



Comox Valley
**FOOD POLICY
COUNCIL**

Scope of Work 2026

Delegation to the City of Courtenay

Dec 2025

We respectfully acknowledge that the land we gather on is on the Unceded traditional territory of the K'ómoks First Nation, the traditional keepers of this land.



K'ómoks First Nation

WHO WE ARE





Who We Are

- **Purpose:** Forum for advocacy & policy development for food system that is *ecologically sustainable, economically viable, socially just*
- **Structure:** Hybrid of civil society organizations and government (22 members)
- **Fiscal Host:** LUSH Valley Action Society



Our Priorities

- 1. Support Policy & Planning Processes and Implementation:** OCPs, Agricultural Plans, RGS, advisory, etc.
- 2. Emergency Preparedness:** Support food security with focus on resilient supply chains and food economies
- 3. Ecosystem Resilience:** Food systems lens to drought planning and advance water sustainability, climate resilience, ecosystem health
- 4. School Food:** Access to healthy, local, culturally-appropriate school food
- 5. Food Access & Agency:** Support household food security, poverty reduction and Indigenous Food Sovereignty

Collaboration with City of Courtenay

1. City of Courtenay OCP - Food Systems Chapter
2. Island Food Charter
3. Coalition for Healthy School Food & related advocacy for universal school food program



Membership

Maurita Prato

Co-Chair, Comox Valley Food Policy Council; Executive Director, LUSH Valley Food Action Society

Naomi Robert

Co-Chair, Comox Valley Food Policy Council; Research Associate, Institute for Sustainable Food Systems, KPU & Food Systems Lab, SFU

Kristen Battle

Administrative Coordinator, Comox Valley Food Policy Council; Communications and Administrative Manager, LUSH Valley Food Action Society

Amanda Jekums, Sustainable Food Systems Consultant, Global Alliance for the Future of Food

Arzeena Hamir, Farmer & Owner, Amara Farm; Director, Mid Island Farmers' Institute, Investment Agriculture Foundation Assessment Officer

Chad Hooker, Founder, Executive Director, Bread of Life Food Share, Black Creek

Chris Winkelaar, Occupational Therapy Coordinator, Island Health

Cristi May Sacht, School Board Trustee, School Board 71

Edwin Grieve, Director Area C, Comox Valley Regional District

Erin Crampton, Regenerative Farming and Systemic Investment Advocate.

Evan Jolicoeur, Councillor, City of Courtenay

Greg Baute, Farmer/Orchardist, Plant Breeder

Isha Matous-Gibbs, Social Health and Wellness Planner, Urban Matters Community Contribution Company

Jan Slomp, Dairy Farmer, Slomp Farm; Member, Comox Valley Farmers' Institute

Jenn Meilleur, Councillor, Town of Comox; Director of Programs and Impact, Ecotrust Canada

Joanne Bays, Community Services Coordinator, City of Courtenay; Director Emeritus, Farm to Cafeteria Canada

Leslie Baird, Director, Comox Valley Food Bank

Lisa Bowie, Community Health Representative & Elders Coordinator, K'ómoks First Nation

Lyndsay MacKenzie, Senior Policy Lead, Island Health

Robert Zeman, Agrologist

Sheila McDonnell, Co-Treasurer, Hornby Island Farmland Trust Society; Ret. Trustee, SD71

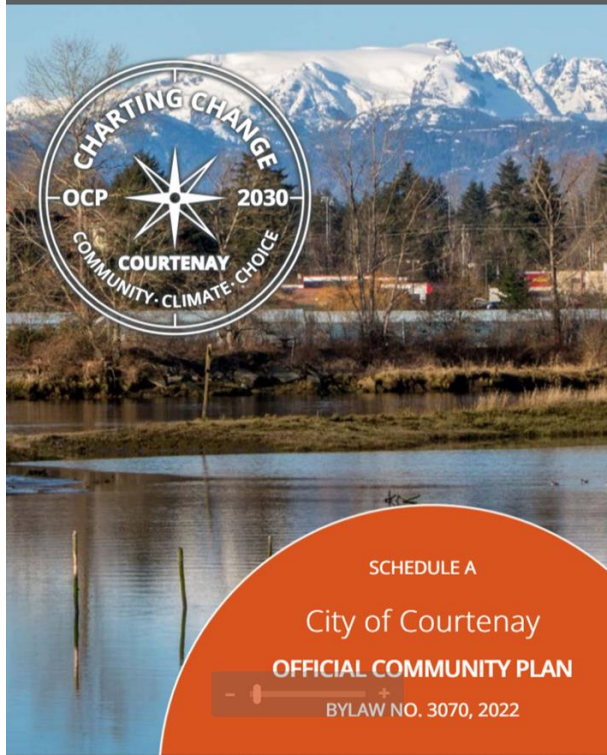
Taylor Hartwig, North Island Public Health Dietician, Island Health

