

**The Future of Foods in the West Kootenay Conference
November 13-14, 2007
Nelson BC**

Final Report



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Collaborative appreciates and
thanks all the volunteers for their
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A. Summary

The Future of Food in the Kootenays Conference was held in Nelson on Tuesday evening, November 13 and all day Wednesday, November 14, 2007. The Conference addressed the issue of food security from a regional perspective. Both days were sold out at capacity; approximately 270 participants attended Tuesday evening presentations, and approximately 170 people attended the Wednesday conference. Major sponsors were: Columbia Basin Trust, Kootenay Food Strategy Society and Selkirk College. There were 11 co-sponsors (local and Lower Mainland) and over 16 supporting organizations and businesses.

B. Project Goals/Objectives

1. To educate community members, local and regional government decision-makers, staff, farmers and food industry entrepreneurs about future challenges to the regional food supply requiring more regional food self-reliance
2. To support an exchange of information, expertise and ideas among the groups mentioned above, in order to identify barriers and find solutions to these challenges
3. To develop a report, action plan and ongoing working group to implement the action plan

C. Evaluations

1. 75 participants submitted written evaluations on Wednesday afternoon; a high response rate.
2. Appreciations were consistently strong for scope and organization of Conference, quality of speakers, quality of (local) lunch and snacks provided, and opportunities for networking.
3. Steering committee evaluation: Workshops too large; Tuesday evening “too full”; some facility challenges. Excellent working among conference steering committee members.

D. Results of Project

1. 73 people created or signed up for 36 different networking groups for follow-up actions.
2. Recorded proceedings of the Conference as well as a number of the Power Point presentations are now available at:

<http://www.cjly.net/deconstructingdinner/120607.htm> and
http://globalpublicmedia.org/deconstructing_dinner_fof

3. The ongoing working group is focused on creating an interactive networking web presence for those interested or who have already signed up or created local food self reliance projects.
4. Funds generated for seed monies toward implementing an action plan are considered for maintaining an interactive website and further coordinating the efforts and aims of existing local food security groups.
5. Selkirk College offering Continuing Education agriculture focused non-credit courses and investigating Certificate Courses such as a Meat Cutting Course.

6. Approximately 200 signatures were added to the Meat Regulations petition

7. Keynote speakers from the Vancouver area have joined forces as a result of being brought together in Nelson. They have formed the Vancouver Peak Oil Task Force <www.vancouverpeakoil.org> and are planning a regional food security conference modeled after our own.

8. Film maker and task force organizer Jon Cooksey who was in attendance along with keynotes Rick Balfour, past chairman Vancouver Planning Commission, Herb Barbolet Professor at Simon Fraser, founder Farm Folk City Folk, and Justin Roller alternative energy specialist National Research Council of Canada were very impressed and touched by the community development spirit that they encountered. Jon stated "In a community (like Nelson), people think of what their options are in terms of gathering other community members around them to work out a plan." They are concerned that people in more urban areas will think about the issue in individual terms which will not lead to building the necessary community capacity that will be required.

9. An expanded Resource Links has begun, including the following sites:

- www.cjly.net/deconstructingdinner
- lifecycles (website for garden sharing)
- www.ediblegardenproject.com (source: George Penfold)
- www.kootenayfood.ca
- BC's new Food Safety Act: http://www.qp.gov.bc.ca/statreg/stat/F/02028_01.htm

E. Implications and Recommendations

The Need for Regional Food Self-sufficiency

Professional and scientific opinion overwhelmingly point towards a collapse of the current globalized food system due to a confluence of predicted hyperinflation of petroleum costs with predicted permanent supply shortfalls to meet demand (International Energy Agency last bulletin predicts occurrence sometime 2010-11) and climate change effects on crop production. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has been quoted as calculating that 80% of the cost of food is fuel. A BC Ministry of Agriculture report predicts a 50% irrigation shortfall with respect to infrastructure without even taking into account reduced growing season hydrology .

Exacerbating factors, some of them only recently published also include:

- nations participating in the World Trade Organization having given up their right to put grain surpluses into reserves
- the running out of enormous and crucial aquifers
- increasing use of grain to meet skyrocketing demand for meat and dairy in India and China leading to the doubling of the price for grain in the last year
- President Bush's mandating ethanol content of gasoline by 2012 having a huge impact on corn availability for feed and food
- the University of Victoria Climate Study Group has been quoted as predicting outright desertification of the western prairies and Okanagan, leading to significant immigration to the Kootenays
- questions about the access to water flows from many rivers being offered up to independent power producers

- the new meat regulations and possibly heavier inspection and regulatory burden on all food establishments to include farms may drive many more small scale producers out of “business”
- eventual hyperinflation in the energy costs of transporting food even within the region
- real estate appreciation within the region with average farmland capital cost not accessible to most would-be farmers (under age 50!)

Regional Food Self-Reliance Requirements

1. Role of Government

Adopting formal policies or a charter , depending on the level of government, including:

- Minimize inappropriate regulatory burdens with respect to small scale and local food production and processing, including the presumption of human relationships, rather than anonymity, amongst the members of the food supply chain, while providing a source of technical input with respect to appropriate standards.
- Recognize spontaneous solutions to ensuring quality and safety e.g. random farmer to farmer inspection.
- Tax exemption and access to public infrastructure, facilities or lands for this great public good.
- Land use planning and zoning supporting access to viable farmland by those motivated to produce. Farmland covenants and trusts as possible tools. Planning professionals also helping to develop stakeholder consultation, legal and insurance models that reassure citizens with respect to N.I.M.B.Y. issues.
- Protection of “the commons”*: urgent reconsideration of the ongoing privatization of essential elements of it like water and sources of renewable energy. e.g. Urgent planning for climate change-affected growing season hydrology to protect or create essential local upstream micro-reservoirs for agriculture. Consideration of water management districts giving them over-all domain, including power production.
- Urgent reconsideration of interprovincial and international “harmonization” initiatives which limit local and regional governments’ ability to do the above.
- An appropriate resourcing of the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture (see BCFG resolution**) to the Canadian average of 16.4% of farm GDP from the current paltry 3.3% with reestablishment of regional field agrology and other extension services. (also see Food Production below)
- A review of local government policies restricting “backyard” food producing related activities.
- Investment in regional “post-carbon” transportation and energy infrastructure as part of re-sourcing the commons.

2. Education

- General and consumer education is required to change behaviour. This would include the revaluing of local produce leading to pressure on large retailers and support premium prices for local product. The perceived added value needs be understood as a population health issue in terms of future adequate nutrition for all of us. This is in a sense similar to investing now for the medium and long term benefits of healthier (and usually tastier too!) food, e.g. organic, local, in-season.
- Education about the low impact of state of the art agricultural and livestock facilities in terms of environmental impact to deal with N.I.M.B.Y. situations.
- Eventually, educating our children about food production knowledge and skills through didactic curriculum but initially experiential exposure of children with farm and food garden tours and hands on. Ideally we might first capitalize on existing home gardeners and intergenerational opportunities but soon some community gardens could be school based.

- Selkirk College and perhaps College of the Rockies (Creston) have indicated a willingness to sponsor continuing ed. agriculture programs. Initially mentorship (and we have a few outstanding local mentors that have already declared) but presumably some didactic and eventual core programming would emerge.

3. Market Development

- Support in whatever form for local farmers markets and more widespread “big box” supermarkets outlets offering local food certified as such. Examples which are actually under consideration by the respective boards include: the Kootenay Coop pursuing more scale (or possibly exporting their model?) and the Kootenay Organic Growers Society considering their own independent organic certification to include local provenance. Both of these strategies would pressure large retailers to follow demand, just as they have followed the move to carrying organic.
- Network/referral accessibility for farm-gate and Community Sponsored Agriculture, some initiatives e.g. KFSS underway.
- Sponsored consumer campaigns e.g. Cards for supermarkets: “I did not buy X and X today because they are from ____.” (sourced too far away)
- Neighbourhood relocalization facilitators that will serve to network their neighbours socially, communicate both ways with regional working group, further educate members and may choose to act as e.g. food buying co-ops, organize community gardens, mentorship etc; potential for deeper changes in community structure.

