



ABOUT US

BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation (BCAITC) is a non-profit, charitable organization that works with farmers, educators and agriculture specialists to bring local food and agriculture education to BC's students. Together we bring fresh, healthy, local foods to students, teaching them where their food comes from, how it's grown and produced and the importance of supporting BC's Agricultural community.

Through our hands on learning opportunities and exploration into careers in the agriculture sector we create exciting and memorable farm to table connections for students throughout BC.

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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

- 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.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In my second year of a two-year term as President of BCAITC, I would like to sincerely thank our outstanding Board members, dedicated staff, contributors, friends of BCAITC, and industry partners for your continued support of our Foundation. Without you, BCAITC would not be able to continue delivering on its mission of bringing BC agriculture and food education to students across this beautiful province of British Columbia.

As with any organization, 2025 was a year of both transition and growth. Most notably, we experienced an executive director transition, with Pat Tonn retiring after many years of dedicated service and leadership. On behalf of the Board, I would like to once again extend our deep gratitude to Pat for her lasting contributions to the organization and wish her every success and happiness in her retirement. We were very pleased to welcome Cheryl Johnson as our new Executive Director in August 2025. Cheryl brings extensive senior leadership experience in the non-profit sector, and the organization is fortunate to have her guiding BCAITC into its next chapter.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to departing Board member Dave Shumka for his guidance and contributions during his term. At the same time, we are pleased to welcome Rob Tuson and Matt Creechan to the Board for 2026–2027. Alongside returning Board members Melanie Lantz, Jillian Unrau, Gary Moran, Paul Meyers, Sabrina Bhojani, David Comrie, Matt Brown, and Lori Beck, we look forward to the experience, diversity, and leadership each of you brings to an already strong and committed Board- 2026!

As I conclude my term on the Board, I do so with deep appreciation for the opportunity to serve this organization. While this marks my final year in this role, I will always remain a strong believer in BCAITC's mission of connecting students to agriculture and food systems across British Columbia. It has been an honour to be part of this journey.

With appreciation,

Tony Hollett



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

I am beyond thrilled to have joined BCAITC as its new Executive Director in August 2025. Having grown up in a multi-generational farming family, I have deep roots in BC's agricultural community. Since joining BCAITC, I have been utilizing my extensive non-profit leadership experience to build strong partnerships, and guide strategic growth in support of ensuring students across the province gain transformative connections to BC food and the people, places and process behind it.

Upon reflection on my first few months with BCAITC, 2025 was a year of growth, new ideas, and meaningful connections for us! Across the province, we continued supporting educators and helping students better understand where their food comes from through hands-on learning, classroom resources, and agriculture experiences that bring BC's food and farming story to life.

A key milestone this year was the rebranding of our BC School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Program + Milk to FRESH for KIDS. While the name has changed, our commitment remains the same, delivering fresh, local BC fruits, vegetables, dairy, and eggs to schools across the province. We also introduced expanded delivery week options, giving schools greater flexibility to tailor the program to their needs. We are grateful to our many long-standing program partners and supporters for their continued dedication to connecting K-12 students to local food and agriculture throughout BC.

In partnership with AITC Canada, students took part in Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month (CALM) through the Blooming Wellness: A Reading Contest Celebrating Plants and Growth, sparking curiosity through stories and classroom activities. Together, we also hosted the Great Canadian Farm Tour, featuring a virtual visit to Farmers Fresh Mushrooms in BC, offering students a closer look at mushroom production.

Classroom-based hands-on learning through our programs continues to grow. Spuds in Tubs saw a 4.75% increase in registrations, while Common Ground: The Strawberry Project reached 51 communities

across the province, strengthening connections to local food systems. Ag Adventures at Helen's Acres, Kelowna and The Pencil Patch, Abbotsford, continued to offer memorable, place-based learning experiences for students and homeschooling families. We also developed and launched new resources focused on garlic, grains, pumpkins, and eggs. These lesson plans brought BC agriculture into everyday learning in practical and engaging ways, helping students build stronger connections to food and farming.

