,100 sq.ft. Community Resource Centre was developed in cooperation with Embassy Development through the city's Community Benefit Bonus Policy Density. Its tenants include Burnaby Community Services, Burnaby Meals on Wheels, MOSAIC, and the YMCA.</p> <p>e) Burnaby seniors' centres offer nutritious meals for Burnaby residents 55+ at discounted prices.</p> <p>f) The city is currently collaborating with Burnaby Food First and UBC Land and Food Systems students on providing additional layers to a food mapping project.</p>	
<b>Strategy 4.1</b>	<p>Staff is currently involved with Table Matters in the Scaling-Up Food Rescue Project. The project goals are to raise awareness that surplus food is safe to eat; to design a food rescue model; and to create partnerships with food retailers, food recovery organizations, community organizations, regional and municipal councils, and food security organizations. The learned outcomes will be shared with stakeholders and the public.</p>	<b>North Shore District of North Vancouver</b>
<b>Strategy 4.1</b>	<p>a) The Sharing Farm is a non-profit organization with the following mandate: to grow vegetables and to harvest healthy produce to give to charitable food distribution organizations; to promote sustainability through workshops on issues related to food rescue, food security, organic practices, farm gardens and youth; to link with other similar projects who embrace the spirit of developing food rescue initiatives for the hungry, and food preservation and community development through collaborations and the sharing of resources.</p> <p>The city supplies the 2.8 acres in Terra Nova Rural Park, facilities, grants and in-kind services. In May 2014 council endorsed a 5-year agreement for The Sharing Farm Society to continue to engage in growing organic produce. Since 2008, 200,000 pounds of produce has been donated to low-income families in Richmond.</p> <p>b) The City of Richmond subsidizes harvest boxes for Food Bank users with produce purchased through a CSA from the Sharing Farm.</p> <p>c) The Healthy Food Retail Project is a Richmond Food Security Society project that will map food-retail businesses by category and analyze access and barriers to healthy foods. Program partners include the City of Richmond, Vancouver Coastal Health, the University of British Columbia, the Richmond Food Bank, the Richmond Poverty Response Committee and the West Coast Convenience Store Association.</p> <p>d) The City is partnering in a research project with students from the UBC Land and Food System faculty to examine the food security needs of the Chinese community. Interviews will be conducted with</p>	<b>Richmond</b>



	<p>low-income families, seniors living in social housing, and shoppers outside supermarkets.</p> <p>e) The City of Richmond supports the Community Kitchen programs at the Caring Place.</p> <p>f) The City of Richmond, Vancity Credit Union, StrongStart BC, and the Richmond School District partner with the Richmond Food Security Society to provide the Good Food Access Program. The project provides healthy, nutritious affordable foods to low-income households through a Good Food Box and a bulk-buying club. The boxes are distributed through schools, early learning programs, and social housing providers.</p> <p>g) The City of Richmond has 3 staff on the Richmond Children First Steering Committee. The Richmond Children's First project, "It's Not Fair: The Face of Child Poverty in Richmond" contains a child's right to nutritious food. This is embedded in the Richmond Children's Charter that over 3,000 children helped create.</p> <p>h) Seniors from the Minoru Seniors Society mentor youth in growing food at the Sharing Farm. The food is donated to the Richmond Food Bank.</p> <p>i) The Richmond Fruit Tree Project is a gleaning project that rescues fruit that would otherwise be wasted. This project is managed by the Richmond Food Security Society, and the fruit is donated to the Richmond Food Bank. There is also a Fruit Tree Sharing Project operated by the Sharing Farm Society with fruit and vegetables grown on site donated to the food bank.</p>	
