

# Implementation Matrix

July 2021



# FOOD SECURITY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Achieving regional food security and resilience for our region’s food system will require multiple actors, diverse levers, and time. This Implementation Plan provides direction and options for advancing the recommendations in the Food Security Action Plan. It is intended to be a living document that will evolve over time and be adapted as action items are achieved or new information and circumstances point to the need to adjust.

The Tables below align with the categories of activities documented in the Food Security Action Plan. Some recommendations have been edited for brevity to include in the table. Please refer to the Food Security Action Plan for the full text where necessary.

Those listed as Leads and Supports are annotated in a list that follows the Tables.

## 1 General Recommendations

ACTION	LEAD	IMPACT	BENEFITS	ONGOING / ONE-OFF	SUPPORTS
1.1 Undertake an analysis of applications for Community Development and Discretionary grants.	RDCK	Trends & priorities understood; strategic & evidence-based decisions	Higher impact from RDCK grants and investments that build on each and identify synergies between recipients and over time.	One-time development of methodology; ongoing application of framework	Internal to RDCK due to privacy issues

ACTION	LEAD	IMPACT	BENEFITS	ONGOING / ONE-OFF	SUPPORTS
1.2 Advance recommendations in December 2020 Policy Brief from Evidence-based Food Policy Devt Project.	RDCK	Ensures value from the investment made in the Evidence Project	Evidence-based for recommendations provides strong rationale for actions	One-time, with periodic reviews	CKFPC
1.3 Establish an annual calendar for soliciting needs and priorities from area food systems actors (Food producers, processors, related businesses, emergency food service providers, business / farm organizations, food policy council)	RDCK & CKFPC	Strong evidence-base for policy proposals brought to AKBLG and UBCM	Public policy that supports the objectives of the food system and is aligned with the needs of the general public	Annual	Rural Innovation Chair at Selkirk College, CBT State of the Basin research, Interior Health, Chamber of Commerce, Ag organizations
1.4 Bring provincial policy needs to the Union of BC Municipalities, through AKBLG.	RDCK	Provincial policy advocacy based on lived experience in Central Kootenay	Provincial policy that is better aligned with the needs of rural communities	Annual	CKFPC, Counterparts within AKBLG,
1.5 Institutionalize food security expertise for Emergency Operation Service	Emergency Operations Centre of the RDCK	Measures to support food security activated in a timely manner in the event of an emergency	greater food resilience for Central Kootenay residents	Ongoing	CKFPC training and ongoing advisory supports

ACTION	LEAD	IMPACT	BENEFITS	ONGOING / ONE-OFF	SUPPORTS
1.6 Explore and promote programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions along regional food supply chains, from the farm level through aggregation, distribution, retail / restaurants and households.	CKFPC in collaboration with KBFA and area agriculture organizations	Emissions reduced along food supply chains across the Central Kootenay	Area residents and agri-food businesses actively engaged in reducing GHG emissions	Ongoing	RDCK (communications & promotion), Farmland Advantage, Climate & Ag Initiative BC, FarmFolk CityFolk Climate Solutions, WK EcoSociety

## 2 Food Access: The ability to source food necessary for survival and, ideally, well being.

**Goal:** for all Central Kootenay residents to be food secure and for there to be barrier-free systems in place to address need when it arises with culturally appropriate, healthy and locally<sup>1</sup> sourced food.

ACTION	LEAD	IMPACT	BENEFITS	ONGOING / ONE-OFF	SUPPORTS
2.1 Undertake an annual survey of emergency food providers	CKFPC	Understand the level of food insecurity in the community.	Supports established to address gaps in services	Annual	Council members, academic partners, Interior Health, BC Healthy Communities

<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this Action Plan, the definition of local food is food grown, raised and processed in the Central Kootenay and within 100km of the Regional District Boundaries.

