

## **Agricultural Planning**

The City of Terrace and the Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine (RDKS) are committed to increasing agricultural production in the Greater Terrace (GT) area. Agricultural production contributes to economic activity and can increase self-sufficiency, food security, and opportunities for obtaining fresh food.

Agricultural production has been declining in this area in recent years. To address the lack of a comprehensive agricultural planning and economic strategy for the area, the City of Terrace and RDKS applied for and received funding from the [Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC](#) to conduct an agricultural land use inventory (ALUI) and develop an agricultural area plan (AAP) for the Greater Terrace area.

### **The objectives of the ALUI were to:**

- provide a record of land uses in areas designated for agriculture and act as a benchmark for monitoring land use change;
- improve the understanding of land use and resource relationships; improve the information base to assist land use decision-making including official community plan and bylaw updates;
- provide data for an agricultural area plan; and
- identify opportunities for increasing agricultural production

The ALUI was conducted by the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture who has prepared a standard ALUI report for Greater Terrace that was used to inform the AAP process. Copies of the ALUI can be reviewed at the RDKS office or City of Terrace Public Works office.

### **The objectives of the AAP are to:**

- provide an overview of the agricultural land base, including information on land use, climate, soils, agricultural capability, and water supply and use;
- provide an overview of the local demographics and the economy, and the agricultural industry in the region;
- provide an overview of legislation and regulations that affect the local agricultural industry;
- through consultation with local agricultural producers and academic research, identify barriers faced by the industry in this region;
- identify ways to develop agricultural capacity and productivity through enabling policies, infrastructure, and the creation of organizations that can facilitate and provide economies of scale in the production and trade of local food;
- make policy recommendations regarding amendments to sections of the Official Community Plan and zoning bylaws that impact agriculture; and
- provide actual and potential food producers with information to assist them in navigating regulatory requirements, to assist them with production and distribution

issues, and to assist them in locating potential sources of financial or management support.

The development of the Agricultural Area Plan required a high level of public input. Some of these opportunities for input are outlined below:

- Public Open Houses held on October 17, 2012, and February 20, 2013
- Farmers' Focus meetings held on November 27 and December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012.
- Public lectures held on August 7<sup>th</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012.
- Two local surveys of food users and Greater Terrace farmers.
- Written and verbal comments.
- Draft GTAAP report and land use report posted online for public and farmer comments.

The AAP is now a final document, and is being reviewed by an Agricultural Advisory Committee before being taken to City Council and Regional District Board for adoption.

The AAP can be viewed **HERE**

### **Agricultural Advisory Committee**

The Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC requires an Agricultural Advisory Committee to review the Agricultural Area Plan and prioritize recommendations, before the report is adopted. The AAC will a) review the Agricultural Area Plan documents b) provide feedback on proposed OCP and zoning bylaw amendments that impact agriculture and c) support the City Council and Regional District adoption of the AAP.

The AAC Terms of Reference can be viewed **HERE**