4. Food Storing and Processing

- Building appropriate scale capacity and season extension for these functions at regional, subregional or local levels. Farmer based co-operatives (e.g. Local flavours-Creston) but also networking and ideally local input would lead to cooperation and organization with help from local government e.g. public land, zoning to house these.

5. Regional/Local Food Production

- Access to suitable land dealing with demographic, economic and regulatory barriers. Opportunities additional to some mentioned above would include the economic/legal framework models that would support private landowners making unworked land accessible to would-be farmers including some reward for improvements; a vehicle to refer such parties to each other.
- Mechanisms to preserve, and make accessible diverse, locally sustainable (non- genetically engineered) and adapted seed and livestock. e.g. Ministry of Agriculture, Farmer organizations, academic institutions and as well, a regional cataloguing and referral capability.
- Create a program for the study, recuperation and development of small scale pre- and post-carbon agricultural technology and techniques. This may for example include horse or oxen powered equipment and techniques. There are a number of residents of the region who are actively horse farming and eager to mentor others as well as artisans interested in reproducing the equipment.
- Researching, and putting into production, regional sources for maintaining soil fertility e.g. enlisting a revitalized Min. of Agriculture and academic Soil Science/Geology support. Likewise season extension possibilities.
- Farm labour-employment referral methods with an analysis of suitable training, rewards (including part of internship within an educational stream or mentorship for example),

transportation or housing as required; possibly as an extension of Community Sponsored Agriculture (CSA).

- Ensuring reliable hydrology see above.
- Primary and secondary education as well as neighbourhood level social action influencing a return to families being involved in their own food production.
- CSA model analysis and mentorship network to facilitate further development.
- Farm equipment co-operatives and see food processing/storage/distribution above.
- Ministry/Academic locally focussed experimental farm research.
- Special attention to re-establishing grain production, a source of edible oils and a realistic way to deal with new meat regulations.

** Subject: Resolution bcfga (B.C. Fruit Growers Association)

Whereas

The Province of British Columbia has over 200 different and distinct agricultural commodity groups; more than any other Canadian province and

Whereas

The agricultural land base of our Province has been alienated from uses other than agriculture since the formation of the provincial Agricultural Land Reserve in 1973 and

Whereas

Agricultural production is recognized as being among the most competitive, high risk, labour and capital intensive industries in Canada and

Whereas

To develop any industry to its fullest potential often takes an additional level of infrastructure, education and expertise facilitated by government investment; as is done successfully in many of our competing jurisdictions to our detriment and

Whereas

British Columbia while having the most diverse agriculture and restrictive land use legislation of any Canadian province receives the smallest provincial government contribution toward these efforts at 3.3% of agricultural GDP according to the Stats Can Data Book 2006

Therefore be it resolved that

Our Provincial government recognize the importance and potential of this diverse industry and its contribution to our GDP, our environment and the well being of our population; and so immediately increase funding to the Agriculture Ministry in line with the average of all other provincial governments at 16.4% of agricultural GDP and use these funds to help increase the productivity and efficiency of our diverse agricultural sectors.

2/4/2008

Suggest adding to their resolution: "A renewed Ministry of Agriculture which has the resources to look at longer term strategies recognizing that monoculture, GMO's and techniques that rely on high Carbon footprints, or lead eventually to soil or aquifer depletion don't make sense and thus help BC lead the way to a sustainable food and climate future."

F. Appendices

Appendix 1 Program Summary

1. Tuesday November 13 Presentations

a) Herb Barbolet, *Local Food and Sustainability*

- We must think in terms of whole systems, recognizing the inter-relatedness of all the parts. Nothing exists in isolation.
- Characteristics of what one might think of as a “Slow Food System” include local; seasonal; health conscious; integrated production and distribution; and supports both local economy and local community.
- Community food security programs are intended to support an underlying governmental social safety net that protects against food insecurity.
- Consumers are changing their behaviour—buying local, organic and fair trade while at the same time, local food distribution systems have withered and been replaced by large scale, global distribution.
- There is an abundance of local products, but there is minimal support for them to scale up.
- Mainstream food system is characterized by globalization; large scale; so called ‘free trade’; high tech and heavy reliance of fossil fuel.
- The Industrial Food System Five Groups: caffeine, alcohol, nicotine, fat and sugar—resulting in 800 million hungry and 1.2 million obese or malnourished from poor food.
- The Agricultural sector is in serious distress: 2% of population farm; 7% of all farms receive ¾ of revenue; farmers receive about 10% of the retail food dollar; shortage of ‘next generation’ of farmers; and very high land and labor costs in the west.
- The Natural Foods Industry that sought to create both alternative food and alternative distribution has been largely acquired by the mainstream players.
- By 2020, the world’s water supply is expected to decrease by one third and this will have a huge impact on food availability, cost and world health.
- New innovations include Community shared agriculture; production Co-ops; farm investment/training and tech support; buy local campaigns; universities/colleges/health authorities buying local and sustainable food; developing community gardens and kitchens.

b) Richard Balfour, Metro Vancouver Planning Commission: *Taking Back the Land*

- Opens with a chart showing various scenarios based on future levels of carbon emissions and catastrophic consequences if nothing is done.
- Overview: Human impact on the planet is past the point of painless endurance for Gaia—the essentials (food, water and human rights) are under real threat.
- On the front line of food production are the farmers and at the other end is the consumer. One of the defenses between food and loss of access to food for all is the Agrologist.
- Provincial projections on energy use in the province, totally neglect farmland and food.
- The green revolution that saw the enormous increase in food production is based totally on cheap and abundant oil. No oil, no food.

- We will soon need food for a quantum increase in population or we will need a quantum decrease in population. Opportunities to make earlier corrections were generally missed.
- Agrology Battle Plan: 1) stop all ALR erosion 2) Start clawing back land lost to urban uses 3) Create 'green fingers' into urbanity 4) adapt urban lands & building for new agriculture 5) start a program on overlooked niche soils sites 6) go for land tax reform for land conservations.
- The Industrial Food Supply system is a suicidal approach for any society, because local sustainable agriculture has been marginalized. We have to reinvent the way we access our food.
- There is need for a radical focus on land conservation and clawing back lost agricultural land.
- Tax burden should be shifted to benefit farm land over industrial land use.
- The standard of current industrial/retail planning and oil age engineering consumes ten times the land with more damages and little return for the whole community. At the same time this wasteful use of land will be challenged by 'oil price shock' and while the restoration of these lands will be costly, it is also necessary.
- Much of the wasted urban lands (e.g., 30% to 40% of land is in roads) will need to be recycled back into open space and agriculture.
- There are massive mistakes to be corrected. If we do not act, we will have a certain food shortage or unaffordable food 'futures'.
- New urban areas must be developed on the hills while the ALC (Ag Land Commission) must be strengthened and take a much more proactive and restorative approach. The agrarian base must be promoted as integral to community health—not an after thought—in essence it is the 'Restoration of the Commons'.
- The Agrology Strategy: 1) protect the ALR 2) Claw back lost ag. lands 3) aid urban ag. options 4) help divert urban uses to hills 5) aid in farm hamlets & new farming options 6) move, help find Niche farms and hamlets 7) research new cold climate/mountain farming
- We must partner with foresters, geologists, architects, local governments and cows.....our farmland, our source of food needs more advocates, defenders and stewards!

c) Ione Smith, *Smarter Growth for Farmland Protection in B.C.*

- Smart Growth BC, a non-profit, NGO founded in 1999, has a mandate to create more livable communities in British Columbia through managing growth while protecting the environment, using taxes wisely and enhancing the quality of our life.
- One of the core principles is to protect farmland. Quoting Howard Kunstler "suburbia is the greatest misallocation of resources in the history of the world". As it is also said, urban sprawl promises "country living" and low costs, but destroys the country and hides the costs.
- While rural non farm and urban population grew by over 55% from 1982 to 2001, farm population decreased by 15%. At the same time the impact on urban development was up well over 100% resulting in a loss of greenspace and working lands while increasing energy consumption, greenhouse gases, water consumption and air and water pollution.
- BC's ag. sector currently provides approx 50% of our food needs and generates over \$2 billion to the economy. To maintain this 50% level, we will need to add 1.56 million acres, 44% of which will require irrigation.
- When the ALR was created in 1973 there were 6,000 hectares of prime ag. land being lost per year. The ALR identified 5% of BC's land base as being suitable for agriculture—the only land that could act as a reserve for future generations.
- Strategy: 1) ensure ALC stick to their mandate 2) eg. strong commitments for all levels of government 3) support and protect the farmer's right to farm 4) establish a strong agricultural awareness 5) local government must plan urban needs around farmland.

