

# SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS FOOD AND AGRICULTURE STRATEGY

2017



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## Acknowledgments

We would like to acknowledge the extensive time and efforts provided by agencies and stakeholders in the development of the Southern Gulf Islands Food and Agriculture Strategy over the past two years. In particular, we would like to thank and acknowledge the involvement of the following groups and individuals:

Oversight for the development of this strategy provided by the Food and Agriculture Steering Committee, Southern Gulf Islands Community Economic Sustainability Commission.

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## Funding:

The Capital Regional District provided a significant portion of the funding for the Strategy. Additional funding was provided in part by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture through programs delivered by the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC. The Islands Trust assisted with mapping.

## Disclaimer:

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC are pleased to participate in the production of this Strategy. We are committed to working with our industry partners to address issues of importance to the agriculture and agri-food industry in British Columbia. Opinions expressed in this document are those of authors and not necessarily those of the Investment Agriculture Foundation, the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture or Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

# GUIDING VISION & EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Southern Gulf Islands' thriving local food and agricultural economy is supported by its active and appreciative island communities. Local food and agriculture, and those responsible for its production, are integral to the Islands' culture of understanding and respect for the intimate and important relationship between its lands and waters; between its community, food, and those responsible for bringing it to the table.

## Objectives

The Southern Gulf Islands Community Economic Sustainability Commission (SGICESC) initiated the development of the Food and Agricultural Strategy for the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area to:

- ▶ Re-establish local food and agriculture as a vital part of the Southern Gulf Islands economy; and
- ▶ Support and increase the long-term resiliency of the island communities in this unique area.

The purpose of the Strategy is to help connect food, culture, people and the land, and to create interagency partnerships to address barriers to increasing food production. The strategy focuses on working as a community of interest across the Southern Gulf Islands archipelago to achieve a productive and healthy local food system in the face of global influences and challenges.

## Roles

The SGICESC, with support from the Capital Regional District's (CRD) Regional Planning office, initiated the development of the Southern Gulf Islands Food and Agriculture Strategy (SGIFAS) in 2014 by securing Federal Gas Tax and Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC (IAF) funding. The SGICESC established the SGI Food and Agriculture Strategy Steering Committee to guide and facilitate the development of the Strategy and ensure that it is responsive to local and regional community needs. The SGICESC is being assisted by CRD's service delivery, Southern Gulf Islands, the BC Ministry of

Agriculture, the Islands Trust, and by all those individuals and organizations involved with or connected to the Southern Gulf Islands food and agriculture sector.

## Outcomes

Desired outcomes include:

- ▶ A collective vision for food and agricultural economy for the Southern Gulf Islands;
- ▶ Local community engagement that continues beyond the completion of the Strategy;
- ▶ Ownership of the outcomes of the process by the Southern Gulf Islands food and agriculture community to ensure the successful implementation of the recommendations;
- ▶ A clear and robust roadmap of actions that responds to the unique needs and situation of each island while providing a collective framework and approach for the archipelago; and
- ▶ The development of a sustainable and viable local agriculture sector in the Southern Gulf Islands.

## Implementation

This Strategy has been developed by the Islands communities and will continue to evolve and be implemented by them, in partnership with the CRD and First Nations communities, through community-led, government-led and First Nations-led actions.





## Recommended Strategies

The following archipelago-wide strategies were identified during the SGIFAS process:

- 1.** Establish an effective, collaborative structure to deliver and manage the Strategy;
- 2.** Protect and support existing and emerging local food and agriculture activities and interests;
- 3.** Pursue economic development opportunities and approaches that benefit local food and agriculture initiatives, businesses and activities;
- 4.** Undertake a detailed local economic development strategy for food and agriculture;
- 5.** Protect and maintain local farmland;
- 6.** Pursue strategies that increase land available for farming;
- 7.** Encourage the use of ecological farming practices;
- 8.** Pursue climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies;
- 9.** Increase opportunities for local food and agriculture education and training;
- 10.** Improve understanding and appreciation of local food and agriculture by local and seasonal residents;
- 11.** Connect youth with local food and agriculture;
- 12.** Determine state of SGI food system;
- 13.** Increase the local production capabilities of the non-commercial portion of the food and agriculture sector;
- 14.** Increase availability of local, healthy food choices;
- 15.** Encourage a place-based regional food culture by building relationships between Aboriginal and non-aboriginal communities; and
- 16.** Support Aboriginal food and agriculture-related activities, projects and events.

# 1 | INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW

The Southern Gulf Islands Food and Agriculture Strategy is an important first step in re-establishing a sustainable and viable local agriculture industry. Its development engaged and involved the islands' communities, creating a sense of ownership ensuring successful implementation of the recommendations. The Strategy provides a clear and robust actions roadmap that responds to the unique needs and situation of each island while providing a collective framework and approach for the archipelago. It describes a shared food and agriculture vision for the Southern Gulf Islands – one that protects and promotes local agriculture, improves food security, strengthens the local economy, protects and enhances natural systems, and honours the area's significant cultural heritage.

The Strategy is an expression of the area's food and agricultural objectives, issues and opportunities. The purpose of The Strategy is to guide action and foster leadership around food and agriculture in the Southern Gulf Islands. It sets out a strategic approach with clearly articulated recommendations, associated actions, and resourcing requirements. The Strategy is intended to inform other CRD and Islands Trust activities. Consistent direction over the Southern Gulf Islands archipelago that is cognizant and connected to the actions and direction of the rest of the CRD, including the Salt Spring Electoral Area, will hopefully strengthen and increase the visibility of the food and agricultural sector.

The Strategy acknowledges that food and agriculture are part of a food 'system'. It therefore considers all aspects of that system, including planting, irrigation, harvesting, processing, distributing, preparing, marketing and consumption. Food waste management and soil nutrient management are also considered.

The SGIFAS is intended to support the development and future success of food and agriculture in a way

that is collaborative, strategic, systemic, and economic. It is intended to be a living document that is regularly monitored, reviewed, and updated annually.

## Rationale & Priorities

Food and agriculture are important elements of the Southern Gulf Island's history, visual identity and ongoing sustainability. Public appreciation and concern for the health and well being of the archipelago's food and agriculture sector continues to rise.

Changes in climate, increased food and energy costs, vulnerability of the Islands' transportation systems, variable water availability, and unpredictable agricultural production have brought more attention to the health and resilience status of the Southern Gulf Islands' food and agriculture system.

The core objectives of the Food and Agriculture Strategy are to:

- ▶ Re-establish local food and agriculture as a vital part of the Southern Gulf Islands economy; and
- ▶ Support and increase the long-term resiliency of the island communities in this unique area.

## Applicability

The SGIFAS applies to the Southern Gulf Island Electoral Area, which includes Galiano, Mayne, North and South Pender and Saturna Islands, as well as several smaller associated islands. The SGIFAS does not include the Salt Spring Island Electoral Area, which completed its own agriculture plan in 2008. However, Prevost Island was included in the corresponding agricultural land use inventory (ALUI). The SGIFAS builds on and supports the work of the agencies and organizations focused on fostering a vibrant and vital regional food and agriculture sector within the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area.

The traditional territories of over 18 First Nations span portions of the Southern Gulf Islands. Four First Nations communities have reserve lands within the Southern Gulf Islands archipelago. The Strategy acknowledges First Nations' considerable interests in food and agriculture and provides a vehicle for practical collaboration and relationship building.

## Process

Work on the SGIFAS began in early 2013 when the Southern Gulf Islands Regional Director was approached to support the development of an area farm plan for the Pender Islands. Later that year the then Southern Gulf Islands Economic Development Commission (now the SGICESC) embraced the idea of developing a food and agriculture strategy as one of their seven strategic areas. They were successful at securing Federal Gas Tax and Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC (IAF) funding to support the development of a Food and Agriculture Strategy, a supporting Agricultural Land Use Inventory (ALUI), and an Agriculture Water Demand Model (AWDM) for the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area (SGIEA). The BC Ministry of Agriculture and Islands Trust provided in-kind support, with CRD Regional Planning providing the necessary oversight for the project.

In 2014 the SGIEDC established the Southern Gulf Islands Food and Agriculture Strategy Steering Committee to guide and facilitate the development of The Strategy and ensure that it is responsive to community needs at local and regional levels. A contractor was hired to coordinate the development of the ALUI and AWDM. In 2015, additional support was received to improve the engagement process with stakeholders and First Nations and to undertake a preliminary agricultural market assessment.

Over the course of the past two years, a phased planning and engagement process was pursued to actively engage the community in an innovative and focused conversation about the future of a sustainable local food and agriculture economy. Several community information and dialogue sessions were hosted over the course of the project. Situational analysis research

revealed the current state of agriculture lands, practices, challenges and opportunities on the Islands. A market opportunities assessment was conducted to determine the current state of agricultural markets on the Islands and investigate what opportunities there might be in local and export markets for locally produced and value added agricultural products.

The WSÁNEĆ First Nations' communities were invited to a traditional foods feast in the Fall of 2016 to talk about the strategy. Elders shared stories about traditional foods and a survey was handed out to the attendees at the event. Tsawout's Marine Use Study is also referenced to capture traditional food harvesting practices in the gulf islands.

Strategy development consultations have proved challenging, given the distributed nature of the islands communities, and has required creative approaches to identify and gather supporting data and to build community involvement and support. The SGIFAS process has helped initiate conversations and projects with the Islands' food and agriculture community that are helping to build a collaborative approach to agriculture that reflects diverse interests. The area's food and agricultural community includes numerous organizations, agencies and individuals who, while focussing on different aspects of food and agriculture, share a common appreciation for the role food and agriculture plays in achieving social, environmental and economic health and resiliency.

The proposed recommendations and actions are eminently practical, resulting in actionable approaches that promise sustained impact and long-term success. They were considered for their relative and systemic impact. Island-specific recommendations respect and make visible the direction and interests of island communities.





## 2 | CURRENT CONTEXT

Food and agriculture in the Southern Gulf Islands are impacted by realities that influence the current situation and/or recommended actions. These realities include:

- ▶ Food and agriculture is understood to be fundamental to the long-term sustainability, resilience and health of the Southern Gulf Islands and its human communities;
- ▶ Food and agriculture require supportive systems—from production to adding value, and distribution to waste recovery;
- ▶ The current global food system supports the production and distribution of relatively inexpensive food produced elsewhere, over generally more expensive, locally produced food;
- ▶ Many of the local food and agricultural enterprises, lands and families that create and support them, are economically tenuous;
- ▶ The current provincial agricultural policy framework does not preference food production over other forms of agriculture;
- ▶ Although The Province has a mandate to address agriculture, local governments do not and therefore have limited ability to undertake local approaches benefitting food and agriculture, such as the acquisition and management of agricultural land, management of problem wildlife and invasive species, watershed management, provision of affordable water services, and local economic development approaches;<sup>1</sup> and
- ▶ Anticipated changes in climate, energy and transportation costs, water availability, and agricultural production are attracting more attention to the resilience of the Island communities and the archipelago's food and agriculture system.
- ▶ The Gulf Islands have been a traditional food harvesting area for thousands of years and Indigenous peoples currently have trouble accessing harvesting sites due to the privatization of land, depletion of resources, accessibility concerns and the loss of traditional knowledge stemming from colonization and forced assimilation.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/assets/FortVictoriaTreaties.pdf>



## Indigenous Interests

The First Peoples of this region have a longstanding relationship with food from the land and sea. For hundreds of generations, local Indigenous communities have cared for the lands and waters of this territory, and in return, food was and continues to be a vital and inseparable part of Coast and Straits Salish health, culture and spirituality. From an Indigenous world-view, people are not separate from the territory but a part of it. The WSÁNEĆ peoples believe that the fish, animals and the islands are their relatives and that they have a duty to look after them. For thousands of years the land has provided a bounty of food resources for Indigenous peoples and they have acknowledged this bounty through ceremonies of gratitude and respect.<sup>2</sup>

The last 150 years have seen the systematic disruption to First Peoples' relationship with the area's food, lands and waters. Colonial and government policies have limited access and ownership while the development and gradual decline in the health of land and waters have impacted traditional harvesting practices. This has resulted in dramatic dietary changes and negative impacts on the health of Indigenous communities. Today, settlement patterns, associated infrastructure and pollution have rendered many local foods unharvestable. Many traditional land management practices were made illegal, gathering areas were converted to modern uses, and wetlands were drained.<sup>3</sup> The establishment of reserves changed harvesting practices and access to foods. Communities were supplied with non-traditional foods, creating a dependence on those foods. Residential schools disrupted and undermined the relationship to place, limited access to indigenous foods and medicines, reduced food literacy, and brought about shame regarding culture, language, and traditional foods. Where local food was once plentiful, healthful, free and commonly traded, it is now commercialized, processed and shipped from far away.

First Nations have growing interests in and concerns regarding access to healthy and safe food sources within the Southern Gulf Islands. Local WSÁNEĆ First Nations have a teaching: "when the tide is out, the table is set." For the Straits Salish and Coast Salish people, whose territory the CRD and Southern Gulf Islands sit within, "lands and food are at the center of what it is to be Indigenous."<sup>4</sup> From cultivation, through to harvesting, processing, preparation and consumption, Indigenous communities recognize the important role of traditional foods in fostering a strong connection between the land and the people.<sup>5</sup>

"If you lose your food, you lose part of your culture and it has a devastating effect on your psyche."<sup>6</sup>

Most Indigenous communities regard the health and quality of food as inseparable from the environment in which it is located.<sup>7</sup> Traditional foods are a central part of Indigenous communities' culture and ceremony. Many First Nations in this area have Douglas Treaty rights "to hunt and fish as formerly" over much of the archipelago. They also have important and useful traditional knowledge to share.

In the Fall of 2016 the CRD partnered with BOKEĆEN (Pauquachin) First Nation to offer a traditional foods feast for over 200 members from the WSÁNEĆ community. Members of all ages shared a feast of Crab, Sea Urchins, Salmon, Oyster Cakes, Fish Head soup, Salad and Herbal Tea. Community leaders spoke about the importance of traditional food knowledge and food systems. Some surveys were also filled out by community members which captured some of the following important lessons.

Over 30 different foods and medicines were identified as being important. This included Cedar, deer, shellfish, Cascara bark, KEXMIN, pheasant, Sea asparagus, Camas, huckleberries, seaweed and many others.

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<sup>2</sup> Tsawout Marine Use Study

<sup>3</sup> Krohn 2007

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<sup>4</sup> PFPP, 2011a, p. 1

<sup>5</sup> NWIC, 2014, para 1

<sup>6</sup> Yakama Tribal Nurse

<sup>7</sup> Rudolph & McLachlan, 2013

While many foods were identified there were also identified challenges in accessing these foods. Scarcity of lands from which to harvest from, beach closures, pollution, lack of boat transportation and threats of knowledge loss are some of the concerns facing the community.

“There needs to be recognition by the provincial and federal government of our inherent right to harvest food and medicine from our territories.”

“We are losing resources and our way of life and culture.”

The current food system challenges principles of interrelatedness and reciprocity. Today, for all peoples, food comes to the region from elsewhere. It could be argued that we have an incomplete or broken relationship with this place. Throughout the region, Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples are beginning to re-establish their connection to food and culture, re-connecting people with the environment that supports life. The principles of interdependence, reciprocity and respect derived from thousands of years of living sustainably on this land, suggest a way forward that will allow all to live together sustainably.

Today, no permanently occupied First Nations settlements exist within the Southern Gulf Islands. What remains are four reserves:

- ▶ Galiano Reserve No. 9 (29.1 ha), located at the northern tip of the island and under the administration of the Penelakut Tribe.<sup>8</sup>
- ▶ Mayne Island Reserve No. 6 (130.7 ha), WJOŁEŁP (Tsartlip) First Nation.<sup>9</sup>

- ▶ South Pender Island Reserve No. 8 (3.2 ha), S7ÁUTW (Tsawout) and WSIKEM (Tseycum) First Nations.<sup>10</sup>
- ▶ Saturna Island Reserve No.7 (145.7 ha), S7ÁUTW (Tsawout) and WSIKEM (Tseycum) First Nations.<sup>11</sup>

Indigenous food systems have also strongly relied on food from the ocean. “Nearly every bay and beach in our homeland was a clamming site. Many of these were extensive and had been used for thousands of years.”<sup>12</sup>

## Roles

Two local government bodies are responsible for providing municipal services and land use designation and planning for the Southern Gulf Islands area: The Capital Regional District (CRD) and the Islands Trust. Under the Agriculture Land Reserve Act the Agricultural Land Commission is the provincial authority for the regulation of activities on lands located within the Agricultural Land Reserve.

