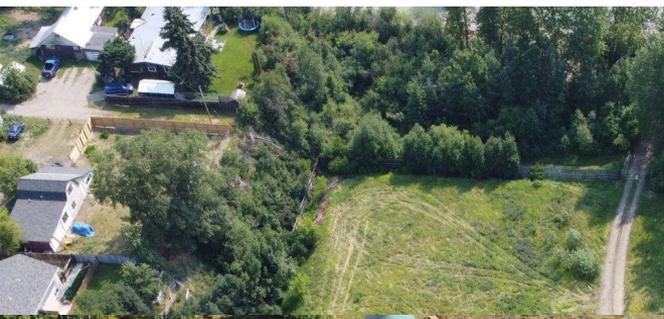




URBAN FARMSCAPE SOCIETY

From heritage homestead to community farm: a year in review





Resolution from Mayor and Council - June, 2023:

The Council directs Administration to report back to Council on the proposal from the Queensway 5 Coalition regarding options on acquiring land located at the Queensway Farm [...]

Carried unanimously.

Pre-Coalition

Passionate community members and established non-profits form around a shared vision



Queensway 5 Coalition

- Coalition organizes and presents to City of Prince George
- REAPS hosts our pre-society meetings
- Consultation with current owners of land
- Set recurring monthly meetings
- Facilitate workshops to define purpose of Society

Urban Farmscape Society

- Formally register as a Society
- Society's purpose is to continue to advocate for designation of land as a community farm and future management
- Aboriginal Business Development Centre hosts Society meetings
- Continue to connect with community through tabling, presentations
- Appraisal of the land

THE URBAN FARMSCAPE SOCIETY IS...

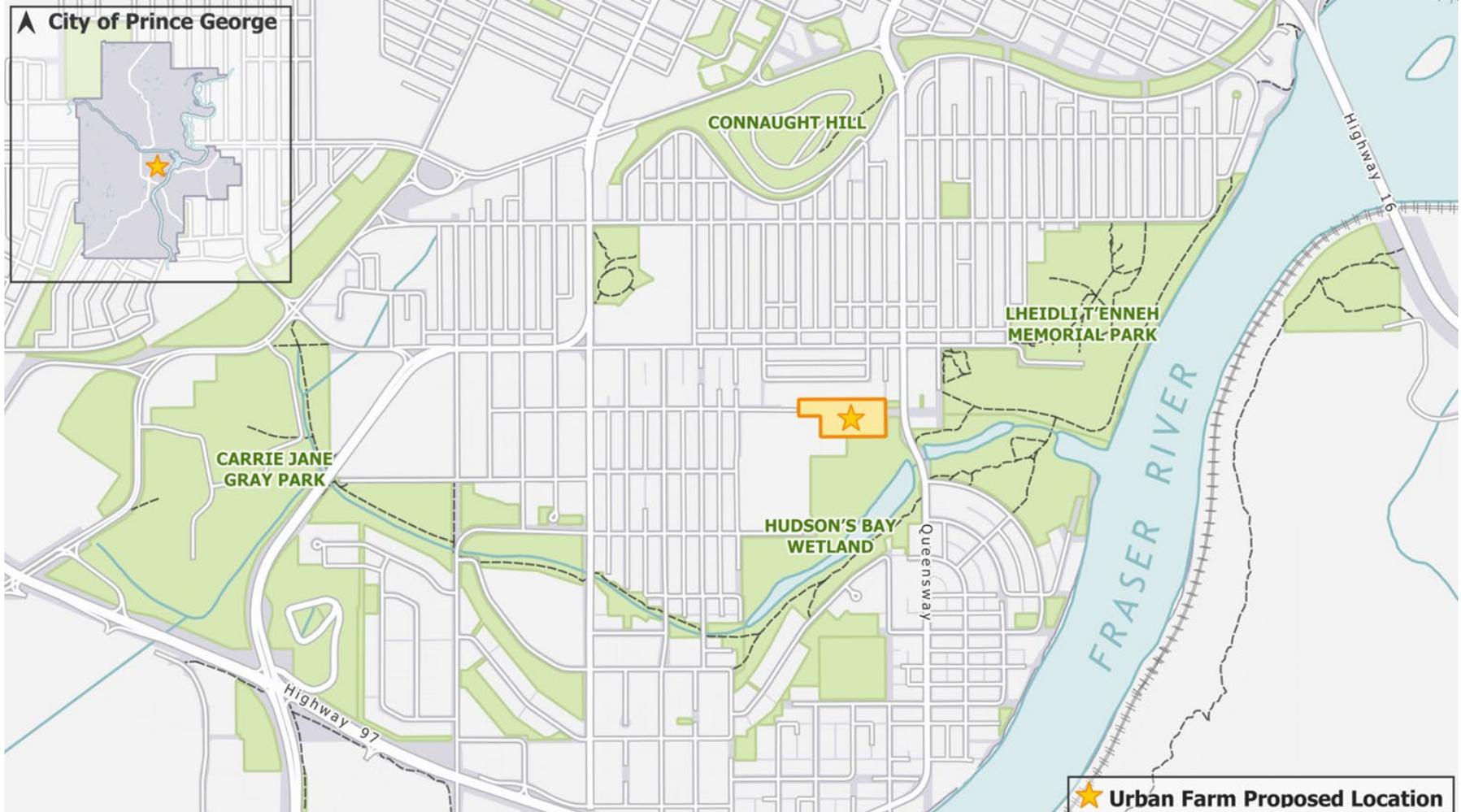
- ...a **grassroots** coalition of community members and nonprofits
- ...dedicated to enhancing **food security** and food sovereignty in Prince George
- ...**rapidly growing** with over 140 members and a variety of established non-profit supporters



