



BC
Agriculture
in the Classroom
Foundation
bcaitc.ca

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation (BCAITC) is a non-profit, charitable organization that works with educators to bring local agriculture to BC's students. Together with farmers, teachers, and agriculture specialists, we connect K-12 students to our amazing agriculture and food story through programs, activities and tours! We help them to learn the important role of agriculture and food to the health of our bodies, communities, the environment, and the economy.

Helping students discover where their food comes from has generated a huge appreciation for Farmers and stewardship of our land. Through our hands on learning opportunities and exploration into careers in the sector we create exciting and memorable farm to table connections for students.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

About Us	2
President's Report	3
Executive Director's Report	4
Our Programs	5 - 10
Outstanding Teacher	11
Our Resources	12
Our Events	13
Education Specialist's Report	14
Thank You	15
Our Team	16
Financial Statements	17- 30

MISSION Working to bring BC agriculture and food education to students throughout the province.

VISION Inspiring students to actively engage with BC agriculture and food systems.

PURPOSE British Columbia Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation (BCAIFC) is a registered charity #891720161RR0001 whose purpose is:

1. to promote the value of agriculture, sustainable food systems and the protection of BC's agricultural resource base to educators, students, and society,
2. to provide educators and students with quality educational resources, programs and other agricultural information that highlight agriculture as an important part of our economy, health and way of life,
3. to enable students to make informed decisions about food choices, food safety, and the importance of local supplies of food and other agricultural products.
4. to partner with education, agriculture, health and business communities to develop, implement, and evaluate quality initiatives for our province,
5. to build relationships between BCAIFC and its stakeholders to accomplish the purpose of the Foundation
6. to promote careers in agriculture as a viable and desirable career choice.

CORE VALUES

PASSION For agriculture, food, and education

EXCELLENCE Focusing on a growth mindset to foster innovation and learning

LEADERSHIP Taking initiative to create partnerships to tell the complex story of food and farming

SUSTAINABILITY Creating sustainable programs that promote enduring food systems

INCLUSIVITY Celebrating and encompassing the diverse histories and current realities of BC agriculture.

AUTHENTICITY genuine and trustworthy representation of agriculture and food

PEOPLE Our success is rooted in our staff, directors, farmers, industry partners, and educators.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2023 marked another dynamic year for BCAITC. Delivery and administration of school food programs and feeding kids for learning were of primary focus for the Board.

We've had to explore how we will fit into that evolution so we can continue to deliver the exceptional service of our BC School Fruit and Vegetable Nutrition program + Milk. To keep pace with the progress of these needs in the school system, we've had to pivot and adapt to keep the program running. We couldn't do this without the continued support of our Staff under the direction of our Executive Director Pat Tonn, the Board, and our key industry partners, BC Dairy, BC Egg, and our local fruit and vegetable growers. Distribution of these products are made possible province wide thanks to our delivery partners through Save-On-Foods and Saputo.

As is normal course of business, we experienced some changeover in our Board this year. We said goodbye to one of our long tenured Directors and Foundation supporter Donna Jack, and Board members Julie Dickson Olmstead, Carmen Gorlick, and Neill McCallum. To all of you, thank you so much for the contributions you made to the organization and your ongoing engagement to Agriculture

and our school communities across the province. We welcomed some new members this past year as well: Lori Beck (Save-On-Foods), Gary Moran (Fantasy Farms, Chilliwack), and Joel Barohn (BC Dairy Association). They bring with them diverse backgrounds and fresh perspective to an already engaging group.

This also marks my last year as President of the Board but will stay on as Past-President and Director at Large. I am still very much dedicated to the vision of the Foundation. The past four years have been extraordinary. We've grown as an organization and expanded the depth of our reach across the province. I have been privileged to work with an exceptionally dedicated collective of individuals with passion for childhood education and advocacy for local agriculture. I thank you all for the experience and for trusting me to lead this Board through what have been a few challenging but engaging years!

I wish to sincerely thank every one of you - Board members, Staff, volunteers, contributors, friends of BCAITC, and industry for everything you do to support the vision of our Foundation.

With gratitude,

Melanie Lantz



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

We have had a remarkable year at BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation! Thank you for your support in building new teaching tools for classrooms, helping us tell the agriculture story through video, farm tours and lessons, and encouraging us to innovate, grow and reach more teachers.

Our foundational programs, pictured throughout the annual report, reached over half a million students and thousands of teachers. We aim to bring agriculture and food education to students throughout the province. We added some new excitement this year too!

We launched Field to Fork Youth Cooking Challenge in January with elementary and secondary students showing their culinary skills alongside 4-H BC members, what fun to cook together in a finale with our own Chef Trevor Randle! We created new spotlight series resources focusing on Strawberries, Potatoes, Canola, and Dairy products with BC Farmers telling their story directly from the field. Canadian Agriculture Reading Challenge in March introduced a variety of agriculture and food books to students and a Farm Explorer BC Map Challenge highlighting farm direct

marketing in BC. The opening of BCAITC Ag Adventures site at Helen's Acres in Kelowna and the reopening of the refurbished Pencil Patch in Abbotsford brought thousands of students out to learn about the land, environment and everything that makes crops grow.

Our Taste of BC Fundraising Dinner in Surrey brought the culinary arts students out front and center as they prepared dishes amongst the crowd. BC Greenhouse classroom tours were in May in the Fraser Valley. We were proud to host our Agriculture in the Classroom colleagues from across the country at the AITC Canada national meetings and Conference in June. We rounded out the year with an Educators Agriculture Tour in Kelowna as well as Agri-Career workshops in the Shuswap, Victoria and Vancouver.