This year, we were especially proud to launch our new Gardening Camps at The Pencil Patch, a hands-on, educational summer day camp series for children ages 6–11, offering a fun and safe environment to explore plants, nature, sustainability, and gardening basics.

Students explored agriculture careers through thinkAG field trips across Vancouver Island, the Fraser Valley, and the Okanagan, made possible through the support of our federal and provincial partners. In November, our Fresh for Less fundraiser brought communities together through affordable bundles of fresh BC produce, raising almost \$12,000 for agricultural education.

We are deeply grateful to our industry partners, donors, educators, and volunteers who bring agriculture to life in classrooms across BC. As we look ahead, we do so with deep appreciation for everyone who makes these programs possible, and with continued inspiration from the curiosity of students and the dedication of teachers across the province.

With gratitude,

Cheryl Johnson



PROGRAMS



Formerly the BC School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Program + Milk (BCSFVNP+Milk), BCAITC's flagship program has been rebranded as **FRESH for KIDS**, reflecting its focus on providing fresh, nutritious BC foods while strengthening connections to local agriculture.

With the support of nearly 2,400 dedicated volunteers and valued industry partners, FRESH for KIDS brings BC-grown fruit, vegetables, dairy, and protein snacks directly into classrooms across the province. The program helps students access fresh, locally sourced foods while learning about healthy eating, agriculture, and the journey from farm to table.

During the 2024–25 school year, participating schools received deliveries for up to 24 weeks between September and May, with flexible 12 or 24-week enrolment options. Funding to school districts through the Province's Feeding Futures initiative helped expand participation, ensuring more students benefited from nutritious snacks during the school year. The program serves public, independent, and First Nations schools across British Columbia, supported by Pattison Food Group, Saputo, BC Agriculture Commodity Groups and a network of independent and volunteer drivers.

Teachers also receive Fresh Story and Grow BC resources that connect classroom experiences to curriculum outcomes and help students explore BC agriculture and healthy food choices. This year included the addition of individually wrapped cooked eggs as a new protein option, along with updated logistics and communication systems to support program growth. Through strong collaboration, FRESH for KIDS continues to strengthen farm-to-school connections and student nutrition across BC.

"The Mini Peppers are a hit with the kids, and they have a much longer shelf life than the cucumbers. So, we are able to restock fridges over multiple days."

— Whistler Community Services



"Snap peas, oh snap peas, So crisp and so green, A garden delight, A sight to be seen.

In their little pods, So plump and so round, They wait to be picked, To be savoured and found.

Snap peas, oh snap peas, A snack that's divine, So satisfying to crunch, So refreshing and fine.

They're packed with nutrition, A treat for the taste, A vegetable so perfect, In every way it's based.

From stir-fries to salads, Snap peas add a crunch, Their flavour is so fresh, A perfect little lunch.

Snap peas, oh snap peas, So simple, yet so grand, A vegetable so delightful, In every way and command."

— Elsie Roy Elementary, Vancouver

PARTNERS

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Ministry of Education and Child Care, along with the First Nations Health Authority, First Nations Education Steering Committee, BC Dairy Association, BC Egg, First West Foundation, Food Banks BC, and our many industry and community partners.

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 for their school community. Both Spring and Fall fundraisers were available again this year, providing information for students and families about fresh, locally grown vegetables and fruit as well as recipes for enjoying the produce at home. Schools receive the proceeds on all bundles sold.

"Fresh to You is a simple and fun fundraiser. Taking home a huge bag of local produce in November is delicious healthy, and a great return on the effort involved."

— Anonymous

"This is such a well-organized, easy to run program that is loved in our school and community. I love it because it gets children talking about vegetables like parsnips and squash or shallots, that they may never have heard of before."