The CRD is a federation of 13 municipalities and three electoral areas on southern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. The Southern Gulf Islands Electoral area is one of the three. The CRD is a local government for three electoral areas and a service provider for its local municipalities, delivering over 200 local, regional and sub-regional services for the 375,000+ residents of the region. A 24-member Board of Directors, made up of municipal and local area politicians, governs the CRD. The geographical area of the CRD (the ‘region’) encompasses 237,000 hectares, including 70 Gulf Islands.

The Islands Trust is a unique federation of local governments serving islands in the Salish Sea responsible for preserving and protecting the unique environment and amenities of the Islands Trust Area through planning and regulating land use, development management, education, cooperation with other agencies, and land conservation. At the local level, much of the work of the Islands Trust is carried out by local trust committees, a special-purpose form of local government, given authority for land use planning and

<sup>8</sup> [http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/RVDetail.aspx?RESERVE\\_NUMBER=06825&lang=eng](http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/RVDetail.aspx?RESERVE_NUMBER=06825&lang=eng)

<sup>9</sup> [http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/RVDetail.aspx?RESERVE\\_NUMBER=06830&lang=eng](http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/RVDetail.aspx?RESERVE_NUMBER=06830&lang=eng)

<sup>10</sup> [http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/RVDetail.aspx?RESERVE\\_NUMBER=06836&lang=eng](http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/RVDetail.aspx?RESERVE_NUMBER=06836&lang=eng)

<sup>11</sup> [http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/RVDetail.aspx?RESERVE\\_NUMBER=06835&lang=eng](http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/RVDetail.aspx?RESERVE_NUMBER=06835&lang=eng)

<sup>12</sup> Tsawout Marine Use Study pg. 72

regulation under the BC Local Government Act to carry out the “object”<sup>13</sup> or mandate of the Islands Trust. The islands of the Islands Trust Area are grouped into twelve ‘local trust areas’ (LTAs) and one ‘island municipality’. In the Southern Gulf Islands there are five LTAs: Galiano, Mayne, North Pender, South Pender, and Saturna.

While the CRD and the Islands Trust do not have a specific mandate over food and agriculture, many aspects of their operations have an impact on the sector. CRD services such as water delivery, environmental protection and conservation, watershed education and drinking watershed protection and management, liquid and solid waste management (including rural septic programs), invasive species eradication/native plant restoration, and wildlife (deer, geese, beaver, bullfrog) management can have an impact on food and agriculture. Island’s Trust’s responsibilities for land use planning and regulation, as well as their interests in education and land conservation, also have impacts.

Food and agriculture are generally considered to be the sole responsibility of the Province and the Federal government. However, in recent years, the Province and the Federal government have been increasingly challenged to provide the level of attention and support required to see the integration and growth of a healthy, place-based local food and agricultural economy within the Southern Gulf Islands. There have also been some difficulties addressing emergent issues under the current responsibility framework, such as the management of problem wildlife, local economic development, and long-term agricultural land protection.

A healthy, place-based local food and agricultural economy is a matter of local and regional interest. Food and agriculture, as a fundamental human endeavour, is critical for the future health and wellbeing of the community. The cultivation and provision of healthy food and the long-term development and care of local farms and farmland—regardless of whether farmland is currently used to grow food—contributes to the development of a healthy culture and a livable, resilient, secure and sustainable community.

While there is an increasing role for, and interest in, local government involvement in food and agriculture, local community support and participation is critical for the long-term development and health of the sector. Issues involving or affecting food and agriculture are predicted to increase and will continue to demand more collaboration between stakeholders across the Southern Gulf Islands archipelago.



<sup>13</sup> [http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/96239\\_01#section](http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/96239_01#section)





## 3 | FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN THE SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS

### Farming History

#### INDIGENOUS HISTORY

The Southern Gulf Islands are part of the traditional territory of several First Nations including the W̱SÁNEĆ (Tsartlip, Tsawout, Pauquachin and Tseycum) and Penelekut Tribe. Human activities in the archipelago date back thousands of years with an archaeological find on Orcas Island providing human evidence of human activity as far back as 14,000 years ago.<sup>14</sup>

First Nations' relationship with the island's marine and land ecosystems developed over the millennia, resulting in a culturally modified land and seascape that provided for many of their needs. Foods were harvested, gathered, cultivated and preserved in quantities that sustained their communities and met their spiritual, ceremonial, social and trade requirements. Over this time, First Nations developed a very sophisticated and place-based relationship with the Salish Sea land and seascape. As we are now learning, many of their methods for securing access to a dependable food source

could be considered forms of active management of the land in providing greater yields of food.

First Nations communities in the South Salish Sea developed and maintained extensive clam gardens in shoreline areas, camas gardens in Garry Oak meadows, both of which suggest the ongoing cultivation, selection and management of an important food source. The presence of ancient reef net sites, the sophistication of their harvest, processing and distribution systems, the identification and sharing of specific information and knowledge that helped ensure a regular and repeated access to dependable food sources, and the complex nature of the ceremonies and cultural activities surrounding the harvest, preparation, distribution and consumption of food, suggests a culture that had moved well beyond what we have previously and pejoratively described as hunter-gatherer. It could be said that this Indigenous food system, while subject to the fluctuations of climate and social strife, was a closer approximation of the local and sustainable food system many communities desire today.

<sup>14</sup> <http://qmackie.com/2010/04/24/orcas-bison/>



## EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT

European explorers arrived in the area toward the end of the 18th Century. Many of the islands, their waterways, bays and harbours now carry the names of the Spanish and English explorers who arrived: Narvaez Bay, Vesuvius Bay and Galiano, Valdes, and Mayne Islands. The ships that brought later explorers in the 19th century also live on in their namesakes: Plumper Sound, the Salt Spring town of Ganges, Satellite and Trincomali Channels, to name a few.

Non-native settlement of the Southern Gulf Islands began around the mid-1800s with the first recorded private land purchase occurring on North Pender Island in 1855. At this time, the population of Victoria was rapidly increasing, prompting then Governor James Douglas to encourage people to promote Salt Spring Island as a food-producing hinterland for Victoria. While Salt Spring received most of the attention, some settlers chose to locate in the Southern Gulf Islands. The first recorded settler arrived on Mayne Island in 1863. The other islands were settled shortly thereafter and the population of the area grew slowly. In 1886 the voters' list recorded 16 men for Mayne Island, 7 for the Penders, 2 for Saturna and 1 for Prevost Island.

In the mid 1850s, gold fever catapulted Miners Bay on Mayne Island into an active port and one of the first Crown colonies. Gold seekers from Vancouver Island and the United States passing through Active Pass on their way to seek Fraser River Gold established Miners Bay as one of the first Southern Gulf Islands settlements.

Following the Gold Rush, settlers were principally homesteaders and farmers who sold excess product to markets on Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland. Mayne Island is credited with being the first place in British Columbia to grow apples and one of the first places to grow hothouse tomatoes. In the early years, produce from Gulf Islands' orchards was highly prized and profitable. Abandoned orchards can still be found on many of the islands today. Sheep and lamb, dairy and beef cattle, poultry and hay have been the main agricultural products, along with smaller amounts of vegetables and fruit produced for a local market.

Schools opened, other islands were settled, and farming and trading began more earnestly. The boundary between the United States and Canada was established in 1872, officially separating the Gulf Islands from the San Juan Islands. Though initially quite porous, allowing for the non-authorized movement of goods between the San Juan and the Gulf Islands, this border has become increasingly 'hardened' in recent decades, all but eliminating the movement of goods and services between the island communities.

Farming in the Southern Gulf Islands in the early days supplied the local population. Excess product was shipped to markets on Salt Spring, Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland. Increased competition from other markets combined with a lack of good quality land has contributed to a steady decline in food production.

The BC Ferries' Gulf Island Service began in 1961, and provided regular vehicle access to and between the larger Southern Gulf Islands including Salt Spring Island with the takeover of Gulf Islands Navigation Co., although ferries only travelled to Swartz Bay (Victoria). Travel to Tsawwassen began in 1963. Before the establishment of BC Ferries, the Gulf Islands were served by several ferry companies including the Union Steamship Company and the Canadian Pacific Railway, both of which had ships connecting towns and islands along the coast.

In 1973, the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), a provincial land use zone, was designated to protect farmland from development. Within this zone, agriculture was and is encouraged and recognized as the priority use while non-agricultural uses are strictly controlled. In the early 1980s, Agricultural Land Reserve for the larger islands measured about 382 ha on Galiano, 378 ha on Mayne, 326 ha on North Pender, 190 ha on South Pender, and 1,028 ha on Saturna. Today those numbers have generally declined, mainly due to the establishment of the Gulf Islands National Park. In 2014 there were 372 ha on Galiano, 318 ha on Mayne, 346 ha on North Pender, 157 ha on South Pender and 307 ha on Saturna.

In 1974, the Islands Trust was established to preserve and protect the Gulf Islands in the wake of the development

of Magic Lake Estates on North Pender Island in the mid 1960's – the largest housing development in Canada at the time. Then the Islands Trust was established, the economic base of the islands was centered on farming, fishing, logging, tourism, retirement living, and their support services.

## Farming and Food Today

### STATISTICS<sup>15</sup>

The population of the 5 major Southern Gulf Islands (Galiano, Mayne, North Pender, South Pender and Saturna) is approximately 4,929. The number of farmers in the region in 2011 was 130 – approximately 2.6% of the population. The average age of operators was 59.5 years, which is higher than the BC average of 55.7 years and the CRD average of 57.4. Farm and operator data is not available for the SGI region for census data earlier than 2006.

### ECONOMIC SITUATION<sup>16</sup>

Southern Gulf Islands farms generally became less profitable from 2006 to 2011. The gross margin decreased from -6.31% in 2006 to -15.12% in 2011, meaning that for every dollar of sales, the farmer lost 15.12 cents. The BC gross margin average is 11.3%, so the SGI falls far below the average range for profitability. As expected, gross farm receipts have risen since 2006, but so have operating expenses.

The value of farms has increased since 2006. Assessed values for most farms in the archipelago fall within the \$500,000 to \$999,000 range.

Total farm operating expenses more than doubled from 2006 to 2011. The largest increases occurred in cash wages, fuel expenses, fertilizer and lime purchases, seed and seedling purchases, total farm interest expenses and all other farm operating expenses. Veterinary services

**Table 1. ALR and non-ALR land being farmed in the Southern Gulf Islands.**

ISLAND	ALR (HA)	ALR BEING FARMED (HA)	NON-ALR BEING FARMED (HA)	TOTAL LAND BEING FARMED (HA)
GALIANO	372	47 (13%)	23	70
MAYNE	318	166 (52%)	36	202
N. PENDER	346	140 (41%)	63	203
S. PENDER	157	27 (17%)	1	28
SATURNA	383	88 (23%)	7	95
ASSOCIATED ISLANDS	654	78 (12%)	?	78+?
PREVOST	64	44 (69%)	16	54

<sup>15</sup> <https://growingislands.files.wordpress.com/2015/03/sgi-fas-draft-situation-analysis-v2.pdf>

<sup>16</sup> <https://growingislands.files.wordpress.com/2015/03/sgi-fas-draft-situation-analysis-v2.pdf>

decreased over time, which is consistent with the reduction in livestock operations on the islands. Repairs and maintenance to farm buildings also decreased from 2006 to 2011.

More detailed economic information is available in the SGIFAS Situation Analysis.

### AGRICULTURAL LAND USE INVENTORY<sup>17</sup>

In the summer of 2014, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Capital Regional District (CRD) partnered to conduct an Agricultural Land Use Inventory (ALUI) in the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area. The ALUI provides background information to inform the agricultural planning process. The ALUI was funded in part by Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC.

ALUIs help illustrate the type and extent of agricultural activities in the inventory area and provide a baseline that can be used to measure land use changes over time. The data can be used to determine the capacity for agricultural expansion, as well as to quantify the amount of land within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) that is unavailable for agriculture. The data allows the estimation of agricultural water demand with the use of an irrigation water demand model.

There are 2,294 ha of ALR land in the Southern Gulf Islands. An additional 17 ha of ALR land is present on Saturna 7 Indian Reserves. It is not included in this total due to differences in levels of governance, planning, and decision-making processes.

In total 6,891 ha on 711 parcels were inventoried. The inventory area consists of 2,294 ha of land in the ALR and 4,597 ha outside of the ALR. Refer to Tables 1 & 2 for inventory area details by island and Local Trust Area.

Of those areas within the ALR, 591 ha (25%) is farmed, 309 ha (14%) is developed but not farmed (anthropogenically modified), and 1,394 ha (61%) is in a natural or semi-natural state. An additional 145 ha outside of the ALR is farmed, bringing the total farmed land cover to 736 ha.

The inventory provided insight into available ALR land with potential for farming by looking at land cover, land use, and physical site limitations. Of the 2,294 ha of ALR land in the Southern Gulf Islands, 551 ha (24%) is actively farmed and 13 ha (<1%) supports farming (e.g.: houses, farm roads, farm buildings, etc.). There are 235 ha (10%) of ALR unavailable for farming due to existing land use or land cover, and 971 ha (41%) with limited potential for cultivation due to physical site limitations such as topography, soils, or drainage. That leaves 524 ha (22%) of ALR that is available and has potential to be cultivated.

There are 717 ha of cultivated field crops in the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area with 580 ha in the ALR and 137 ha outside the ALR. Forage & pasture was the most common crop type with 639 ha or 89% of all cultivated land. Also recorded were 26 ha in tree fruits, 24 ha in grapes, 21 ha in vegetables, and 8 ha in other types of crops.

Small-scale agriculture is defined as crops and greenhouses less than 500 m<sup>2</sup>. These small activities are rarely full-time operations but can contribute significantly to local food production and can help maintain local production skills and knowledge. Within the inventory area, 101 small-scale agriculture activities were recorded. These include 13 greenhouses, 4 fruit/tree fruit gardens, 27 mixed gardens, and 57 vegetable gardens.

Irrigation use was captured by crop type and irrigation system type to aid in developing a water demand model for agriculture. Irrigation in the Southern Gulf Islands is rare, with only 75 ha (10%) of the cultivated land under irrigation.

Livestock activities were also recorded, but were very difficult to measure.<sup>18</sup> Sheep/goat and beef are the most common types of livestock in the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area. There were 37 sheep/goat animal operations, 15 beef animal operations, and 36 small-scale poultry facilities (< 100 birds). Although equines are not important for food production, they contribute greatly to the rural life style. All recorded equine

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<sup>17</sup> [https://growingislands.files.wordpress.com/2015/11/sgulfislands2014\\_aluireport\\_2015-09-10b.pdf](https://growingislands.files.wordpress.com/2015/11/sgulfislands2014_aluireport_2015-09-10b.pdf)

activities were “non-intensive” and had less than 25 animals. Also recorded were 6 llama/alpaca activities, 4 swine activities, and 1 ratite activity.

Parcel size analysis was conducted on 259 parcels with 2,103 ha of ALR land. Of these parcels, the average parcel size is 13.6 ha, 26% are less than 1 ha and 54% are less than 4 ha. Of these ALR parcels, 61 (24%) are “used for farming” and 198 (76%) are “not used for farming”. In general, the proportion of parcel “used for farming” increases as the parcel size increases. Although parcels of all sizes are “used for farming”, small parcels are far less likely to be farmed than larger parcels.

A more detailed picture of the current state of agricultural activities and land in the Southern Gulf Islands can be found in the Southern Gulf Islands Agricultural Land Use Inventory.<sup>19</sup>

## Farmland Protection

There are currently no local farmland-specific trust organizations in the Southern Gulf Islands. Land within the ALR or provided with an agricultural land use designation by one of the Local Trust Committee is given a certain amount of consideration and protection through the ALC Act and Local Government Act. These designations are a type of zoning – a designation that can be changed. However, there is strong public support for the ALR, which has been actively protecting farmland for over forty years. In 2009, the Pender Islands Community Farmland Acquisition Project was established “to acquire and steward farmland for all Pender Islanders, so that the land can be used by anyone and everyone in the community for farming purposes – this way we preserve farmland, encourage new farmers, and get more food

growing on Pender!” For 4-5 years the group worked to acquire community farmland. However, when the acquisition of a specific property was not achieved, the energy for continuing the project began to dissipate, even though significant funds had been raised.