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>LEAD</b>	<b>IMPACT</b>	<b>BENEFITS</b>	<b>ONGOING / ONE-OFF</b>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>
2.2 Establish a formal emergency food providers network	CKFPC	Regular information exchange and collaboration	Greater efficiencies and impact for emergency food services	Ongoing	BC Healthy Communities, Interior Health, Food Communities Network
2.3 Create a fund for local food purchasing by emergency food service providers	Emergency Food Providers Network, with support from CKFPC	Increased market opportunities for Central Kootenay agri-food businesses	Increased offerings of healthy local food for impoverished Central Kootenay residents	Ongoing	Columbia Basin Trust, ETSI-BC, Credit Unions, Community Foundations
2.4 Develop and disseminate a solid understanding of food insecurity stressors and cycles	CKFPC	Better adapted program offerings for impoverished residents in the Central Kootenay	Broader support and sympathy for the challenges faced by area food insecure residents.	One-time and then as needed	Emergency Support Service Agencies, Interior Health, Food Communities Network
2.5 Institute backyard livestock for all municipalities in the Central Kootenay	CKFPC in collaboration with municipal chicken advocates	Chicken-bylaws suitable for rural communities adopted and implemented in CK municipalities	Urban flocks kept in compliance with chicken bylaws that ensure safe and healthy maintenance of birds.	One-time per municipality	Best practices in back yard flocks from small municipalities; Wildsafe BC

ACTION	LEAD	IMPACT	BENEFITS	ONGOING / ONE-OFF	SUPPORTS
2.6 Develop racial equity supports / training for emergency food providers	Emergency Food Providers Network	Staff understand how to provide services in a way that is safe, culturally appropriate and inclusive.	Radicalized individuals are served in a supportive and appropriate manner	Ongoing	Intercultural Kootenays, MIR Centre for Peace, Interior Health
2.7 Work with employment services to address training and employment needs of racialized residents.	To be determined: Intercultural Kootenays, West Kootenay People for Racial Justice	Services are provided in a way that is safe, inclusive and culturally appropriate	improved employment, career options, and income levels for racialized individuals	One-time and then as needed	Kootenay Career Development Services, Kootenay Employment Services, Community Futures Central Kootenays, Selkirk College, College of the Rockies
2.8 Provide support to area employment & career services, colleges to retrain unemployed workers in sectors impacted by the pandemic,	To be determined: Selkirk College, College of the Rockies, KCDS	Enhanced options for un / under-employed area residents	Stronger alignment between employee / business pool and area needs currently and as they evolve	One-time and then as needed	Employment data from local Chamber of Commerce, Community Futures and provincial government as well as training resources.

### 3 Food Literacy

**Food Literacy** is the level of knowledge that residents have about food – how food systems work, what is necessary for optimal nutrition, how to safely handle food, how to cook whole foods.

**Goal:** to deepen the understanding amongst Central Kootenay residents of the complexity of food systems, the importance of local food economies, the challenges that our food producers face, what food is available locally.

ACTION	LEAD	IMPACT	BENEFITS	ONGOING / ONE-TIME	SUPPORTS
3.1 Support the establishment of a community garden network	CKFPC in collaboration with social service agencies	Networked service providers are able to share information and leverage resources.	Greater efficiency in using resources; improved services and community engagement, greater food security	One-time	Interior Health, CBT, Community Garden Networks at Sustain Ontario & CHEP Good Food (see Leads & Supports list below)
3.2 Help to develop Kootenay-tailored better practices guide for community gardens	Community Garden Network supported by CKFPC	Community Garden organizations have access to locally-relevant guide	Organizations and volunteers can operate more efficiently and well	One-time, with periodic updates	Community Garden guides from other locations; Interior Health, CBT