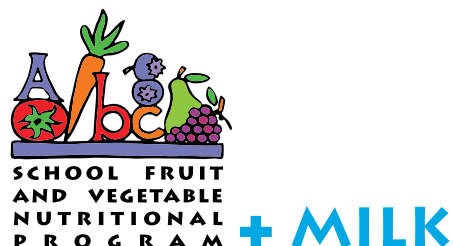
Thank you to the Board of Directors for your guidance and wisdom, and to the staff for your good work, dedication, and commitment to our goals. We also appreciate the Friends of BCAITC for your generous support and positive cheers, your donations, and partnership with our Foundation, you make this all possible!

With Thanks,

Pat Tonn



OUR PROGRAMS



With the help of nearly 4000 volunteers and incredible industry partners, BC School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Program provides BC grown fruit and vegetable snacks to students in their classrooms 12 times a year, allowing them to sample BC produce such as apples, plums, pears, mini cucumbers, tomatoes and mini peppers. The program is delivered to over 90% of public and First Nations schools throughout British Columbia, by our partners the Overwaitea Food group and Saputo, reaching over half a million students. Fresh Story and Grow BC resources for teachers are provided with each product delivery so that teachers can use the classroom product deliveries as an opportunity to link to the curriculum and teach about healthy eating, BC agriculture, and farm-food connections.



Milk and its nutritional benefits have been a positive addition to the BC School Fruit and Vegetable Program since 2013. Milk delivery was delivered to elementary students thanks to a partnership with the BC Dairy Association. Primary students also enjoy the story "A Cow's Tale" with their teachers; a story about life on the dairy farm as well as Fresh Stories about milk and its benefits.

Beginning in the 2023-24 school year pilot expansion projects have begun to expand the variety and volume of products, as well as frequency of delivery designed to feed kids for learning through the Feeding Futures program and Foodbanks BC.



"We thank all of you who make this possible, our students look forward and love all the extra fruits and vegetables we are able to serve them. Ninaskamonan, We thank you for the bottom of our hearts."

—Pauline Walker, Moberly Lake

"Our students and staff at Grenfell have really enjoyed the fruit and vegetable program and the milk program at the school. It has reminded us all to eat healthy and that healthy food can also be shared and enjoyed. Thank you!"

—Holly Lee, Vancouver

PARTNERS:

We acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Education and Child Care, the First Nations Health Authority, The BC Dairy Association, and Food Banks BC



FRESH TO YOU FUNDRAISER

Schools participating in Fresh to You receive bundles of locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables to sell to family and friends as a fundraiser. It provides information for students and families about fresh, locally grown vegetables and fruit as well as recipes for enjoying the produce at home. Schools receive a 40% profit on all bundles sold.

We have participated in the Fresh to You Fundraiser for the past two years and have targeted the money raised towards our school garden. We are grateful for the monetary support for our garden and local healthy food choices for our community and families available through the fundraiser. Huy ch q'u (Thank You)"

—Erin Ritchie,
Mill Bay Nature School



PARTNERS: BC Fresh, Associated Grocers,
The Province of British Columbia



COMMUNITIES 132 • FRESH BC PRODUCE 137,993 LBS
BUNDLES SOLD 6133 • PROFITS FOR SCHOOLS \$60,706



BC students deserve to cook and eat only the best — and that's BC grown products! Each year, BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation, together with the BC Culinary Arts Association, BC agricultural commodity groups, and BC producers, delivers fresh, BC grown product five times a year to secondary schools running a Culinary Arts program. The teaching chefs provide awareness about the foods that are grown on farms in the province and the students are inspired to create recipes featuring these products to offer the student population at their school.

“Our students researched the different grades of ground beef and fat content. They saw the pics of lean vs medium. They also understood the costs associated with the leaner meat. The students learnt how to make Italian meatballs and how to properly season and sear them. Thank you for your support”.

— *Chef Frank Abbinante,*
Gleneagle Secondary, Coquitlam

“One of my favourite lessons is showing the culinary arts students the versatility of the whole BC fryer chicken and how we let no part go to waste. After butchering, stock is made, and a meal for the school is created highlighting BC Chicken. Thank you for the lessons and opportunity to showcase local chicken to our culinary arts students.”

— *Chef Trevor Randle,*
Maple Ridge Secondary



SPONSORS:

BC Blueberry Council
BC Broiler Hatching
Egg Commission
BC Cattlemen's
Association
BC Chicken Marketing
Board
BC Cranberry
Marketing Commission
BC Dairy Association
BC Egg Marketing
Board
BC Fresh
BC Frozen Foods Ltd.
BC Fruit Growers
Association
BC Hot House Foods
BC Pork Producers'
Association

BC Processing
Vegetable Industry
Development Fund
BC Raspberry Industry
Development Fund
BC Shellfish Growers'
Association
BC Strawberry Growers'
Association
BC Turkey Marketing
Board & Sofina Foods
Cargill
Creekside Hothouse
Ltd.
Fraser Valley Cole Crop
Growers' Association
Fraser Valley Peas, Bush
Beans & Corn Growers'
Association
Golden Valley Foods

Government of Canada
Highline Mushrooms
Metro Vancouver
Agriculture Awareness
Grant
Ocean Spray
Province of British
Columbia
Silver Valley Farms
South Alder Farms
Van Eekelen
Enterprises Ltd.
Versa Cold Logistics
Services
Windset Farms



60 TEACHING KITCHENS • 7,000 CULINARY ARTS STUDENTS
47,000 LBS FRESH BC PRODUCE • 31 DONORS



Spuds in Tubs

bcaitc.ca

Students get such a kick out of digging into the soil, wrapping their hands around a potato plant, and yanking it out of the ground — roots and all! It's even better when they've planted the seed potato and tended the plant themselves. Potato plants are the ideal teaching crop: they can be planted in tubs, they have a short growing season, and they can be harvested before the end of the school year with a classroom harvest party!