## Food and Agriculture Organizations

There are three or four main island-based organizations that support local food and farming in the Southern Gulf Islands. Interestingly, three were established around 1924. They include the Galiano Club, and its associated Food Program, the Mayne Island Agriculture Society, the Pender Islands Farmers’ Institute, and 31 Square-Saturna Eats, which was established in 2007.<sup>20</sup> Each of these organizations is involved in and supports food and agriculture initiatives and activities, including education and marketing, on each of their respective islands. While they may exchange information, they have generally been focused on their respective islands, with the exception of this project. They have not been involved in activities involving the smaller islands.

## Indigenous Interests

There is a keen interest in revitalizing and pursuing traditional food gathering, preparation and other cultural practices. Indigenous food systems include everything from the mountaintops to the sea floors; practices on the land can affect food resources in the ocean. In recent years there has been growing awareness and interest in clam gardens, reefnet fishing and camas meadows, along with other Indigenous food practices. Currently there are still some harvesters that access traditional harvesting sites to provide for their household, for others in need and for ceremonial and other gatherings. These “superharvesters” harvest specialty resources frequently, in large quantities, and share more of what they gather with others. There are also community organizations and partners working with local First Nations on the re-establishment and revitalization of their cultural food and mariculture practices.

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<sup>18</sup> Livestock may not be visible if they are in barns or on another land parcel. The inventory data does not identify animal movement between parcels that make up a farm unit, but reports livestock at the parcel where the animals or related structures are observed. No actual livestock numbers were obtainable through the inventory, so the results were reported as a range in terms of animal unit equivalents for each parcel.

<sup>19</sup> [https://growingislands.files.wordpress.com/2015/03/sgulfislands2014\\_aluireport\\_2015-02-10.pdf](https://growingislands.files.wordpress.com/2015/03/sgulfislands2014_aluireport_2015-02-10.pdf)

<sup>20</sup> 31 Square currently exists only as a website and listserv.



## Local markets and Outlets

Most farms sell their products directly to consumers, with a few growers providing products through established grocers. On Mayne Island, one grower has established their own off-farm store—the Farm Gate Store—to sell their own and others' farm products and processed local foods. Most islands have roadside farm stands and several direct farm marketing or subscription-based programs have been started. In addition, there are farmers markets on Galiano (Galiano Saturday Market<sup>21</sup>), Mayne (Mayne Island Farmers' Market<sup>22</sup>), North Pender (Pender Islands Farmers' Market<sup>23</sup>), and Saturna (Saturday Market). Most of these markets run from the May long weekend throughout the summer until early fall, except for the Penders, which operate a smaller winter market.

## Wineries, Cideries, and Breweries

There are currently three commercial wineries in the Southern Gulf Islands: Sea Star (est. 2003) and Clam Bay (est. 2007) on North Pender Island and the Saturna Island Family Estate Winery (est. 1995). Grape varieties that are being grown include Pinot Gris, Chardonnay, Gewürztraminer and Pinot Noir. There is growing interest in fruit wines, hard cider, beer and spirits. Twin Island Cider is in the process of becoming established on North Pender Island, and is expected to offer a range of ciders from local apples gathered from around the Southern Gulf Islands. There are several farms that have begun growing hops for the local craft beer market.

## Abattoirs

There are currently two abattoir facilities located in the Southern Gulf Islands. One is located on Salt Spring Island. The other is located on Saturna Island's Campbell Farm. The facility was officially established in 2008 in response to changing meat regulations in BC. The small facility has an A license, which means that it can slaughter, cut and wrap all livestock to the current provincial

standards. There is a holding pen, kill floor, cutting and wrapping area and enough cooler space to hang 20 lambs. All surfaces are washable and proper drainage is present. Washrooms and office space for inspectors are also present. The owner/ operator slaughters on Fridays from the end of June until December and then cuts and wraps with a helper the following Wednesday. They have a special permit to transport and receive cattle that are older than 30 months, although the preference is handling animals around 18 months of age. Two on-island sites away from the farm site can receive slaughter waste.<sup>24</sup>

## Food Programs

There are several programs on the larger Southern Gulf Islands that are providing emergency food services. These include the Galiano Food Program, Pender Island Food Bank and Mayne Island Food Society. Recently, monthly community gatherings—which include a lunch—have started at the Pender Islands Community Hall, inspired by the Galiano Food Program's Seniors' Soup Program. Like many larger communities, the Southern Gulf Islands have community members that struggle with issues of food access and affordability. These three programs have been providing services for several years and have been exploring ways in which to deliver them in manners that remove a potential stigma while addressing associated issues of isolation, loneliness and health.

## Festivals and Events

In addition to the Pender Islands and Mayne Island fall fairs, there are a growing number of Southern Gulf Islands festivals and events that feature local food and agriculture. A few of these include:

- ▶ Galiano Blackberry Festival, held annually on the Saturday of Thanksgiving Weekend;<sup>25</sup>
- ▶ Nettlefest, held on Galiano in April at the peak

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<sup>21</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/GalianoSaturdayMarket>

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.mayneislandchamber.ca/mayne-island-farmers-market.html>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/PenderIslandsFarmersMarket>

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<sup>24</sup> <http://www.producer.com/2010/06/raising-livestock-on-island-has-its-challenges>

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.galianofoodprogram.ca/blackberry-festival-annually-saturday-thanksgiving-weekend>

of nettle season;<sup>26</sup>

- ▶ Saturna Island Lamb BBQ, held every July 1st since 1950;<sup>27</sup> and
- ▶ Hope Bay Boat Days held the second July weekend on Pender Island, which is beginning to showcase local food and drink in addition to wooden boats and music.<sup>28</sup>

In addition to showcasing local food and drink many of these events are organized as fundraisers to support local community activities.

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<sup>26</sup> <http://www.thegalianoclub.org/category/project/nettlefest>

<sup>27</sup> <http://www.saturnalambbarbeque.com>

<sup>28</sup> <http://hopebayboatdays.com>







## 4 | ISSUES, ASSETS & OPPORTUNITIES

### Key Issues

Listed in alphabetical order.

#### ACCESS TO HARVESTING SITES

Transportation barriers and lack of access to traditional harvesting sites both on land and on shore were identified as being a key deterrent keeping Indigenous people from harvesting traditional foods. Other concerns were raised around not being able to manage the land to propagate traditional foods as the areas have been degraded by pollution, invasive species and over harvesting.

#### ACCESS TO MARKETS

The small scale and distributed nature of production across the SGI coupled with ferry transportation costs could be a limitation to accessing larger markets requiring a minimum volume and year-round supply.

#### AGING PRODUCERS

With the average age of SGI farmers surpassing 60, and fewer young people becoming involved in farming activities, the maintenance and transfer of food and

agriculture-related knowledge and assets is a growing concern. This issue is connected to high land values and low return for agriculture-related products and services.

#### CONFLICTS WITH NEW NEIGHBOURS

As non-farmers and other new residents move into farming areas, there is increased potential for conflict between farmers and residential property owners over issues such as noise, water use, water quality, and odour.

#### CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE GAPS

Several important agriculture-supporting infrastructure elements are unavailable or in short supply on the Southern Gulf Islands. Where they exist, they are difficult to access due to limited and diminishing ferry schedules. Infrastructure needs include: on-island meat processing and storage facilities; long-term cold storage facilities; adequate food processing facilities; and certain farm equipment and technology. Some of these gaps are a direct result of problematic provincial and federal government regulations. Local government bylaws, regulations, and lack of coordination or cooperation amongst producers and processors may also be contributing factors.

## ECONOMIC VIABILITY

Farming on the Southern Gulf Islands is not generally considered to be a financially profitable enterprise. Reasons for this include: higher input and operating costs (a direct result of increased transportation costs); the high cost for labour and lack of housing on the Islands; and higher capital costs and resulting debt loads. These costs make it difficult to compete with off-Island producers that have lower input and transportation costs and/or supportive subsidies (available to larger producers). The retail price for local food on the Island often does not reflect the true cost of production. There may be a reluctance or lack of understanding among local consumers to pay the higher prices necessary to give local farmers an adequate return for their services and products.

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF FARMING

While a growing number of farmers and food producers are interested in organic or ecological practices, there are concerns about the continuation of conventional approaches and the potential for unintended environmental impacts that agriculture can have.

## FARMLAND NOT BEING FARMED

There is increasing development and investment purchasing pressure on agricultural properties. Retiring farmers have few options if they want to sell their land as “farmland”. While lease arrangements are possible, various roadblocks exist, including landowner perceptions of a loss of control over their property. Some farmland is not being farmed because agriculture is not encouraged and food is currently plentiful and inexpensive in stores. It is also difficult to find labour.

## GLOBAL IMPACTS: THE ECONOMY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Volatility of global food markets is an ongoing concern. Negative impacts on other growing regions may create opportunities here. Climate change impacts for agriculture will be significant, and taking advantage of opportunities will require proactive effort.

## HIGH COST OF LAND

While prices have levelled off and are even in decline in some areas of the Island, the price of agricultural land is still high and remains a significant barrier for many new farmers, and an ongoing challenge for existing ones.

## INABILITY TO ACHIEVE LOCAL FOOD SECURITY

SGI farmers and food growers are currently unable to produce and process enough food to achieve a reasonable level of local food security. There is a general feeling that farmland is not being used to its full agricultural potential, although food production is typically not intensified because it is difficult to compete with cheap imports. There is also concern that environmental issues, limited water availability during the growing season, soil fertility issues, the declining number of farms and farmers, coupled with an inability to work collaboratively on and between the islands is preventing the Southern Gulf Islands from achieving local food security.

## LABOUR & HOUSING SHORTAGES

Local farmers, food producers and processors struggle to find consistent, reliable, affordably priced skilled and unskilled labour. This challenge is compounded by the lack of affordable housing for farm labourers and new farmers. Current land use regulations limit the construction of permanent, on-farm housing and prevent farmers from offering permanent, good quality housing to farm labourers.

## LACK OF NEW FARMERS

There are not enough young or new farmers to replace farmers who are retiring or leaving. Barriers such as the high cost of land, limited access arrangements, poor financial returns, a lack of skills and mentoring opportunities, and the limited market may be having a chilling effect on new entrants.

## LACK OF PROVINCIAL & FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR SMALL FARMS

Federal and provincial agriculture and food policy is



perceived to be unsupportive of the small-scale farming operations typical in the Southern Gulf Islands as the focus of their agricultural policy and financial subsidies is geared towards the demands and interests of large-scale agri-business.

### LACK OF SKILLS TRAINING

There are limited local opportunities for learning farming skills and knowledge. Scholastic programs and educational opportunities elsewhere relating to the importance and challenges of local food production are either absent or extremely limited. Farming is no longer promoted as a viable or attractive vocation. Residents lack courses to learn basic skills such as food preservation and gardening.

In Indigenous communities traditional food skills and knowledge are not being taught to the next generation. Some of the identified barriers to accessing traditional foods related to communication, education and being able to host more sharing opportunities around traditional foods within the community.

### LIMITED APPRECIATION OF LOCAL FARMING AND FOOD PRODUCTION ISSUES

The public at-large may not have a sufficient understanding of many of the issues associated with farming and local food production. This includes lack of recognition of the true cost of local food production, customers' unwillingness to pay more for local food, a lack of understanding of the economic plight of small farms, lack of appreciation for the multiple benefits (social, community, environmental) of local food production, consumer buying habits and expectations of year-round foodstuff availability, and lack of concern about how global environmental and economic changes may impact local systems.

### LIMITED CAPACITY AND COLLABORATION

The small and aging population base, coupled with the island geography, declines in inter-island transportation options, the solitary nature of farming and food

production, competition for limited markets and resources challenge the ability to work collectively and cooperatively as individual island communities, much less as an archipelago of interest.

### LOSS OF FARMING CULTURE

Even with a rich and understood agricultural history, the Islands are having difficulty maintaining their agrarian heritage and culture. There are very few multigenerational farm families remaining on the islands that envision their children continuing to farm. This lack of continuity and connection with the land and with farms is a serious issue, as the associated knowledge required to properly steward these farms will not be maintained.

### RESTRICTIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS AND POLICIES

Small-scale agriculture and local food production do not appear to be high priority issues. This is reflected in policies and specific regulations that are not always sensitive to the challenges faced by island farmers who are trying to maintain local, smaller-scale farm and processing operations, such as abattoirs.

### WATER AVAILABILITY

Water supply and irrigation is a longstanding concern and limitation to production in the Southern Gulf Islands. Drought summer conditions coupled with limited accessible water supplies limit the use of irrigation. There is a limited (and possibly diminishing) supply of quality groundwater, and growing competition from non-farming uses. Information about surface and groundwater supplies across the region is inadequate. Climate change could exacerbate drought conditions in summer and flood conditions in winter. Other issues include the distribution of water, and water collection and retention.

## Assets and Opportunities

Listed in alphabetical order.

### COLLABORATION

The Gulf Islands have a long history of an active and engaged civic culture. Ongoing local initiatives demonstrate the capacity for collaborative initiatives, especially for agriculture. As stronger relationships and direction across local agricultural agencies and organizations develop, it will be possible to confidently approach other levels of government to work effectively on areas of shared interest or responsibility.

### ENGAGED LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The CRD and local economic development organizations are already showing leadership by spearheading development of this Agricultural Strategy. As well, the Islands Trust, through their Local Trust Committees, have established land use policies that are generally supportive of agriculture.

### ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION

There are many current and past examples of innovative and entrepreneurial producers and organizations in the area, e.g.: Farm Gate Store, Campbell Farm Abattoir, Sea Star Vineyards, Galiano Food Program, Pender Island Community Farmland Acquisition Project Society, and many more. These demonstrate the potential in accessing niche markets and value-added production, as well as building a strong local food economy.

### ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL VALUES

Gulf Islanders have strong environmental and social values. There is significant local expertise in sustainability, with interest and awareness on a broad range of associated issues that include affordable housing, energy, water, agriculture and local food production. There is a strong and growing demand for local, organic and natural foods. Local Official Community Plans (OCPs) are supportive of addressing climate change impacts, and almost all identify local food production as a climate change mitigation and adaptation strategy.

### EXISTING COMMUNITY FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The Southern Gulf Islands are home to a growing number of retired and semi-retired residents who are generous in their investment and support of local foundations and charities. The high number of non-profit organizations attest to this.

### FARMING HISTORY AND EXPERTISE

The Southern Gulf Islands have a strong agricultural and food-related history. This history has resulted in a diversity and wealth of farming knowledge and skill that exists with current and retired farmers and their families and is visibly expressed through the many remaining heritage farms, fruit orchards and nut trees.

### FIRST NATIONS AND INDIGENOUS WISDOM

In addition to recent historical experience and connections, there are thousands of years of human history with First Nations communities that continue to maintain this memory and wisdom. They are increasingly interested in local food and agriculture – in particular the revival of their food harvesting practices and diets.

### GROWING LOCAL FOOD MARKET

Local farmers and food producers are increasingly able to sell their products locally. Island residents are often willing to pay more for high quality, locally produced food. Farmer's markets, True Value Foods, The Farm Gate Stores, farm gate sales, Island B&Bs and restaurants currently provide opportunities for selling agricultural products on-island. The proximity to the large markets of the Lower Mainland and southern Vancouver Island also represent an important marketing opportunity.

### IDENTITY

The Southern Gulf Islands are becoming recognized as a beautiful marine archipelago with high scenic and environmental qualities and standards. Activities and products associated with this location are imbued with these characterizes. The brand invokes images of health, wholesomeness, sustainability and craftsmanship.

## ISLAND CULTURE AND GEOGRAPHY

Being an “Islander” is a source of pride for residents and contributes to a strong sense of community. The Gulf Islands’ geographic nature and feelings of island pride encourage us to consider local options first. We are an archipelago of island communities that are interested in reducing dependency on off-island resources. We could become a model for sustainability. The islands’ geography and isolation can be a biosecurity advantage for agriculture.

## SOCIAL CAPITAL

Gulf Islanders are a passionate, diverse, committed, informed, strong-willed, well-educated and creative group of people who are actively involved in their community. This innovative and cooperative spirit extends into the farming community and fosters a willingness to work together to find solutions to community problems. There is also a strong activist and politically-oriented tradition amongst many Islanders.

## SUPPORTIVE LOCAL INSTITUTIONS

There is a diversity of community organizations and local institutions working on issues related to agriculture and local food production on the Southern Gulf Islands.

## TOURISM

Tourism continues to be an important aspect of the Southern Gulf Islands economy. A more developed and extensive local agriculture and food economy is a desirable goal that would enhance tourism in the region. Agriculture and agri-tourism are an important part of the current tourist experience, and could support a more robust local agriculture economy.