ACTION	LEAD	IMPACT	BENEFITS	ONGOING / ONE-TIME	SUPPORTS
3.3 Support annual Farm & Food Directory	RDCK, Directors, supported by CKFPC	Provide relevant content, advertise in Directory	Increased awareness of the role that the RDCK plays in region's food system	Annual	KS Perry Publishing (owner of Pennywise, publishing partner of the Directory)
3.4 Use communications platforms to educate about food	RDCK & CKFPC	Locally relevant information provided to area residents	Residents have greater agency in taking action to foster a resilient foodshed and greater food security.	Periodic	Interior Health, local farm organizations, emergency food providers
3.5 Support a local coalition to integrate food systems curriculum into classrooms (K - 12) and post secondary.	CKFPC	Diverse subject areas have agriculture, fisheries, food content integrated into the curriculum	Teachers better able to include food-related content into their teaching; students develop greater understanding.	One-time with ongoing impact	Interior Health, CBEEN, Ag in the Classroom, Ministry of Agriculture, Selkirk College, SD8 & 10.
3.6 Continue to promote the reduction of organic waste in landfills through education and promotion, creation of household and commercial communal composting opportunities.	RDCK	Reduced food waste along throughout the supply chain	Lower GHG emissions from organic waste streams; less organic matter in landfills	Ongoing with longer term phase out once shift has occurred	Ministry of Environment, Climate and Environmental NGOs



ACTION	LEAD	IMPACT	BENEFITS	ONGOING / ONE-TIME	SUPPORTS
3.7 Develop full inventory of food assets in the Central Kootenay	CKFPC, in collaboration with RDCK	Accessible database of assets that can be leveraged to strengthen Central Kootenay food systems	Better understanding of farm organizations, social service agencies and initiatives on food security, infrastructure (physical and social) in Central Kootenay	One-Time, with regular updates	Ministry of Agriculture, CK Emergency Food Services Network (to be created), Chambers of Commerce, Agriculture Organizations, Social Service Agencies
3.8 Maintain in-house expertise on food systems in the RDCK Development & Community Sustainability Services	RDCK	RDCK staff able to effectively address range of issues and needs that arise, including land availability, relevant zoning, electricity and water infrastructure	Greater regional food security, stronger regional food economy.	Ongoing, as professional development needs arise	CKFPC, KBFA, Ag organizations, Ministry of Agriculture

## 4 Food Economies

**A Food Economy** is made up of the businesses involved in producing food for commercial exchange (farms, food processors, retails / grocers, restaurants, wholesales and shippers) make up the food economy.

**Goal:** to support vibrant farms & food businesses that provide abundant food to area residents, withstand the impacts of climate change, and contribute to greenhouse gas reductions targets.

ACTION	Lead	IMPACT	BENEFITS	ONGOING / ONE-TIME	SUPPORTS
4.1 Enact local food procurement policies for all RDCK events and institutions that set and meet targets for local product	RDCK	RDCK staff and Directors have a better understanding of and access to local food	Increased opportunities and reliable markets for area food producers	One-time with updates as needed	Central Kootenay Farm & Food Directory, Interior Health
4.2 Work with partners to establish electric vehicle charging stations on farms and in rural communities / expand network of charging stations	RDCK with support from West Kootenay EcoSociety's 100% Renewable Kootenays	Reduced barriers for rural dwellers and farmers to transition to electric vehicles	Reduced use of fossil fuels and related GHG emissions	Ongoing, with eventual phase out	Natural Resources Canada, CleanBC Go Electric program, BC Hydro, FortisBC, Community Energy Association

ACTION	Lead	IMPACT	BENEFITS	ONGOING / ONE-TIME	SUPPORTS
4.3 Promote ecological goods and services program, Farmland Advantage, that compensates farmers who provide environmental services to the broader community through their stewardship practices.	CKFPC, in collaboration with KBFA	More farmers will be aware of Farmland Advantage and receive compensation for environmental services	Expanded environmental services / benefits on farms in the Central Kootenay; new income stream for farmers	One-time with periodic updates	Ministry of Agriculture, Investment Agriculture Foundation, Farmland Advantage
4.4 Explore the the creation of a formal apprenticeship program for new farmers	CKFPC, in collaboration with KBFA	Framework and coalition to bring a strong voice to federal government	Stronger influence for the creation of red seal apprenticeship program for those becoming farmers	Ongoing	College of the Rockies, Selkirk College, Young Agrarians, farm organizations
4.5 Collaborate with relevant organizations to develop low barrier funds, training and other support programs for Black, Indigenous and other People of Colour and other marginalized individuals who wish to farm or develop food businesses.	CKFPC in collaboration with Community Futures	Racialized people have a suite of supports to become farmers or food entrepreneurs	Greater diversity in the agri-food sector in the Central Kootenay	Ongoing	Intercultural Kootenays, Kootenay Career Development Services, ETSI-BC, CBT