<b>Strategy 4.1</b>	<p>a) Surrey's Official Community Plan includes a section on society and culture that includes improved access to healthy and affordable food with a focus on lower-income neighbourhoods.</p> <p>b) The City of Surrey has a partnership with DIVERSEcity Community Resources Society, a social service agency, to operate 2 community market gardens on city-owned land. The Hazelnut Meadows Community Garden in Newton has 80 plots, a greenhouse, and an orchard. The Lionel Courchene Growing Roots Community garden is located in Guildford and has 21 garden plots, a composting bin and a community tool shed.</p> <p>c) The city provides pick-up venues for the Harvest Box Program. Seasonal fruits and vegetable are delivered for \$8 a box to 8 rec centres and to City Hall once per month. With stronger staff promotion and new management, The Harvest Box Program delivered 1,870 boxes in 2014.</p> <p>d) The City of Surrey gave initial support of \$30,000 to the Oak Avenue Neighbourhood Hub Society. OANHs provides free lunches to seniors; community dinners; and community kitchen/cooking club programs for seniors, immigrants, low-income and refugee families.</p> <p>e) DIVERSEcity Community Resources Society currently offers cooking classes for new immigrants and refugee populations at 4 city-owned recreation facilities. Participants in the program receive workshops on nutrition, meal planning and creating recipes using local foods. They also are taught about, budgeting, safe food handling, canning and preserving.</p>	<b>Surrey</b>
<b>Strategy 4.1</b>	<p>a) The Greenest City 2020 Action Plan and Vancouver Food Strategy has set a target of 15 community food markets from the present 4 and has detailed instructions on how to create them on their website. These markets provide a way to bring fresh, nutritious food</p>	<b>Vancouver</b>

	<p>closer to residents who may experience physical or economic difficulties in accessing a grocery store or farmers' market. Community food markets can operate year-round. Current locations include Cedar Cottage Food Network, Fresh Roots Good Food Market, Westside Community Food Market, and Westside Mobile Food Market.</p> <p>b) Britannia Food Share partners with local grocers who set aside produce for weekly pick-up to be used in use meal preparations or for redistribution. The Grandview Woodland Food Connection (GWFC) is a community organization that operates food security programs at the Britannia Community Centre. Last year 566 pounds of quality organic food was rescued.</p> <p>c) The Vancouver Foundation and the City of Vancouver 2014 Greenest City Community Grants Program provided a \$4,750 grant to Chylan Emergency Gear Inc. and Atira Women's Resource Society for their Self Reliance Project for Women. The grant is for teaching sustainable skills in the areas of food, cleaning products, and production of goods to vulnerable women.</p> <p>d) The city's Vancouver Food Strategy encourages the installation of community kitchens at city-owned facilities, new developments, and social housing sites. While the city is not directly involved in these kitchens, they assist in their establishment through grants to Neighbourhood Houses.</p>	
<b>Strategy 4.2</b> Encourage urban agriculture	<p>a) Burnaby currently has 6 community gardens and 10 learning gardens on school district or institutional lands, and 3 community gardens on city-owned land including the 14-acre Burnaby and Region Allotment Gardens Association. BARAGA was founded in the mid-1970s with a grant from the provincial government and the City of Burnaby. It has 337 large plots and close to 1,000 gardeners.<sup>170</sup> The community garden application, approval, and establishment process is currently under review by staff, who will be making recommendations to council.</p> <p>c) City of Burnaby staff offer in-kind staff support for the Sharing Backyards project led by Burnaby Food First. The program matches Burnaby homeowners willing to share their backyards with fellow community members looking for gardening space.</p> <p>d) Burnaby City Council approved bylaw modifications in 2009 to permit beekeeping in 7 residentially zoned districts and 3 agricultural zone districts.</p>	<b>Burnaby</b>
<b>Strategy 4.2</b>	<p>a) The City of North Vancouver offers periodic grants, access to public land, and staff time for the North Shore Community Garden Society to run community gardens on city-owned land at City Hall, Charros, and Queen Mary. There is a fourth North Vancouver garden next to the North Shore Neighbourhood House, a local community centre. The Lower Lonsdale Community Gardens has approximately 50 garden plots for growing vegetables and flowers.</p> <p>b) The City of North Vancouver adopted the Hobby Bee Keeping Bylaw on May 25, 2009. The bylaw permits keeping 2 hives in single-family zoned residential lots (RS-1 Zone). The hobby beekeeping was adopted to support the sustainability of the urban agricultural movement. The city website offers advice on beekeeping practices, links to appropriate websites, and staff and a resident beekeeper's contact information.</p> <p>c) The City of North Vancouver council passed amendments to the Zoning and Small Creatures Bylaw on September 17th, 2012. The</p>	<b>North Shore City of North Vancouver</b>

