

The Capital Region Food and Agriculture Initiatives Roundtable (CR-FAIR)

Vision, Mission, Guiding Strategies and Statement of Values

Vision

Our vision is a sustainable and secure local food and agriculture system that provides safe, sufficient, culturally accepted, nutritious food accessible to everyone in the Capital Region through dignified means.

What We Mean By:

Sustainable: The ongoing ability of the region to provide food for present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their food needs.

Secure : That systems are in place in the region to assure adequate supply of food to maintain human health.

Local: Activities of CR-FAIR are focused within the boundaries of the Capital Regional District and extend throughout Vancouver Island.

Food and Agricultural System: All providers, distributors and consumers of agriculture and food products and services.

Safe, nutritious food: Food that is free from disease-causing organisms and that provides nutrients for growth, maintenance and repair.

Accessible: Easy to reach, obtainable food for all regardless of income.

Mission

Our mission is to increase knowledge about and bring about positive change in the food and agriculture system within the Capital Region. This includes:

- increasing the viability of farming;
- reducing hunger;
- increasing the supply, consumption and diversity of locally produced and processed food; and
- Increasing our communities' knowledge and involvement with food and agriculture issues.

We do this by:

- Expanding awareness and communication;
- Bringing people together;
- Supporting program initiatives; and
- Actively advocating for change.

Guiding Strategies

The Capital Region Food and Agriculture Initiatives Roundtable (CR-FAIR) has adopted a fourfold strategy to guide its work toward its vision over the next 3-5 years.

1. Educate: To Expand Awareness and Communication

To work in partnership to expand the general understanding about food and agriculture issues among residents of the Capital Region, and among local government and private sector decision makers by:

- sponsoring forums to identify local public concerns;
- collecting, recording and distributing information to local groups and the public through such means as the Roundtable newsletter and forums, and the public media;
- undertaking educational initiatives that increase understanding of and commitment to food and agriculture issues; and
- working with existing educational institutions and other groups to develop research and education programs.

2. Connect: To Bring People Together

To maintain an organization that connects the diverse groups and individuals concerned with food and agriculture issues within the Capital Region by:

- organizing public forums and roundtables to share local knowledge and experience and to encourage dialogue;
- maintaining mailing and contact lists; and
- identifying and connecting potential program partners or issue allies.

3. Facilitate: To Support Relevant Program Initiatives

To incubate ideas and to support groups taking action on food- and agriculture-related issues by providing:

- information and connections to other groups in the region;
- administrative support, such as assistance with mailing or bookkeeping; and
- assistance in seeking funding.

4. Advocate: To Actively Advocate for Change

To take direct, positive action to influence decision making and policy development related to local food and agriculture systems by:

- providing a voice for change that is based in local experience and the needs in the Capital Region;
- producing balanced, constructive statements to governments and the private sector decision/policy makers;
- encouraging the consideration of food and agriculture policy matters in local action initiatives; and
- establishing direct links and increasing dialogue with local, provincial and federal governments.

Statement of Values

The Capital Region Food and Agriculture Initiatives Roundtable (CR-FAIR) is collaborative, open and inclusive. We:

- Focus on local needs and local action
- Maintain a broadly representative membership of food consumers, distributors, processors, producers, and others who influence the food and agriculture system
- Use a collaborative working style giving all points of view a full voice
- Maintain a positive, moving forward, attitude
- Maintain a responsible respect for economic considerations, and
- Take a thoughtful, balanced approach to issues based upon the local experience of members.