



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.

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

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

PURPOSE British Columbia Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation (BCAITC) 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 BCAITC 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

In this, my first year as President of BCAITC, I want to thank all of our outstanding Board members, dedicated staff, contributors, friends of BCAITC, and industry for your continued support of our amazing Foundation. Without you, BCAITC would not be able to continue to achieve its mission of bringing BC agriculture and food education to students throughout this beautiful province of British Columbia.

As with any organization, 2024 was not without its challenges. As the funding for school food programs through the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Agriculture transferred into the Feeding Futures initiative, the BC School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Program +Milk transitioned to a school district funded model in the 2024-25 school year. To continue receiving BC grown fruits, vegetables, dairy and egg products throughout the entire school year, schools and /or districts could use their Feeding Futures funding to purchase the products available through our program, delivered directly to each school. Over the year, we have adapted and expanded our program so schools could participate every week and receive multiple varieties of products with each order. Locally grown products support the Feed BC goals to use more BC products in school food programs. Despite these changes, BCAITC had another very successful year thanks to 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 were once again made possible thanks to the continued support of our long-term delivery partners Save-On Foods and Saputo Dairy Products.

Thank you to those who gave us feedback and participated in our organization's strategic planning session in the Summer of 2024. It was a great activity for our Board Members, staff, and stakeholders to look at our objectives and key focus areas for the next couple of years. Our strategic plan is posted on our website under our story: https://www.bcaitc.ca/our-story.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend gratitude to departing board members Michelle Johnsrude, Joel Barohn and Barbara Seed for their contributions while serving on our Board. BCAITC would not be where it is today without dedicated individuals like yourselves, and we look forward to seeing each of you in the very near future. We also welcomed some new board members in 2024: Jillian Unrau, David Shumka, Sabrina Bhojani and Matthew Brown. We are very excited with what each of you bring to an already very talented, diverse group of board members.

In closing, I am so proud of BCAITC's accomplishments in 2024 and truly believe that the organization's future is even brighter for 2025 and onwards. With your continued support, everything is achievable.

With appreciation,

**Tony Hollett** 



# **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

2024 was our year to explore! We looked at what was great, opportunities, and sorted out our priorities too. Our popular programs outlined on the next few pages continue to make us proud as we appreciate the great responses from teachers and support from our agriculture community and friends.

We have expanded our healthy BC food delivery to schools to include vegetables, fruits, dairy products and eggs. Many schools are now using their feeding futures funds to partner with us. Fresh Stories on yogurt, cheese, and eggs augmented the new delivery of those products into the classroom and expanded the learning about where those foods come from and how they are made along with in-class activities! Also, new initiatives with Foodbanks BC and First West Foundation have allowed us to test expansion into hard to reach and food insecure parts of the province.

We partnered with AITC Canada on Canadian Agriculture Reading Challenge in March including the theme PLANT, GROW, EAT, SHARE. Together we hosted the Great Canadian Farm Tour, including The Bog, Riverside Cranberry Farm in BC. In November we amplified the Kareero game and agricultural careers in Canada for national career week.

AgAdventures was a huge success both at the Pencil Patch in Abbotsford and Helen's Acres in Kelowna. A heartfelt thank you to the 23 dedicated volunteers who made these educational tours possible. School's Out! day camp on professional days and Kids Summer Camps were new in our Pencil Patch teaching garden this year. We added a demonstration cow "Delilah" courtesy of BC Dairy and goats courtesy of Fantasy Farms to the AgAdventures which continues to be a hit for the Fraser Valley.

Our new "In the Kitchen with Take a Bite of BC" series provides students with essential culinary skills through toolkits featuring videos, recipes, and lesson plans. This hands-on resource promotes learning in the kitchen while highlighting the importance of supporting local agriculture. Thank you, BC Dairy, BC Egg, and BC Greenhouse Growers Association, for assisting us in this project. This resource is good for the home chef too!

In November we held our new Fresh for Less fundraiser selling affordable bundles of fresh BC product at Abbotsford Winter Jubilee and on-line raised \$11,000 for our efforts in agricultural education. Thanks to the donors of the fresh produce, we were also able to help families during the holiday season.