— Anonymous

PARTNERS

BC Fresh, Associated Grocers



COMMUNITIES 129 • FRESH BC PRODUCE 81,118 LBS • BUNDLES SOLD 5,679
PROFITS FOR SCHOOLS \$75,527



BC students deserve to cook and eat only the best — and that's fresh, healthy BC grown products! Each year, BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation, partners with the BC Culinary Arts Association, BC agricultural commodity groups, and BC producers to deliver fresh, BC grown product five times a year to BC secondary schools with a Culinary Arts program. Through the **Take a Bite of BC** program teaching chefs provide information about the contributed foods from BC farmers and producers, and the students are inspired to create recipes featuring these products to offer the student population at their school.

"The ducks offer such a great experience for our students: Butchery (like other birds but a little different), breasts brined and smoked for Reuben sandwiches, legs and gizzards cooked in confit and then picked for a pasta filling with mushrooms and spinach, bones for demi glace. Most kids have never eaten duck before, so this was a novel experience for them as well."

— Chef Kyle Tillotson, Samuel Robertson Technical Secondary

"BC Cranberries always make for exciting lessons in the teaching kitchen. Many students are still so unfamiliar with the use of whole cranberries outside of turning it into sauce. The lessons provided by the BC Cranberry farmers go so much deeper than just following a recipe. There is of course the lessons in farming, but also the culinary lessons of balance. How to use the flavour of the whole cranberry in balance within a recipe. Having the opportunity to introduce students to new ideas, flavours and textures is such a treat!"

— Chef Trevor Randle, Maple Ridge Secondary



PARTNERS:

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 Hot House Foods, BC Pork Producers' Association, BC Processing Vegetable Industry Development Fund, BC Shellfish Growers' Association, BC Tree Fruits Cooperative, BC Turkey Farmers, Creekside Hothouse Ltd., Fraser Valley Cole Crop Growers' Association, Fraser Valley Peas, Bush Beans, & Corn Growers' Association, Fraser Valley Specialty Poultry, Golden Valley Foods, Highline Mushrooms, Mainland Milk Producers Association, Metro Vancouver Agriculture Awareness Grant, Ocean Spray of Canada, Silver Valley Farms, Sofina Foods, South Alder Farms, Van Eekelen Enterprises Ltd., VersaCold Logistics Services, Windset Farms



Spuds in Tubs is BCAITC's most popular program and it's no wonder! 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!

"They loved the experience! The look of excitement when they saw them sprouting was so neat! They enjoyed planting and watering. They loved getting their hands dirty and harvesting. Best of all we liked tasting them and graphing who like them versus who didn't."

— Kimberley Mushansky, Mar Jok Elenmentary Gr K

SPONSORS:

BC Potato and Vegetable Growers Association, BC Youth in Agriculture Foundation, Benjamin Moore — Abbotsford, Buckerfield's — Abbotsford, Duncan, Kelowna, Langford, Nanaimo, Parksville, Saanich, Salmon Arm, Canadian Western Bank, New Westminster Horticultural Society, TerraLink Horticulture Inc., Vandeven Financial Solutions Ltd./The Co-operators, Berry Haven Farm Ltd., C Y Grower Supplies Ltd., Dykhof Nurseries & Florist — North Vancouver, GardenWorks — Burnaby/Lougheed, Coquitlam, Courtenay, Mandeville, Grow & Gather (Trice Farms Ltd.) — Maple Ridge, Hunters Garden Centre — Surrey, Vancouver, Minter Country Garden — Chilliwack, Peace Arch Hospital Foundation, PEI Bag Co., Phoenix Perennials and Specialty Plants, Royal Oak Women's Institute, Sea Soil

526 CLASSROOMS • 14,663 STUDENTS • 2,625 TUBS • 61,415 POTATOES HARVESTED



Planting A Promise



Planting a Promise gives teachers and their students an immersive gardening experience, offering them a hands-on way of exploring the life cycle of a plant and what it needs to grow. Students connect positively with nature outdoors 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!

"Thank you so much for this opportunity. My students were thrilled to see their hard work and planning to produce such beautiful flowers. They love the compliments from other students and staff and are taking such pride and ownership. The students felt agency during the process and a deep connection to the Earth."