- What can the individual do? 1) create, support or join a committee or an organization 2) help write letters to gov't officials 3) learn about local food policy groups 4) buy local 5) voice opposition to ALR exclusion applications 6) talk to friend and acquaintances 7) teach your children where food comes from 8) Vote 9) Support restaurants that serve local food 10) keep yourself informed
- Let's give agricultural planning the same attention we give to other sectors, such as the energy sector in BC

d) Justin Roller, *Canada and the Coming Energy Transition*

- The premise addresses the growing uncertainty in world oil supplies and the potential, unprecedented economic and social consequences, given that oil powers both our economic trade and agricultural systems. Demand is forecast to increase 64% by 2030, most of that coming from developing economies.
- The serious risk warrants a proactive approach to start buffering local communities to the loss of cheap oil.
- Identified that ethanol, methanol, hydrogen and electricity are conduits of energy that all require energy inputs in the first place.
- World uses 84.5 million barrels per day; the US uses 20.6 million barrels (the #1 consumer) and imports 2/3 of that.
- Canada exports 1/3 of its 3.3 million barrels/day—an increasing amount of which is coming from the Tar Sands development.
- The concept of Peak Oil: we are running out of cheap and easily accessible oil. If every bit could be retrieved we would have a 42 year supply remaining.
- Indications are that the world oil producers do not have the capacity to keep up with growing demand in the next 5 to 10 years.
- 69% of oil in the USA is used for transportation and 23% for industry. 5% of the world population uses 25% of the world oil
- Looking at a menu of alternative energy sources, the simple fact is that the other options are not as efficient, particularly in transportation.
- Location of oil resources, geopolitics and the nationalization of the oil industry is challenging to western nations.
- There is no coordinated federal strategy for reducing uncertainty about the peak's timing or mitigating its consequences. An imminent peak and sharp decline could cause a world wide recession.

2. Wednesday November 14 Breakout Sessions

a) Marilyn James, Welcome as the Appointed Spokesperson for the Sinixt First Nation

- The critical nature of water is equated with life and the ability to have food.
- Consider our land base as that which we pass down to future generations, needing to keep an eye on sustainable activities, with particular concern at this time for the many so-called micro-hydro projects slated for the region.

b) Abra Brynne, Founding Member of the B.C. Food Systems Network: *Food Citizenship*

- Defined food citizenship as taking responsibility for the food system that we participate in.
- Contrast to our current lack of appreciation and acceptance of an anonymous and industrial food system.
- Some of the disastrous repercussions of the food system that we perpetuate currently include pollution, topsoil loss, desertification, deforestation, exported hunger, loss of family farms, the death of many rural communities, demoralization and even the suicide of many farmers, loss of bio-diversity, genetically engineered foods, malnutrition, loss of necessary skills, and loss of democratic control over the food systems.
- The paradox of corporate free market ideology: it is the consumer who controls the market when, in fact, the options are determined by how corporations choose to streamline product selection and offerings.
- Described the unsustainable current economics of farming, where the real return is less than it was during the depression. Prices achieved are often below the cost of production, and that the current system is only able to continue because of farmers' non-farm income and carrying increasing debt loads.
- Challenges and barriers to local food include formal government policy contributing a reduction in the percentage of the population involved in farming from close to 10% to under 2%, over the last 40 years.
- In our region, barriers also include moving beyond seasonal fruits and vegetables and into grain, dairy and meat. Solutions mentioned included creating food reserves, so that bountiful crop years lead to food security rather than depressing prices.
- The absolute need to pay farmers a sufficient share of the food dollars to keep them on the land was reiterated on a number of occasions. The particular suitability of hillside grazing in the Columbia Basin post-flooding was pointed out; likewise, the historical sustainability of this kind of farming in our area, without any of the problems created by the large scale industrial meat production model.
- Get involved in educating yourself and others in our international agreements impacts on our ability to maintain food sovereignty. Then, you can become politically active, get involved in supply management, support the anti-terminator seed campaign, and grow your own food. Never eat without truly appreciating and celebrating the gift of that food.

c) Jon Steinman, Host and Producer of Deconstructing Dinner, Syndicated Radio Program: *Update on the Hundred Mile Diet Challenge and Results of the Community Food Matters Forum*

- The Community Food Matters organization was described as comprising a coalition of organizations, businesses, social services agencies, and the health authority, as well as individuals who share similar concerns around the division of food. He also mentioned Selkirk College and the Kootenay Food Strategy Society. He described the mission in terms of everyone having access to healthy food, in a sustainable and socially just manner.
- Summarizing the Community Food Forum event that occurred the previous year was described as having similar goals, with the mission of bringing together all the parties interested in raising awareness of local food issues. The funding through a Ministry of Health and CFIA program, which has run out, was mentioned.
- Education and community outreach: farm tours to familiarize people with where our food comes from, public school programs, backyard garden tours, valuing local knowledge, cooking classes, health and nutrition issues including barriers to healthy eating and nutrients lost in transport, the need for formal food policy at both local and regional levels, the need to

reinstitute extension services by the Ministry of Agriculture, municipal support for existing programs, official community plans to include food policy including examples such as discouraging pesticide use and GMO's, as well as permitting backyard livestock, the greening of roof tops, and the unfortunate state of regulations that may often forbid some of the best local solutions

- The ongoing work of Community Food Matters includes a bimonthly newsletter to 200 people on the mailing list, and monthly potlucks usually featuring an educational component.
- The Eat Local Challenge was set up by Tara Stark of Interior Health. People set their own goals and 150 people as well as some restaurants signed up, with a minor feature on this being aired on CBC Radio, in the Southern Interior. Seven participants were interviewed for the Deconstructing Dinner radio show and common concerns expressed included: coffee will never be replaced, access to grain, the extra planning required, regulations affecting meat, dairy and eggs, increased used of personal transportation required, difficulty determining the providence of processed foods based on their labeling, the loss of skills and knowledge.
- Jon closed with two quotes, one about if we are to avoid a collapse of our civilization, it depends on “you and me” becoming politically active and not merely spectators; and that “life is so brief that we need to enjoy the happiness in our glass and on our plate.”

d) Don Low, Farm Economist for the Ministry of Agriculture, Creston: *Local Food Production, Can We Afford It?*

- We are losing the knowledge base required for farming locally, as well as losing access to the field agronomists that used to be provided by the Ministry. (He stated that the views expressed were strictly his own and not representative of the Government of British Columbia.)
- Focusing on venues like farmers markets, consumers actually can save money.
- The sustainability of local food production requires a lot of work, is risky, and is guaranteed a lot of disappointments along the way.
- That would-be farmers usually underestimate the amount of time they will have to devote to their enterprise. That they have to learn about many rules and regulations regarding production, the environment, labour, and food safety.
- Niche markets are fickle and limited, as well as easily flooded by too much supply when farmers respond to a new trend.
- What We Need To Do: realistic expectations, good business planning, use all the available expertise, and look to the market for long-term sustainability. On the positive side, the global situation looks like local food will become necessary and the only practical market. This will enhance rural communities, diminish the carbon footprint of food production, increase the nutritive value and quality of food, contributing to better health and less obesity.