	<p>Urban Chicken Guidelines permit up to 8 chickens (hens only) in the same RS-1 residential zone. New chicken keepers are encouraged to contact fellow chicken owners through Canadian Liberated Urban Chicken Klub (CLUCK) North Vancouver <sup>171</sup></p> <p>d) The City of North Vancouver provides \$15,000 per year of core funding through the North Shore Neighbourhood House to support urban agriculture initiatives of the Edible Garden Project. Staff is working on updates to the Social Plan, Urban Agriculture and Food Security Action Plan, and developing a food component for Draft Development Permit Application Sustainability Checklist.</p>	
<b>Strategy 4.2</b>	<p>a) Since 2009 staff has been working with the North Shore Community Garden Society to establish community gardens across the District. Current gardens include Lillooet Park Community Garden, the Lynn Valley Lions Community Garden and the Garibaldi Park Community Garden. There are waitlists for each garden.</p> <p>b) Staff look at opportunities to integrate urban agriculture in planning Town and Village centres including the possible use of Community Amenity Contributions.</p> <p>c) DNV Parks and Open Space Strategic Plan—Chapter 5.2.6 Seylynn and Bridgman Parks Conceptual Parks Master Plan was approved in April 2015. This plan included the development of a community garden at Seylynn Park in 2016.</p> <p>d) The District of North Vancouver, along with Vancouver Coastal Health, the City of North Vancouver, the North Shore Recycling Program, the North Shore Neighbourhood House, community agencies, and volunteers are part of the Edible Garden Project (EGP). The organization has grown from a \$30,000 budget, 1 part-time staff, 20 volunteers, and 6 square metres growing food in 2006 to a \$250,000 budget, 3 full-time and 2 part-time positions, over 400 volunteers, over 3500 participants each year, and 4,050 square metres of food growing space in 2014.<sup>172</sup></p> <p>e) The District of North Vancouver has a Bee Keeping Bylaw (amended in March 2012) that allows no more than 2 colonies of bees to be kept on a parcel having an area less than 1,100 square metres.<sup>173</sup></p>	<b>North Shore District of N. Vancouver</b>
<b>Strategy 4.2</b>	<p>a) The City manages 242 hectares publicly owned agricultural land including the Garden City Lands, Richmond Nature Park, Terra Nova Park and trails through agricultural land.</p> <p>b) The Richmond Food Security Society manages the City's 300 community garden plots at 8 locations throughout Richmond. There are 4 privately run allotment gardens in Richmond including the city-owned London Heritage Farm with 80 plots located along the south arm of the Fraser River. The city maintains the properties except for the heritage gardens that are maintained by society volunteers.</p> <p>c) Staff supports community organizations involved with food production and distribution. The Sharing Farm Society programs include workshops on growing vegetables in gardens and on balconies.</p> <p>d) The City of Richmond and the Real Estate Foundation of BC funded a research project to identify available land that could be utilized for food-production activities. The Richmond Food Security Society created the Richmond Foodland Asset Report (2013) that identified 638 underutilized properties that could be used for a variety of food growing activities. These activities include</p>	<b>Richmond</b>

	<p>community, schoolyard, market, and pocket gardens; small to medium scale farms; edible landscapes; and farmers' markets.<sup>174</sup></p> <p>e) Another Richmond Food Security Society project is the Seed Library. The Richmond Community Seed Library was developed by Richmond Food Security Society with several partner organizations including the Richmond Public Library, the Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security, and the UBC Chapman and Innovation Program, which provided a grant.<sup>175</sup></p>	