"Another excellent year with this program. Every student was engaged and excited throughout the process. My student with severe mental health struggles took on the role of "Chief of Watering" and was able to form connections with classmates through their watering time every day. Of course, the harvest day was the highlight as was the Potato Party – "Best Potatoes Ever!"

— Grade 1 Teacher, Lower Mainland



Planting A Promise

bcaitc.ca



Planting a Promise gives teachers and their students a gardening experience for the fall offers them a hands-on way of exploring the life cycle of a plant and what it needs to grow. Outdoors students can connect positively with nature and learn science through observation. When those cheerful, yellow daffodil blooms greet students in the spring, it gives them a sense of pride in contributing to their school and community. Plus, new program activities help connect youth with seniors in their communities over their shared love for flowers!

"Love Love Love this program! Thank you for allowing my students to have a hands-on learning experience that we then get to share with the rest of the school and surrounding neighborhood."

— Morgan Daciuk
Alexander Robinson
Elementary, Maple Ridge

SPONSORS:

Van Noorts Bulbs, Alpine Garden Club of BC, Chilliwack Garden Club, Individual Donors

SPONSORS:

W & A Farms, BC Potato and Vegetable Growers, Canadian Western Bank, CY Grower Supplies Ltd., The Co-operators Insurance, Terra Link Horticulture Inc., BC Youth in Agriculture Foundation, PEI Bag Company, Leslie McConnell - MNP, Cargill.





15 SCHOOLS • 75 BINS • 900 STUDENTS



Through Harvest Bin Project we provide schools with recycled harvest bins as raised beds as well as funds and mentorship for establishing their own growing gardens, giving teachers the tools they need to supplement their curriculum. Growing their own food connects students more to agriculture and the larger world, giving them a deeper understanding of food security. Students will be involved in the farming process from the setting up of the bins, to planting, growing, and harvesting a wide variety of crops. The Harvest Bin Project can help support the learning objectives for a variety of classrooms, from caring for the soil to learning about plant life cycles and pollinators, this program models the principles of sustainable agriculture. We have schools participating in 15 communities around the province each year.

"We can just come here and eat food out of the garden? That's so cool!"

— St. Mary's Catholic
Independent School, Cranbrook

SPONSORS:

BC Youth in Agriculture Foundation, Rick's Heart Foundation, Diamond Delivery, Silver Valley Farms



COMMON GROUND
THE STRAWBERRY PROJECT



This project is in its second year, a new initiative to take steps toward working together while deepening understanding of First Peoples' ways and culture. Classes grow native and cultivated strawberry plants. They learn about the 'heart' berry through growing, harvesting and sharing food, their experiences and cultural stories.

"One thing I learned about the program is that it kind of made us all a little more grounded with our roots as Tsmeyen people."

SPONSOR: Cargill



51 CLASSES • 1091 STUDENTS • 1530 STRAWBERRY PLANTS



Our Pencil Patch, Garden for Learning, is refurbished and ready to explore! Ag Adventures begin in the Spring, all grade levels (K-12) are invited to visit the Pencil Patch in Abbotsford, Helen's Acres in Kelowna or Stable Harvest Farms in Langley. Fun learning opportunities include a tour of BC agriculture subjects, such as soil, pollinators, water, growing zones, the Agriculture Land Reserve, invasive species, bugs, greenhouses, crop rotation, and more. Students love to get outside, enjoy the fresh air, and get their hands dirty in the soil – all while learning about BC's agriculture and food story.

SPONSORS: City of Abbotsford, Abbotsford Community Foundation through the Abbotsford Disaster Relief Fund, First West Foundation, BC Youth on Agriculture Foundation, Stable Harvest Farm, Helen's Acres

SUMMER INSTITUTE

Every July, teachers hungry to expand their knowledge of agriculture become the students at BC Agriculture in the Classroom and the UBC Faculty of Education's Summer Institute course in Abbotsford, led by instructor Joe Massie. Through active participation on field trips with Farmer Bill Zylmans, and various guest speakers, participants in this five-day course explore practical ways to integrate concepts related to food production and consumption, food safety, agricultural issues, and sustainability across the curriculum at all grade levels. The meals for the week and hands on food preparation sessions are prepared by chef Trevor Randle. The result is created curriculum projects and lesson units that can be shared with students, as well as other educators around the

PARTNERS & SPONSORS:

UBC	Locarno Dairy Farm
BC Cattleman's Association,	Metro Vancouver
Fossen Bar 7 Ranch	BC Agriculture Land
BC Turkey	Commission
BC Chicken Marketing Board	Pacific Halibut Management
Devan Greenhouses	Association
Organic Ocean Seafood Inc.	Sardis Secondary School Farm
Aero Trading Co Ltd.	Bill Zylmans
Bakerview Greenhouses	



"They learned about the pollination of flowers, soil quality, herbs, water irrigation, wetlands, Indigenous medicine. Students loved it! It was wonderful and so educational."

— Sandy Hill Elementary Teacher



"We sometimes forget about the people involved in agriculture and all the hard work and passion they put into our food. Having the opportunity to hear and learn from them was an amazing and thought-provoking experience!"