Twila Skinner, General Manager, Comox Valley Farmers' Market

Vickey Brown, Mayor, Village of Cumberland

Wendi Gilson, Beekeeper, Black Horse Apiary; Apiary Inspector, BC Ministry of Agriculture

City of Courtenay Leadership in Food Systems



Strategic Priorities 2023-2026:

“Engage with Agricultural Community and Food Policy Council to identify needs and support relevant OCP policies.”

2026 Scope of Work


1. Delivering Eat Comox Valley local economy campaign
2. Supporting pollinator habitat stewardship
3. Integrating food lens into emergency planning
4. Supporting ongoing policy & planning processes at the City

1. Delivering Eat Comox Valley Local Economy Campaign



Eat Local Comox Valley

Explore the flavours of the Comox Valley
Drop off your completed card at LUSH Valley for a chance to win a Good Food Box and tote bag!

Buy locally produced eggs	Visit a farm stand	Preserve a local food	Cook a meal using local ingredients	Buy in-season, local veggies
Cook a meal for your family using local foods	Thank a farmer	Visit the Courtenay Farmers' Market	Buy locally wild-caught seafood	Plant a vegetable seed
Visit the Cumberland Farmers' Market	U-pick fruit at a local farm	 LUSH VALLEY	Learn about traditional Indigenous foods	Cook a meal with food you grew
Try a new-to-you locally grown food	Share your new fave local food with a friend	Sign up for a CSA or LUSH Valley Good Food Box	Buy locally-raised meat	Enjoy an ethically-harvested wild food
Eat at a restaurant that supports local farmers	Enjoy locally-baked bread or treats	Work in a community garden	Visit the Comox Farmers' Market	Try a new recipe using local foods

We want to see the community in action,
tag [@lushvalleyfood](https://www.instagram.com/lushvalleyfood) as you complete your activities!

*See reverse for resources and details

Pilot Campaign 2025

- 300 cards
- 15 businesses/community hubs
- 50 cards returned
- 1 prize
- ~10 businesses requested cards

1. Delivering Eat Comox Valley Local Economy Campaign



Notice of Motion Tarif Response Feb 2025: “THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Courtenay encourage residents, businesses, and municipal departments to prioritize the purchase of Canadian-made goods and services whenever feasible;...”

OCP Chapter 11 Local Economy: various

1 2025
/community hubs
red
s requested

grown food	local hubs with a friend	valley valley Food Box	raised local	the best wild food
Eat at a restaurant that supports local farmers	Enjoy locally-baked bread or treats	Work in a community garden	Visit the Comox Farmers' Market	Try a new recipe using local foods

We want to see the community in action,
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2. Supporting Pollinator Habitat Stewardship

- Support staff with research and development of best practices for pollinator habitat stewardship on public and private lands
- Research possible Bee City Designation e.g. Town of Comox
- Research and development of planting guidelines



2. Supporting Pollinator Habitat Stewardship



FS 11: “Refine municipal regulations and identify the City’s role in encouraging and integrating opportunities for sustainable urban agriculture (including community gardens, small plot farming, edible landscaping, greenhouses, and gardening to support pollinators and foraging) on municipal lands, boulevards, park spaces and vacant lands, including temporary accessory retail sales.”

PR 24: “Where appropriate, use existing and new parks, greenways, and recreational facilities as climate-friendly leadership, education and demonstration opportunities that can be studied, evaluated, and marketed to foster support from the public, development community, and City for broader application...”