<b>Strategy 4.2</b>	<p>a) The Community Garden Expansion Project has a goal of adding 2 gardens per year with a budget of \$50,000. The cost per plot ranges from \$400 to \$500 where water is available to \$1,000 or more if drainage or water access is difficult. There are currently 368 community garden plots at 6 community gardens with the addition of the Lionel Courchene Community garden in 2014.</p> <p>b) The city provides funding of \$7,500 per garden to Can You Dig It to assist community groups in establishing community garden design and governance structures for their initial 3-year period.</p> <p>c) An Orchard Tree Pilot Project at a cost of \$8,000 has been established to install fruit-bearing trees in parks and natural areas throughout Surrey.</p> <p>d) Surrey instituted a Backyard Chicken Pilot Project in 2013 to determine appropriate property size, animal care, and disease control. The pilot allows registered participants to keep up to 4 hens on single-family residential lots that are less than 1 acre but larger than 7,200 square feet. In 2014, a total of 26 single-family lots were registered and results of the project will be reviewed in the fall of 2015.</p>	<b>Surrey</b>
<b>Strategy 4.2</b>	<p>a) Vancouver has 4,166 community garden plots, including the 452 new plots that were added in 2014. The city provides guidelines for gardens on parkland in its Park Board Urban Agriculture Policy for gardens, and for non-park lands in its Operational Guidelines for Community Gardens on City Land Other Than City Parks.</p> <p>b) As part of the 2020 Greenest City initiative, the City of Vancouver's website provides an interactive map that includes community gardens and a listing that provides contact information. The City of Vancouver is not involved in the governance of the gardens but does provide land. There are 26 gardens on city-owned property, 19 on city parkland, and 47 gardens on non-city lands including churches, schools, hospitals, and co-ops.</p> <p>c) The Vancouver Park Board has approved or renewed license agreements for 17 community gardens in parks, approved 8 new community gardens, and supplied 170 fruit trees to existing community gardens.<sup>176</sup> Gardens leases are typically renewed for 5-year terms.</p> <p>d) Vancouver allows hobby beekeeping in 1 and 2-family dwelling districts, community gardens, and sites where beekeeping forms part of an educational program. The website lists contact information for registering beehives with the province, and phone numbers of local beekeepers that can assist in dealing with swarms.</p> <p>e) The Greenest City Community Grant program provided \$28,800 to Hives for Humanity for Pollinators and People. In collaboration with PHS (Portland House Society) Community Services Society, this grant is used to build on their Therapeutic Beekeeping program. Participants are engaged in the local economy with training, volunteerism, and opportunities for green employment.</p>	<b>Vancouver</b>

	<p>f) The Vancouver Park Board has partnered with the Vancouver Youth Alliance to install 4 pollinator gardens in city parks to attract native bees.<sup>177</sup></p> <p>g) The city offers garden compost donations from the landfill's compost yard to community-based projects in Vancouver. This includes privately owned lands that will be used for community food gardens.</p> <p>h) In 2012 the Environmental Youth Alliance (EYA) received a Generation Green Grant from the Greenest City Grants for the Community Nursery project (\$9,500). Their project goal was to train 700 people in sustainable food growing in small spaces and to give away 7,000 plants.</p>	
<b>Strategy 4.3</b> Enable non-profit organizations to recover nutritious food	The City of Burnaby participates in the Greater Vancouver Food Bank's Food Runners program. The program picks up leftover perishable food items like sandwiches from city sites and distributes them to local non-profits.	<b>Burnaby</b>
<b>Strategy 4.3</b>	The Scaling-Up Food Rescue Project is a Table Matters initiative that is funded through a Plan H Grant and BC Healthy Communities. The Food Recovery Plan will create partnerships between potential donors and social agencies.	<b>North Shore City of North Vancouver</b>
<b>Strategy 4.3</b>	The District of North Vancouver provided a \$20,000 grant for the food recovery project. In collaboration with Vancouver Coastal Health and Table Matters, the food recovery project examines food access for vulnerable populations and makes connections between food retailers, social service providers, and recipients.	<b>North Shore District of North Vancouver</b>