ACTION	Lead	IMPACT	BENEFITS	ONGOING / ONE-TIME	SUPPORTS
4.6 Ensure that building retrofit grant programs are inclusive of farm buildings and promote to the farming community	RDCK	Farm buildings are retrofitted to increase energy efficiency and reduce GHG emissions	More efficient buildings, lower GHG emissions, lower costs for farmers	One-time with periodic review	Community Energy Association, BetterBuildings BC, Regional Energy Efficiency Program (REEP)
4.7 Continue to support KBFA, explore options for expanding the offerings	RDCK	Reliable, high quality extension services available to farmers throughout the Basin - Boundary.	Production expertise and training focused on regional / Basin markets, climate adaptation and climate friendly practices.	Ongoing	CBT, RDEK, and RDKB, Ministry of Agriculture
4.8 Expand and promote farmer / academic research partnerships	CKFPC, KBFA	Locally-relevant data and knowledge transfer from applied research	Farm and regionally-specific production information to deepen farmer knowledge and adaptation	Ongoing	Area agriculture organizations, College of the Rockies, Selkirk College

ACTION	Lead	IMPACT	BENEFITS	ONGOING / ONE-TIME	SUPPORTS
4.9 Explore options for establishing zero-interest loans (or partially forgivable loans) for capital investments	CKFPC, with support from RDCK	Farmers are able to invest in infrastructure, including land, irrigation, greenhouses, equipment	New or expanding farms have easier access to financing	One-time and then delegated to relevant bodies to administer	CBT and area Credit Unions
4.10 identify and develop (re)training programs that can help to ensure that there are skilled local workers for local jobs in food and agriculture (see <a href="https://fsc-ccf.ca/">https://fsc-ccf.ca/</a> )	Selkirk College, College of the Rockies	Programs and Course offerings available at area Colleges for retraining in agri-food sectors that exist or have potential in Central Kootenay	Skilled roster of employees for area farms and food businesses; secure local employment.	Ongoing	Kootenay Career Development Services, Chambers of Commerce, agriculture organizations, Small Scale Food Processors Association, Selkirk College, and College of the Rockies

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>IMPACT</b>	<b>BENEFITS</b>	<b>ONGOING / ONE-TIME</b>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>
4.11 Develop & deliver a Domestic Navigator program modelled after the Export Navigator program	CKFPC in collaboration with Community Futures Central Kootenay	Services delivered by Community Futures that assist Central Kootenay businesses to access and serve local markets.	Tailored programs that align offerings with sector and regional priorities.	Ongoing	Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation, Basin Business Advisors Agriculture Specialist
4.12 Promote coherence between business support programs so farmers and other food entrepreneurs have a “one stop shop” venue for service delivery.	CKFPC in collaboration with Basin Business Advisors Agriculture Specialist	More efficient access by entrepreneurs to comprehensive & necessary information	Reduced down time & learning curves for farmers and food entrepreneurs	One-time with periodic updates	Community Futures, KBFA, Chambers of Commerce, Ministry of Jobs, Ec Recovery & Innovation
4.13 Collaborate with area business groups to enhance buy local initiatives, including branding, promotion, and education.	CKFPC, with support from RDCK	Greater awareness and support from area residents for local businesses	Improved revenue for area businesses, improved market access and opportunities	One-time with periodic updates	Chamber of Commerce, Business Associations (Creston, Nelson)