Natural Environment Chapter: various



3. Integrating Food Lens into Emergency Planning

The image shows the cover of a report. On the left side, there is a vertical red bar containing several logos: BC Healthy Communities (top), Village of Cumberland (middle), LUSH VALLEY (bottom), KPU Institute for Sustainable Food Systems (bottom), and COMOX VALLEY FOOD POLICY COUNCIL (bottom). The main title 'BUILDING CAPACITY FOR FOOD SYSTEMS WITHIN EMERGENCY PLANNING:' is in large, bold, brown letters. Below it, the subtitle 'AN INVESTIGATION FOR THE VILLAGE OF CUMBERLAND' is in smaller brown letters. Further down, it says 'Funded by BC Healthy Communities Plan H fund, in partnership with The Village of Cumberland'. The authors 'BY MAURITA PRATO, BA, MSC, & NAOMI ROBERT, BSC, MLWS, P. AG' are listed in a white box. At the bottom right of the cover, there is a green box with the year '2025'. The bottom portion of the cover features a photograph of a garden with various plants and a wooden trellis.

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR FOOD SYSTEMS WITHIN EMERGENCY PLANNING:

AN INVESTIGATION FOR THE VILLAGE OF CUMBERLAND

Funded by BC Healthy Communities Plan H fund, in partnership with The Village of Cumberland

BY MAURITA PRATO, BA, MSC, & NAOMI ROBERT, BSC, MLWS, P. AG

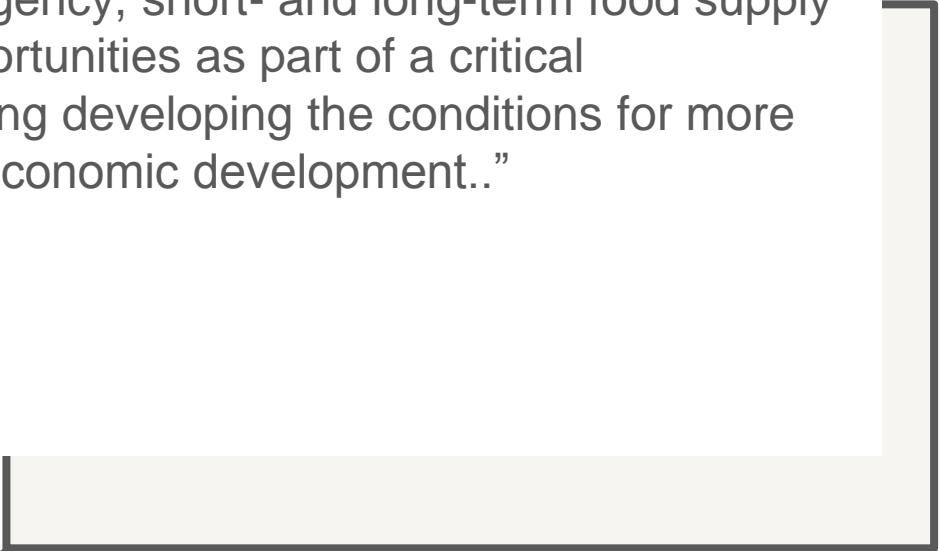
2025

SUITE OF POLICY TOOLS

- 1 Pre-established Emergency Procurement Arrangements
- 2 Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Programs
- 3 Local Food Procurement Policy and Practice
- 4 Ecosystem Stewardship and Indigenous Food Sovereignty

3. Integrating Food Lens into Emergency Planning

FS 24: “Support and participate in the development of a regional food security plan that considers emergency, short- and long-term food supply and infrastructure needs and opportunities as part of a critical infrastructure assessment, including developing the conditions for more local agricultural production and economic development..”



4. Supporting Ongoing Policy & Planning Processes

- Better Together strategy
- Neighbourhood Networks
- McPhee Meadows
- Letters and input into plan and strategies
(ongoing)



PROPOSED BUDGET REQUEST		IN-KIND
Staff wage contribution Coordinating meetings, communications, research, facilitation, etc	\$10,000	\$25,000
Admin Bookkeeping, facilities, office equipment, etc.	\$2,250	\$3000
Printing & Communications e.g. Eat Comox Valley Campaign	\$2,500	\$1500
TOTAL	\$15,000	\$43,000

The Comox Valley Food Policy Council requests that the City of Courtenay consider these ongoing and upcoming initiatives in alignment with the implementation of the City of Courtenay's Official Community Plan as prospective council initiatives for funding.



Thank you

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maurita@lushvalley.org