# THE SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS



## 5 | ISLAND PROFILES

Distinctive traditions and approaches to food and agriculture have developed on each of the islands, influenced by their location, topography, soils and sources of freshwater. What follows are brief food and agriculture profiles for several of the islands and island groups.

### Galiano

Named after the Spanish explorer Dionisio Alcalá Galiano who explored the area in 1792, Galiano Island is located on the west shore of the Strait of Georgia approximately 26 km northeast of the Swartz Bay ferry terminal on Southern Vancouver Island. At 57 km<sup>2</sup> in size and 27.5 km long, it is the largest, narrowest and longest of the larger islands in the Southern Gulf Island archipelago. It has a permanent population of about 1,150 people and is part of the Galiano Local Trust Area, an area that includes neighbouring Gossip, Parker and Wise Islands.

#### PAST

Long before Galiano arrived, the Coast Salish, and in particular the Penelakut Tribe, had summer camps here. Midden pits at Montague Harbour suggest at least 3,000 years of habitation. Industries of the past included logging, fishing and charcoal burning. Early settlers found the soil unfriendly and water scarce and turned their attention to fishing, hunting, sheep and fruit growing to make ends meet. Galiano was generally regarded as the least arable of all of the Southern Gulf Islands. The first areas to be cleared for farming were in wet depressions that retained moisture for longer periods and had heavy stone-free soils. Once drainage was provided, these areas—mainly located at the southwestern end of the island—were well suited for pasture, vegetables and hay. Fruit trees were planted upslope on gravelly and better-drained soils. Cattle were pastured on the higher ground within the cultivated areas and sheep were often

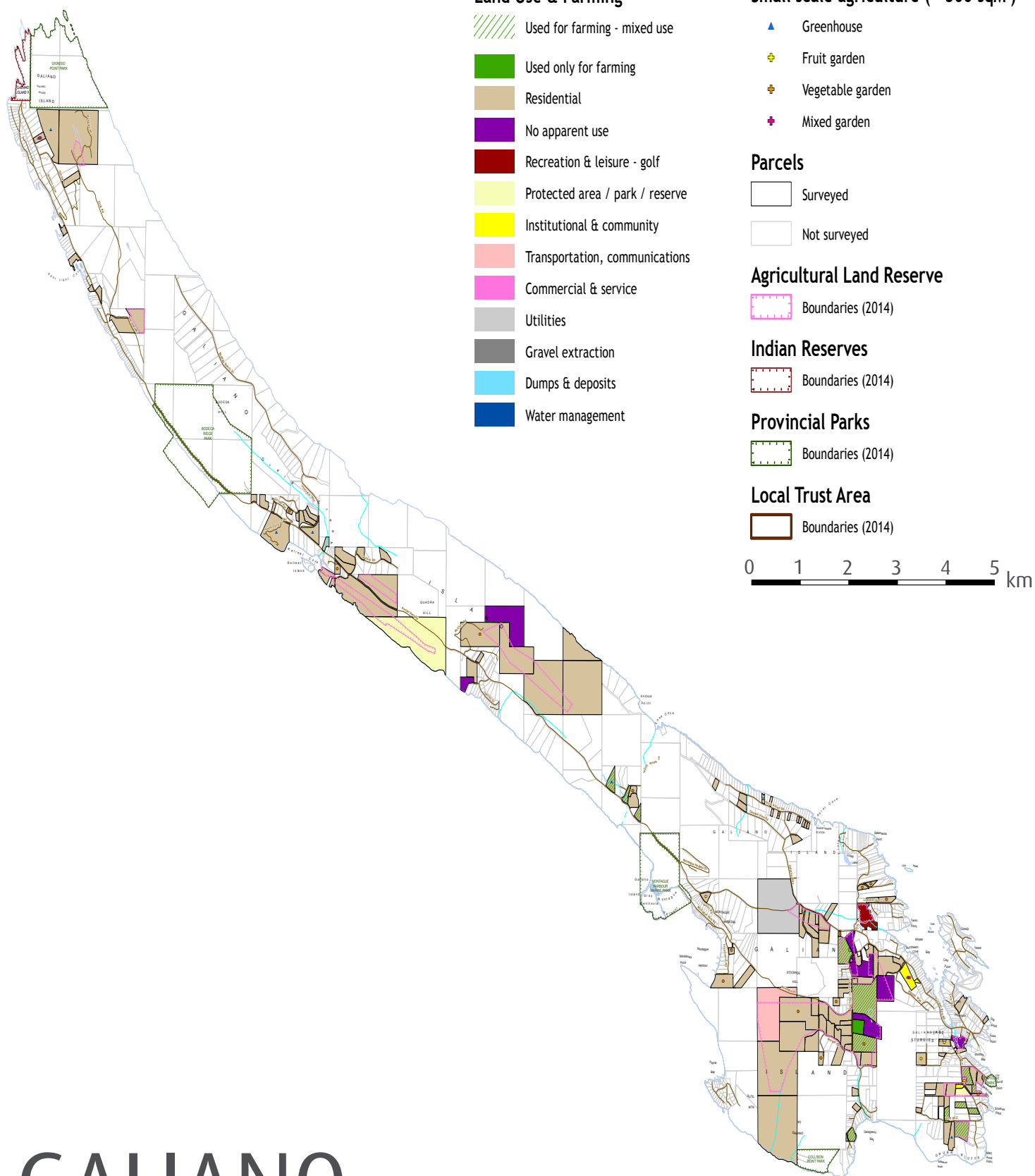
grazed in the open forest and on poorer rocky soils. Most of the population is concentrated in this area of the island today. Before WWII, Japanese Canadian residents started a saltery and cannery. These enterprises were short-lived, however, due to the subsequent internment of Japanese Canadians during the war.

#### PRESENT

Today tourism and the arts are the most common forms of employment on Galiano. Of all the Southern Gulf Islands, Galiano is probably most connected to Vancouver and the Lower Mainland as it has a direct ferry connection with the Tsawassen Ferry terminal. Over the past 8 years there has been considerable growth and activity in food and agriculture on the island. The island is home to several restaurants that feature local food including Pilgrim, considered by many to be one of Canada's best and most innovative eateries.

There is a feeling of hope in the community that Galiano has great potential to grow. Although the island only produces a fraction of its own food, agricultural production has increased dramatically recently. Questions remain whether this activity can be sustained and there is a recognition that while things are improving it is likely worse than 100 years ago, but better than 15 years ago.





# GALIANO

## DESIRED STATE

There is a desire to be self-sufficient year-round in produce, meat and dairy. Galiano farmers see themselves producing high quality, differentiated produce unique to the Southern Gulf Islands. There is a recognition that to achieve this, subsidies may be required (labour, land, equipment).

## FOOD & AGRICULTURE INTERESTS

The following key activities were identified by Galiano participants during the process:

- ▶ Establish a Galiano Farmers' Institute;
- ▶ Create a land trust to acquire and hold farmland;
- ▶ Specialize in high-return crops, growing for restaurants;
- ▶ Provide new technology-based planting services for small acreages;
- ▶ Develop some form of tenant farming system;
- ▶ Promote local food shopping; and
- ▶ Support honey producers.



## Mayne

Mayne Island is located just east of Galiano Island separated by Active Pass. At 21 km<sup>2</sup>, it is the smallest of all the major islands in the Southern Gulf Island archipelago. It was named Mayne Island in honour of the surveyor Lieut. Richard Charles Mayne who was aboard the surveying vessel H.M.S. Plumper in 1857. Lieut. Mayne developed the first detailed maps of the Southern Gulf Islands. Mayne Island is one of the most agrarian of the islands; due in part to its gentle topography and extensive field areas. It has a permanent population of just over 1,000 people and is part of the Mayne Island Local Trust Area, an area that includes neighbouring Curlew Island, a small island with some agricultural land and activity located just off its eastern shore.

### PAST

Mayne Island was an important rest stop along the route to the Gold Rush, with many miners stopping to rest and resupply in Miners Bay. In 1900, following the collapse of the Gold Rush, Mayne Island became the Pacific Northwest destination for adventurous tourists. Mayne Island has a history of successful farming ventures, which are attributed to the fertility of its soils and favourable topography. The Mayne Island King Apple was one of the first varieties developed in B.C. and later tomato growing flourished. In the 1930s a third of the island's population was Japanese Canadian, who grew 50 tonnes of tomatoes each year.

### PRESENT

Today there is growing interest in local food and agriculture. Mayne Island has an active summer farmers' market that is supported by several young growers working on the island's established farms. The island also has one of newest and most innovative grocery stores, The Farm Gate Store, which showcases local and organic foods.

Mayne Island's food and agriculture community recognizes that existing land is underutilized for growing, and there is little or no infrastructure to support growers, food producers and processors. While there are several

new growers, there is a sense of isolation, coupled with restrictions that are preventing innovation.

### DESIRED STATE

There is a desire for new ideas, new crops, shared infrastructure, better local wisdom, expertise, innovation, capital investment, and community-owned farmland that would result in the production of healthy, local food, and increased community support and involvement. Food is the core that links the producer with the community and the community with the world. There is a sense that these links could be achieved through more direct involvement of the community – potentially through an innovative marketing strategy and through strategic outside investment and support.

### FOOD & AGRICULTURE INTERESTS

The following key activities have been identified by Mayne Island participants during the SGI Food and Agriculture Strategy process:

- ▶ Collect and maintain current and future local food and agricultural information;
- ▶ Pursue strategies and policies that support farming and increase the extent of active farmland;
- ▶ Pursue coordinated approaches that benefit local food and agriculture initiatives, businesses and activities;
- ▶ Address farm worker issues such as lack of housing and low wages;
- ▶ Promote Mayne Island community partnership among farmers and food producers and consumers to support and collaborate with one another;
- ▶ Pursue a Mayne Island co-operative of growers, food producers, retail and organizations;
- ▶ Pursue a Mayne Island grower and food product brand;
- ▶ Research use of carbon/gas tax, property transfer tax and the carbon credit market;



- ▶ Establish a set of actions for the community to implement over time to create sustained food and agriculture economy and culture;
- ▶ Pursue a farmland trust to hold and manage farmable lands in perpetuity;
- ▶ Pursue activities that increase land available for farming;
- ▶ Diversify the Island's food products;

- ▶ Pursue appropriate and viable niche market food items;
- ▶ Mitigate wildlife impacts on food and forage production;
- ▶ Increase local food and agriculture skills;
- ▶ Create a robust and inclusive Mayne Island food program; and
- ▶ Increase awareness and appreciation of Mayne Island's farm and food heritage.

# MAYNE

## Land Use & Farming

- Used for farming - mixed use
- Used only for farming
- Residential
- No apparent use
- Recreation & leisure - golf
- Protected area / park / reserve
- Institutional & commun
- Transportation, commu
- Commercial & service
- Utilities
- Gravel extraction
- Dumps & deposits
- Water management

## Small scale agriculture (< 500 sqM )

- Greenhouse
- Fruit garden
- Vegetable garden
- Mixed garden

## Parcels

- Surveyed
- Not surveyed

## Agricultural Land Reserve

- Boundaries (2014)

## Indian Reserves

- Boundaries (2014)

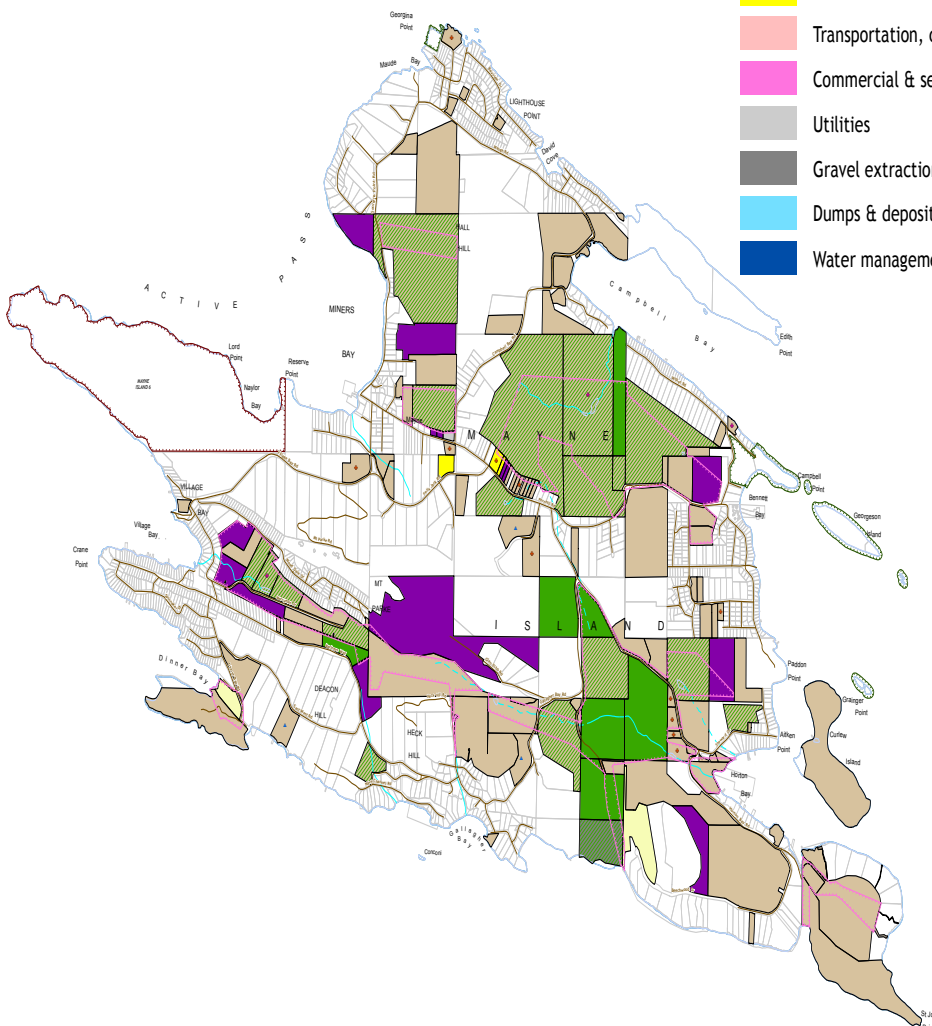
## Provincial Parks

- Boundaries (2014)

## Local Trust Area

- Boundaries (2014)

0 1 2 3 km



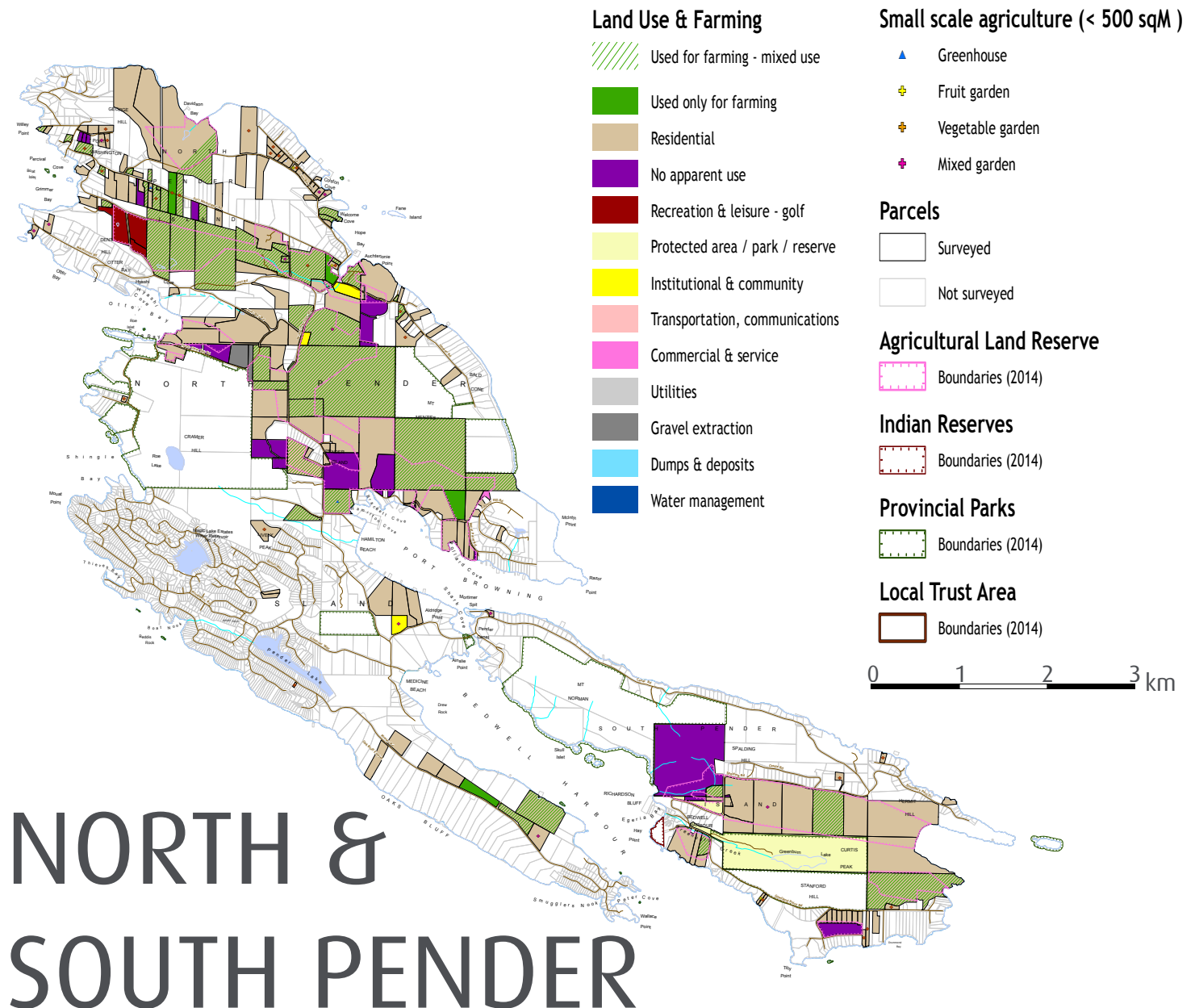
## North and South Pender

The Penders, as locals call them, were once an island joined by an isthmus. In 1902 this isthmus was dredged to make a large canal for The Iroquois steamship to move safely between Hope Bay dock on North Pender to Sidney. In 1955, the islands were re-joined – this time by a one-lane bridge. Together they encompass 3,660 ha with North Pender being the larger at 2,730 ha. South Pender has a permanent population of around 200 people. North Pender's population is just over 2,000. Each island is covered by its own separate Local Trust Area.