ACTION	Lead	IMPACT	BENEFITS	ONGOING / ONE-TIME	SUPPORTS
4.14 Map the region's carrying capacity for food production; analyze results for needs and opportunities to expand production that meets core dietary needs	CKFPC	An understanding of the potential to meet the food needs of area residents based on production within the Central Kootenay	Evidence-base for encouraging production that aligns with regional food security needs; greater food resilience and self-reliance	Ongoing	Institute for Sustainable Food Systems at Kwantlen Polytechnic University and Applied Research & Innovation Centre at Selkirk College, Community Foundations
4.15 Identify ingredient needs by area food processors and undertake a local gap analysis,	CKFPC	Better alignment between local food processors and agricultural production	Improved volume, reliability and scope of local ingredients available to area food processors	One-time with periodic updates	Small Scale Food Processors, Kootenay Coop, academic partners
4.16A Develop measures that provide adequate access to water for food production.	RDCK in collaboration with KBFA	Policies and programs that enable reliable water access for food production	Food production (commercial and household) is prioritized when triaging water shortages	One-time with updates as needed	Climate & Agriculture Initiative BC, Water conservation organizations

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>IMPACT</b>	<b>BENEFITS</b>	<b>ONGOING / ONE-TIME</b>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>
4.16B Develop a grant program to defray the costs of shifting irrigation infrastructure that enables the most efficient use of water.	KBFA with support from CKFPC	More farmers able to afford to switch to more efficient irrigation systems	Optimal irrigation infrastructure and practices for water conservation.	Ongoing	Ministry of Agriculture, Environmental Farm Plan program, CBT, Investment Ag
4.17 Explore options and programs to enhance local seed production and access	CKFPC with support from FarmFolk CityFolk	Greater volume and improved access for both commercial and household seed supplies grown in the Central Kootenay	Locally grown seed that is best able to adapt to the growing conditions in the Central Kootenay; increased local knowledge and capacity to produce seed	One-time with periodic updates	Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security, BC Eco Seed Cooperative, seed programming at FarmFolk CityFolk, local longtime seed savers, Seeds of Diversity Canada
4.18 Assess and upgrade as necessary kitchens in community halls so they can serve as business incubators for local entrepreneurs.	CKFPC with support from RDCK Building Dept and Directors	Ready access to commercial kitchens for entrepreneurs throughout the Central Kootenay	Increase in micro food enterprises across the region and easier on-ramp for fledgling food entrepreneurs	One time	RDCK Directors, CBT, ETSI-BC, Small Scale Food Processors Association



ACTION	Lead	IMPACT	BENEFITS	ONGOING / ONE-TIME	SUPPORTS
4.19 Support Fields Forward, as needed, to expand the use of the mobile juice press throughout the Central Kootenay	CKFPC and its members, RDCK Directors	The Mobile Juice Press is being fully used and is accessible throughout the region	Reduction in organic waste at the farm level, value-added product created from cull fruit, increased food security and reduced bear attractants	One-time with updates as needed	Communications personnel and platforms of CKFPC and its members, RDCK Director e-news, Farm the Kootenay Facebook group, KBFA, Ag organizations
4.20 Work with area economic development organizations to develop promotional programs to encourage farmers and food entrepreneurs to move their businesses to the Central Kootenay.	CKFPC, in collaboration with Community Futures, Chamber of Commerce	Increase in farming population and related trades and businesses	Central Kootenay is known as a great place for farmers looking to relocate, skilled graduates (butchers, veterinarians, skilled agricultural workers).		Olds College, Thompson Rivers University, Institute for Sustainable Food Systems, UBC Land & Food Systems
4.21 Collaborate with Kootenay Local Agricultural Society to promote and increase access to the small farm equipment Tool Library.	KLAS in collaboration with CKFPC	More farmers have access to equipment they do not need full time	Lower cost access to critical farm equipment	One-time with periodic updates	KBFA, Ministry of Agriculture (Kevin Murphy)