We also embarked on a new venture with BC Cattlemen to Whistler Cornucopia, where AITC Chef Randle and Rancher Andrea van Iterson highlighted the importance of fresh, local beef, and agriculture in BC a fun gourmet event!

We are most thankful for our Teacher Ambassadors and very proud of our Teacher Champions who help us make agriculture in the classroom come alive for students! We also appreciate our Friends of BCAITC and donors for your support and encouragement.

With gratitude,

Pat Tonn



# **OUR PROGRAMS**



With the help of nearly 2,500 volunteers and incredible industry partners, BC School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Program +Milk provides BC grown fruit, vegetable and protein snacks to students in their classrooms up to 24 weeks of the school year, allowing them to sample BC products such as apples, plums, mini cucumbers, cheese, milk and mini peppers. The program is delivered to public, independent and First Nations schools throughout British Columbia, by our partners the Pattison Food Group and Saputo, as well as independent drivers 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.

In the 2023-24 school year pilot expansion projects have begun in six regions of the province 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 love the crunch and freshness of the mini cucumbers. We even serve them in the morning during breakfast. We made Greek salad and homemade tzatziki too! One of our favorite vegetables in the whole wide world, is the mini cucumbers."

—Eke Me Xi Learning Centre, Port Hardy

"The students are really enjoying the cheese sticks. They also enjoy the milk with the cheese. I would definitely like to see both products available to students, next year."

—Alexander Elementary, Abbotsford

#### **PARTNERS:**

We acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Education and Child Care, the First Nations Health Authority and First Nations Education Steering Committee, BC Dairy Association, BC Egg, First West Foundation, 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. Both Spring and Fall fundraisers were available this year. 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.

The Fresh to You Fundraiser was a great fundraising effort that encouraged families to purchase the produce they already needed from BC growers in a way that would benefit our school. We made almost \$400 to spend on our outdoor classroom, including nutrition education such as growing our own food from seeds in our school garden. We would absolutely participate again.

—Kelsey Graham, Grade 2 Teacher Ellison Elementary School



**PARTNERS:** BC Fresh, Associated Grocers









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 culinary class uses a lot of peppers throughout the year. Our salad bar uses a variety of peppers as does our vegetarian noodle box. These peppers are full of colour and amazing flavour. We are excited to use them in many of our dishes. Next week we are making a Thai pork tenderloin salad that uses a variety of peppers, mint and basil. The following week we're making beef fajitas with peppers and onions. Our culinary class is fortunate to have been given so many peppers from our BC farmers. Thank you!"

— Chef Tony Wilson, Dover Bay Secondary

"The Neufchatel was an exceptional cheese, and we were able to put it to use in a roasted beet salad. We were also able to get the kids to create a kind of dill cream cheese, which we used as the base on a cracker with smoked salmon."

— Chef Steve Letts, Edward Milne Community School







#### **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 Vegetable Marketing

Commission

BC Shellfish Growers' Association

BC Strawberry Growers' Association

BC Turkey Marketing Board & Sofina Foods

Creekside Hothouse Ltd.

**Golden Valley Foods** 

**Highline Mushrooms** 

Metro Vancouver Agriculture Awareness Grant

Ocean Spray

Silver Valley Farms

South Alder Farms

**Sunrise Poultry Processors** 

Van Eekelen Enterprises Ltd.

**Versa Cold Logistics Services** 

Windset Farms







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!

"My students became highly invested in their potatoes! They loved caring for them and watching their progress. They were very concerned when the leaves turned to vines and were worried their plants had died. They were shocked at how many potatoes they produced and how big some of them were. They were so proud to take home potatoes to feed their families."

— Susan Hill, Ecole Maillard Middle School Gr.6/7

#### **SPONSORS:**

BC Potato and Vegetable Growers, Canadian Western Bank, CY Grower Supplies Ltd., Berry Haven Farm, The Co-operators Insurance, Terra Link Horticulture Inc., BC Youth in Agriculture Foundation, Royal Oak Women's Institute, First West Foundation and Individual Donors.