OUR REQUEST

- That the City purchase the 5 acres of land from the current owners as offered
- That the City places a restrictive covenant on the land to limit development to that of a community farm
- That the City designates the Urban Farmscape Society to manage said community farm





A sincere thank you to C.H. Godfrey Appraisals for their pro -bono appraisal of this land

BENEFITS OF THE PROPOSED COMMUNITY FARM

- **Increases access to locally -grown food** for the entirety of Prince George **and food security** for neighbourhoods such as the VLA and South Fort George
- With close proximity to Ron Brent Elementary School, Gateway Lodge, and Magnolia Gardens, the farm creates community space for **multi -generational learning and food production**
- Established trail networks and parks make the space into **a destination for locals and tourists alike**
- Creates a **unique and historic legacy** project for Prince George

POSSIBLE PROJECT EXAMPLES

- Regional Food Hub
- Gardens to provide for food-insecure people
- Land for people in apartments or rental housing to grow food
- A food education and workshop center
- Agricultural research sites for CNC and UNBC

The Butler Urban Farm in Kamloops and the Black Creek Community Farm in Toronto are successful examples



ALIGNMENT WITH THE CITY'S OBJECTIVES

“The City should consider acquiring land to support sustainable food systems... A city farm and farmer resource centre that supports both urban and rural agriculture” (policy 11.3.2, PG OCP)

“Support agricultural and food systems planning to improve the current state of food systems and to encourage local food self-reliance.” (policy 7.3.7, PG OCP)

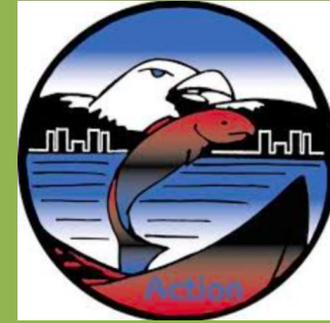
“Create community gardens, orchards, and greenhouses.” (p28, OCP Review “What We Heard Report”)

“Support multi-organizational collaboration for sustainable food systems in Northern BC” (p18, My PG Sustainability Plan)

PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

The Aboriginal Business Development Centre

- meeting space and equipment, promotional materials printing



Everyone At the Table Collective

- website host, graphic design, organized the formation of our initial collective



REAPS

- hosted and supported our initial meetings



Many other organizations and individuals have been supporting the Urban Farmscape Initiative

Importance of Regional Food Sovereignty

- Average monthly cost for a nutritious food basket for a family of four \$1,300.00 per month ¹
- 1 in 5 British Columbians experience some degree of food insecurity ²
- Northern BC communities face highest overall household food insecurity rate ³
- In Northern Interior BC, 8% of youth had cut the size of their meals or skipped meals because there was not enough money for food and 12% went to bed hungry at least sometimes for the same reason (BC Adolescent Health Survey 2023)



Provincial Action

 **Sheila Malcolmson, MLA**
October 12, 2023 · 🌐

We all want people to have the support and services they need to get healthy, nutritious food. Our 5 million dollars in funding will help Northern BC rural and remote communities meet the increasing demand for healthy, nutritious food by tapping into their own wisdom and strengths. We're working with partners like Food Banks BC, Public Health Association of BC: PHABC Everyone At The Table PG and the Elders senior Citizens Recreation Centre to help communities, families and p... See more



2024 Poverty Reduction Strategy



Prepared for:

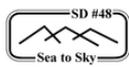
BRITISH COLUMBIA

BC PRS 2024 10 Year Vision:

Build on recent historic investments in food security by:

“Enhancing province wide infrastructure and co-ordination to better support access and distribution of food (e.g., through non-profit community food hubs and regional distribution centres)

Success Story



THE FOLLOWING BELIEVE THIS IS AN IMPORTANT PROJECT FOR OUR COMMUNITY

- Chief Logan of the Lheidli T'enneh
- PG Native Friendship Centre
- Dr Kathy Lewis, Interim Vice President of Research and Innovation, UNBC
- Dr Amelia Merrick, Acting Dean, Access and Continuing Education, CNC
- Public Health Association of BC
- Amelia Gallant, Northern Health Regional Lead of Food Security
- Dr Rachel Kling, Medical Health Officer, Northern Health
- Community Futures of FFG
- REAPS
- Everyone At the Table Collective
- Live Well Prince George
- Queensway Garden Society
- District C Farmers' Institute
- Eco-Living Community Society
- Annie Booth, PhD, Environmental and Sustainability Studies, UNBC
- Colin Dring, PhD, Environment and Sustainability, Royal Roads University
- David J Connell, PhD, Ecosystem Science and Management, UNBC

A large field of sunflowers stretches across the foreground and middle ground, leading to a line of trees in the background. The sky is a soft, warm orange and pink, indicating sunset or sunrise. The sunflowers are in various stages of bloom, with bright yellow petals and dark brown centers.

QUESTIONS ? COMMENTS?

Please email pgurbanfarmscape@gmail.com if you have questions after the presentation.