— Estrella Blackstock Pedroso



2023 OUTSTANDING TEACHER IN AGRICULTURE —AARON VEENSTRA

BCAIFC is pleased to announce Aaron Veenstra as the recipient of the 2023 BCAIFC Outstanding Teacher in Agriculture Award. The award was presented to Aaron Veenstra for demonstrating outstanding leadership and innovation in agriculture education.

Aaron Veenstra is a Grade 6 teacher from A.S. Matheson Elementary in Kelowna, he is passionate about agriculture and food and has been integrating it into his classroom for several years. He started by including agriculture and food in local and global issues like multiculturalism, sustainability and social justice, because of their relevance. Also, it is an exciting way to celebrate the different cultural backgrounds of the students!

Veenstra remarks “The most important things I want my students to understand are where our food comes from and what they buy and eat can have significant contributions to their own health and to the health of our planet.” Aaron thinks globally and acts locally. He says “Food education is a relatable and easy topic to bring into the classroom. Connect food with the land and start thanking the land for what it gives us, and go outside to do this. Going outside more often, even without intention allows students to start connecting with the land more often. As students become more familiar with what the land gives

us, and we give them more chances to connect with the land, they will start to care for it more. This is so important, because why would they want to protect something they don't care about?” He teaches students about what grows in BC, about eating local foods and the positive economic and community impact of buying and eating local.



Aaron has involved students in starting gardening programs in the school. He also started a school-wide composting program. Students learn about the benefits of composting vs the impact of food ending up in the landfill. His students also taught the other classes in the school to participate.

For his inspiration and leadership in agriculture education, BCAIFC is pleased to recognize Aaron Veenstra with the Outstanding Teacher in Agriculture of the Year award.

Teacher Champions

Building off the Outstanding Teacher in Agriculture award our Teacher Champion Series highlights innovative ideas and successes in agriculture education. The monthly series profiles BC teachers who are passionate about educating K-12 students about local agriculture, food and the environment. The stories provide ideas for all teachers on how to bring agriculture and food education into their own classroom.

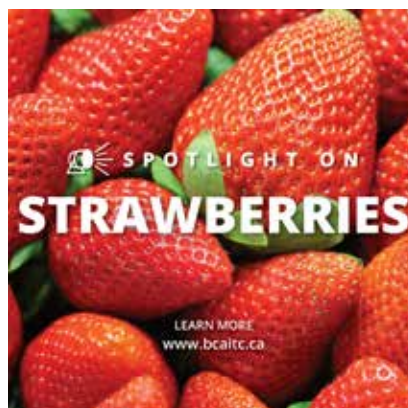
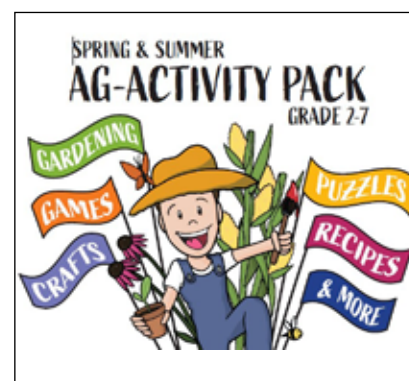
SPONSOR: Dairy Crop



OUR RESOURCES

BCAIRC offers over 500 K-12 agriculture and food resources including lessons, unit plans, activities, videos, GIS maps, recipes and more! Educators and students can easily download these free resources from

<https://www.bcairc.ca/resources>



Science Fair Awards

To highlight the connection between agriculture and science, BCAIRC supports the Science Fair Foundation of British Columbia. Each year, we contribute 13 regional science fair awards for outstanding projects that demonstrate the practical application of scientific principles to agriculture.

4-H BC Scholarship

BCAIRC provides an annual BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation Teacher Education Scholarship to a 4-H BC member who is planning to be enrolled in a university teacher education program for use in post-secondary education training.

OUR EVENTS



Taste of BC Fundraising Dinner



AITC Canada Meeting in BC



BC Greenhouse Veggie Days



Cook Along with BCAITC Chef



Delta Day at the Farm



Taste of BC Dinner Fundraising Dinner



Pacific Agriculture Show

EDUCATION SPECIALIST REPORT

The past year has been a whirlwind of activity! I am thankful for the opportunities to engage in creative endeavors and to support teachers in their mission to educate students about British Columbia's food and farming story.

Our year began with the Field to Fork Program, where we interacted with potato, strawberry, and dairy farmers. The students also donned their aprons, alongside Chef Randle, cooking delicious recipes. The cheese tasting event was also a memorable highlight. Apart from curating teacher newsletters, and coordinating schools for the Harvest Bin Program, I had the pleasure of engaging with educators in the Okanagan during their professional development day in February. Our first stop was a Kelowna-based kombucha company promoting local products and sustainability.

We then visited a honey farm and meadery for a lesson on bees, and then enjoyed a delicious charcuterie lunch. The day concluded with planting microgreens at the Helen's Acres greenhouse and discussing our Ag-Adventures field trips.

As spring blossomed, we introduced a new resource - "We All Share the Same Soil." This marked the beginning of our Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month Reading Challenge, where hundreds of students from across the province read books on food and farming to win prizes.

Preparations were in full swing for our Ag-Adventures Tours at Helen's Acres, ensuring everything was ready for the 357 students who visited during spring. Witnessing their connection with the land and understanding of food production for the less fortunate in the Okanagan Valley was truly gratifying.

April and May were a delight, as I got to meet with educators across the province during Professional Day workshops! We savored various apple cultivars, crafted bees to honor pollinators, and engaged in a mindful eating activity during workshops. Teachers

were enthusiastic about our programs and resources, sharing how they instilled a passion for food and farming in their students. Following visits to Kamloops, Prince George, and the Lower Mainland, I readied for our summer Okanagan Teacher's Professional Development Tour and planned additional workshops and Helen's Acres tours for autumn.