Question Period:

1) “What are the best opportunities for agriculture in the West Kootenay?”

Response: Don Lowe – each prospective farmer must do his own market research – go to local market outlets and analyze what is available at what price. He or she must also look at the risk that their own production may have a bigger impact on a local market than it would on a larger scale one.

Response: Abra Brynne – There is still a lot of room being taken up by supermarkets although this market is closed to us. If we are able to break into this market, then the opportunities will certainly increase significantly.

2) "Would a greater diversity of crops and livestock not only allow for more rotation in terms of the impact on the soils, but also the efficiencies of vertical integration?"

Response: Don Lowe – yes, this would diminish risk, but does increase the amount of work required of the farmer.

3) "What about the viability of local greenhouse production?"

Response: Don – yes, this traditionally leads to season extension and protection for tender crops, but the scale is not always sufficient to do this on a local basis; however, it does provide greater diversification and less risk in that way.

Response: Abra - that it is only viable for a local market, as it makes no sense to transport crops that are mostly water a long distance, so that, in fact, it makes more sense for the local market.

Alex Atamenenko, M.P. for the Southern Interior Electoral District and Critic for Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Greetings

Mr. Atamenenko gave thanks to the organizing group and confirmed his belief that the conference was a very important contribution to what needed to occur in our area. He described the responsibility of the Standing House Committee on Agriculture, including the results of touring the entire country last spring listening to farmers and their concerns. He stated that, in fact, their main concern was about food security and the committee had written a substantial report as a result of this tour. He spoke of the committee's current concerns including the effect of the higher Canadian dollar and the new "specified risk" regulations regarding meat. Mr. Atamenenko had also tabled private members bills on the labeling of GMO crops and the issues with terminator C technology.

He described the recommendations of the report as including:

- 1) Emphasis on the primary producers as being essential to agricultural policy in Canada. Canadian farmers have been losing money, while American farmers have had their best years since 2002. The government's response to this emphasis on primary producers was, according to Mr. Atamenenko, very vague. Increase minimum retail shelf space mandated for Canadian agricultural produce from 5% to 15%. Gov't. response : as below.
 - 2) Buy local. The Government response was that the consumer should dictate where he or she chooses to source their food. Enshrine supply management (i.e. the right to put surplus produce into reserves. This keeps prices from dipping below the cost of production when there is a bumper year).
- 2) Made in Canada labeling to reflect where the majority of production took place, rather than simply just the cost (e.g. processed in Canada). The government's response was that regulations should not create any kind of barriers to trade. The underlying problem being that we are locked into trade agreements including NAFTA and WTO.
- 3) Made in Canada should be a priority in public procurement. The response of the government was that most are, but that WTO and NAFTA present obstacles: "procurement shall not discriminate against trade partners."
- 4) Allow greater shelf space for Canadian agricultural production, with the suggestion of an increase to a minimum 15% from 5%. The Government's response: market forces to dictate and provincial jurisdiction in any case.
- 5) Supply management should be enshrined and if the government accepted.
- 6) Legislative support for farm-run orderly marketing agencies should be maintained and expanded. The government does not support this and, in fact, is working on dismantling the Wheat Board.

7) There should be a national food policy to ensure safe, plentiful national food supply to ensure food security. The government response was very vague with little commitment.

Mr. Atamenenko's analysis was that the committee, although multi-party, generally supported food security and the essential nature of supporting primary producers, but the government was unwilling to support this stance. The government was described as not seeing itself as taking an active role in supporting farmers, but rather allowing the private sector to self-regulate with free market forces and also accepting the pressure from WTO partners to mold and limit what occurs. Thus it did not accept the majority of the committee's recommendations. Examples given of the repercussions of this stance included that there were 2,000 large scale onion producers in Canada a decade ago, and there are now six.

Another example given was of the clear dumping of apples from the State of Washington leading to Canadian producers going out of business, but absolutely no response from the Canadian government due to uncertainty in how to go about it with all of the complexity of NAFTA and WTO. Mr. Atamenenko urged citizens to put pressure on government and agencies to regain some tools to make food security a primary and essential policy issue.

3. Wednesday November 14 Breakout Sessions

a) Farming Workshop Summary

Facilitator: Russell Precious, Nelson
 Panelists: Netta Zeberoff, gardener, Slocan Valley
 Merv Sloss, farmer, Creston
 Jeremy Lack, farmer, Slocan Valley
 Wayne Harris, dairy farmer, Creston

The key issues that were generated around Farming were:

1. Land Access, especially ALR and unutilized farm land and Community Gardens
2. Effective (sustainable) use of water
3. Bioregionalism: Seeds, Livestock, Weather, Seasonal Diet
4. Education
5. Farmer Support

Key points and “food for thought”:

- How to get farmers onto land , including land trusts
 - a. Necessary infrastructure (support, money and directory) to connect of available land with people who want to farm
 - b. Some sort of lease or tenure on a piece of land
- Seed sources (banks) specifically for this area
- Contamination of grains with GMO seeds
- Courses, books & websites on how to start gardening/growing/composting; education on use of non-fossil fuels
- Agricultural college locally...use local mentors....create local data base
- Work exchange of mentors & new growers; Access to a labor pool, even for one day’s help
- Links from farmer through consumer:
 - a. Need more buyers and new markets, including local grocery stores
 - b. Registry to prevent overproduction
 - c. Farmers markets including winter; i.e. year round
 - d. Farming Cooperative that consumers join (need commitment from consumers to consume a year’s worth of available foods)
 - e. Depot in Nelson stores food; van brings food from farms to depot. Nelson consumers buy at depot weekly.
- Value added products
 - a. Dried goods....
 - b. Facilities for production and storage
 - c. “Seconds” need new use instead of being composted
- Processing
 - a. Dairy
 - b. Eggs (packing and grading)
 - c. Abattoirs
- Regulate more deer hunting and venison for eating, to reduce crop damage from animals
- Equipment sharing
- Consumer action idea: Cards at grocery store that we fill out: “I did not buy X and X today because they are from ____.” (sourced too far away)

- Begin to adapt to post-carbon agriculture:
 - a. Biointensive agriculture
 - b. Ensure regional districts keep rail lines open
 - c. Use waterways for shipping
 - d. Governments are unaware or in denial of looming challenges; therefore regulations are restrictive toward reacting to challenges
 - e. Taxes on Fuels
 - f. Involvement in City Community Planning
 - g. Steam Energy
- More coordination of food groups that have already taken steps

b) Regulatory Workshop Summary

Facilitator: Gord McAdams, Nelson City Councilor

Panelists: Richard Balfour, Urban Planner, Vancouver

Ramona Mattix, RDCK

Jim LeMaistre, Land Use Planner

Donna Deanne, RDCKB

Kindy Gosal, Manager of the Water Initiatives for the Columbia Basin Trust

The key issues and themes that were generated around Regulations were:

1. ALR (protecting farmland)
2. Policy Info
3. Globalization
4. Planning
5. Regulations
6. Nutrients Waste
7. Urban Livestock
8. Food Processing and Health
9. Certification Standards... Canadian organic standards
10. Public participation- public development
11. Local Gardening
12. CSAs (Community Supported Agriculture)
13. Sustainable building, Permaculture
14. Roof gardening
15. Nutrition- Soil

Key points and “food for thought”:

- Grassroots level; Make our own policy, including urban food policy; Nelson’s OCP
- Tax credits, sustainable technology
- Incentives - CBT
- Sustainability Commission
- Humanure/Composting toilets
- Need regs. for meat, eggs and small farming producers. Also regs for municipal gardening and livestock
- Need people or group to manage land, but regs don’t allow it so far.