Planting A Promise



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!

"I have noticed students being much more careful with the flowers and plants growing around our school - like they have a new respect for them."

— Jennifer Grant

"I learned how excited and involved the students can be with these kinds of hands-on experiences. It's wonderful to see students so energetic."

— Cindy Gollner

#### **SPONSORS:**

Van Noorts Bulbs, Alpine Garden Club of BC, Chilliwack Garden Club, Royal Oak Women's Institute, Individual Donors







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.

"I really enjoyed how the students got excited about going out to check on the plants and their growth.

It also touched my heart they wanted to read/talk to the plants and would ask to go outside and read to them. When we harvested and tasted the first crop – radishes – there was great excitement, and everyone tried a nibble. We have new radish eaters. They also really enjoyed finding insects and worms in the soil."

— Alert Bay classroom teacher

#### **SPONSORS:**

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







This project is an 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.

"Caring for the strawberry plants in the classroom, increased the children's interest in our school garden. As a result, we became the main caretakers of the garden with our buddy class. Communicating with our buddy class gave us a real meaningful reason to explore our community. I initially thought the science curriculum would be covered by this program but was pleasantly surprised by how our social studies curriculum became a major focus."





Ag Adventures begin in the Spring, all grade levels (K-12) are invited to visit the Pencil Patch in Abbotsford, and Helen's Acres in Kelowna. 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, Helen's Acres



"Thank you for having my class at the Pencil Patch this week. We really enjoyed our morning and learned a lot while cycling through the twelve stations. We have had great discussions about the learning since returning to the classroom and my students are now excited to do some gardening with their families."

Maureen Falcioni,Sandy Hill Elementary

# **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 province, that are rich in agricultural literacy.

"One of the highlights of the Summer Institute was hearing the stories from farmers and seeing misconceptions and perspectives of fellow classmates change over the course of the week. I enjoyed hearing from other teachers and sharing with them. It was a great blend of hands-on learning and classroom time and super well organized. I also really appreciated the focus on providing accurate information for students."

"The Summer Institute, pairing UBC with BCAITC was one of, if not the most valuable courses I have taken!"

— Sarah Tracey



#### **PARTNERS & SPONSORS:**

UBC
BC Cattleman's
Association,
Fossen Bar 7 Ranch
BC Egg
BC Turkey
BC Chicken Marketing
Board

BC Greenhouse Growers Association Randhawa Farms
Farmers Fresh
Mushrooms
Metro Vancouver
BC Agriculture Land
Commission
Sardis Secondary
School Farm
Bill Zylmans



# 2024 OUTSTANDING TEACHER IN AGRICULTURE —SHON DE VET

BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation (BCAITC) is pleased to announce that Shon De Vet is the recipient of the 2024 BCAITC Outstanding Teacher in Agriculture Award. Shon received this award for demonstrating outstanding leadership and innovation in agriculture education.

Shon De Vet is a Grade 10 to 12 Culinary Arts teacher from Fleetwood Park Secondary in Surrey, his passion for agriculture and food education stems from a lifelong love for the food industry, which began at the age of nine. As a Red Seal chef since 1992, Shon brings decades of expertise and enthusiasm to his teaching, consistently connecting his students to the world of BC agriculture. Since joining the teaching profession six years ago, Shon has made it a priority to integrate lessons about local food systems, sustainability, and BC's rich agricultural heritage into his curriculum.

Shon remarks "As a teacher, it's important to connect students to BC agriculture because it fosters a deeper understanding of local food systems, the economy, and sustainability. By teaching them where their food comes from, we encourage healthier choices, respect for Indigenous traditions, and critical thinking about environmental issues. It's about inspiring them to care for the land and make choices that contribute to a sustainable future." Shon credits BCAITC programs like Take a Bite of BC for inspiring his students, he shares "This program beautifully showcases BC's agricultural bounty, allowing students to explore, touch, and taste fresh local

products they might not have encountered before. It cultivates curiosity, a love for local produce, and an appreciation for the richness of BC's agriculture."