ACTION	Lead	IMPACT	BENEFITS	ONGOING / ONE-TIME	SUPPORTS
4.22 In collaboration with the Food Policy Council and Young Agrarians, research effective measures to incentivize land owners to enter into long term leases with landless farmers (5 year minimum).	CKFPC & Kootenay Young Agrarians lead	More landowners are making their land available for landless farmers	Increasing number of farmers, lowering of average age of farmers in the region, increase in land under cultivation and food security	One-time and then delegated to relevant bodies to administer	Young Agrarians, FarmLink
4.23 Continue to support the transition and expansion of cannabis production in the Central Kootenay.	Kootenay Cannabis Ec Development Council, with support from CKFPC	wherever possible, allow it to be integrated into other farm income streams to bolster farm viability	Cannabis is understood as a viable agricultural sector in our region	Ongoing, with eventual phase out	Community Futures Central Kootenay, BC Cannabis Secretariat, Ministry of Agriculture Cannabis specialist
4.24 Undertake supply chain analysis that identifies weaknesses by sector	CKFPC	Enhanced ability to better anticipate breakdown and what measures need to be taken to reduce harm from future emergencies.	Pro-active and re-active measures are well-targeted and effective in the event of an emergency	One-time with updates as needed	Academic partners (Institute for Sustainable Food Systems, Selkirk College ARIC), agricultural organizations, Small Scale Food Processors

## Lead & Support agencies

The leads and supports for each of the recommendations are proposed as likely collaborators, based on their interest and relevant expertise in the proposed action. Where the Food Policy Council is identified as the lead, we shall endeavour to secure the resources, as necessary, to advance the recommendation. As was indicated earlier, creating regional food security takes many actors and levers. Below is an annotated list of named organizations.

Ag in the Classroom: longstanding initiative that provides curriculum to teach school children about agriculture. <https://www.bcaitc.ca>

Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Governments: based in southeastern BC, this association represents the municipalities and electoral areas that make up the Regional Districts of Central Kootenay, East Kootenay, and Kootenay Boundary. <https://akblg.ca/>

Basin Business Advisors (BBA) Agriculture Specialist: dedicated staff member with the BBA who provides free, one-on-one business advice to producers and agriculture businesses in the Columbia Basin. As of the time of this report writing, the position is held by Nyree Marsh. <https://bbaprogram.ca/areas/agriculture-business-advisement/>

Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security: launched in 2012 under the leadership of SeedChange, in collaboration with farmers, seed producers, researchers and multiple partners, the initiative works to to increase the quality, quantity, and diversity of ecological seed grown in Canada. <http://www.seedsecurity.ca/en/>

BC Cannabis Secretariat: body that coordinates non-medical cannabis policy for the province. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/public-safety/cannabis>

BC Eco Seed Cooperative: a producers cooperative of 20+ farmers providing BC grown, certified organic and ecological seeds grown on member farms across British Columbia. <https://www.bcecoseedcoop.com/>

BC Healthy Communities: provincial non-profit that provides a range of resources, programs, funding and fee-for-service offerings that support multi-sectoral groups to collaborate on the development of healthy, thriving and resilient communities. <http://bchealthycommunities.ca/>

Better Buildings BC: provides funding and capital incentives to encourage energy efficient design, construction and renovation of commercial buildings. <https://betterbuildingsbc.ca/>

Central Kootenay Farm & Food Directory - Regional farm & food business directory with an online version and an annual print edition. <https://centralkootenayfood.ca/>

Chamber of Commerce - organization serving area business members. There are multiple options across the Central Kootenay, including Nelson, Kaslo, Nakusp, Creston, Salmo, Castlegar, Kootenay Lake (East Shore)

CleanBC Go Electric program: provincial initiative to make electric vehicles more affordable and increase charging station availability. <https://goelectricbc.gov.bc.ca/>

Climate & Agriculture Initiative BC: initiative that supports the agriculture sector in BC to adapt to climate change by facilitating collaboration, delivering programs, developing tools and resources and sharing information. <https://www.climateagriculturebc.ca/>

Central Kootenay Food Policy Council (CKFPC): brings together people, organizations, local government and businesses from across the Central Kootenay to foster a vibrant, healthy food economy for the region; author of this Food Security Action Plan. <http://ckfoodpolicy.ca/>

College of the Rockies: regional college with a campus in Creston that has historically offered agriculture programming. <https://cotr.bc.ca/>

Columbia Basin Environmental Educators Network (CBEEN): supports a community of engaged and effective environmental educators by connecting them to resources, information, professional development, and networking opportunities. <https://cbeen.ca/>