— Jennifer Grant

"Thank you for helping our students finally have a chance to learn more about nature and have the hands-on opportunity to become gardeners. Students may not have had gardening opportunities at home but through this process they felt a stronger connection to nature and the importance of gardening/farming."

— Jaskamal Nagra

SPONSORS

Van Noort Bulb Co. – Langley, Buckerfield's Ltd, Hunters Garden Centers – Vancouver and Surrey, Dykhof Nurseries and Florist – North Vancouver, GardenWorks – Mandeville, North Burnaby, Lougheed, Coquitlam, Courtenay, Grow and Gather – Maple Ridge, Minter Country Garden – Chilliwack, Phoenix Perennials – Richmond, Alpine Garden Club, Peaceful Blooms

396 CLASSES • 13,521 STUDENTS • 6,000 BULBS PLANTED • 78 COMMUNITIES

COMMON GROUND

THE STRAWBERRY PROJECT



BCAITC's newest program is a hands-on spring growing program connecting Indigenous and non-Indigenous K-12 students through the cultivation of native and cultivated strawberry plants. Students explore First Peoples' Ways of Knowing, the importance of local food systems, and themes of respecting the land and sustainability, all through the simple act of growing "heart" berries together.

"We have 3 strawberries that turned red. We cut and divided the 3 into 15 pieces and had a small taste. Thank you for including my class in this Common Grounds project. My students really loved taking care of their plant and were so excited to take it home."

— Anonymous

SPONSORS:

Van Noort Bulb Co. Ltd., Splitrock Environmental, CY Grower Supplies Ltd, Chilliwack Garden Club, Peace Arch Hospital Foundation, and additional thanks to Chantelle Trainor-Matties of Fretchman Studios for the wonderful artwork created for this program.

50 CLASSES • 1,117 STUDENTS • 1,500 STRAWBERRY PLANTS



Ag Adventures tours begin in the Spring, when 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.

"My students loved eating the edible flowers, harvesting the kale, grinding the wheat, and of course, feeding the goats."

— Alouette Elementary Teacher



SPONSORS

City of Abbotsford, Abbotsford Community Foundation, BC Youth on Agriculture Foundation, Farm Credit Canada, Fantasy Farms, Helen's Acres, Taves Farm, West Coast Seeds

2 LOCATIONS • 52 SCHOOLS • 2,185 STUDENTS • 12 VOLUNTEERS & STAFF
THOUSANDS OF SMILES AND COUNTING

NEW Gardening Camps for Kids

Our new **Gardening Camps** at The Pencil Patch in Abbotsford offer children ages 6–11 a fun, hands-on introduction to gardening and the natural world. Through outdoor, garden-based activities, students explore how plants grow, where food comes from, and the basics of soil, seeds, and sustainability. Children learn by doing—digging, planting, and discovering in a safe, engaging outdoor space. Most of all, they enjoy time outside while connecting to food, farming, and nature in British Columbia.

5 CAMPS • 37 CAMP PARTICIPANTS



Through the **Harvest Bin Project** we provide schools in 15 communities across BC with recycled harvest bins as raised garden beds as together with seed funds and mentorship for establishing their own growing gardens. Growing their own food connects students directly to agriculture and the larger world, giving them a deeper understanding of food security and sustainable food systems. Students are involved in the growing process from setting up the bins, to planting, growing, and harvesting a wide variety of crops. The Harvest Bin Project helps 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.

"The Harvest Bins project had a big impact on our school. The leadership club students felt proud to contribute to the school by creating a beautiful garden, and they learned a lot about taking care of the environment. The kindergarten students had a lot of fun planting and watching their plants grow, which helped them develop a love for nature. The project also brought students of different ages together, helping them learn from each other and build stronger relationships."

— Khalsa School teacher

SPONSORS:

Diamond Delivery, Rick's Heart Foundation, Silver Valley Farms, Snowcrest

15 SCHOOLS • 75 BINS • 800 STUDENTS • 20 EDUCATORS

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 local 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 BCAITC's Chef Ambassador and Maple Ridge Secondary Culinary Instructor Trevor Randle. The result is customized curriculum projects and lesson units developed by the participants that can be shared with students, as well as other educators and agriculture enthusiasts around the province, and are rich in agricultural literacy.