## PAST

Named after Daniel Pender, master of the Plumper, in 1857, the Penders saw a surprising amount of industry for islands their size. At one time or another there was a thriving brick making enterprise, a herring saltery, a fertilizer plant and a cedar shake roofing company, as well as logging activities.

Early European settlers cleared the land for farming, which was required to secure tenure of the land. They selected the valleys with richer soil, flat topography and water to produce a variety of crops. Livestock and poultry were also kept. Agricultural products had a



higher relative value in those early days; wool especially. The Gulf Islands, well located between Victoria and Vancouver, could ship apples and milk to the creamery on Salt Spring. A vital dairy industry flourished on Pender Island, with many high-quality Jersey cows producing milk and breeding stock.

In 1958 electricity came to Pender Island. In 1965 BC Ferries built a dock at Otter Bay, which allowed increased development of the island, especially in Gulf Garden Estates (now Magic lake Estates).

## PRESENT

On North and South Pender there are sheep, cattle, poultry (chickens, ducks, turkeys), hazelnuts, figs, olives, hops, wine grapes/vineyards, a winery, orchards. Various market and home gardens and orchards as well. Hay production (one crop of grass hay is usual), and sometimes oat hay is grown. Like many of their Gulf Island neighbours, farm produce is marketed directly to residents and seasonal visitors through several roadside stands but mainly through the Pender Islands Farmers' Market, located at the Pender Islands Recreation and Agricultural Hall (est. 1996), and runs every Saturday morning from Easter to Thanksgiving. The Penders also boast their own Farmers' Institute - one of only 3 in the CRD. Established in 1899 the Farmer's institute is responsible for running the award-winning Pender Islands Fall Fair, the Farmers' Market and participates in the management of the Community Hall. Today it is the main organization with an interest in supporting and advancing food and agriculture interests on the Penders. Most services, including the BC Ferry terminal, are located on North Pender. South Pender Island has the resort development Poets' Cove, located in Bedwell Harbour. It includes a small seasonal grocery store for boaters and tourist and hosts a small Sunday market during the height of summer.

There is a recognition that while there is growing interest in local food and several new farms and growers and food enterprises, there is room for improvement. Despite the potential that exists, those interested in pursuing this line of work are often blocked and hindered. Hard work is not enough. Marketing is difficult, with producers often unintentionally competing. This lack of marketing and distribution coordination is seen as an important issue that needs to be addressed – perhaps with a more cooperative approach that includes co-operative growing and perhaps processing, distribution, sharing of equipment, transportation, innovative marketing. Steps are being taken by the Farmers' Institute to try to address this.

## DESIRED STATE

There is a desire for more cooperative approaches that encourage and support local year-round eating. In addition to those mentioned previously, these include: co-operative infrastructure for machinery, water catchment, and greenhouses; potentially a farm store used by all farmers year round. Residents would like to have local food year-round and local exemptions for regulations intended for larger markets or larger producers.

There is an interest in providing business and market development support for new farmers and those with year-round operations; establishing cooperative marketing, distribution and transportation and processing approaches; multi-island subscription agriculture programs; and food and agriculture education programs—either integrated within the school year or as summer camp programs.

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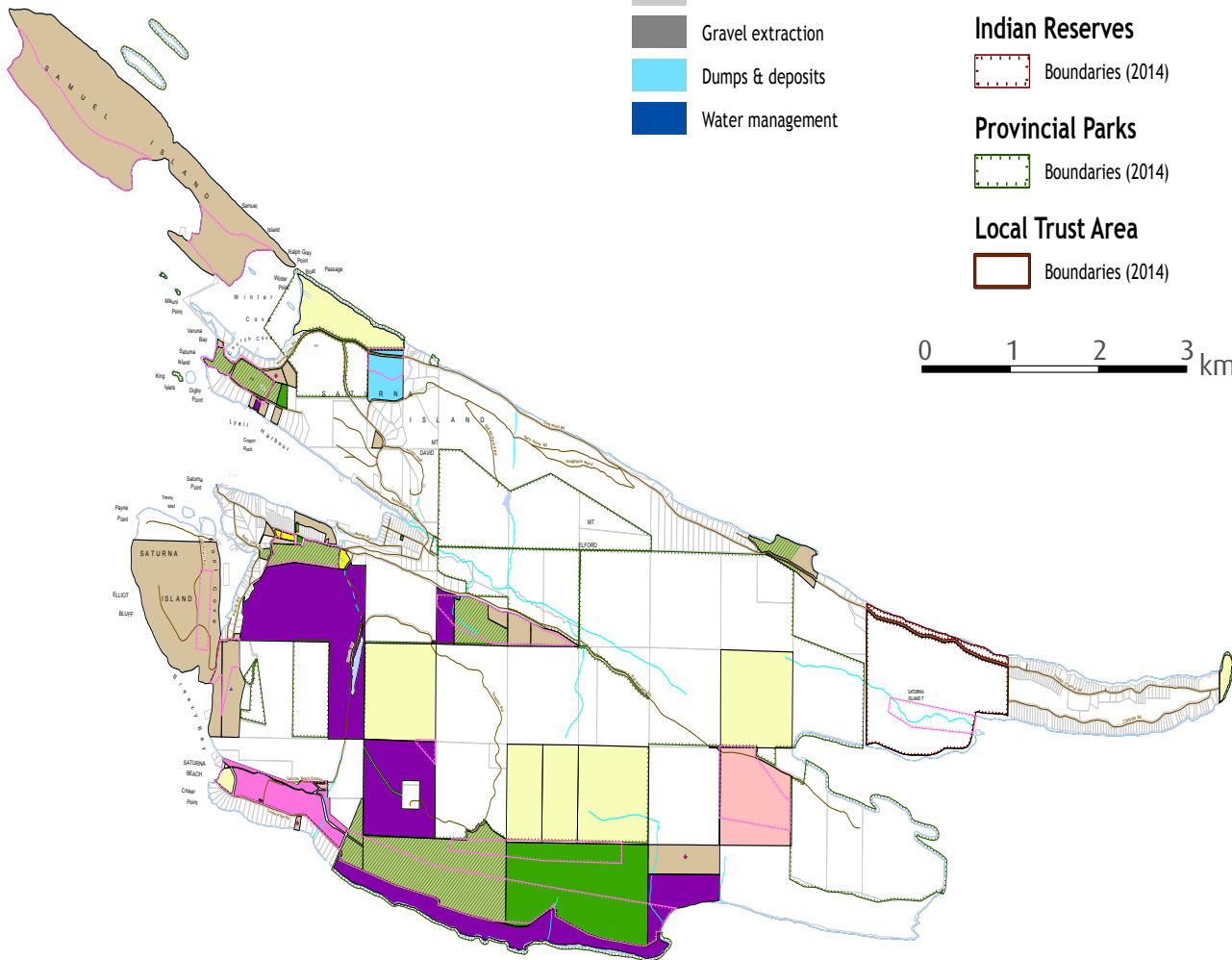
<sup>29</sup> <http://pifi.ca/pages/frmrsmkt.html>

<sup>30</sup> <http://pifi.ca>

<sup>31</sup> <http://pifi.ca/pages/fallfair.html>



# SATURNA



## Saturna

The 3,125 ha Island at the far eastern edge of the Southern Gulf Island archipelago is named after the Spanish schooner, the Saturnina that explored the Southern Gulf Islands in 1791. It is a hilly island with limited growing areas. At almost 400 m Mount Warburton Pike is the highest point in the Southern Gulf Islands. Approximately half of the island is in the Gulf Islands National Park Reserve. Saturna and the neighbouring private island, Samuel Island (190 ha) are both within the Saturna Island Local Trust Area. It has a permanent population of around 300 people.

### PAST

This hilly island was gradually settled, as it is well removed from the traffic of Active Pass and has limited deposits of fertile soil. Early settlers developed orchards and raised sheep. Feral descendants of some of these early sheep are still present. The first British settler arrived in 1869 with Peter Frazier purchasing crown land for one pound an acre. Four years later, Charles Trueworthy developed a large homestead of 570 ha facing on Plumper Sound.

### PRESENT

Saturna once held half of the land in the Agricultural Land Reserve (approximately 1,000 ha.). With the establishment of the National Park Reserve, which took in almost half of the island's land area, these holdings have been significantly diminished. Today there are several active farms that are raising sheep and cattle and poultry. The largest and most well established farm, the Campbell farm maintains the only abattoir facility in the Gulf Islands. There are three active restaurants, two small grocery stores and a Saturday market that runs during the summer. The Saturna Lamb Barbecue is a successful annual event that brings tourists and the island together for one big community fundraiser that also boosts lamb sales throughout the Gulf Islands.

Of the larger islands in the Southern Gulf Island archipelago, Saturna is arguably the most challenged by its isolation (it has the poorest BC Ferry connection) and

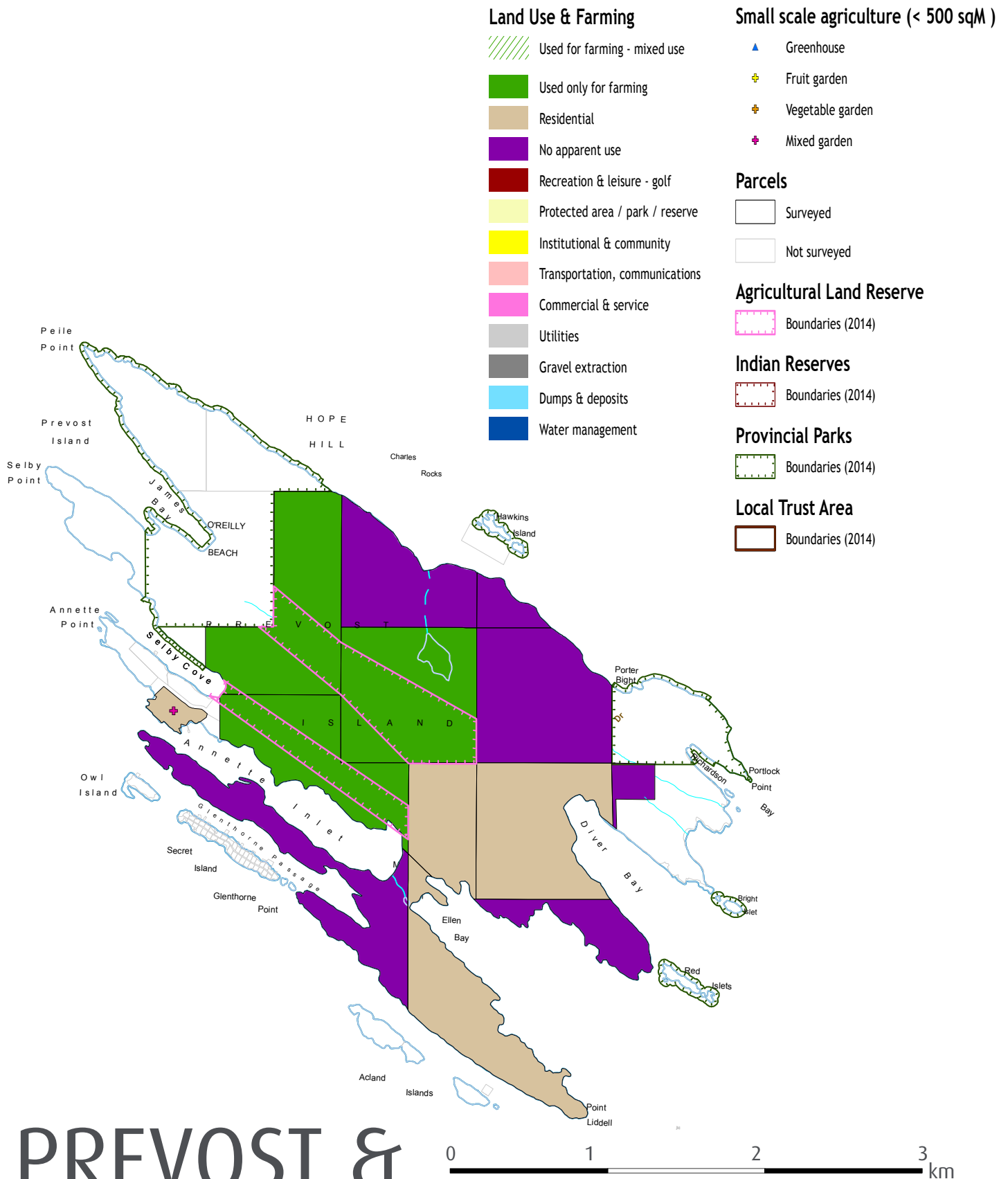
small population. This translates into a small, if captive, market. There is recognition that the island's producers only produce a fraction of the food consumed by the community with most food products being purchased off island. In addition to an apparent disconnection between local consumers and producers, traditional and wild marine and terrestrial food sources are currently under-appreciated and under-utilized. There is also a sense of lack of control of agricultural issues and a lack of capacity for dedicated organization to support island food and agriculture activities.

### DESIRED STATE

There is a desire to raise local consumption significantly (to 80%) with residents valuing local growers and providers. The farming and local community have discussed working together to help each other and "build the market", perhaps through the establishment of a local food cooperative to assist with storage, production and sales. Residents would like to see improved inter-island transportation and more support from government in the form of subsidies and tax relief.

There is a desire to:

- ▶ Establish more community food growing, and a distribution system that would engage people more with the production and consumption of their food;
- ▶ Create a community food box program utilizing farmer and gardener generated products;
- ▶ Create a community garden;
- ▶ Establish mutual farm co-operation for help and advocacy in information and consumer education, and local food programs.
- ▶ Communicate the value of locally produced food and provide opportunities for cooperation and encouragement of young farmers; and
- ▶ Provide or pursue education and extension programs and determine growing potential and potential market opportunities.





## Prevost Island

Prevost Island is located east of Ganges Harbour and midway between the southeastern extremity of Salt Spring Island and the south end of Galiano Island. The 685 ha island was named for James Charles Prevost, British Commissioner for the San Juan Island boundary dispute of 1859-1870 and captain of the HMS Satellite. It is part of the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area.

### PAST

Digby de Burgh, an Irishman from County Limerick, who used it to raise sheep, goats and cattle, bought most of the island as a farm in the 1920s. His descendants still own much of the island, which is still primarily a sheep and cattle farm. A few smaller private homes have been built on the northwest side of the island. With the establishment of the Gulf Islands National Park in 2003 two areas of the island have been acquired and included in the Reserve area.