The summertime Okanagan Teacher's Professional Development Day tour was a success, featuring visits to a fruit packing house, an organic apple farm and cidery, and insightful conversations with a local cattle farmer.

The beginning of the new school year was marked by fresh resources and programs for teachers. In October, I participated in the Middle Year's Teacher Conference, and we collaborated with SD83 on a project regarding careers in agriculture. We whisked 40 students from the Salmon Arm District on a food and farm tour to ignite their interest in agriculture careers. In November, I shared insights about the Kareero App and other agriculture career resources at the Career Education Society Conference.

Concluding the year, I continued to work on new resources and presented to a class of aspiring home economics teachers at UBC. It has been a great year! A heartfelt thank you to everyone championing the narrative of BC food and farming!

— Holly Johnson





Grand Champions \$10,000+



W & A Farms
Kenneth A Forcier
Gerry Kokkelink
Kathleen Zimmerman
Donna & Steven Jack
Chung Family
Memorial
Harker's Organics

Champions \$5,000+

Alpine Garden Club of BC
DairyCrop
Gerry Kasten
Atchelitz Women's Institute
Vandeven Financial Solutions Ltd.
/The Co-operators

Blue Ribbon \$2,500+

Sydney Massey
Leslie McConnell
South Malahat 4-H Senior Council
Pat Tonn
Andreas Dolberg
Sarah & David Ryall

Red Ribbon \$1,000+

Golden View Farms
Katherine Webster
Margaret Sampson
/Semiahmoo Suffolks
Bill Weismiller
Barbara Adams
Kurt Bausenhaus

White Ribbon \$500+

Lance Hill

Green Ribbon \$50+

Benevity
Canada Helps
Whitta Farms
Thelma Schwandt
Jillian Unrau

Special Gifts:

RONA Inc
Harveen Brar
South Delta Secondary
Chilliwack Garden Club
Quincy North
Don Day

Donor Categories reflect accumulated donations.

BC AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM FOUNDATION IS A PROUD MEMBER OF AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM CANADA

Agriculture in the Classroom Canada (AITC-C) collaborates with its ten provincial member organizations to provide engaging learning experiences that ignite students' curiosity and teaches them the important role agriculture and food play in our everyday lives. Our own Executive Director, Pat Tonn, is the voice for British Columbia on the Board of Directors.



Activities on the AITC-C website: aitc-canada.ca include Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month reading challenges and projects like Great Canadian Farm Tour. There is a career-focused thinkAG initiative with its award-winning website thinkAG.ca, inspiring students to see themselves in promising agriculture careers, Kareero as well as snapAG information sheets, and Guardians of the Grasslands and Real Dirt on Farming teachers' guides. The AITC-C website also hosts a resource library of curriculum linked pan-Canadian agriculture and food teaching resources.

Board of Directors



From left to right - **President**, Melanie Lantz BSc, PAg Commercial Agriculture, RBC, **Vice President** Tony Hollett BA, **Treasurer** Kurt Bausenhaus CPA, CA, **Secretary** Michelle Johnsrude BSc, BEd, Teacher, **Director** Donna Jack, **Director** Julie Dickson Olmstead, Managing Director, Public Affairs, Pattison Group, **Director** Carmen Gorlick MPH, BSc RD, Consultant, **Director** Barbara Seed PhD, MPH, RD, **Director** Katie Lowe PAg, Executive Director, BC Egg, **Director** David Comrie BA, MA, Teacher, **Director** Lori Beck, GM, Inventory Save-On-Foods, **Director** Joel Barohn MS, RD, Manager of Nutrition and Health Programs, BC Dairy, **Director** Gary Moran, Owner, Fantasy Farms

Staff



From left to right - **Executive Director** Pat Tonn BHEC, BEd, **Education Specialist** Holly Johnson BEd, **Lead Program Coordinator, Logistics** Paul Boudreau BA, **Communications Coordinator** Meghan McCrea BCom, **Rishu Sachdeva Program Coordinator/Administration** Komal Jhaj, Nathan Tiedeman **Program and Events Coordinator** Tina Evans, **Garden Program Coordinator** Alison Speirs BA, BAA, PAg

Thanks to Our Support Team

Nicole Davey is the bookkeeper for the Foundation. Nicole works closely with the Executive Director and Treasurer.

Chef Trevor Randle – Chef Instructor from Maple Ridge Secondary – is the BCAITC Celebrity Chef, taking the Take a Bite of BC message to public events.

The Team at Stratum Systems administers the website, school log in and provides support services to it and our computer systems.

Michela Sorrentino of hermani + sorrentino design and Jackie Veasy of Two Bears Creative provide graphic design for the Foundation. Carol Watterson and Rachelle Kanefsky edit materials.

Ken Forcier of Kenneth A. Forcier CPA Inc. of Abbotsford completed the review engagement for 2023 and subsequently provided the Foundation's financial statements.

Barbara Adams of HR Architects work with the Foundation Board and Staff on Board Governance and Human Resources.

Volunteers are Gold! Many thanks for your time, energy and kindness!