"After three years of taking education-focused courses—including my Bachelor of Education and now my Master's—this is the first course that has directly and meaningfully impacted my teaching. Entering the world of agriculture was eye-opening, both professionally and personally."

— Lesley Campbell

"I would highly recommend this experience to any educator, regardless of subject area or grade level. The insights, connections, and resources provided are incredibly valuable... This program has truly shifted how I see agricultural education, and I'm excited to bring these lessons into my own teaching."

— Denise Tory



PARTNERS & SPONSORS:

UBC, Agricultural Land Commission, BC Cattlemen's Association, BC Egg Marketing Board, BC Greenhouse Growers Association, BC Turkey Marketing Board, Bill Zylmans, Creekside Hothouse, Farmers Fresh Mushrooms, Fossen Bar 7 Ranch, Gravis Greenhouses/Calais Farm, Houweling's Nurseries, Mandair Farms, Metro Vancouver, Sardis Secondary, Southern Irrigation, Sunnyside Produce, Westberry Farms

30 PARTICIPANTS • 5 DAYS • 12 SPEAKERS • 5 FARM TOURS

2025 OUTSTANDING TEACHER IN AGRICULTURE

BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation (BCAITC) is pleased to announce **Cailyn Morash** as the recipient of the 2025 BCAITC Outstanding Teacher in Agriculture Award. The award was presented to Cailyn at the BC Agriculture Council's Policy Forum Gala in Penticton for demonstrating outstanding leadership and innovation in agriculture education.

Cailyn Morash is a Grade 6 Math/Science teacher from Glenrosa Middle School in West Kelowna, where her passion for agriculture and food education stems from the intention of sharing the unique richness of BC's local farms and food systems with her students. Since joining the teaching profession four years ago, Cailyn has made it a priority to educate students about BC's agriculture and food, fostering a deeper understanding of where our food comes from and its connection to sustainable practices.

Cailyn remarks "As a teacher, I want my students to develop a deep understanding of where their food comes from, including the journey it takes from farm to table. I also want them to cultivate a meaningful relationship with the land, recognizing its importance, respecting its resources, and appreciating the role it plays in supporting our communities and food systems."

Cailyn credits BCAITC programs like Spuds in Tubs for inspiring her students. She shares "Watching my students' excitement as they return from spring break to see how much their potato

plants have grown is truly heartwarming. It's such a hands-on and engaging way to teach students about plant growth, food production, and the joy of cultivating something themselves. The program sparks curiosity and brings learning to life in a memorable and meaningful way!"

For educators seeking to integrate agriculture and food education into their classrooms, Cailyn advises: "Look for opportunities where agriculture and food education can fit naturally within your existing curriculum. It doesn't have to be a large-scale project—it can be as simple as incorporating discussions about where food comes from during science, math, or even art lessons. Small, meaningful connections can make a big impact and engage students in a hands-on, real-world learning experience. The key is to bring in these concepts organically and make them relevant to your students' daily lives!"

Cailyn Morash
Glenrosa Middle School, West Kelowna



EDUCATIONAL 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 bcaitc.ca/resources

Science Fair Awards

To highlight the connection between agriculture and science, BCAITC is proud to support the Science Fair Foundation of British Columbia. In 2025, we contributed 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.