### PRESENT

Approximately 80 ha of the island is covered by the Agricultural Land Reserve. Much of the island is still owned by the de Burgh family who maintain the largest commercial flock of sheep in the Southern Gulf Islands. Access to the island is still via private boat and supplies must be brought in by barge – usually via Swartz Bay. Conversely, livestock are transported off using the same method. Over the years parts of the island have been subdivided and sold. There is an internal road network but the island is responsible for its own power. There are two areas - James Bay and Selby Cove on the north end of the island, and Portlock Point and Red and Bright Islets on the south end - that are now protected by the Gulf Islands Parks Reserve.

### KEY ISSUES

Given the current situation key challenges appear to be:

- ▶ Access to market
- ▶ Escalating costs (feed, transport, etc.)
- ▶ Aging farm family and possibly farm succession

## The Associated Islands

There are about 40 smaller islands that lie in the area south of the Pender Islands. Most of these are part of the North Pender Local Trust Area – an area, referred to as the Associated Islands that has its own Official Community Plan and Land Use Bylaw, administered by the North Pender Local Trust Committee. Moresby, Sidney, James, Coal, Brethour and Knapp Islands currently have agricultural activity, in addition to land that is zoned for agricultural use.

### PAST

These islands share a similar First Nations past with the other islands of the archipelago. They too were “discovered” by early European explorers in the late 1700s. However, like Prevost, they were generally purchased and settled by individual families or early corporations. Thus, they never experienced the same settlement and populations pressures experienced by the larger Gulf Islands. Most of these early settlements involved agricultural activities to supply their own needs. Any production beyond this was sold to markets on Southern Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland.

Moresby Island was first settled in 1863. In the early 1900s the 563 ha island was apparently a thriving agricultural operation with extensive apple orchards and vegetable gardens that supplied Vancouver and Victoria grocers. Over its recent history, the island has been extensively logged but today is predominantly treed with most of its agricultural operations restricted to the western side of the island. The island is subdivided into 17 titles but remains under the ownership of one family, which purchased the island in 1990.

James Island was owned by a group of wealthy Victorians in the late 1800s – a group that included the premier of BC. This group established the island as a private hunting reserve and imported fallow deer (from Britain), mountain sheep, pheasants, partridge, grouse and quail. The deer eventually crossed to nearby Sidney Island. Prior to its sale to Canadian Industries Limited (CIL) in 1913, it boasted the best apple orchard in BC. The first owners also raised and trained racehorses along with dogs. The company purchased the island

and established an explosive plant there as well as a village for workers and their families. At its peak, 350 people lived on the island. The plant was closed in 1978. In 1994, an American businessman purchased the island and began a development that included extensive environmental restoration of the CIL works, the establishment of a golf course, guest cottages and a small organic produce operation.

Sidney Island was subdivided and marketed by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1859. In 1902 it was sold to Mr. Courtney who established the Sidney Island Brick and Tile Company in 1906. Bricks manufactured here from clay deposits were used in the construction of several notable BC buildings including the Empress Hotel. The Company went bankrupt in 1925. In 1915, two-thirds of the island was sold to another syndicate of wealthy Victorians who used it as a private hunting reserve. Over time control was gained by one individual who raised sheep but also imported pheasants, peacocks, wild turkeys, and blacktail deer. By this time fallow deer had become established. In 1981 this holding was sold to a forestry company that established a tree farm. BC Parks acquired the remaining northern portion of the island (approximately one third of the island) the same year. In 2003, the park area became part of the Gulf Islands National Park Reserve.

## PRESENT

Moresby Island is currently up for sale. The 60 ha agricultural operation, which includes about 120 head of cattle, along with a few horses and sheep, is managed by a caretaker. The operation has extensive forage and pasture areas including a large barn that is visible from the ferry and a three-bedroom residence. Limited improvements on the island include the residence, a sheltered dock, a barn, storage sheds, a fresh water supply and power supplied by a diesel generator.

James Island is also currently for sale. Recent luxury resort developments on the island include a golf course, yacht moorage, seaplane ramp, and an airstrip. The current owner reportedly established an environmental regime where insecticides are not allowed, power lines

are underground and electric cars and golf carts are used for transportation. It is not known whether or not the organic farm is in operation.

The private lands of Sidney Island total approximately 712 ha and include 111 bare land strata lots totaling about 122 ha. Ownership includes the strata lot and a proportionate interest in the 590 ha of common property of the Strata Corporation, the common facilities and other assets of the Strata Corporation. Currently there does not appear to be any significant agricultural activities taking place. There is a heritage orchard that is managed by volunteers for the use and enjoyment of all the owners on the island. The fallow deer that were originally introduced to James Island in 1902 have had a devastating impact on the island's vegetation. Hunting has been allowed on the private lands. Between 2008-2013 a more active management approach was taken with assistance from the Province, the Islands Trust Fund and Parks Canada, which included an onsite deer-handling barn and capture facilities that was then paired with a mobile abattoir. This allowed for a significant reduction of the fallow deer population. The wild venison was sold to Vancouver markets. It is not known if this operation is still in place. The island currently employs a full time resident manager responsible for maintenance and security throughout the island.

The remaining islands are privately owned and managed, and generally have an onsite caretaker or staff. Without exception, it has been difficult to connect to the owners or caretakers of the islands.

## KEY ISSUES

Given the current situation key challenges appear to be:

- ▶ Ability to contact island owners and caretakers
- ▶ Access to market
- ▶ Escalating costs (feed, transport, etc.)
- ▶ Turn-over of ownership (2 of the largest islands are on the market)
- ▶ Farm succession

- Potential disconnection from other island-related agriculture and food activities including a potential marketing strategy







## 6 | RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations respond to identified issues and opportunities. The recommended actions are Southern Gulf Islands-wide in nature and scope, broadly supported, have the potential to have a significant and systematic impact on the archipelago's food and agriculture, and build on or support existing CRD, Islands Trust and community activities or initiatives.

- 1.** Establish an effective, collaborative structure to deliver and manage the SGI Food and Agriculture Strategy;
- 2.** Protect and support existing and emerging local food and agriculture activities and interests;
- 3.** Pursue economic development opportunities and approaches that benefit local food and agriculture initiatives, businesses and activities;
- 4.** Undertake a detailed local economic development strategy for food and agriculture;
- 5.** Protect and maintain local farmland;
- 6.** Pursue strategies that increase land available for farming;
- 7.** Encourage the use of ecological farming practices;
- 8.** Pursue beneficial climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies;
- 9.** Increase opportunities for local food and agriculture education and training;
- 10.** Improve understanding and appreciation of local food and agriculture by local and seasonal residents;
- 11.** Connect youth with local food and agriculture;
- 12.** Determine state of SGI food system;
- 13.** Increase the local production capabilities of the non-commercial portion of the food and agriculture sector;
- 14.** Increase local, healthy food choices;
- 15.** Encourage a place-based regional food culture by building relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities; and
- 16.** Support Indigenous food and agriculture-related activities, projects and events.



# LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE

1

Establish an effective, collaborative structure to deliver and manage the SGI Food and Agriculture Strategy.

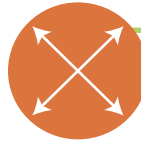
The Southern Gulf Islands, with a small population of around 5,000 full-time residents, is spread across five major islands and numerous smaller ones and linked by a limited ferry service. There is a need to develop the intra and inter island connections necessary to achieve the guiding vision of the SGIFAS and successfully deliver the recommendations identified in the Strategy.

## ASSOCIATED ACTIONS



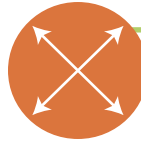
Establish a local organization to support and develop inter-island collaboration that can advocate for, connect and support the ongoing development of the Southern Gulf Islands' food and agricultural interests.

- ▶ Re-constitute and convene the SGIFAS Steering Committee as part of the proposed SGI Food and Agriculture Organization (SGIFAO) membership.
- ▶ Mechanism to provide appropriate necessary oversight and service support (perhaps by the SGICESC).
- ▶ Identify and develop the appropriate governance structure, reporting procedures, responsibilities, and timeline. Identify staffing and resource requirements.



Continue to connect, support and strengthen existing SGI food and agriculture organizations.

- ▶ The Southern Gulf Islands already has several well-established food and agriculture organizations that are doing great work. It's important to support and connect them in a way that helps improve food and agriculture activities and initiatives in the archipelago.



Establish an inter-island communication network.

- ▶ Formalize and further develop the communication network and platform that has been developed through the SGIFAS process.

## Desired Outcomes:

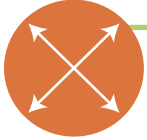
- The continued delivery and growth of local food and agriculture initiatives across the Southern Gulf Islands through existing organizations.
- Effective implementation of the Strategy.
- Ongoing collaboration and communication.

## 2

Protect and support existing and emerging local food and agriculture interests and activities.

Land available and suitable to produce food and agriculture is limited and should be carefully protected and stewarded by the Southern Gulf Islands food and agriculture community.

### ASSOCIATED ACTIONS



Establish a body that could act as an Agriculture Advisory Commission (AAC) for the Southern Gulf Islands.

- ▶ Work with the Islands Trust to consider this possibility.
- ▶ Potentially made up of members from the proposed SGIFAO.
- ▶ With the Islands Trust, establish the appropriate governance structure, reporting procedures, responsibilities, and timeline. Identify staffing and resource requirements.



Establish and maintain local food and agricultural information.

- ▶ Guided by proposed SGIFAO.
- ▶ Maintain and improve baseline food and agricultural data sharing for the Southern Gulf Island area.
- ▶ Monitor and respond to changes to the SGI's agricultural sector and land base.



Provide knowledgeable and supportive services.

- ▶ Ensure that local government staff has the appropriate level of understanding of food and agriculture and associated legislative/regulatory frameworks.
- ▶ Pursue strategies and actions that support farming and local food activities that increase the quality and quantity of farmland within SGI.
- ▶ Establish a local food procurement policy for all local government-related events and service organizations.



Participate in regional, provincial and national agricultural discussions.

- ▶ Ensure that local interests and concerns are represented and attended to.

### Desired Outcomes:

- Continued delivery and growth of local food and agriculture initiatives across the Southern Gulf Islands through existing organizations.
- Effective implementation of the Strategy.
- Increased collaboration and communication.

# ECONOMIC VIABILITY

3

Pursue economic development opportunities and approaches that benefit local food and agriculture initiatives, businesses and activities.

Economic viability is an ongoing challenge, particularly for the Southern Gulf Islands food and agriculture sector, which has a limited market due to a small, distributed population and high input costs. That said, the Southern Gulf Islands have an identity that should be capitalized on. This approach combines the desire and need for collaboration and cooperation with the area's compelling, shared identity.

## ASSOCIATED ACTIONS



Develop a coordinated marketing/branding strategy for Southern Gulf Island food & agricultural products.

- ▶ Capitalize on the identity of the Southern Gulf Islands.
- ▶ Reinforce collaborative approaches that support the guiding vision.



Work with local organizations and government agencies to address farm labour challenges.

- ▶ Identify approaches that help local operations access labour and connect aspiring farmers with farm and farmland owners.
- ▶ Facilitate connections between producers that require skilled labour and existing employment programs (e.g. agri labour pool; student summer job program; Step-Up; and SOIL

apprenticeships).

- ▶ Led by proposed SGIFAO with support and involvement of the CRD and SGICESC, local Chambers of Commerce and food and agriculture organizations, Ministry of Agriculture, and Islands Trust.



Identify new approaches and activities that help realize the vision for food and agriculture in the Southern Gulf Islands.

- ▶ Continue to explore and test new and emerging approaches that might improve the economic health of the sector.

## Desired Outcomes:

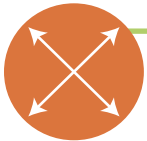
- Greater visibility, appreciation and support for the sector on and outside of the Southern Gulf Islands.
- Improved economic health of the sector.
- Increased collaboration and communication.
- Conditions for innovation.

# 4

Undertake a detailed local economic development strategy for food and agriculture.

There is a need for a deeper understanding of the sector's economic situation with ideas and direction on how it could be advanced. Economic viability is critical to achieving the guiding vision.

## ASSOCIATED ACTIONS



Initiate an Economic Development Strategy that considers individual farm opportunities as well as larger, longer-term archipelago-wide approaches.

- ▶ Led by SGIFAO with support and guidance from SGICESC.
- ▶ Could be done in collaboration with Salt Spring Island.
- ▶ Process would include identifying and establishing key approaches, facilities and infrastructure to stimulate and diversify local food and agriculture.
- ▶ The Market Opportunities Assessment will provide a good foundation for this work.

### Desired Outcomes:

- Increased economic viability for the food and agriculture sector.
- Increased cross-sectoral and inter-island collaboration and cooperation resulting in better and more sustainable outcomes.





# PROTECTION & STEWARDSHIP

5

## Protect and maintain local farmland.

There is concern for the protection of local farmland to ensure continued viability of farming livelihoods and local food production. Land protection mechanisms that are equitable to farmland owners while protecting local food production capacity in perpetuity are needed.

### Desired Outcomes:

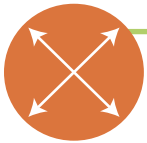
- Ongoing protection of agriculture and foodlands.
- Zero net loss of farmland

### ASSOCIATED ACTIONS



Protect and maintain ALR and food growing areas.

- ▶ Continue to advocate for the protection and utilization of local farmland.
- ▶ Establish an SGI Agriculture Advisory Commission to provide support and advice to Local Trust Committees.



Consider the establishment of land bank or trust.

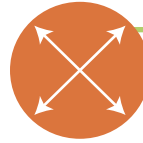
- ▶ Led by SGIFAO with participation of CRD, Islands Trust, Islands Trust Fund, Ministry of Agriculture, local conservancies, and regional land trust organizations.
- ▶ Explore the possibility of establishing an organization or entity that can hold, manage and ultimately protect local farmland.
- ▶ Could be connected to discussions beginning in the CRD.<sup>32</sup>

6

## Pursue strategies that increase land available for farming.

Increasing land available for farming and growing food in the Southern Gulf Islands is a central goal of this process and the vision. This could be one of the core services provided by the SGIFAO – working with the existing island food and agriculture organizations.

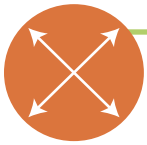
### ASSOCIATED ACTIONS



Identify and highlight activities and initiatives that benefit or increase food and agriculture activities on farmland.

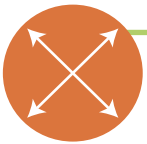
- ▶ Draw attention to successful approaches and operations.
- ▶ Share experience and knowledge gained to amplify and spread their success.
- ▶ May have a business development aspect that would benefit from support and guidance from SGICESC.
- ▶ Could be further developed as part of the proposed Economic Development Strategy.

<sup>32</sup> <http://pifi.ca/pages/frmrsmkt.html>



Identify long-term land tenure, financing and management options that support and encourage successful farm enterprises.

- ▶ Done in advance of or during the development of the proposed food and agriculture economic development strategy.
- ▶ Potentially an important element of the proposed farmland trust.



Establish a database or service that links available farmland with potential farmers.

- ▶ Established and maintained by the proposed SGIFAO.
- ▶ Housed on and accessed via the [growingislands.com](http://growingislands.com) website.

#### Desired Outcomes:

- More farmland being farmed with greater intensity and resulting productivity.
- Increased access to farmland by young and emerging farmers.
- Increased local food production and food security.

7

Encourage the use of ecological farming practices.

While most farms in the Southern Gulf Islands are using ecological farm practices, there is always room for improvement. The proposed Southern Gulf Island brand should highlight these approaches.

#### ASSOCIATED ACTIONS



Encourage participation in programs that result in the implementation of beneficial farm management practices.

- ▶ This would be greatly assisted by the establishment of the SGIFAO and the SGI Agriculture Advisory Commission.
- ▶ Work with local, regional, provincial, and national government and non-government organizations for effective delivery.

#### Desired Outcomes:

- Improved understanding and implementation of ecological farm practices
- Access to resources to support implementation.
- Improved local community health.
- Increased visibility and marketability of SGI-grown products.

# 8

## Pursue beneficial climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.

The effects of climate change are already being experienced in the Southern Gulf Islands. Drier summers and wetter winters will challenge local food producers. There is a need to identify, develop and implement approaches that mitigate the effects of these changes.

### ASSOCIATED ACTIONS



Identify and implement island-wide and island-specific approaches to address and respond to anticipated impacts of climate change.

- ▶ Coordination provided by the proposed SGIFAO.
- ▶ Work with local, regional, provincial, and national government and non-government organizations for effective delivery and to capitalize on existing programs.