- Subdivision regs are a challenge; Disrupts agricultural environment when subdivided; requests for subdivisions have increased
- Agri-tourism need laws to support it; can help growers pay their mortgages.
- Government needs to resist pull toward globalization
- What does the city have jurisdiction on and how can we make change?
- Assist sustainability policies
- There are green initiative policies, environmental farm plan for grants. Need more money and tax breaks
- What will local government do regarding water licensing and supply for farmers?
Need to increase the irrigated land for farmers. Infrastructure for providing water. Especially with global warming. Make sure there is support for farmers
Current water resources won't be available in future. Need to look at water licensing priorities: fish/ wildlife, hydro, and farming

c) Economics Workshop Summary

Facilitator: Beryl Clayton, Nelson

Panelists: Doug Stoddart, Nelson & District Credit Union

Don Low, Agrologist, Creston

Aimee Watson, Kootenay Organic Growers Society, Kaslo

George Penfold, Regional Innovation Chair, Selkirk College, Castlegar

The key issues and themes that were generated around Economics were:

1. Local production capacity limits, especially human resource of farmers
2. Access to Markets
3. Health and Environmental Issues
4. Land
5. Poverty
6. Education and Publicity
7. Governance and Policy

Key points and "food for thought":

- Is there a connection between nutrition and wellness and the economics of both?
- Disease can be caused by lifestyle and our food; good local food has far reaching benefits. Cheap processed foods shave little nutritional value, but are backed by big media money and cost our society in terms of health and welfare, and food security.
- Costs paid for food do not reflect the cost of production or the food value gained. The economy of food is being swayed by marketing and advertising.
- If we expect to change the food system without it changing the price of food we are barking up the wrong economic tree.
- We complain that good food is too expensive but people who eat good food will tax the health care less so is there a subsidy or re-imbusement available to people who choose to spend more of their personal money to eat well?
- Farms in past survived because fuel was cheap, now we are trying to get them to survive because we try to make labour (farm owner labour) cheap
- Commercial farmers are paying for everybody to eat.

- Need certification to cost for failing grades, not successful ones
- We need to convince people to pay for things that have food value and to overrule mass marketing that makes processed and packaged (poor food value) foods more attractive and valuable to the consumer.
- Need more local markets that let people shop with confidence, being aware that their product is truly Canadian. This is an assurance that you cannot get from supermarkets.
- Social Enterprise such as a store to sell local produce and use the profits to provide social needs in the community.
- Reapportion our spending money – statistics claims 10% of disposable income is spent on food. This seems low to reflect the importance that we are trying to place on food availability locally. If we were to allot more of our income on good, local food, we would change the local economy within a year.
- Municipalities must be questioned on what they are actually doing about issues of farms, water access and other issues around farming SUPPORT.
- How do we encourage producers when being a farmer means negative income or not making a livable profit? Should we make farming a social service?
- How can we get RDCK to buy land and hold it in stewardship for use as farming
- Health wellness and relationships and the environment are not taken into account economics. (read book the economics of happiness)
- Policies are made by city dwellers with blackberries not the people that grow blackberries. Governments are going to work more, not less strongly against changes to the status quo.
- Governments aren't prepared to make changes to beliefs or policies that currently exist on trade.

d) Community Development Workshop Summary

Facilitator: Colleen Matte, Earth Matters, Nelson

Panelists: Abra Brynne, BC Food System Network, Nelson
Herb Barbolet, Vancouver (See speaker biography)
Andre Piver, Food Conference Committee, Nelson

The key issues and themes that were generated around Community Development were:

1. Education
2. Food Distribution
3. Community Networking & Information Sharing
4. Farm Land Access & Business Success
5. Growing Food within Nelson

Key points and “food for thought”:

- Educate children to grow food & eat well.
Educate adults about the impacts of their food choices.
Educate each other about gardening & food preserving.
Educate our municipal government about how to make changes for the community we need in the future.
- Try to arrange for provincial school credit to be given to involvement on local farms at all school levels. Can we have an apprenticeship program for kids to go to farms & learn food production?

- Local food guides help with 100 Mile Diet & spread the work beyond the choir. Give these guides to new community members with a Welcome Wagon package.
- Backyard gardening support network – share info, skills, seeds, produce.
- Grow food on urban rooftops where everyone will see it.
- Encourage farmers to diversify into agri-tourism.
- Create a Coop for winter storage near the markets. This point came up several times.
- CPR wash barn as a farmers' market venue year-round.
- Potatoes as easy local starch. Develop user-friendly potato products, ie. Potato bread.
- Grain Coop – model to sustain farming; farmer paid regardless of the outcome of the crop
- Need skills to resolve conflict & make decisions together.
- Reorganize city council to be broken down by neighborhood to make room for new ideas, and then appoint neighbourhood point people.
- Map ALR & create a network of arable lands that landowners are willing to have things grown on.
- Establish community farms.
- Take out Duncan Dam & farm that land again. Look at biomass energy from that area – fish, apples... CBT should do research. Dam ends its viable use this year.
- Rehabilitate toxic lands, ie. CPR land – flat, central, used to be garden space.
- Could the older people who own the land share that with those who intend to farm it?
- Sustainable agriculture bank – for loans. Regular banks don't see value in farm land. Farmers need money for down payment, banks want people to build on the land, need micro loans for people with no credit to get farms
- Farm apprenticeships, look to FFCF, Land Conservancy, wwoofing, Olds College, SOILS
- Look to Coop experts (Bob Williams) for lectures & advice. Good film on Coops: Mondragon – at Selkirk College library. Look to Emilia Romania. The Eco Village in Victoria area – good model.
- Paid coordinator at a regional level. Could make many more of the conference's good ideas happen.
- Gord McAdams says to keep taking these issues to council.
- Community gardens at hospitals & retirement homes.
- Community greenhouses.
- Replace park trees with edible fruit & nuts. Walnut trees in lakeside park, elderberries.
- Forestry left over slash is great biomass to heat greenhouses.
- Economic development is the key to community development. Nurture this so we aren't so globally dependent

Appendix 2

Biographies of Speakers, Panelists and Facilitators

Richard Balfour is an architect and planner who has worked for over 35 years in both public and private sector in community planning and policy development, with a constant vision since the first release of the 1972 Club of Rome report, of how we must contract our personal and city footprints in order to survive as a society and as a planet.

Herb Barbolet has been active in community development for more than 30 years and an Associate with the Centre for Sustainable Community Development at Simon Fraser University since 2003. He co-authored a food assessment guide for The Provincial Health Service Authority and food assessment for the Vancouver Coastal Health and Fraser Health, consulted on the establishment of the Vancouver Food Policy Council and sits on the council. In 1993 Herb helped found FarmFolk/CityFolk and for 10 years was executive director. Earlier he was the executive director of the Community Planning Association of Canada (BC) for five years and developed cooperative housing for 10 years. He appears regularly on CBC radio Almanac's Food Panel.

Ione Smith

As the Special Projects Coordinator at Smart Growth BC, Ione brings a background in Land Resource Science and Agricultural Watershed Management to inform her work with environmental, health, business, agricultural, and community advocates to promote the creation of more livable communities across British Columbia. Currently, her three main areas of focus are food security and farmland protection within the Agricultural Land Reserve, sustainable planning in the Sea-to-Sky corridor, and managing a Voter Education Campaign for the municipal elections. Ione has also assisted in the development of several policies, reports, and position statements for Smart Growth BC that are related to local food security. Ione is currently an Articling Agrologist. She graduated in 2004 with a MSc in Resource Management and Environmental Studies from UBC and she holds a BSc (Hons) in Environmental Sciences from the University of Guelph. In her spare time she is heavily involved with the Soil and Water Conservation Society and the ALR-Protection and Enhancement Committee.