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



JANUARY

Kelsey Graham



FEBRUARY

Cailyn Morash



MARCH

Diana Mcalister



APRIL

Jennifer Woo



MAY

Tanya Lightbody



JUNE

Bharuttee Deehoo



SEPTEMBER

Ashley McPherson



OCTOBER

Monique French



NOVEMBER

Eric Schofield



DECEMBER

Sandra Bergeron

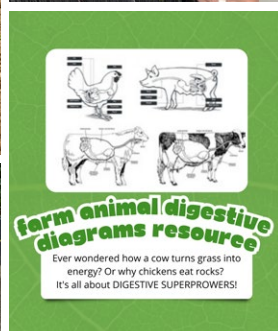
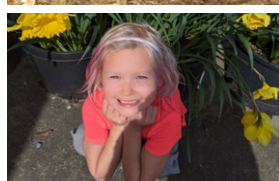
To check out the complete series of Teacher Champion profiles for 2024 - 2025, visit bcaitc.ca/teacher-champions



Connecting Grains to Food



New Resource



EDUCATION SPECIALIST'S REPORT

2025 was a dynamic and rewarding year for BCAITC's education programs, filled with new resource development, meaningful partnerships, and continued engagement with educators and students across British Columbia. Through a combination of classroom learning, hands-on experiences, and professional development opportunities, we continued to support food literacy in BC classrooms and strengthen connections to where food comes from.

This year, we expanded classroom resources that bring agriculture into everyday learning. New lesson plans on garlic, grains, and pumpkins were introduced, along with ongoing work on the Intermediate and Secondary Egg Kits. In partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, we launched the BC Food Classroom Challenges, giving students interactive ways to explore key agricultural commodities. Programs like Blooming Wellness and Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month (CALM) also encouraged students to learn about plants, food systems, and agriculture through reading and classroom activities.

Supporting educators remained at the heart of our work. We delivered workshops and presentations at conferences and professional development events across the province, including Tapestry, COTA, myPITA, THESA, and the Career Education Society Conference. These sessions gave teachers practical tools they could use right away in their classrooms. Our Teacher Ambassador program also continued to grow, strengthening peer-to-peer support and expanding our reach within the education community.

We also continued to connect with future educators through post-secondary teacher training programs. This included a presentation to the Home Economics teacher candidate cohort at UBC in November 2025, helping introduce agriculture and food literacy resources to new teachers early in their careers.

Hands-on learning remained a key part of our programming. thinkAG career field trips reached students across Vancouver Island, the Fraser Valley, and the Okanagan, offering real-world insight into careers in agriculture. Ag Adventures at Helen's Acres also continued to provide memorable, place-based learning experiences, supported by dedicated staff and volunteers. These opportunities helped students connect directly with farmers, food producers, and industry professionals.

2025 also brought continued collaboration and transition. Partnerships, including ongoing work with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, helped expand our programs and resources. The onboarding of a new Executive Director marked an important step forward for the organization, supported by a committed and experienced team. Through newsletters and outreach, we continued sharing classroom stories, resources, and teacher experiences across the province.

As we look ahead, we are excited to build on this momentum. With our 2026 theme, Cultivating Curiosity, we remain committed to supporting educators, inspiring students, and strengthening food literacy in BC classrooms through meaningful, hands-on learning. 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!

With gratitude,

Amy Bawtinheimer



EVENTS



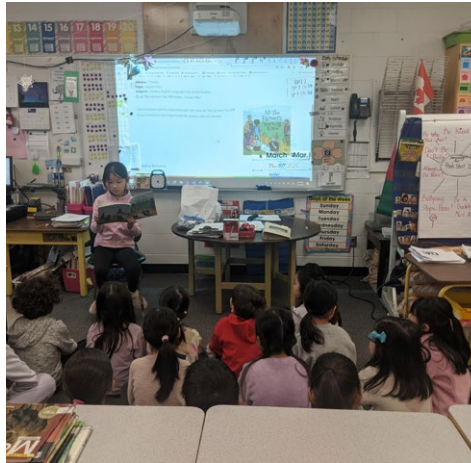
thinkAG Career Tour



BC Agriculture Day in Victoria



Pacific Agriculture Show



CALM - Book Reading



Teacher Conference



BC Organic Conference



Day at the Farm

THANK YOU

TO OUR DONORS IN ANNUAL GIVING 2025

GRAND CHAMPIONS \$5,000+

Canada



Pattison
Food Group



BC Chicken Growers'
ASSOCIATION



BLUE RIBBON \$2,500+

Donna & Steven Jack
Metro Vancouver
PNE
Kamloops Brock Central Lions
Elevate Search Group
Abbotsford Community
Foundation
BC Vegetable Marketing
Commission