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT): regional trust established to support the communities impacted by the flooding of the Columbia River. <https://ourtrust.org/>

Community Energy Association: channels provincial, federal and private funding to the community level to prepare energy and emissions plans and implement low carbon projects and programs. <https://www.communityenergy.ca/>

Community Garden Network - Sustain Ontario (<https://sustainontario.com/initiatives/community-garden-network/>), and CHEP Good Food, Saskatoon (<https://www.chep.org/community-gardens/>)

Community Foundations in Central Kootenay: Creston-Kootenay Foundation, Osprey Community Foundation, Community Fund of North Kootenay Lake, Community Foundation of Castlegar & District, Nakusp & Area Community Foundation, Salmo Community Fund, Slocan Valley Community Legacy Society.

Community Futures Central Kootenay: not-for-profit community economic development organization in the Central Kootenay that assists entrepreneurs, new and small businesses with a range of services. <https://futures.bc.ca/>

Credit Unions: there are three that operate in the Central Kootenay: Kootenay Savings, Heritage Savings, Nelson & District

Economic Trust of the Southern Interior, BC (ETSI-BC): formerly known as SIDIT, ETSI-BC invests in projects in the southern interior that create employment, enhance business performance, leverage partnerships, and encourage collaboration through 5 strategic pillars. <https://www.etsi-bc.ca/>

Environmental Farm Plan: confidential no-cost program delivered by the Agriculture Research & Development Corporation (ARDCorp) to help producers identify both environmental strengths and potential risks on their farms. Farms with a Plan can also access supports to implement changes. <https://ardcorp.ca/programs/environmental-farm-plan/>

Farm the Kootenays Facebook Group: Active group with more than 14,000 members that connects people who grow and raise food to provide mutual support. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/farmthekootenays/>

FarmFolk CityFolk: Vancouver-based environmental non-profit that strengthen sustainable food systems in BC through a range of programming that includes seeds, climate change, community supported agriculture, and community farms. <https://farmfolkcityfolk.ca/>

Farmland Advantage: provincial initiative that helps farmers to identify the natural values to be protected and enhanced and provide compensation based on successful completion of conservation plans. <http://farmlandadvantage.ca/>

FarmLink - a national land listing and linking tool designed to connect those looking for land to rent, lease or buy, on farm employment, business partnerships in agriculture, or farm succession arrangements with landowners and retiring farmers who have farmland or other on farm opportunities. <https://farmlink.net>

Food Communities Network: Canada-wide network launched in 2020 which facilitates sharing ideas, knowledge, tools and experiences around building food resiliency and decreasing food insecurity across Indigenous Territories/Canada, networking a wide diversity of communities, in both French and English. <https://fcn-rcn.ca/>

Intercultural Kootenays: created in 2020, aims to help build and maintain inclusive and non-discriminatory communities by addressing the root causes of racism, hate and discrimination and building intercultural competencies, while supporting people experiencing inequitable treatment. <https://interculturalkootenays.com/>

Interior Health: regional healthy authority that supports food related initiatives and knowledge transfer through relevant professional staff such as Public Health Dietitians and Environmental Health Officers, as well as the Community Food Action Initiative funding program. (<https://www.interiorhealth.ca/YourHealth/HealthyLiving/FoodSecurity/Pages/default.aspx>)

Investment Agriculture Foundation: an industry led, not for profit society that creates funding opportunities to support the thriving BC Agriculture and Agri-food sector through the delivery of programs that include Buy BC, Agriculture Area Planning program, Agri-Innovation and more. <https://iafbc.ca/>

Institute for Sustainable Food Systems, Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU): an applied research and extension unit at KPU that investigates and supports regional food systems throughout BC as key elements of sustainable communities. They have undertaken two bioregional food systems studies: one of Southwest BC and the recently completed Okanagan study. With local support, they are proposing to undertake a bioregional study of the Columbia Basin's food systems. <https://www.kpu.ca/isfs>

Kootenay Boundary Farm Advisors (KBFA): jointly funded by the Central Kootenay, East Kootenay, Kootenay Boundary Regional Districts and the Columbia Basin Trust, KBFA provides producers with free, technical production support and information from a network of specialized resources, including independent consultants and academics. <https://www.kbfa.ca/>