Justin Roller is a fuel cell engineer with Canada's National Research Council Institute for Fuel Cell Innovation working on materials development for Proton Exchange Membrane and Solid Oxide fuel cells. He is a graduate of Georgia State University in Chemistry and is currently a Master's Candidate at UBC in Mechanical Engineering. Prior to working for the NRC he was an analytical chemist for BioLab and a process development engineer for nGimat in Atlanta, Georgia. He is passionate about the environment and in changing the way humans perceive their interaction and connection with the biosphere. As a grass roots activist he is interested in the "big picture" and how to move beyond our current relationship with the planet to a consciousness beyond sustainability.

George Penfold M.Sc., MCIP, has over 30 years of experience in community planning and development. He is committed to rural communities and to strategic decision-making as a fundamental ingredient to planning for positive change. He has training and experience in public service as an engineer with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, and as a planner with the County of Huron, Ontario. For 14 years, he was on faculty with the School of Rural Planning and Development at the University of Guelph, a graduate program focused on

planning and development issues in rural communities in Canada and internationally. In his faculty role, he conducted applied research on a range of economic, social and environmental issues, taught both graduate and undergraduate courses, and was involved in development and administration of the Sustainable Rural Communities Research Program.

Since 1995 he has operated a community planning and development consulting practice in Comox, British Columbia. In that context, he has managed research and community development projects for a wide range of clients including municipalities and regional districts, not-for-profit organizations and Community Futures Development Corporations, federal and provincial agencies and First Nations. He has also continued to teach courses at North Island College and the University of Victoria.

Between 1998 and 2004, he operated a marine eco-adventure business.

This wide range of experience is supported by training in communication, negotiation and conflict resolution, and by extensive experience in public consultation and strategic planning with municipalities, interest groups, provincial and federal agencies and community organizations. George Penfold's combination of academic and consulting experience and his focus on rural communities brings a unique and valuable experience and skill base to the position of Regional Innovation Chair.

Plenary Speakers (Wed am):

Abra Brynne has worked as a grass roots networker, organizer and educator since she moved to the West Kootenays in 1990. Her primary focus and passion is agriculture and food, dating back to her childhood on a small fruit and subsistence farm in British Columbia's Okanagan Valley. Years of working on agriculture and the politics of the global food system have engendered in Abra a strong commitment to fostering local food and economic systems. As a result, she has worked since the mid 1990s on providing education and resources to both ends of the food production chain - farmers and consumers - and to promoting the production and consumption of locally and sustainably produced foods and goods. A founding member of the BC Food Systems Network, Abra sits on many committees and boards at various geographical levels, all connected to food and agriculture.

Don Low is an agricultural economist in the Industry Competitiveness Branch of the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands. Prior to that he was the District Agrologist for Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, based out of the Creston office. Don and his wife Susan also operate a commercial cherry orchard, Quiet Valley Farms. Prior to coming to BC in 1989 Don and Susan served as CUSO cooperants in Papua New Guinea and Don taught farm financial management to farmers and ranchers in southern Alberta through Lethbridge College

Jon Steinman, Producer/Host Deconstructing Dinner, Kootenay Co-op Radio CJLY: In January 2006, Jon launched Deconstructing Dinner, a weekly one-hour radio program now heard on 23 stations across Canada. The program looks to foster more educated eating through the investigation into the impacts our food choices have on ourselves, communities and the planet. Jon is a member of Community Food Matters and a board member of the Kootenay Country Store Co-operative. www.cjly.net/deconstructingdinner

Panelists:

Merv Sloss operates a small organic farm in Creston & is Kootenay Regional Coordinator for LFPSC Local Flavours Products & Services cooperative. We are currently connecting LOCAL farmers, food processors, input suppliers, marketers, distributors, retailers & consumers throughout BC & Southern Alberta.

Kindy Gosal (Golden BC, Canada) is the Manager of the Water Initiatives for the Columbia Basin Trust (CBT), a corporation that was created to assist the people most directly impacted from the construction of the Columbia River Treaty Dams in the Canadian Columbia Region. The mandate of the CBT is to assist the residents of the region to create a legacy of social, economic and environmental well-being. His work with the CBT focuses on water and water issues in the Columbia Region. The CBT is committed to working with Basin residents to: increase understanding, and build collective wisdom around water and watershed issues in the Basin; act as a facilitator and convener on key water related issues; and increase the influence that residents have in water management.

Kindy is a community practitioner who, over the last 15 years has focused on working at the grassroots level assisting communities in dealing with a variety of issues that they face. He is a Professional Forester by training and has worked internationally on a variety of forestry and socio-economic development projects in Africa and Asia. Recently Kindy has been extremely active regionally and internationally in trans-boundary water policy, community engagement and Climate Change.

Jim LeMaistre

Since 2004, Jim LeMaistre has been a land use planner in the Strengthening Farming unit in the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Lands. He also has 27 years of municipal planning experience in Guatemala and in Delta and Surrey, B.C. He is trained as a civil engineer and community planner.

Aimee Watson

North Kootenay Lake Food Security Coordinator; moving back into farming. I worked with a cooperative, organic farm on the coast while also working in the non-profit sector of farm folk city folk, Organic Friends of the Future, Council of Canadians. Currently on the boards of GE Free BC, Canadian Biotech Action Network and the the Community Garden Society of Kaslo. Food as culture and the path to sustenance is what I live everyday.

Ramona Mattix, A.I.C.P.; M.C.I.P.

- Born in Butte, Montana
- Immigrated to B.C. in 1974.
- Lived and worked in Dawson Creek and Kelowna.
- Previous careers as retail store owner, caterer and realtor.
- Completed two years university at Grand Prairie Regional College and University of Alberta, Edmonton.
- Completed B.A. and the University of Hawaii, Manoa in psychology 1987.
- Worked as a group therapist for troubled teens in private mental institution in Honolulu, then as a Social Worker with case load for child abuse complaints in Vancouver while attending UBC.
- Received M.A. in Community and Regional Planning from UBC in 1987.

- Worked as an environmental planner and project manager in the private sector in Honolulu until 1992.
- Short stint (1year) as Community Services Director, Cottonwood, AZ commuted 3 hours each day
- Deputy Community Services Director in Prescott, AZ for 7 years.
- Received “Western Planner of the Year” Award in 1999.
- Director of Planning & Community Services for Billings Montana/Yellowstone County from 2000 to 2006.
- Manager of Development Services, Regional District of Central Kootenay, 2006 to present.

Doug Stoddart has been General Manager of Nelson & District Credit Union since 1992. In 2004, Nelson & District Credit Union won 3 awards for innovation, including the prestigious national credit union award. In the mid-90’s Doug was a board member and Chair of Nelson & Area Economic Development Committee. He sat on the Board of Datawest Solutions Ltd, a technology company located in Vancouver, for 7 years. Doug is a college graduate and in 1995 he studied under Steven Covey at the Covey Leadership Center in Sundance, Utah. In 2002, Doug studied the co-operative economy at the oldest University in Europe - the University of Bologna in Bologna, Italy. Upon Doug’s return from Italy, he was instrumental in establishing Community First Health Co-op. This co-op was incorporated in February 2003 and by the end of April 2003 had over 1000 members. Doug is presently very involved in his community through his directorship on Community First Health Co-op.

Wayne Harris, a Dairy farmer in Creston B.C. is married with three grown children all attending university. Utilized management intensive rotational grazing system on irrigated pasture for the past 12 years. The farm is in 3rd year transition. It will be certified organic with PACS June 2008. On farm fromagerie (cheese factory) will be completed this spring to produce raw milk cheese from the grass fed cows.