RED RIBBON \$1,000+

Langley City
Alpine Garden Club
Farm Credit Canada
RBC
Arpeg
SKWO
BC Blueberry Council
Greenhouse Grown Foods
Royal Oak Women's Institute
Kathleen Zimmerman

WHITE RIBBON \$500+

Farmers Fresh Mushrooms
Watermark Communications
Mandair Farms
Cooperators
Peaceful Blooms
BC Fresh
BC Fruit Growers Association
BC Landscape & Nursery
Association
British Columbia Turkey
Country Golden Yolks
South Malahat 4H Club
UBC

GREEN RIBBON \$100+

Bill Weismiller
Christine Dujmovich
Cindy Hildebrandt
Dave Shumka
Gail Perkins
Katherine Webster
Lance Hill
Laurie Spearin
Meghan McCrea
Susy Chung
D Medzon
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BC Cattlemen's Association
Chilliwack Garden Club
New Westminster
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Andreas Dolberg
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Joanne Berman
Benefaction

SPECIAL GIFTS

Barbara Adams

OUR TEAM



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- Director **David Shumka**
- Director **Matthew Brown** *MSc Nutrition, Community Health Specialist*



Staff

- Executive Director (August 2025 onwards) **Cheryl Johnson** *BA*
- Executive Director (to August 2025) **Pat Tonn** *BHEC, BEd*
- Program Director **Balreet Mandair** *BA*
- Lead Program Coordinator, Logistics **Paul Boudreau** *BA*
- Education Specialist (2024-2025) **Holly Johnson** *BEd*
- Education Specialist (2025-2026) **Amy Bawtinheimer** *BA, BEd, Dip Home Ec.*
- Communications Coordinator, **Rishu Sachdeva** *BA, MBA*
- Program Coordinator/Administration (2024-2025) **Nathan Tiedeman**
- Program Coordinator/Administration (2025-2026) **Smriti (Sam) Jindal**
- Program and Events Coordinator **Tina Evans** *Dip.Mkt.Mgmt.*
- Garden Program Coordinator (2024-2025) **Mia Soetaert**
- Garden Program Coordinator (2025) **Simrit Chahal**
- Garden Program Coordinator (2025-2026) & Gardener (2024-2025) **Alison Speirs** *BA, BASc*

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, Cheryl Johnson, 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.





Thanks to Our Support Team

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

Trevor Randle – Chef Instructor – is the BCAITC Chef Ambassador, taking the Take a Bite of BC message to public events.

Makenna Patrick is the Teacher Ambassador for the foundation. Makenna works closely with our Education Specialist.

The Team at Stratum Systems administers the website, PDQ, school log in and provides IT support.

Michela Sorrentino of hermani + sorrentino design, Shauna McClung of SM Print and Creative and Nick Johnson of Hey You Media provide graphic design for the Foundation.

Kenneth A. Forcier CPA Inc. of Abbotsford completed the annual review engagement and subsequently provided the Foundation's Year End Financial Statements.

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

Ag Adventures: Piper Hornall, Don Day, Mathura Thurairajah, Shawna Good, Pat Buchanan, Lisa Dorman, Sukanya Nune, Prashant Joshi, Sheryl Martens, Coleton Mante, Leighton Demsky, Saloni Sojan, Nova Hopkins, Terry Remple, FCC Abbotsford Branch

Fresh to You Fundraiser: Angela Moerman, Gurleen Kuar, Mathura Thurairaja, Aashutosh Sachdeva, Nash Watson, Quinn Born