Ag Adventures: Pat Buchanan, Hina Dhaliwal, Barb Hudson, Sheryl Martens, Coleton Mante, Lisa Dorman, Gail Chan, Kat Lane, Sean Melia, Nathan Tiedeman, Mia Soetaert, Dibleen Grewal, Don Day, Ralph Peiche, Geoff Lewis

Fresh to You Fundraiser: Tammy Warwick

Spuds in Tubs: Barbara Hudson, Highroad Academy (GR 11/12), Quincy North, Michelle Anderson, Melanie Lantz, Rick Tilitzky, Kurt and Bonnie Bausenhaus, Kat Lane, Tony Hollett

Taste of BC Agriculture Fundraiser Dinner: Students from Enver Creek Secondary school and Culinary Instructors Mike Doyle and Sandeep Judge, Students from Frank Hurt Secondary School and Culinary Instructors Meghan Dehghan and Jasvir Kooner, Students from Lord Tweedsmuir and Culinary Instructor, John Buist.

Day at the Farm: Lori Pilling and Culinary Arts students from Delta Secondary School and Mike Bryan.

KENNETH A. FORCIER CPA INC.

CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANT

*Accounting * Auditing * Income Tax*

109 - 2611 Pauline Street
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Telephone: 604-853-4707
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INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONER'S REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT

To the members of:

British Columbia Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation

I have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of British Columbia Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation that comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2023 and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Practitioner's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements based on my review. I conducted my review in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements, which require me to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements is a limited assurance engagement. The practitioner performs procedures, primarily consisting of making inquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence obtained.

The procedures performed in a review are substantially less in extent than, and vary in nature from, those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

KENNETH A. FORCIER CPA INC.

CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANT

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Fax: 604-853-9288***

Basis for Qualified Conclusion

In common with many not-for-profit organizations, British Columbia Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation derives revenue from fundraising activities, the completeness of which is not susceptible to me obtaining evidence I considered necessary for the purpose of the review. Accordingly, the evidence obtained of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of British Columbia Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation. Therefore, I was unable to determine whether any adjustments might have been found necessary with respect to fundraising revenue, excess of revenue over expenses, and cash flows from operations for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, current assets as at December 31, 2023 and 2022 and net assets as at January 1 and December 31 for both the 2023 and 2022 year ends. My conclusion on the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2023 was modified accordingly because of the possible effects of this limitation in scope.

Qualified Conclusion

Based on my review, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Conclusion, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that the financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of British Columbia Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation as at December 31, 2023, and results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

***Kenneth A. Forcier CPA Inc.
Chartered Professional Accountant***

Abbotsford, British Columbia
April 16, 2024

BRITISH COLUMBIA
AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM FOUNDATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
(Unaudited)

As at December 31, 2023

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash and Cash Equivalents (Note 3)	\$ 6,324,315	\$ 5,596,454
Accounts Receivable	200	546
GST Refundable	26,514	25,572
Inventory (Note 4)	18,582	26,084
Prepaid Expense	<u>9,543</u>	<u>3,177</u>
	<u>6,379,154</u>	<u>5,651,833</u>
	<u>\$ 6,379,154</u>	<u>\$ 5,651,833</u>
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	\$ 50,721	\$ 25,440
Unearned Revenue (Note 6)	<u>4,513,148</u>	<u>4,163,882</u>
	<u>4,563,869</u>	<u>4,189,322</u>
NET ASSETS		
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted Net Assets	<u>1,815,285</u>	<u>1,462,511</u>
	<u>1,815,285</u>	<u>1,462,511</u>
	<u>\$ 6,379,154</u>	<u>\$ 5,651,833</u>

Approved by the Board





The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Kenneth A. Forcier CPA, Inc.

BRITISH COLUMBIA
AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM FOUNDATION

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
(Unaudited)

For the year ended December 31, 2023

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
RECEIPTS		
Donations	112,381	143,251
Program Revenue and Other (Schedule 1)	311,123	271,812
Program Sponsorships and Grants (Schedule 2)	211,249	303,903
Interest	314,672	184,252
Resource Sales	<u>73</u>	<u>662</u>
	<u>949,498</u>	<u>903,880</u>
 EXPENDITURES		
Advertising and Promotion	43,669	42,916
Conference and Meetings	7,508	2,885
Contracts and Wages	317,759	307,950
Insurance	3,835	3,907
Office and Miscellaneous	8,663	7,770
Professional Fees	6,150	6,150
Resources Development and Printing	5,035	1,281
Travel	4,449	6,181
Programs - Other (Schedule 3)	<u>199,656</u>	<u>237,490</u>
	<u>596,724</u>	<u>616,530</u>
 SURPLUS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	 \$ <u>352,774</u>	 \$ <u>287,350</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Kenneth A. Forcier CPA, Inc.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM FOUNDATION

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

(Unaudited)

For the year ended December 31, 2023

	Capital Asset Fund	Unrestricted	2023	2022
BALANCE, beginning of year	\$ -	\$ 1,462,511	\$ 1,462,511	\$ 1,175,564
Surplus of revenue over expenditures:	-	352,774	352,774	287,350
Transfer from unrestricted:				
Amortization	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(403)</u>
SURPLUS, end of the year	\$ <u>-</u>	\$ <u>1,815,285</u>	\$ <u>1,815,285</u>	\$ <u>1,462,511</u>

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Kenneth A. Forcier CPA, Inc.

BRITISH COLUMBIA
AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM FOUNDATION

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
(Unaudited)

December 31, 2023

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Cash Provided by Operating Activities		
Net surplus	\$ <u>352,774</u>	\$ <u>287,350</u>
Changes in non-cash working capital:		
Accounts Receivable	345	13,455
GST Recoverable	(943)	(6,002)
Inventory	7,502	(8,854)
Prepaid Expense	(6,366)	-
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	25,283	(75,211)
Unearned Revenue	<u>349,266</u>	<u>(691,877)</u>
	<u>375,087</u>	<u>(768,489)</u>
 Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	 727,861	 (481,139)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	<u>5,596,454</u>	<u>6,077,593</u>
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	<u>\$ 6,324,315</u>	<u>\$ 5,596,454</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Kenneth A. Forcier CPA, Inc.