<b>Goal 5: A Food System Consistent with Ecological Health</b>		
<b>Strategy 5.1</b> Protect and Enhance Ecosystem Goods and Services	a) The City of Burnaby has a bee condo program that is managed by Parks staff. Native pollinators like the Blue Orchard Mason Bee are important to berries, fruit trees, and certain vegetables. These bee condos are located in city parks.	<b>Burnaby</b>
<b>Strategy 5.1</b>	The Bee Friendly Conservation Society receives City of North Vancouver Parks and Environment Grants to promote native bee conservation. The city has several bee boxes located at 5 sites on public land.	<b>North Shore City of North Vancouver</b>
<b>Strategy 5.1</b>	<p>a) The City of Richmond oversees a Winter Crop Cover Program as part of its snow geese management program. Richmond is on a migratory path for several species of birds. Planting cover crops has helps to keep birds off of sports fields and other grass fields, and prevents overgrazing of perennial grass crops that are used for livestock.</p> <p>b) The City of Richmond adopted the Bath Slough Revitalization Initiative in April 2014. The city is partnering with the Emily Carr University of Art and Design to create a linear pollinator pasture along Bath Slough in the Bridgeport Industrial Park. This project combines public art while promoting the importance of protecting and promoting native pollinator species.</p>	<b>Richmond</b>
<b>Strategy 5.1</b>	<p>a) A portion of the Green City Fund will be used for the Biodiversity Farm Trust Review. The city will work with farmers to identify opportunities for wildlife habitat protection and enhancement in agricultural lands.</p> <p>b) The city is providing \$5,000 to a Pilot Apiary Program to support programs and find locations in the city for the installation and running of apiaries.</p>	<b>Surrey</b>

<b>Strategy 5.1</b>	The Vancouver Park Board has initiated The Pollinator Project to improve the habitat in parks and gardens for bumble bees, honey bees, mason bees, butterflies, and other pollinators. The Vancouver Park Board collaborates with the Environmental Youth Alliance, VanDusen Botanical Garden, and Hives for Humanity to create pollinator friendly places. Projects include the Nectar Trail, Shaughnessy, the Pollinator Corridor Project, Downtown Eastside, and the flower meadow at Empire Fields in the Hasting-Sunrise area. <sup>178</sup>	<b>Vancouver</b>
<b>Strategy 5.2</b> Reduce waste in the food system	<p>a) Richmond has partnered with School District 38 in developing the Green Ambassadors program. Secondary school students participate in monthly workshops to learn about environmental sustainability. In 2013, 185 students contributed 3,250 volunteer hours to promote recycling at community events and organized the Richmond Earth Day Youth Summit.</p> <p>b) The City of Richmond instituted its Multi-Family Green Cart program in April 2015 with full implementation on July 1. The program includes 1 or 2 pick-ups per week and a monthly bin cleaning service. The website includes the cart implementation plan, property manager's responsibilities, and information for commercial operators.</p> <p>c) The city provides a Special Event Recycling program for applicants. Organizers can rent recycling stations, garbage carts and/or litter pickers from the city on a first-come, first-served basis. This encourages food waste to be diverted from landfills.</p>	<b>Richmond</b>
<b>Strategy 5.2</b>	<p>a) The Vancouver Foundation and the City of Vancouver 2014 Greenest City Community gave a \$25,000 grant to The Elements Society for the Destination Conservation Zero Waste Pilot. This grant will be used to pilot a student-led, 3-year project to initiate a zero waste culture within Vancouver School Board district as part of VSB's goal to be the greenest school district in Canada.</p> <p>b) Another Vancouver Foundation and the City of Vancouver 2014 Greenest City Community \$25,000 grant went to Waste Watchers–Community Youth Leadership Initiative. This grant to Be the Change Earth Alliance Society will be for a youth-led, waste diversion plan at 3 Vancouver Community Centres.</p>	<b>Vancouver</b>