#### Desired Outcomes:

- Improved resiliency of the food and agriculture sector to climatic changes.
- Coordinated response to these challenges.
- Opportunity to learn and help each other.



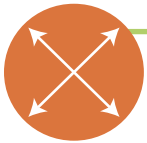
# EDUCATION & TRAINING

9

Increase opportunities for local food and agriculture education and training.

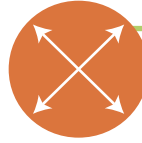
There is a need to provide appropriate educational and training opportunities for new or transitioning farmers. While information is increasingly available online, there is benefit for face-to-face experiences and for efforts that supplement on-island support.

## ASSOCIATED ACTIONS



Continue to provide a range of needs-based training opportunities for local farmers and food providers through existing food and agriculture organizations.

- ▶ Island food and agriculture organizations are already providing an array of important and customized education and training opportunities. The proposed SGIFAO could assist with coordination.
- ▶ Advocate for more support for more dedicated extension services—through the Ministry of Agriculture’s Regional Agrologist position and through the establishment of a CRD staff position.
- ▶ Continue to identify and meet the educational and training needs of the community.
- ▶ Ensure educational programming supports the outcomes of the proposed Economic Development Strategy.



Explore ways to support and expand the existing educational training opportunities available to food and agricultural producers.

- ▶ Identify and address emerging education and training needs including mentorship opportunities.
- ▶ Build on the work being achieved on each of the larger islands by the current local food and agriculture organizations.
- ▶ Explore ways of using web-based education platforms.
- ▶ Establish supportive connections with proposed Food and Agriculture Economic Development Strategy.

## Desired Outcomes:

- Improved support for new and transitioning farmers.
- Improved outcomes for participating farmers.
- Development of local expertise that could be shared with others.
- Increased sense of community that comes from learning together.

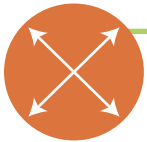


10

Improve understanding and appreciation of local food and agriculture by local and seasonal residents.

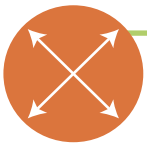
Those who are not directly involved in the food and agriculture sector can still have an impact. Whether this impact is positive or negative often depends on the understanding and appreciation of the local food and agriculture sector. Island citizens who understand and appreciate food and agriculture producers are more likely to be supportive.

#### ASSOCIATED ACTIONS



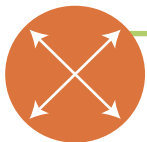
Develop educational materials for full-time, seasonal, new and future residents as well as visitors.

- ▶ Led by proposed SGIFAO with participation of local food and agriculture organizations.
- ▶ Reveal the area's food and agriculture features and heritage to wider community and visitors.
- ▶ Connect to the proposed Southern Gulf Islands Food and Agriculture Marketing Plan.



Encourage agriculture-focused public education activities, events and celebrations.

- ▶ Identify existing activities and events that could feature local agriculture.



Provide opportunities for productive exchanges between farming and non-farming community.

- ▶ Identify existing activities and events that could feature local agriculture.

#### Desired Outcomes:

- Improved local awareness and appreciation for food and agriculture.
- Increased support for food and farming.

11

Connect youth with local food and agriculture.

There is a need to connect youth with food and agriculture. Healthy eating habits are instilled at an early age. There is also a need for younger farmers.

#### ASSOCIATED ACTIONS



Support the integration and expansion of food and agricultural education activities and initiatives within SGI's school programs.

- ▶ Support the establishment of more school gardens and food-related programming and facilities and integrate within the community.

#### Desired Outcomes:

- Improved appreciation for local food and farming.
- Improved eating habits.
- Increased awareness of the sector as a prospective profession.

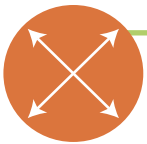
# COMMUNITY HEALTH

12

Connect youth with local food and agriculture.

There is increasing interest in the health and sustainability of the island food systems, particularly food security. This kind of assessment, which focuses on food production and consumption patterns, requires the collection of different and more detailed sets of information. There is growing interest in how food secure the islands are. This kind of assessment could be a useful indicator and motivator for the achievement of the guiding vision.

## ASSOCIATED ACTIONS



Undertake a community food system assessment of the Southern Gulf Islands.

- ▶ Measure progress, identify priorities to improve food security and resiliency and ultimately support the development of a more complete and more resilient local food system.
- ▶ Include consideration of the distribution, integration into community services and use of local foods by residents.

### Desired Outcomes:

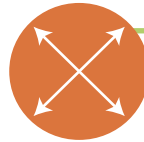
- Greater clarity about the health, sustainability and security of the Gulf Islands' food system.
- Establishment of an indicator that would be useful in measuring progress toward the achievement of the guiding vision.

13

Increase the local production capabilities of the non-commercial/community aspects of the food and agriculture sector.

Interest in growing food is increasing in the island communities. There is an opportunity to encourage non-commercial food growing activities that improve the food security and productivity of the islands and island communities while also increasing local appreciation and support for commercially produced and prepared local food.

## ASSOCIATED ACTIONS



Increase number of community, home and school gardens.

- ▶ Support the public's growing interest in food gardening.
- ▶ Further expand the public's understanding and valuing of local farmers and food producers.



Encourage connections between non-commercial and commercial growers.

- ▶ Connect to the proposed marketing approach (Recommendation 3).

### Desired Outcomes:

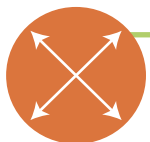
- Increased food security.
- Increased appreciation and support for local producers and processors.

# 14

## Increase local, healthy food choices.

The impact of the effects of unhealthy lifestyles and food is being felt across the developed world. Consequently, societal desire and support is increasing for providing local, healthy food choices.

### ASSOCIATED ACTIONS



Increase attention and support for local food growing and eating initiatives and opportunities that emphasize health.

- ▶ Underscores the connection between healthy eating and healthy local agriculture.
- ▶ Connected to the proposed marketing approach (Recommendation 3).

#### Desired Outcomes:

- Increased health.
- Increased diversity of healthy food choices.



# FIRST NATIONS TRADITIONAL FOODS

15

Encourage a place-based regional food culture by building relationships between Indigenous and non- Indigenous communities.

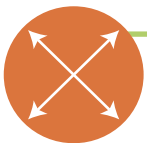
The process to create a food and agriculture strategy for the Southern Gulf Islands has provided an opportunity to initiate the development of meaningful relationships with Indigenous communities that will lead to a greater appreciation and understanding of their perspectives on local foods and medicines. The Indigenous peoples share many of the concerns that the non-Indigenous community has for food and agriculture.

## ASSOCIATED ACTIONS



Develop meaningful relationships with Indigenous communities through local food and agriculture discussions and activities.

- ▶ Support and participate in Indigenous food issues and agricultural activities.
- ▶ Work with local organizations, government agencies and First Nations groups to establish and develop new initiatives.



Strengthen the understanding and appreciation of Indigenous food and agricultural activities and interests.

- ▶ Integrate and involve the Indigenous community in events that feature local food and agriculture.

## Desired Outcomes:

- Improved relations with Indigenous communities.
- Improved understanding and appreciation of traditional food knowledge.
- Greater number of successful Indigenous food and agriculture initiatives and activities.

16

Support Indigenous food and agriculture-related activities, projects and events.

Build on existing collaborative partnerships and activities occurring between Indigenous communities, government agencies and community groups in the region.

## ASSOCIATED ACTIONS



Support Indigenous food and agriculture-related activities and initiatives in the Southern Gulf Islands.

- ▶ Participate in and support existing festivals, celebrations, feasts and ceremonies.
- ▶ Explore ways to support First Nations initiatives that aim to revive, reintroduce and restore access to traditional foods.
- ▶ Explore ways and means to accommodate access to Regional Parks for traditional and cultural uses.



#### Desired Outcomes:

- Increased and regular harvesting of traditional foods from the land and the sea.
- Cleaner environment e.g. reduced shellfish closures, improved monitoring results (marine and stormwater).
- Renewal of cultural practices around food harvesting and knowledge transfer to youth.
- Increased attendance by non-Indigenous community to First Nations feasts and celebrations.
- Re-introduction of rare or endangered traditional plants on public lands.



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## 7 | ACTION PLAN

In keeping with the action-oriented approach of the CRD Food and Agriculture Strategy, the following action plan table identifies some components of the recommended actions. The Strategy was developed to build consensus on a shared path forward. Implementation will be facilitated with working relationships that honour and support participant interests and concerns and that foster innovation and trust. Given financial and human (stakeholder time and energy) resource limitations, it will be important to prioritize actions.



## ACTION PLAN TABLE



1

Establish an effective, collaborative structure to deliver and manage the SGI Food and Agriculture Strategy

### ASSOCIATED ACTIONS



Establish a local organization to support and develop inter-island collaboration – that can advocate for, connect and support the ongoing development of the SGI's food and agricultural interests.

Continue to connect, support and strengthen existing SGI food and agriculture organizations.

Establish an inter-island communication network.

### PARTICIPANTS & ROLES<sup>33</sup>



Initially hosted & resourced by the SGIEDC. Participants would involve members of the SGIFAS Steering Committee, and support from the CRD and IT.

**Precedent:** [SSI Agriculture Alliance](#)

**Precedent:** Growing Islands ([website](#), [Facebook group](#))

2

Protect and support existing and emerging local food and agriculture interests and activities

Establishing a body that could act as Agriculture Advisory Commission (AAC) for the SGI.

Establish and maintain local food and agricultural information.

Provide knowledgeable and supportive services.

Participate in regional, provincial and national agricultural discussions.

Islands Trust - with input support from the proposes SGIFAO.

**Precedent:** [Peninsula & Area Agriculture Commission](#)

Islands Trust and CRD with input from SGIFAO.

**Precedent:** [CRD Community Indicators Network](#)

Islands Trust and CRD.

**Precedent:** CRD RFAS

SGIFAO, CRD and Islands Trust.






TIMING (START) 	UTILIZE EXISTING RESOURCES \$	REQUIRES ADDITIONAL FUNDING \$	REQUIRES EXTERNAL FUNDING \$
2017/2018	✓	✓	
2017/2018	✓	✓	
2017/2018	✓		
2017/2018	✓	✓	
2018/2019	✓	✓	
2017/2018	✓		
2017/2018	✓		

<sup>33</sup> Examples of similar approaches, activities or programs within the CRD organization that



<sup>34</sup> <https://www.crd.bc.ca/about/data/regional-information/capital-region-community-indicators-network>

## ACTION PLAN TABLE (CONTINUED)

	ASSOCIATED ACTIONS 	PARTICIPANTS & ROLES 
<b>3</b> Pursue economic development opportunities and approaches that benefit local food and agriculture initiatives, businesses and activities	Develop a coordinated marketing/branding approach for SGI food & agricultural products.	SGIFAO with assistance from the SGICESC. <b>Precedent:</b> CRD RFAS
	Work with local organizations and government agencies to address farm labour challenges.	SGIFAO with Island food and ag. organizations. <b>Precedent:</b> <a href="#">SSI Agriculture Alliance</a>
	Identify new approaches and activities that help realize the vision for food and agriculture in the Southern Gulf Islands.	SGIFAO with Island food and ag. organizations. <b>Precedent:</b> <a href="#">SSI Agriculture Alliance</a>
<b>4</b> Undertake a detailed local economic development strategy for food and agriculture	Initiate an Economic Development Strategy that considers individual farm opportunities as well as larger, longer-term SGI-wide approaches.	SGIFAO with assistance from the SGICESC.
<b>5</b> Protect and maintain farmland	Protect and maintain ALR and food growing areas.	IT and CRD with input from proposed SSI AAC and SGIFAO.
	Consider the establishment of land bank or trust.	SGIFAO with participation from CRD, Islands Trust, Islands Trust Fund, MA, local conservancies, and regional land trust organizations. <b>Precedent:</b> CRD RFAS

<div> <div>TIMING (START)</div>  </div>	<div> <div>UTILIZE EXISTING RESOURCES</div> <div>\$</div> </div>	<div> <div>REQUIRES ADDITIONAL FUNDING</div> <div>\$</div> </div>	<div> <div>REQUIRES EXTERNAL FUNDING</div> <div>\$</div> </div>
2018/2019	✓	✓	✓
2018/2019	✓	✓	✓
2018/2019	✓	✓	✓
2019/2020		✓	✓
2017/2018	✓		
2017/2018		✓	✓

## ACTION PLAN TABLE (CONTINUED)

<div>RECOMMENDATIONS</div> <div>6</div> <div>Pursue strategies that increase land available for farming</div>	<div>ASSOCIATED ACTIONS</div> <div></div>	<div>PARTICIPANTS &amp; ROLES</div> <div></div>
	Identify and highlight activities and initiatives that benefit or increase food and agriculture activities on farmland.	SGIFAO with input from island food and ag. organizations and guidance and support from SGICESC.
	Identify long-term land tenure, financing and management options that support and encourage successful farm enterprises.	SGIFAO with input from island food and ag. organizations.
	Establish a database or service that links available farmland with potential farmers.	SGIFAO with input from island food and ag. organizations. <b>Precedent:</b> <a href="#">Young Agrarians</a>
<div>7</div> <div>Encourage the use of ecological farming practices</div>	Encourage participation in programs that result in the implementation of beneficial farm management practices.	SGIFAO with input from island food and ag. organizations and proposed SGIAAC. <b>Precedent:</b> <a href="#">SSI Agricultural Alliance</a>
<div>8</div> <div>Pursue beneficial climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies</div>	Identify island-wide and island-specific approaches to address and respond to anticipated impacts of climate change.	SGIFAO with support from MA and input from island food and ag. organizations, and the IT and CRD. <b>Precedent:</b> <a href="#">BC Climate Action Initiative</a>



TIMING (START) 			
	UTILIZE EXISTING RESOURCES \$	REQUIRES ADDITIONAL FUNDING \$	REQUIRES EXTERNAL FUNDING \$
2018/2019	✓	✓	✓
2019/2020	✓	✓	✓
2019/2020		✓	✓
2018/2019	✓	✓	✓
2019/2020		✓	✓

## ACTION PLAN TABLE (CONTINUED)

<div>RECOMMENDATIONS</div> <div>9</div>	<div>ASSOCIATED ACTIONS</div>	<div>PARTICIPANTS &amp; ROLES</div>
<p>Increase opportunities for local food and agriculture education and training</p>	<p>Continue to provide a range of needs-based training opportunities for local farmers and food providers through existing food and agriculture organizations.</p> <p>Explore ways to support and expand the existing educational training opportunities available to food and agricultural producers.</p>	<p>Island food and ag. organizations with support from SGIFAO.</p> <p><b>Precedent:</b> <a href="#">SSI Agriculture Alliance</a></p> <p>SGIFAO with support from MA and input from island food and ag. organizations.</p> <p><b>Precedent:</b> <a href="#">SSI Agriculture Alliance</a></p>
<div>10</div> <p>Improve understanding and appreciation of local food and agriculture by local and seasonal residents</p>	<p>Develop educational materials for full-time, seasonal, new and future residents as well as visitors.</p> <p>Encourage agriculture-focused public education activities, events and celebrations.</p> <p>Provide opportunities for productive exchanges between farming and non-farming community.</p>	<p>SGIFAO with support from MA, IT and CRD, and input from island food and ag. organizations.</p> <p><b>Precedent:</b> <a href="#">Cowichan Green</a></p> <p>Island food and ag. organizations with support from SGIFAO.</p> <p><b>Precedent:</b> <a href="#">Farm Folk City Folk</a></p> <p>Island food and ag. organizations with support from SGIFAO, MA, IT and CRD.</p> <p><b>Precedent:</b> <a href="#">Peninsula &amp; Area Agriculture Commission</a></p>
<div>11</div> <p>Connect youth with local food and agriculture existing and emerging regional wildlife and invasive species issues</p>	<p>Support the integration and expansion of food and agricultural education activities and initiatives within SGI's school programs.</p>	<p>Island food and ag. organizations with support from SGIFAO.</p> <p><b>Precedent:</b> <a href="#">SSI Agriculture Alliance</a></p>

TIMING (START) 	UTILIZE EXISTING RESOURCES \$			REQUIRES ADDITIONAL FUNDING \$	REQUIRES EXTERNAL FUNDING \$
2017/2018	✓	✓	✓		
2018/2019		✓	✓		
2019/2020		✓	✓		
2018/2019	✓	✓	✓		
2018/2019		✓	✓		
2018/2019		✓	✓		