BRITISH COLUMBIA
AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM FOUNDATION

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

December 31, 2023

1. PURPOSES OF THE ORGANIZATION

British Columbia Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation is a non-profit organization and was incorporated under the *Society Act* of British Columbia on August 9, 1999. The foundation is a charity registered under section 149(1)(i) of the *Income Tax Act* and is therefore not subject to taxation.

The purposes of the foundation are:

- to promote an awareness and understanding of sustainable agriculture and food systems in B.C. Schools;
- to enable students to make informed decisions about food choices, food safety, the importance of our own supply of food and other agriculture products as well as the protection of B.C.'s agriculture resources;
- to foster awareness of careers to be found in agriculture and food systems;
- to attract funding for the research, development and implementation of programs to meet the above stated purposes of the society;
- to provide classroom ready resource material and activities on the agri-food system which can be integrated into the existing school curriculum;
- to provide in-service professional development on the agri-food system for British Columbia teachers; and
- to establish a clearing house of agri-food system resources for classroom teachers.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounting policies of the foundation are in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO). Outlined below are those policies considered particularly significant.

The financial statements have, in management's opinion, been properly prepared within reasonable limits of materiality and within the framework of the accounting policies summarized below:

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Kenneth A. Forcier CPA, Inc.

BRITISH COLUMBIA
AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM FOUNDATION

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

December 31, 2023

(a) FUND ACCOUNTING

The Foundation follows the restricted fund method of accounting for contributions.

The General Fund accounts for the organization's program delivery and administrative activities. This program reports unrestricted resources and restricted operating grants.

The Capital Asset Fund reports the assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses related to the Foundation's Capital Assets.

(b) INVENTORY

Inventory, which is comprised of publication materials held for distribution, is valued at the lower of cost or replacement cost.

(c) USE OF ESTIMATES

When preparing financial statements in accordance with ASNPO, the Foundation makes estimates and assumptions relating to:

- Reported amounts of revenues and expenses;
- Reported amounts of assets and liabilities; and
- Disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities.

Management's assumptions are based on a number of factors, including historical experience, current events and actions that the organization may undertake in the future, and other assumptions that I believe are reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results could differ from those estimates under different conditions and assumptions. Estimates were used when accounting for certain items, such as the useful lives of assets, impairment of long-lived assets and deferred operating grants.

Amortization is based on the estimated useful lives of property, plant and equipment. These estimates and assumptions are reviewed periodically and, as adjustments become necessary they are reported in the periods in which they became known.

(d) REVENUE RECOGNITION

Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year when related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured. Unrestricted investment income is recognized as revenue when earned.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Kenneth A. Forcier CPA, Inc.

BRITISH COLUMBIA
AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM FOUNDATION

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

December 31, 2023

(e) CONTRIBUTED GOODS

Products having a fair market value \$79,453 (2022 - \$ 120,615) have been donated to the foundation for use in their programs by the following organizations: BC Cattlemen's Association, BC Chicken Marketing Board, BC Dairy Association, BC Egg, BC Fresh, BC Frozen Foods, BC Hot House, BC Pork, BC Shellfish Growers Association, BC Strawberry Growers Association, BC Turkey Marketing Board, Sofina Foods, Creekside Hothouse, Highline Mushrooms, Ocean Spray, Silver Valley Farms, South Alder Farms, Van Eekelen Ltd., Windset Farms and W&A Farms.

(f) FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Foundation uses risk management to monitor and manage its risk arising from financial instruments. These risks include credit risk, interest rate risk and market risk.

The Foundation does not use any derivative financial instruments to mitigate these risks.

Credit risk

Credit risks arise from two sources; cash and cash equivalents and accounts receivable. Cash and cash equivalents are deposited with reputable, major financial institutions to limit the credit risk exposure. The credit risk from parties not paying accounts receivable is not considered to be significant.

Interest rate risk

The Foundation is exposed to interest rate risk with respect to cash equivalents. Changes in interest rates can affect the fair value of investments and the cash flows related to interest income and expense.

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk exposure is dependent on the receipt of funds from Provincial Government grants and other sources to enable the Foundation to pay its liabilities as they become due.

Market risk

In the Directors' opinion, the Foundation is not exposed to any significant market risk.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Kenneth A. Forcier CPA, Inc.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM FOUNDATION

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

December 31, 2023

(g) CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital Assets are recorded at cost. Amortization has been calculated using the following methods and rates as follows, except in the year of acquisition when one half of the rate is used. No amortization is applied in the year of disposal.

Displays and fixtures	20% diminishing balance
Computer equipment	30% diminishing balance
Equipment	20% diminishing balance

3. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Canadian Western Bank business savings account, bearing tiered interest. 1.50% on the first \$250,000. 1.85% on the balance between \$250,000 and \$15,000,000. 2.50% on the balance over \$15,000,000.	\$ 760	\$ 745
Canadian Western Bank operating account, bearing interest at the banks prime rate - 1.90%	2,835,046	1,805,575
Canadian Western Bank flex account, bearing interest at the banks prime rate - 1.45%	2,988,507	3,282,535
Canadian Western Bank GIC, bearing interest at 4.60% maturing October 18, 2024	500,000	-
Canadian Western Bank GIC, bearing interest at 1.40% maturing March 15, 2023	-	202,800
Canadian Western Bank GIC, bearing interest at 1.60% maturing July 15, 2023	-	304,800
	<u>\$ 6,324,315</u>	<u>\$ 5,596,454</u>

At December 31, 2023 the Prime Rate was 7.20% (2022 - 6.45%).