For educators seeking to integrate agriculture and food education into their classrooms, Shon advises: "Look for where it fits naturally. Share the history of food, cultural influences, and the contributions of Indigenous communities to our culinary traditions. It doesn't have to be a massive production—simple connections to agriculture can create a meaningful learning experience."



# **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**

BCAITC 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.bcaitc.ca/resources













## **Science Fair Awards**

To highlight the connection between agriculture and science, BCAITC 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

BCAITC 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**



FOOD EDUCATION FOR K-12 STUDEN

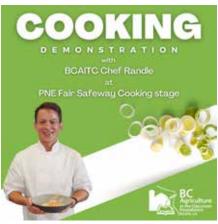
Thank You B Chers! Thank You BC Farmers!

Volunteers Resource Packing

Winter Jubilee Fresh for Less Fundraiser



Whistler Cornucopia



**PNE Culinary Stage** 



BC Youth in Agriculture Foundation Evening



Truth and Reconciliation Day



Provincial Intermediate and Middle Years Conference

# **EDUCATION SPECIALIST REPORT**

The year 2024 has been filled with the creation of resources, program launches, professional development for educators, and the promotion of BC's Food and Farming Story.

In January, despite the cold temperatures, we successfully completed the Real Dirt on Farming Resource. This digital lesson kit, which showcases food and farming in Canada, is now accessible to teachers.

February was bustling as we prepared for the Central Okanagan Teacher's Professional Development Day. Educators participated in a STEM building contest using mandarin oranges and learned more about our programs and resources. We also delivered a workshop at the Tapestry Conference on the island and had a wonderful group of teachers join the online workshop, engaging in insightful discussions about gardening and growing at their schools.

March marked the launch of our reading contest: Plant, Grow, Eat, Share, which led to 3,761 badges earned, 2,647 books read, and 452 activities completed. Classes enjoyed exploring literature about plants and gardening, and the gift card prizes were well-received.

As we welcomed the spring sunshine in April, we participated in a career fair in Salmon Arm, where students created "I AM THE FUTURE" videos. We also conducted workshops in Kamloops and at the Prince George Spring Fling, connecting with many new teachers and igniting their interest in our programs and resources. Additionally, we launched the Egg Fresh Stories and the Spotlight on Dairy.

In May, we hosted a successful workshop and EAT Tour at the Surrey Teacher's Convention, focusing on eggs, beef, and dairy! We also prepared for tours at Helen's Acres and began the BCAITC Teacher Ambassador Search.

As we wrapped up the school year in June, we started collaborating with our BCAITC Teacher Ambassadors and launched Cheese and Yogurt Fresh Stories. Our season at Helen's Acres was a success, with 391 students touring and discovering more about the origins of their food.

September brought the start of a new school year and the introduction of a five-part resource set—In the Kitchen with Take a Bite of BC. Designed specifically for Home Economics teachers, these kits featured essential skills such as soup making, knife skills, and how to debone a chicken.

October brought fall visits at Helen's Acres, welcoming 160 more students to the farm to learn about autumn activities. We also enjoyed engaging interactions with teachers at the myPITA Conference on the island and the THESA Conference in Vancouver.

November was Careers Month, and we attended the Career Education Society Conference in Vancouver, where we launched applications for our thinkAG Careers Field Trips! Teachers expressed interest in bringing their classes on field trips tailored to their students' interests related to careers in agriculture.

In December, we developed new lesson plans—All the Farmers You Will Know, and Plant Something for Wellness—and began planning for the first thinkAG Career Field Trip in January 2025.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to bringing our programs and resources to life—you are making significant strides in the sharing of BC's Food and Farming Story!

— Holly Johnson





# **Grand Champions \$10,000+**







































Donor Categories reflect accumulated donations.