Donna Dean is a Planner for the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary and is a registered Professional Agrologist. She graduated with a B.Sc. (Honours) in Geography and Environmental Science from Trent University. Following graduation she worked for a Conservation Authority conducting research on rural watersheds and the impact of land use on water quality at beaches on Lake Huron. That research led to an interest in soil and she received a M.Sc. in Soil Science from UBC. Her thesis focused on the potential for nitrate contamination of the Abbotsford Aquifer. She worked for Agriculture Canada and a consulting firm in the Lower Mainland for several years before moving to the Kootenays. She then ran her own firm focusing on contaminated sites, agricultural land capability studies, nutrient management of sports fields, and composting research. Running her own company became more of a challenge with a young family and she explored the possibility of a planning career when the local paper advertised an Assistant Planner position in 2003. After one year as Assistant Planner she assumed the position of Planner. Her current projects include the preparation of a zoning bylaw for an emerging mountain resort and a revision of the Official Community Plan for Rural Fruitvale. Donna recently completed SFU’s Urban Design Certificate Program.

Netta Zeberoff was born in Nelson, to a traditional Doukhobor family. I have my Chartered and Masters Degrees in Herbalism and am in my fourth year of my Clinical herbal course (this course is called medical herbalism in England). I also wrote the Botany section of the Clinical Herbal therapy program for the College. Raised in a small community and a large family we

learned how to be self sufficient. Growing gardens, raising animals, learning how to put extra produce away - having a proper cold room for storage of winter crops, drying fruits, herbs and veggies, pickling, canning delicate fruits and vegetables and making wine are ways of putting food away for future use. Gathering wild edibles was part of our lifestyle; I have fond memories of me quietly following my Grandmother through the forests and learning what was good and what was not. I enjoy giving workshops and sharing my knowledge with others.

Andre C. Piver, MD FCFP – Andre has worked in Family Medicine and Community Mental Health for many years including facilitating many forms of group therapy. He has trained in a number of psychotherapy modalities, family systems therapy, and more recently taken an interest in group decision-making and conflict resolution including Non-Violent Communication. Andre has published a peer reviewed paper on the Medical Consequences of Ozone Depletion among others and has been a convenor for the Green Party of BC. Andre has also worked two hobby farms.

Jeremy Lack, Mad Dog Farms, Slocan Valley. Also, Slocan Valley Abattoir Committee

Facilitators:

Born and raised in Nelson, **Gord McAdams** has a BSc. and spent 34 years working for the BC Gov't. in Environment and Parks. He represented BC Parks on the Protected Areas Strategy which doubled the parkland in the Kootenays, co-authored most of the master plans and brochures for West Kootenay Parks and managed the interpretive programs for many years. He pioneered the first comprehensive set of guidelines in our region to protect endangered species from the impacts of recreation and facilitated many public processes to address land use conflicts amongst user groups. Subsequent to retiring in 2005, Gord received a national award for his efforts in protecting endangered turtle habitat. Gord now keeps himself entertained in a variety of local causes and is presently serving his third term on Nelson City Council."

Russell Precious

- Born in London, England 1947. Immigrated with family to Vancouver, B.C. in 1948.
- BA in Economics and Asian History at University of British Columbia and University of California, Berkeley.
- 1968-70 Studied Organic Farming with John Harrison, pioneer organic farmer and teacher and founder of 'Mylora Farm' in Richmond, B.C. Helped run his organic farming program offered through the Vancouver Free University. Concurrently operated a 30 acre organic truck farm supplying Vancouver restaurants and natural food stores.
- 1970-72 Worked as warehouse manager and subsequently business manager for Duthie Books, Vancouver's largest chain of book stores.
- 1972-75 Acquired the 'Naam' Vegetarian Restaurant and resurrected it into a viable entity. It is still popular today, some 32 years later. At the same time worked for BC Social Services running a 'crisis shelter' for teenagers.
- 1976 - 1985 Started an organic fruit wholesale business 'Willit Enterprises' and a large seasonal fruit stand. This was a five month per year business selling over 7 tons of fruit every week of the season. Created relationships with most of the original organic growers that would serve us well later in our retail food stores.
- 1980-1985 Initiated a land co-operative on Quadra Island along with seven other families. Studied architecture, design and building with students of Christopher Alexander from UC Berkeley and recognized a passion for building. Acquired 'Quadra Foods' 5,000 sq ft island

supermarket and transformed it into a 'cross-over store' with conventional and natural foods and grew it steadily during economic recession.

- 1982 Co-founder and director of Quadra Island Waldorf School.
- 1985 Founded 'Capers' Natural Foods Markets in Vancouver, B.C. that would grow to four stores and \$40 million in sales before merging with 'Alfalfas' Natural Foods stores in Boulder, Colorado. During this period was a director of the Canadian Health Food Association; was a finalist for Ernst and Young 'Entrepreneur of the Year' Award and Van City's 'Ethics in Action Award' Founding director of 'FarmFolk CityFolk'; and first recipient along with Aaron Stephens of BC 'Organic Pioneers' Award. Member of Social Venture Network.
- 1992 Worked closely with Harold Kalke of Kalico Developments to build a city block long, five story mixed use development which won many awards for its innovative design and 'green' building elements. 'Capers' was one of the anchor tenants in this complex and we built our corporate offices there.
- 1994-2003 Director of 'Hollyhock'—Canada's innovative retreat center and learning institute.
- 1997 to 2000: After Alfalfas/Capers was acquired by Wild Oats, worked with Renewal Partners in Vancouver, B.C., investing in green businesses with a focus on the natural foods industry; did retail design consulting for a number of projects and helped develop the prototype for the 'integrative pharmacy model' based on 'Finlandia Natural Pharmacy' in Vancouver, B.C. During this period developed a 150 acre homestead outside of Nelson, B.C. that had previously been a working fruit and vegetable farm. This has been our family home base for the past seven years.
- 2000 to present: Co-founder of Pharmaca Integrative Pharmacy. Current sales \$50 million dollars. Focus on core brand issues; design and project management for all ten stores.
- Currently a director of three Non Profits: Vitamin Angels, Passageways Institute, and Golden Sun Foundation.

Colleen Matte

Originally from Ottawa, Colleen Matte came to the Kootenays to attend Selkirk College where she attained a diploma in Environmental Planning and Technology. She is currently taking her BSc in Environmental Management and participates in several local environmental groups. Colleen is the manager of Earth Matters where she has delivered food and climate changes related education in local high schools. She is active with the Community Food Matters organization and a member our newest local CSA farm - Soil Matters. Colleen brings facilitation experience from her positions with CASEY (Communities Against the Sexual Exploitation of Youth), Bear Aware and Selkirk College Eco Group.

Beryl Clayton

Based in the West Kootenays, for 30 years Beryl Clayton has facilitated planning and decision making, and taught non-violent conflict resolution approaches for organizations and communities throughout Western Canada.

She brings to all of her work a passion for creating solutions that get to the heart of the matter, and that endure. And to the Future of Food in the Kootenays she brings an equally long passion for regional control and production of food, sparked in the crucible of the network of Kootenay food co-operatives in the 1970s.

Appendix 3 Networking Groups

Issue	Name	Email	Phone	Notes
Cooperative Growing Food				
Finding the links between food security / housing and poverty in our community... help get charitable organizations off the conventional food system!				
COWSHARE!				
			1-250-355-2330	
	Trish Bennett	trish4worldpeace@yahoo.com	2330	
	Kim Charlesworth	brewchar@telus.net	505-5052	
	Fayla Shaw	freya@kootenay.coop		
	Heather Keczan	hkeczan@gmail.com	352-5208	
	Hope Kelly	hopespringseternal3@gmail.com	365-2860	
<hr/>				
Farm fresh guide local food events community gardens healthy snacks - schools education programs				
	Karen Powes	kdpowis@telus.net		Creston Valley Food Action Coalition
<hr/>				
Building "Solvira" Designs for solar/Animal shelter combo backyard green houses and compost toilets and grey water systems				
	Betsy Sheets	wellspring@netidea.com	226-7261	
	Catherine Leighland	catherine@telus.net		
	Hanne Smith	jhanne@telus.net freya@kootenay.coop don_info@northdoorway.com		
<hr/>				
COOKBOOK - using recipes with local farm produce, preservation, wild crafting, sources...				
	Ursula Lowrey	lowrey@netidea.com	825-4338	
	Letty Bartels (Otter Books)	otterbooksinc@yahoo.ca	352-3434	