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Kenneth A. Forcier CPA, Inc.

BRITISH COLUMBIA
AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM FOUNDATION

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Unaudited)

December 31, 2023

4. INVENTORY

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
AITC	\$ 1,104	\$ -
Alfabet Book	\$ 230	\$ 700
BCSFVNP	4,331	5,614
Spuds in Tubs	7,651	7,662
Take a Bite of BC	2,538	5,190
Other	<u>2,728</u>	<u>6,918</u>
	<u>\$ 18,582</u>	<u>\$ 26,084</u>

5. CAPITAL ASSETS

	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Accumulated Depreciation</u>	<u>Net 2023</u>	<u>Net 2022</u>
Computer equipment	\$ 21,179	\$ 21,179	\$ -	\$ -
Displays and fixtures	4,207	4,207	-	-
Equipment	<u>4,299</u>	<u>4,299</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>\$ 29,685</u>	<u>\$ 29,685</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

6. UNEARNED REVENUE

Unearned revenue relates to certain funding received during the year that, in the opinion of the directors is attributable as income in a subsequent year. The funds will be used to deliver the BCSFVNP and certain funds are designated to expanding the BCSFVNP.

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
BCSFVNP	2,688,365	4,163,882
BCSFVNP - Expansion	<u>1,824,783</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>4,513,148</u>	<u>4,163,882</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Kenneth A. Forcier CPA, Inc.

BRITISH COLUMBIA
AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM FOUNDATION

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

December 31, 2023

7. CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATION

The Foundation is committed to a premises lease expiring August 31, 2025, with amounts due over the next fiscal years as follows:

Year	Amount
2024	\$37,698
2025	\$40,052

8. ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE

The Foundation received the majority of its funding from the Province of British Columbia and is therefore economically dependant on continued funding in order to ensure ongoing delivery of certain of its programs.

9. REMUNERATION OF EMPLOYEES

As required to disclose by the Societies Act of British Columbia, the Executive Director was remunerated \$141,958 (2022 - \$134,834) in wages and benefits.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Kenneth A. Forcier CPA, Inc.

BRITISH COLUMBIA
AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM FOUNDATION

(Unaudited)

For the year ended December 31, 2023

SCHEDULE I - BC SCHOOL FRUIT AND VEGETABLE NUTRITIONAL PROGRAM

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
REVENUE		
BCSFVNP	\$ 5,392,743	\$ 4,681,151
Fresh to You BC School Fundraiser	<u>103,761</u>	<u>120,867</u>
	<u>5,496,504</u>	<u>4,802,018</u>
EXPENDITURES		
PROGRAM - BCSFVNP		
Product and Primary Distribution	3,228,216	2,657,269
Carrier Costs	393,043	257,726
Program Materials	27,399	43,930
PAC Funding and Training	2,000	1,250
Salaries and Training	186,667	175,939
Program Office and Administration	88,530	78,502
Computer Programming	45,587	50,637
Special Projects	54,527	3,998
Fresh to You BC School Fundraiser	93,994	115,147
Fridge Grants	7,665	9,698
	<u>4,127,628</u>	<u>3,394,096</u>
PROGRAM - MILK		
Product and Primary Distribution	979,449	1,038,850
Carrier Costs	75,844	94,800
Computer Programming	2,460	2,460
	<u>1,057,753</u>	<u>1,136,110</u>
	<u>5,185,381</u>	<u>4,530,206</u>
BCAITC ADMINISTRATION FEE	\$ <u>311,123</u>	\$ <u>271,812</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Kenneth A. Forcier CPA, Inc.

BRITISH COLUMBIA
AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM FOUNDATION

(Unaudited)

For the year ended December 31, 2023

SCHEDULE 2 - SCHEDULE OF PROGRAM SPONSORSHIPS AND GRANTS

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
RECEIPTS		
Grant Income	99,548	203,059
Harvest Bin Project	-	630
Planting a Promise	1,391	300
Spuds in Tubs	29,312	28,090
Summer Institute Sponsor	2,054	593
Take a Bite of BC	<u>78,944</u>	<u>71,231</u>
	<u>\$ 211,249</u>	<u>\$ 303,903</u>

SCHEDULE 3 - SCHEDULE OF OTHER PROGRAMS

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
EXPENDITURES		
PROGRAMS - OTHER		
Common Ground Strawberry Project	5,028	1,811
Pencil Patch	28,941	25,753
Planting a Promise	2,912	10,679
Regional Science Fair Awards	-	740
Spuds in Tubs	33,979	59,042
Summer Institute	12,261	13,262
Take a Bite of BC	89,696	90,561
Teacher Workshops	7,446	14,278
The Harvest Bin Project	2,860	1,524
Trial Program Initiatives	<u>16,533</u>	<u>19,840</u>
	<u>\$ 199,656</u>	<u>\$ 237,490</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Kenneth A. Forcier CPA, Inc.



Thank you to everyone who has supported BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation to help us bring exciting agriculture and food education to BC students. We are grateful for your participation.

We welcome new partners too, join us as we grow into 2024 and beyond! There are many ways you can be involved – partner, donate, or volunteer. Visit www.bcaitc.ca to discover the possibilities!



BC AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM FOUNDATION

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Questions, comments, or want to get involved?

Contact: Pat Tonn, Executive Director