## ACTION PLAN TABLE (CONTINUED)

	ASSOCIATED ACTIONS 	PARTICIPANTS & ROLES 
<b>12</b> Determine state of SGI food system	Undertake a community food system assessment of the SGIs.	SGIFAO with support and input from island food and ag. organizations. <b>Resource:</b> <a href="#">PHSA Community Food Assessment Guide</a>
<b>13</b> Increase the local production capabilities of the non-commercial/ community aspects of the food and agriculture sector	Increase number of community, home and school gardens.	SGIFAO with support and input from island food and ag. organizations. <b>Precedent:</b> <a href="#">Cowichan Green</a>
	Encourage connections between non-commercial and commercial growers.	SGIFAO with support and input from island food and ag. organizations. <b>Precedent:</b> <a href="#">Peninsula &amp; Area Agriculture Commission</a>
<b>14</b> Increase local, healthy food choices	Increase attention and support for local food growing and eating initiatives and opportunities that emphasize health.	SGIFAO with support from input from IH and island food and ag. organizations. <b>Precedent:</b> <a href="#">CRFAIR</a>
<b>15</b> Encourage a place-based regional food culture by building relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities	Develop meaningful relationships with Indigenous communities through local food and agriculture discussions and activities.	SGIFAO, IT and CRD <b>Precedent:</b> CRD RFAS
	Strengthen understanding and appreciation of Indigenous food and agricultural activities and interests.	SGIFAO, IT and CRD <b>Precedent:</b> Pender Island Reefnet Initiative, <a href="#">Parks Canada Clam Garden Restoration Program</a>
<b>16</b> Support Indigenous food and agriculture-related activities, projects and events	Support traditional food harvesting and land restoration related activities and initiatives in the SGI.	SGIFAO, IT and CRD <b>Precedent:</b> Pender Island Reefnet Initiative, <a href="#">Parks Canada Clam Garden Restoration Program</a>



<div> <div> TIMING (START)  </div> </div>	<div> <div> UTILIZE EXISTING RESOURCES  </div> </div>	<div> <div> REQUIRES ADDITIONAL FUNDING  </div> </div>	<div> <div> REQUIRES EXTERNAL FUNDING  </div> </div>
2019/2020		✓	✓
2019/2020		✓	✓
2018/2019		✓	✓
2018/2019		✓	✓
2017/2018	✓	✓	✓
2017/2018	✓	✓	✓
2017/2018	✓	✓	✓

# APPENDICES

## Glossary of Terms

### ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES

Located in urban, rural and remote locations across Canada. They include: First Nations or Indian Bands, generally located on lands called reserves; Inuit communities located in Nunavut, NWT, Northern Quebec (Nunavik) and Labrador; Métis communities; and communities of Aboriginal people (including Métis, non-status Indians, Inuit and First Nation individuals) in cities or towns which are not part of reserves or traditional territories.

### ABORIGINAL PEOPLES

The descendants of the original inhabitants of North America. The Canadian Constitution recognizes three groups of Aboriginal people — Indians, Métis and Inuit. These are three separate peoples with unique heritages, languages, cultural practices and spiritual beliefs.

### AGRICULTURAL LAND

Agricultural land (farm land) is the area that supports the growing, producing, raising or keeping animals and plants allowed by British Columbia's various Acts and Regulations in BC this refers to land designated as agricultural land under the Agricultural Land Commission Act or by municipal or regional governments within the land use bylaws.

### AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION

A general term meaning the application of scientific research and new knowledge to agricultural practices through farmer education. The field of 'extension' now encompasses a wider range of communication and learning activities organized for rural people by educators from different disciplines, including agriculture, agricultural marketing, health, and business studies.

### AGRICULTURE

The cultivation of animals, plants, fungi, and other life forms for food, fiber, biofuel, medicinal and other products used to sustain and enhance human life.<sup>35</sup>

### AGRI-TOURISM

As it is defined most broadly, involves any agriculturally based operation or activity that brings visitors to a farm or ranch. It is a form of niche tourism that is considered a growth industry in many parts of the world, including Canada. Agri-tourism has different definitions in different parts of the world. In general agri-tourism includes a wide variety of activities, including buying produce direct from a farm stand, navigating a corn maze, picking fruit, feeding animals, or staying at a B&B on a farm.

### FARMLAND

An alternative term for agricultural land.

### FARMLAND TRUST

A type of land trust that focuses specifically on preservation of agricultural land.

### FIRST NATIONS

A term that came into common usage in the 1970s to replace the word "Indian," which some people found offensive. Although the term First Nation is widely used, no legal definition of it exists. Among its uses, the term "First Nations peoples" refers to the Indian peoples in Canada, both Status and non-Status. Some Indian peoples have also adopted the term "First Nation" to replace the word "band" in the name of their community.<sup>36</sup>

<sup>35</sup> Safety and health in agriculture. International Labour Organization. 1999. p. 77.

<sup>36</sup> Terminology, Indigenous and Northern Affairs. 2012-10-01 <http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100014642/1100100014643> Retrieved: 2016-01-06.

## FOODLANDS

An alternative term for agricultural land that specifies the ability of producing food. During the establishment of the ALR, the term “foodlands” was used to highlight and connect the importance and value of these lands to BC residents. Today the term helps encompass those areas designated as agricultural lands as well as lands that support traditional and Indigenous harvest and gathering and therefore can include urban areas, as well as marine areas, shorelines, rivers and lakes.

## FOOD LITERACY

Food literacy is the ability to understand food and to develop positive relationships, food skills and practices across the lifespan in order to navigate, engage and participate within a complex food system, making decisions to support the achievement of personal health and to support a sustainable food system considering environmental, social, economic, cultural and political components” (Cullen et al., 2015). Food literacy involves having the knowledge, skills and attitudes to make food decisions that support one’s own health as well as the health of the community and the environment.

## FOOD SECURITY

Having access to safe, culturally acceptable, and nutritional food. The principles of food security are sustainability, self-reliance and social justice. A sustainable community food system improves the health of the community, environment and individuals over time. Food insecurity may be caused by the unavailability of food, insufficient purchasing power, inappropriate distribution, or inadequate use of food at the household level.

## FOOD SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE

Physical, social and economic elements necessary to support food production, processing, distribution and waste management in a given area, such as abattoirs, warehouses, vehicles, veterinarians, seed distributors and grazing pasture.

## FOODSHED

The geographical area between where food is produced and where that food is consumed. The concept is similar to a watershed—both encompass the flow of a substance from its origin to its ultimate destination. An alternative definition is a geographic area that supplies a population center with food. Both definitions emphasize the geographical context of food—where it comes from and where it ends up.<sup>37</sup>

## FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

The right of peoples to define their own food and agriculture; to protect and regulate domestic agricultural production and trade to achieve sustainable development objectives; to determine the extent to which they want to be self reliant; to restrict the dumping of products in their markets; and to provide local fisheries- based communities the priority in managing the use of and the rights to aquatic resources. Food sovereignty does not negate trade, but rather, it promotes the formulation of trade policies and practices that serve the rights of peoples to safe, healthy and ecologically sustainable production.

## INDIGENEITY<sup>38</sup>

Is a way of being in the world: being indigenous to a place means having a depth of knowledge, understanding and connection to that place. Indigeneity also includes a sense of stewardship and responsibility for managing that place and working respectfully with its non-human inhabitants. Prior to that shift away from agrarian society that took place with the Industrial Revolution, most people on this planet retained some degree of Indigeneity under this definition.

## INDIGENOUS FOODS<sup>39</sup>

Categorized as plant foods, animal foods, earth elements such as salts, and water.

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<sup>37</sup> [http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/what\\_is\\_a\\_food\\_shed](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/what_is_a_food_shed)

<sup>38</sup> <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/new-way-stewardship-mother-earth-indigeneity-180952855/?no-ist>

<sup>39</sup> <http://www.fao.org/wairdocs/other/ai215e/AI215E04.htm>

## LAND TRUST

A land trust is a non-profit, non-governmental organization, usually with charitable status, that focuses specifically on land preservation.

## PLACE-BASED FOODS

Foods with a distinctive social and geographical identity whose unique tastes can be traced to the growing conditions and cultural practices of production.

## REGION

The political, government entity that is the Capital Regional District (CRD).

### region

The geographic area generally from Port Renfrew through to the Southern Gulf Islands including the Victoria Metropolitan Area, that comprises the jurisdiction of the Capital Regional District.

## Organizations

### AGRICULTURAL LAND COMMISSION (ALC)<sup>40</sup> AND AGRICULTURAL LAND RESERVE (ALR)<sup>41</sup>

In 1973, in response to development pressures that were eroding the province's food and farmlands, the Province established the Agricultural Land Reserve along with an independent governing body, the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC). The ALR is a provincial land use zone in which land cannot be used for non-farm uses without provincial permission. Local government regulation of land in the ALR is circumscribed by the ALR regulations and right-to-farm legislation, which together provide significant protection for designated farm activities and the agricultural land base. The ALR regulations set out what activities and uses local governments may regulate from a land-use perspective on farmland. The right to farm legislation provides that a farmer is not liable in nuisance for any noise, odour, dust or other

disturbance resulting from normal farm practices. It also exempts agricultural operations from local government nuisance bylaws.

### BC MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (MA)<sup>42</sup>

The Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for the production, marketing, processing and merchandising of agricultural products and food; the institution and carrying out of advisory, research, promotional or education extension programs, projects or undertakings relating to agriculture and food; and the collection of information and preparation and dissemination of statistics relating to agriculture and food.

### CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT (CRD)<sup>43</sup>

A local government established under provincial legislation, providing coordinated regional services to both urban and rural areas on southern Vancouver Island, comprised of a federation of municipalities and electoral areas managed by a board of directors appointed from the member municipalities and directly elected from electoral areas.

### GALIANO CLUB<sup>44</sup>

Founded in November 1924 with the stated objectives: "to, a) encourage social activity; b) foster agricultural interest; c) form a public library & d) build a public hall which shall be used for the above three purposes". The Galiano Club is a registered society in the province of British Columbia and has Federal Charitable Status. Full Membership is open to any Galiano Island resident and/or taxpayer and Associate Membership (non-voting) is open to all. In 2005, the Club began upgrading its South Galiano Community Hall kitchen expanding the services provided to the Galiano community. With the kitchen complete

### GALIANO FOOD PROGRAM<sup>45</sup>

The Galiano Food Program was established in 2008,

<sup>40</sup> <http://www.alc.gov.bc.ca/alc/content/home>

<sup>41</sup> <http://www.alc.gov.bc.ca/alc/content/alr-maps>

<sup>42</sup> <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/organizational-structure/ministries-organizations/ministries/agriculture>

<sup>43</sup> <https://www.crd.bc.ca>

<sup>44</sup> <http://thegalianoclub.org>

<sup>45</sup> <http://galianofoodprogram.ca>



satisfying one of the Club's longstanding objectives "to increase Galiano Island's food security through community-building activities and skills sharing". The Food Program is a non-profit organization that relies on volunteer supporters and three part-time coordinators. Most of the activities are free, or by donation, and decisions are made in consultation with the community. The Food Program has initiated a number of projects including: the Community Kitchen at the Galiano Community Hall; gleaning teams; a Farmers' Institute; meals program; Islands Food Security Conference; Seniors' Soup Program; Seniors' Soup Garden; fruit tree mapping; and other events, workshops, food growing initiatives, and educational opportunities. The Galiano Community Hall is now the home of the Food Program and its many activities (among other things). The award-winning Food Program now has over 360 participants, 60+ volunteers and is actively creating links with on-island, as well as off-island, organizations through events, workshops, food growing initiatives and educational opportunities.

#### ISLAND HEALTH (IH)<sup>46</sup>

Island Health provides health care to more than 765,000 people on Vancouver Island, the islands of the Georgia Strait, and in the mainland communities north of Powell River and south of Rivers Inlet. In addition to overseeing food safety regulations, Island Health is involved in many food-related activities and issues as they pertain to individual and community health, and community food security on Vancouver Island.

#### ISLANDS TRUST (IT)<sup>47</sup>

A local government established under provincial legislation, providing coordinated regional services to both urban and rural areas on southern Vancouver Island, comprised of a federation of municipalities and electoral areas managed by a board of directors appointed from the member municipalities and directly elected from electoral areas.

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<sup>46</sup> <http://www.viha.ca>

<sup>47</sup> <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca>

#### MAYNE ISLAND AGRICULTURE SOCIETY<sup>48</sup>

Founded in 1924, the Mayne Island Agricultural Society was established to encourage and promote the acquisition and exchange of ideas and knowledge, among persons interested in agriculture and horticulture. Today the Society hosts lectures, fairs, exhibitions, shows and displays. It also raises money, acquires funds and other assistance to promote and support agriculture on Mayne Island, and maintains and protects significant heritage buildings and sites on Mayne Island such as the Agricultural Hall, and the Museum. In addition, the Society operates the Thrift Shop and stages the annual Mayne Island Fall Fair.

#### PENDER ISLANDS FARMERS' INSTITUTE<sup>49</sup>

Established around 1924 The Pender Islands Farmers' Institute has served the people of North and South Pender Island, BC for over 90 years. It is the proud sponsor of the Farmers' Market, the Fall Fair, Seedy Saturday and the Student Bursary. The Institute has diligently maintained four objectives:

1. To improve conditions of rural life, so that settlement may be permanent and prosperous;
2. To promote the theory and practice of agriculture, by lectures, essays, the circulation of information and other educational methods, and to stimulate interest by exhibitions, prizes, and other means;
3. To arrange on behalf of its members for the purchase, distribution or sale of commodities, supplies, or products, and generally to act on their behalf in all matters incidental to agricultural pursuits;
4. To promote social intercourse, mutual helpfulness, and the diffusion of knowledge, and to make new settlers welcome.

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<sup>48</sup> <http://www.mayneagriculturalsociety.com/mias>

<sup>49</sup> <http://pifi.ca>

### SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS COMMUNITY ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION (SGICESC)<sup>50</sup>

A body established by the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area Director in 2012 with a triple - bottom line approach. Responsible for overseeing economic development initiatives in the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area.

### SOUTHERN VANCOUVER ISLAND DIRECT FARM MARKETING ASSOCIATION<sup>51</sup>

A non-profit association of more than 70 growers and producers on Southern Vancouver Island, British Columbia, who sell their farm and vineyard products directly to consumers. Many members also participate in agri-tourism, including farmers' markets, fall fairs, farm festivals, farm tours and bed & breakfasts. The major activities of the association include publication of the annual "Farm Fresh" consumers guide in April, management of the Farm Fresh website and participation in a special Farmers' Market at the historic Saanich Fair on the Labour Day weekend.

### 31 SQUARE – SATURNA EATS<sup>52</sup>

31 Square began on Saturna Island in 2007 as a community information exchange with hopes of inspiring interest and activity in local food, and sustaining the natural environment. The core group of enthusiastic gardeners, and hunters and gatherers of local fresh foods initiated several local food programs, hosted local dinners and established a listserv and website to encourage and connect the food and agriculture community. While interest and participation in the group has diminished in recent years today there is more interest in and availability of local food on the island.

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<sup>50</sup> <http://www.sustainableislands.ca>

<sup>51</sup> <http://www.islandfarmfresh.com>

<sup>52</sup> <http://www.31square.com>

<sup>53</sup> <http://www.indigenousfoodsvi.ca>

### VANCOUVER ISLAND AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES INDIGENOUS FOOD NETWORK<sup>53</sup>

A collective with a shared vision of a healthy future based upon reconnecting with First Nations cultural teachings and practices. Members include culturally knowledgeable food harvesters and gatherers, health professionals, community development workers and members of the scientific community. VICCIFN is building collaborative approaches in addressing issues of traditional food access and security, and intends to research, document and share the ancestral strengths that are deeply rooted throughout Vancouver Island for the preservation for future generations.

### VICTORIA FOOD FUNDERS NETWORK

There are many agencies that fund food systems, health, and agriculture initiatives in the Region. To better understand the issues, increase efficiency, decrease duplication, and support more strategic and coordinated investment in the Region many of these funders are coming together to develop a food funder network.

WSÁNEĆ (Saanich First Nations) – Are the Indigenous Nations from the north coast of the Gulf and San Juan Islands, southern Vancouver Island and the southern edge of the Lower Mainland in British Columbia. They include the BOŖEĆEN (Pauquachin), SŖÁUTW (Tsawout), WJOŁEŁP (Tsartlip), and WSIŖEM (Tseycum) bands on the Saanich Peninsula.

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