Sustainable subdivision design	Mike Thomas	mike@urbanworkbench.com	304-3650	www.urbanworkbench.com
Genetic diversity trials grain adaptations (quinoa, corn etc.) grain self sufficiency		don_info@northdoorway.com		
"Shoppers guide for a better world"				
Rates A-F "marks" of the corporations who make all the things we consume				
Buy it c/o Banyen Books (also@ottert books, nelson)				
Mentorship / farm school Agricultural skills	Anne Warren			
	Gretchen Perk	gretchenperk@yahoo.ca		
	Rebalkin			
	EcoFarm	agrariangrrl@hotmail.com		
	Hanne Smith	jhanne@telus.net		
		hopespringseternal3@gmail.c		
	Hope Kelly	om		
Consumer Guide to Local farms in the Slocan Valley	Virginia Rasch	ilovermont@telus.net	226-0089	
	Mellissa			
	Thomas	womanofthehills@yahoo.ca		
	Moe Lyons	meadow@netidea.com		
Inventory of ALR land and who owns it - would they be willing for it to be farmed.	Mellissa			
	Thomas	womanofthehills@yahoo.ca		
	Moe Lyons	meadow@netidea.com		

Moved from Edmonton, bought some land (30 acres), would like to grow food (veggies and animals) but we don't know where to start (\$, time, soil, equipment). Thanks for the talk could not attend workshop (have to work to pay the bills :))

Shannon and
Dustin dustin.demontigny@gmail.com 226-
Demontigny [m](mailto:dustin.demontigny@gmail.com) 7139

Coop Farm Land

Delian Aaron gaianess@yahoo.ca

Interested in Coop farm land

lilli lilli.smith.nst@gmail.com
Kim
Charlesworth brewchar@telus.net 505-
5052
250-
359-
5968
(home),
416-
839-
6780
(cell)

Johnnie e3livejohn@gmail.com

What about feeding housing "homeless" people?

Gretchen gretchenperl@yahoo.ca

Sharing Tiller (mid to large gardens 8hp)

Bruce Van Tassell bkvt@telus.net 352-
2271

**Squat crown clear-cut, repar forest grow food (meadow creed)?
Protect old growth forest, stop bad governance peacefully**

Choose Local, ie slow down theited of creeks via independent power producer

Campagn: legislation Bill 30

Tom Prior tomprior@telus.net

Mtn pass fashion and survival, 460 ward Str Nelson"

Paul McMillan Man_in_machine@yahoo.com

Research Team to investigate reclaiming farm land behind Duncan Dam - CBT needs to help this research - Please.

Mapping of:

Working farms (esp organic) food processing and storage facilities "the inventory"

add in mapping / identifying appropriate spaces in urban environments?

Groups and networks

Ian Parfitt Selkirk College Hanne Smith (Rossland)	iparfitt@selkirk.ca jhanne@telus.net	250-365-1321	See KOGS (Kootenay organic site) many farms mapped
Paul McMillon Aimee Watson	Man_in_Machine@yahoo.com aimeewatson@nklcss.org don_info@northdoorway.com		Doing farm mapping over next 2 months

**Front Yard = Community FoodBack
Yard = Personal Food (Just an idea, no need to gather)**

**Composting - Complete the Circle.
If your in, we have already started**

Earth Matters 3	earthmatters@NDCRS.ca	352-6011 ext 17	
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Heritage Seed Bank / Index of local varieties and what grows well (historical aspect)

Melissa Thomas	womanofthehills@yahoo.ca	250-428-4274	
Susan Low	dslow@telus.net		
Anne Warren	agrariangrrl@hotmail.com		
Catherine Leighland	cathrine@telus.net		

		250-399-4386	
Tamara Terry	t-formal@hotmail.com	352-5670	
Laincy Benson	laineyben@hotmail.com	399-6007	
Ruth Iduser	Whiggedout@hotmail.com		

Backyard gardening support network - sharing space/seeds/skills and knowledge and produce

Judy Katz	somatikatz@gmail.com		
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Create an "organization" to contact Nelson home owners who would allow "non" home owners to garden in their yards. (Or people who live in Apts (condos). We could feed ourselves and the home owners!

Gisele	giselech@telus.net	505-1812	
Malin	Malin@homegrownorganics	226-7838	We are helping people to grow their veggies. www.homegrownorganics.com
Sandra	sgnelkin@shaw.ca	352-5274	
John Alton		352-1204	

Keeping food security as a priority for local government - city council, rdck

Eric Bowers	affectionateawareness@yahoo.ca	354-4224	
Kristin Auyen	kristin@aasen@yahoo.ca		
Melissa		265-9080	
Thomas	womanofthehills@yahoo.ca		

aimeewatson@nklcss.org

Currently writing the kaslo food charter

Malin	Malin@homegrownorganics	226-7838	Gardener educator supporter
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Schoolyard gardening mentorship and implementation program

Teach our kids to grow gardens and gain knowledge from community

elders

Freya Shaw freya@Kootenay.coop

Joanne Lowell
(idea)

354-
4481
365-
2860 /
364-
6273

Needs community
partners/ individuals to
activate this

Hope Kelly

Jennie Barron

352-
5740
352-
6846

Were doing it!
(at central school)

Delia Aaron
Monica Nissen
(interested
educator)

moni@netidea.com

352-
6346

**Financial Support for farmers to
build fences and acquire equipment**

**revolving loans / Gramine Bank
Model**

Danna
O'Donnel

Odonnellsfarm@hotmail.com

250-
443-
FARM

**Organize (on-call) farm laborFree
info in exchange for help**

Nancy
Roulston

nancy_roulston@yahoo.ca

509-
1411

**Local Community
Shared agriculture
Project - Connecting organic
farmers in Creston growing grain
with purchasers.**

Matt Lowe,
West Kootenay
Eco Society
Brenda Bruns,
wildsight,
creston
Donna,
Creston food
action coalition

mattwglowe@yahoo.com

Bruce Martin bmartinb@telus.net
james@yasodhava.org
 Kip Drolish ravenridge@centurytel.net
 Faeya Shaw

Food Security - RDCK

School Gardens

Support Farmers \$

Share Agriculture

Paul McMillan Man_In_Machine@yahoo.com

**Edible boulevard trees in town
(walnuts etc)**

David Knox davidknox@usa.net 354-
 Freya Shaw freya@kootenay.coop 3954

Commercial Food dehydrating

Brenton Raby brentonraby@yahoo.ca 352-
 3239

**Need a place to do workshops or
share info on any of these topics in
Slocan City? WEGCSS can provide
name.**

Corrie Traenenberg corrie@wegcss.org 355-
 2484

**"From the ground up"
New Denver based food security
group
Educational gardening workshop
Gardening Library for community**

Andrea Wright
 "From the ground up" andreawright999@yahoo.com 358-
[m](mailto:andreawright999@yahoo.com) 7995

Family Greenhouses / geo thermal

Kerrie Dickson ehari@yahoo.ca

**Website for networking land and
people farm products consumers**

John Alton 352-
 1204

Ecovillage / Intentional Community

Delia Aaron	gaianness@yahoo.ca
Mellisa	
Thomas	womanofthehills@yahoo.ca
Catherine	
Leighland	catherine@telus.net

Home and public school children helping to plan an ecovillage

Sandy	sandy.breathing@gmail.com	226-7311
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Community shared Agriculture Grain Project Sign up

sheet:

Creston Food Action Coalition,
Wildsight and West Kootenay
EcoSociety

Bay Herrmann	baynjohn@netidea.com	250-358-7959
Paul Edney		250-825-3427
Marvin Work	work@shaw.ca	250-359-7142
Nancy Roulston	nancy_roulston@yahoo.ca	250-509-1411
James Grates	ames@yasodhara.org	250-227-9224 j