Kootenay Career Development Society: provides employment readiness programs, serving both employers and job seekers. <https://kcds.ca/>

Kootenay Coop: 46 year old food coop that has long supported area food producers (farmers, food processors and wellness / body care products through proactive marketing programs, including their "True Local" initiative. <https://www.kootenay.coop/>

KS Perry Publishing: Kaslo-based publisher that creates a range of publications that promote the communities and happenings in the region; partners with the Central Kootenay Food Policy Council to produce the annual Farm & Food Directory print version. <https://www.pennywiseads.com/our-team/karma-halleran/>

MIR Centre for Peace: based at the Castlegar campus of Selkirk College, the Centre builds cultures of peace lecture series, trainings, workshops, films, research, and collaborations with community organizations help advance peace and justice both locally and in our wider world. <https://selkirk.ca/mir-centre-for-peace>

Natural Resources Canada Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Program: grant program intended to increase the availability of localized charging and hydrogen refuelling opportunities for Canadians. In 2021, there are two open Requests for Proposals with a submission deadline of September 8, 2021. <https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/energy-efficiency/transportation-alternative-fuels/zero-emission-vehicle-infrastructure-program/21876>

Olds College - provides the only slaughter training program in western Canada

Regional Energy Efficiency Program: RDCK program intended to assist area residents to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save energy in their homes. <http://www.rdck.ca/EN/main/services/sustainability-environmental-initiatives/energy/regional-energy-efficiency-program.html>

School Districts #8, 10 and 20: within the Central Kootenay Regional District, there are three School Districts. <http://www.sd8.bc.ca> <http://sd10.bc.ca> <https://www.sd20.bc.ca/>

Seeds of Diversity Canada: a member-based charitable organization dedicated to the conservation of agricultural and horticultural biodiversity. <https://seeds.ca>

Selkirk College Regional Innovation Chair (RIC): established in 2006 to conduct a program of applied research in rural economic development and supported through an endowment established under the BC Leading Edge Endowment Fund, which included matching funding from non-government sources. Current RIC is Sarah Breen. <https://selkirk.ca/research/ric>

Selkirk College Applied Research & Innovation Centre (ARIC): supports economic development, regional collaboration, social innovation, technology adoption, and rural capacity building through research-focused partnerships. Includes the Selkirk Geospatial Research Centre, RIC, Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute. <https://selkirk.ca/about-us/research/applied-research-innovation>

Small Scale Food Processors Association: BC-based national business organization that delivers programs to the sector, including food safety training and the federal Advance Payments Program. <https://www.ssfpa.net/>

Thompson Rivers University: based in Kamloops, offers a nine-month meat cutter training program that is the only post-secondary offering of its kind in BC. <https://www.tru.ca/culinary-arts/meatcutter.html>

West Kootenay EcoSociety: non-profit community-driven organization that brings together local residents to protect the natural environment while building just, equitable, healthy, and livable communities in the West Kootenay region. Delivers 100% Renewable Kootenays. <https://www.ecosociety.ca/>

Young Agrarians: BC-based farmer to farmer educational resource network for new and young ecological, organic and regenerative farmers in Canada. <https://youngagrarians.org/>

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#### Farm & Food organizations in Central Kootenay (not exhaustive)

- Creston Valley Ag Society (& member sector organizations)
- East Shore Food Roots
- Fields Forward
- Kootenay Organic Growers Society
- Kootenay Local Agriculture Society
- Lardeau Valley Opportunity LINKS Society
- Old Fire Hall Collective
- West Kootenay Permaculture Cooperative

#### Social Service Agencies in the Central Kootenay that offer food programming (may not be exhaustive)

- Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services Society
- Castlegar & District Community Services Society
- Circle of Indigenous Nations
- Freedom Quest Youth Services Society
- Kootenay Family Place
- Kootenay Kids Society
- Nelson Women's Centre
- North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society
- Salmo Community Resource Society
- W. E. Graham Community Service Society