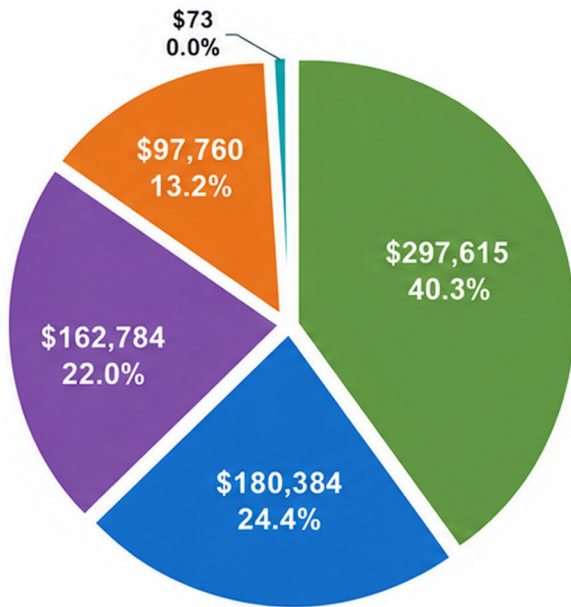
Spuds in Tubs: Barb Hudson, Sean Melia, Alison Spiers, Parm Kooner, Michelle Murray, Grace, Quincy North, Michele Anderson, Kurt & Bonnie Bausenhaus, Lauren Klade, Cali Williams, Brittanie Corona, Jacob Munn, Highroad Academy (Gr 11/12),

Fresh for Less Fundraiser: Nova Hopkins, Giya Dhillion, Pat Tonn, Dong Nguyen, Aashutosh Sachdeva, Asiah Demsky, Devon Domingo, Karanveer Aulakh

Day at the Farm: Culinary Arts Instructor: Sarah Tracey, Culinary Arts Students from Seaquam Secondary School & Chef Trevor Randle and Mike Bryan

2025 REVENUE SOURCES

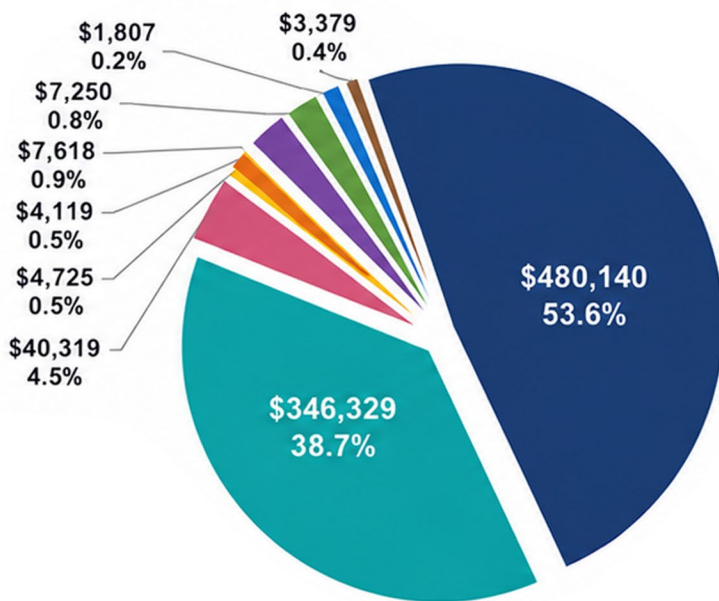
(TOTAL REVENUES: \$738,616)



Program Sponsorships and Grants (Schedule 2)	\$297,615	40.3%
Program Revenue and Other (Schedule 1)	\$180,384	24.4%
Interest	\$162,784	22.0%
Donations	\$97,760	13.2%
Resource Sales	\$73	0.0%
TOTAL REVENUES	\$738,616	100.0%

2025 EXPENSES BY CATEGORY

(TOTAL EXPENSES: \$895,686)



Contracts and Wages	\$480,140	53.6%
Programs - Other (Schedule 3)	\$346,329	38.7%
Advertising and Promotion	\$40,319	4.5%
Conference and Meetings	\$4,725	0.5%
Insurance	\$4,119	0.5%
Office and Miscellaneous	\$7,618	0.9%
Professional Fees	\$7,250	0.8%
Resources Development and Printing	\$1,807	0.2%
Travel	\$3,379	0.4%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$895,686	100.0%



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! 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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