Kenneth A Forcier Gerry Kokkelink Kathleen Zimmerman Donna & Steven Jack Chung Family Memorial

#### Champions \$5,000+

Gerry Kasten South Malahat 4-H Senior Council

#### Blue Ribbon \$2,500+

Sydney Massey Pat Tonn Andreas Dolberg Sarah & David Ryall

#### Red Ribbon \$1,000+

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

#### White Ribbon \$500+

Lance Hill Quincy North Peaceful Blooms Chilliwack Garden Club

#### Green Ribbon \$50+

Benevity Canada Helps Whitta Farms

#### **Special Gifts:**

RBC
Brad Allingham
Royal Oak WI
Sarah VanHeeswijk
K & A Farms
Westberry Farms
Smiles Through Seva Foundation

# 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 and projects like Great Canadian Farm Tour. There is a career-focused thinkAG website thinkAG.ca, inspiring students to see themselves in promising agriculture careers. The AITC-C website also hosts a resource library of curriculum linked pan-Canadian agriculture and food teaching resources.

# **OUR TEAM**

#### **Board of Directors**





























From left to right - President Tony Hollett BA, Past President Melanie Lantz BSc, PAg Commercial Agriculture, RBC, Vice President Lori Beck, GM, Inventory Save-On-Foods, Treasurer Kurt Bausenhaus CPA, CA, Secretary Michelle Johnsrude BSc, BEd, Teacher, Director Katie Lowe PAg, Executive Director, BC Egg, Director David Comrie BA, MA, Teacher, Director Gary Moran, Owner, Fantasy Farms Director Joel Barohn MS, RD, Manager of Nutrition and Health Programs, BC Dairy Director Barbara Seed PhD, MPH, RD, Director Sabrina Bhojani BSc, BEd, MEd, Director Jillian Unrau CPA, BBA Director David Shumka, Director Matthew Brown MSc Nutrition, Community Health Specialist

#### Staff



















From left to right - Executive Director Pat Tonn
BHEc, BEd, Program Director Balreet Mandair
BA, Lead Program Coordinator, Logistics Paul
Boudreau BA, Education Specialist Holly Johnson
BEd, Communications Coordinator, Rishu Sachdeva
Program Coordinator/Administration Nathan
Tiedeman, Program and Events Coordinator Tina
Evans, Garden Program Coordinator Alison Speirs BA,
BAA, PAg, Garden Program Coordinator Mia Soetaert

# 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 – is the BCAITC 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 Nick Johnson of Hey You Media provides graphic design for the Foundation. Carol Watterson and Rachelle Kanefsky edit materials.

Kenneth A. Forcier CPA Inc. of Abbotsford completed the review engagement for 2024 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 Dhailwal, Piper Hornall, Barb Hudson, Gail Chan, Fatima Mirzaei, Kat Lane, Sean Melia, Jacki Bastin, Sheryl Martens, Coleton Mante, Don Day, Nathan Tiedman, Alison Spiers, Elizabeth Jeffs, Rod Wiebe, Kamali Dadigama

**Photography:** Joanne Snow

**Fresh to You Fundraiser:** Alison Spiers, Barb Hudson, Elisabeth Jeffs, E-Jay Oliva

**Spuds in Tubs:** Barbara Hudson, Highroad Academy (Gr 11/12), Quincy North, Parm Kooner, Michelle Murray, Grace, Michelle Anderson, Steve Saccomano, Melanie Lantz, Kurt and Bonnie Bausenhaus, Heather Meberg, Lauren Klade, Geoff Lewis, Don Day

Fresh for Less Fundraiser: Dave Shumka, Jillian Unrau, James Evans, Karanveer Aulakh

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

**BC School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Program:** Drivers and In-School Coordinator

# KENNETH A. FORCIER CPA INC.

#### CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANT

Accounting \* Auditing \* Income Tax

Telephone: 604-853-4707

Fax: 604-853-9288

109 - 2611 Pauline Street Abbotsford. BC V2S 3S2

#### 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, 2024 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

Accounting \* Auditing \* Income Tax

109 - 2611 Pauline Street Abbotsford. BC V2S 3S2 Telephone: 604-853-4707 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, 2024 and 2023, current assets as at December 31, 2024 and 2023 and net assets as at January 1 and December 31 for both the 2024 and 2023 year ends. My conclusion on the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2024 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, 2024, 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

# AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM FOUNDATION

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

(Unaudited)

# As at December 31, 2024

	2024	2023
ASSETS		
CURRENT Cash and Cash Equivalents (Note 3)	12 320203000	2 232
Accounts Receivable	\$ 6,254,558	\$ 6,324,315
GST Refundable	5,800 21,051	200
Inventory (Note 4)	16,707	26,514
Prepaid Expense	15,312	18,582 9,543
	6,313,428	_6,379,154
	\$ <u>6,313,428</u>	\$_6,379,154
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities Unearned Revenue (Note 6)	\$ 5,402 4,298,069	\$ 50,721 4,513,148
	4.303,471	4,563,869
NET ASSETS		
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted Net Assets	2.009.957	1,815,285
	2.009.957	1.815,285
	\$ 6,313,428	\$ 6,379,154

Approved by the Board

# AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM FOUNDATION

## **STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS**

(Unaudited)

# For the year ended December 31, 2024

DECEMPE	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Program Revenue and Other (Schedule 1) Program Sponsorships and Grants (Schedule 2) Interest Resource Sales	233,074 259,465 130,871 252,899 13 876,322	112,381 311,123 211,249 314,672 73 949,498
EXPENDITURES  Advertising and Promotion Conference and Meetings Contracts and Wages Insurance Office and Miscellaneous Professional Fees Resources Development and Printing Travel Programs - Other (Schedule 3)	129,069 16,149 324,400 3,979 12,605 6,150 3,348 2,060 183,890	43,669 7,508 317,759 3,835 8,663 6,150 5,035 4,449 199,656 596,724
SURPLUS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	\$ <u>194,672</u>	\$ 352,774

# AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM FOUNDATION

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

(Unaudited)

# For the year ended December 31, 2024

	Capital <u>Asset</u> <u>Fund</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
BALANCE, beginning of year	\$ -	\$ 1,815,285	\$ 1,815,285	\$ 1,462,511
Surplus of revenue over expenditures: Transfer from unrestricted:	-	194,672	194,672	352,774
SURPLUS, end of the year	\$	\$ <u>2,009,957</u>	\$ <u>2,009,957</u>	\$ <u>1,815,285</u>

# AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM FOUNDATION

## **STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**

(Unaudited)

# December 31, 2024

Cash Provided by Operating Activities	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Cash Provided by Operating Activities  Net surplus	\$ <u>194,672</u>	\$ <u>352,774</u>
Changes in non-cash working capital:		
Accounts Receivable	(5,600)	345
GST Recoverable	5,464	(943)
Inventory	1,875	7,502
Prepaid Expense	(5,768)	(6,366)
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	(45,320)	25,283
Unearned Revenue	(215,080)	<u>349,266</u>
	(264,429)	375,087
Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(69,757)	727,861
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	6,324,315	5,596,454
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$ <u>6,254,558</u>	\$ <u>6,324,315</u>

## AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM FOUNDATION

#### **NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(Unaudited)

#### **December 31, 2024**

#### 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:

## AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM FOUNDATION

#### **NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(Unaudited)

#### **December 31, 2024**

#### (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.

## AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM FOUNDATION

#### **NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(Unaudited)

#### **December 31, 2024**

### (e) CONTRIBUTED GOODS

Products having a fair market value \$91,372 (2023 - \$79,453) 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 Fruit Growers Association, BC Hot House, BC Pork, BC Shellfish Growers Association, BC Strawberry Growers Association, BC Turkey Marketing Board, Sofina Foods, Creekside Hothouse, Fraser Valley Specialty Poultry, Highline Mushrooms, Ocean Spray, Silver Valley Farms, South Alder Farms, Van Eekelen Ltd., and Windset 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.

## AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM FOUNDATION

### **NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(Unaudited)

## **December 31, 2024**

## (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>2024</u>		<u>2023</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
Canadian Western Bank operating account, bearing interest at the banks prime rate - 1.90%		2,137,878		2,835,048
Canadian Western Bank flex account, bearing interest at the banks prime rate - 1.45% Canadian Western Bank GIC, bearing interest at		2,616,680		2,988,507
2.65% maturing October 18, 2025		500,000		500,000
Canadian Western Bank GIC, bearing interest at		•		•
2.75% maturing September 23, 2025	_	1,000,000	_	
	\$_	6,254,558	\$_	6,324,315

At December 31, 2024 the Prime Rate was 5.45% (2023 - 7.20%).

## AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM FOUNDATION

## **NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(Unaudited)

## December 31, 2024

#### 4. INVENTORY

	<u>2</u> (	<u>)24</u>	<u>2023</u>
AITC	\$	2,722 \$	1,104
Alfalfabet Book	\$	<b>230</b> \$	230
BCSFVNP		2,452	4,331
Spuds in Tubs		7,747	7,651
Take a Bite of BC		1,592	2,538
Other		1,964	2,728
	\$	<b>16,707</b> \$	18,582

#### 5. CAPITAL ASSETS

		<u>Cost</u>		umulated preciation		Net <u>2024</u>	Net <u>2023</u>
Computer equipment Displays and fixtures Equipment	<b>\$</b>	21,179 4,207 4,299	<b>\$</b>	21,179 4,207 4,299	<b>\$</b>	- -	\$ - - -
	\$	29,685	\$	29,685	\$		\$ 

## 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>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
BCSFVNP	4,298,069	2,688,365
BCSFVNP - Expansion	<del>-</del>	1,824,783
	4,298,069	4,513,148

## AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM FOUNDATION

#### **NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(Unaudited)

### **December 31, 2024**

#### 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
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 \$145,060 (2023 - \$141,958) in wages and benefits.

# AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM FOUNDATION

(Unaudited)

## For the year ended December 31, 2024

## SCHEDULE I - BC SCHOOL FRUIT AND VEGETABLE NUTRITIONAL PROGRAM

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
REVENUE BCSFVNP Fresh to You BC School Fundraiser  EXPENDITURES	\$ 4,583,889 - - 4,583,889	\$ 5,392,743 103,761 5,496,504
PROGRAM - BCSFVNP		
Product and Primary Distribution Carrier Costs Program Materials PAC Funding and Training Salaries and Training Program Office and Administration Computer Programming Special Projects Fresh to You BC School Fundraiser Fridge Grants Program Evaluation	2,760,247 355,775 6,910 1,750 220,352 80,466 52,764 64,829 3,420 - 25,371 3,571,884	3,228,216 393,043 27,399 2,000 186,667 88,532 45,587 54,527 93,994 7,665 
PROGRAM - MILK		
Product and Primary Distribution Carrier Costs Computer Programming	693,898 56,387 2,255 <u>752,540</u> 4,324,424	979,449 75,844 2,460 
BCAITC ADMINISTRATION FEE	\$ <u>259,465</u>	\$ <u>311,121</u>

## AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM FOUNDATION

(Unaudited)

## For the year ended December 31, 2024

## **SCHEDULE 2 - SCHEDULE OF PROGRAM SPONSORSHIPS AND GRANTS**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
RECEIPTS		
Grant Income	36,704	99,548
Planting a Promise	2,942	1,391
Spuds in Tubs	31,379	29,312
Summer Institute Sponsor	3,165	2,054
Take a Bite of BC	<u>56,681</u>	78,944
	\$ <u>130,871</u>	\$ 211,249

## **SCHEDULE 3 - SCHEDULE OF OTHER PROGRAMS**

EXPENDITURES		<u>2024</u>	2023
PROGRAMS - OTHER			
Common Ground Strawberry Project		4,628	5,028
Pencil Patch		11,633	28,941
Planting a Promise		4,716	2,912
Regional Science Fair Awards		1,000	-
Spuds in Tubs		34,379	33,979
Summer Institute		13,408	12,261
Take a Bite of BC		94,400	89,696
Teacher Workshops		12,927	7,446
The Harvest Bin Project		2,175	2,860
Trial Program Initiatives	_	4,624	 16,533
	\$	183,890	\$ 199,656



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 2025 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