<b>Strategy 5.3</b> Facilitate adoption of environmentally sustainable practices	<p>a) The City of Burnaby gives an annual discretionary grant of approximately \$100,000 to the Burnaby Board of Trade (BBOT). The BBOT has The Pledge for a Sustainable Community program that offers a comprehensive online resource with the goal of helping businesses large and small reduce their environmental footprint. Participating companies pledge to carry out various initiatives such as supporting the local economy by buying locally, purchasing organic or Fair Trade products, or supporting waste reduction, and lowering emissions, water, and resource use.</p> <p>b) The City of Burnaby stopped using pesticides on public lands in 1988 and implemented the Pesticide Use Control Bylaw in April 2009.</p>	<b>Burnaby</b>
<b>Strategy 5.3</b>	The City of North Vancouver instituted the Cosmetic Pesticide Use Control Bylaw in January 2010, restricting the use of pesticides for cosmetic purposes on private and public lands.	<b>North Shore City of North Vancouver</b>
<b>Strategy 5.3</b>	The District of North Vancouver established its Pesticide Control Use Bylaw in January 2009 on public and private lands.	<b>North Shore District of North Vancouver</b>



<b>Strategy 5.3</b>	<p>a) As part of its Enhanced Pesticide Management Program (EPMP), Richmond adopted a Pesticide Use Control Bylaw in 2008. It includes a combination of public education for natural lawn care and organic gardening with a restrictive bylaw for the use of traditional pesticides.</p> <p>b) Richmond City Council unanimously passed a motion to become GE Free in May 2012. The motion bans genetically modified shrubs, plants, and food crops from being grown in Richmond. Three farmers that were growing GE corn for cattle feed were exempted from the ban. The motion also calls on senior government to require labelling of genetically engineered foods.</p>	<b>Richmond</b>
<b>Strategy 5.3</b>	<p>a) The Biodiversity Farm Trust Review works collaboratively with the Agriculture and Food Security Advisory Committee (AFSAC) to identify opportunities to protect and enhance wildlife habitat in agricultural lands. Partial funding comes from the \$3 million Green City Fund.</p> <p>b) Surrey's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy promotes working with the farming community to encourage sustainable farming practices and the use of Integrated Pest Management Program (IPM) standards to support food production.</p>	<b>Surrey</b>
<b>Strategy 5.4</b> Prepare for the impacts of climate change	<p>a) The City adopted a Total Storm Water Management Approach policy for development in 2003. This approach includes on-site retention, erosion and sediment control, peak runoff reduction, flood protection, and water quality enhancement.</p> <p>b) In 1995 the city conducted master drainage studies for the watersheds that drain into the Big Bend area that includes Burnaby's agricultural lands. Major drainage and creek improvements took place in Byrne Creek, Nelson Creek, Froggers Creek, and Jerry Rogers' Creek.</p>	<b>Burnaby</b>
<b>Strategy 5.4</b>	The District of North Vancouver's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy is currently underway with a completion target in 2016.	<b>District of N. Vancouver</b>
<b>Strategy 5.4</b>	The City of Richmond's 2008–2031 Flood Management Strategy includes plans to accommodate up to 1 m of sea level rise by 2100.	<b>Richmond</b>
<b>Strategy 5.4</b>	<p>a) Surrey's Climate Adaptation Strategy works with all levels of government to evaluate long-term flood management options in response to sea-level rise impacts with considerations for agricultural vulnerability. The Climate Adaptation Strategy includes an Agriculture and Food Security section. Action items include mitigating the risks to agricultural lands including flooding and soil salination, and access to irrigation.</p> <p>b) The Strategic Plan for Lowlands Flood Control was implemented in 1997 to control flooding in the Nicomekl and Serpentine floodplain. The city has implemented various components of the plan since 1998 at a total cost of \$35 million. The plan supports farming activities by managing storm-water runoff from upland development on agricultural properties in accordance with the Agriculture and Rural Development Subsidiary Agreement.</p>	<b>Surrey</b>
<b>Strategy 5.4</b>	Vancouver adopted a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in July 2012. Climate change adaptation measures provide guidelines for the built and natural environments and include the possible effects of climate change on urban agriculture.	<b>Vancouver</b>



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