

Prince George Farmers' Institute
"since 1922"
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8 March 2025

By email to

ocp@princegeorge.ca

Original by mail

Kali Holahan
Supervisor, Land Use Planning
City of Prince George
1100 Patricia Blvd
Prince George BC V2L 3V9

Re: Draft Official Community Plan

The recognition of the importance of agriculture, food, and food security is missing from the draft Official Community Plan (OCP).

That's despite a call for action on food security in the 2011 OCP, and that's despite the need being greater now than it was then.

The 2011 OCP acknowledges that:

Food and agriculture play an important role in a sustainable community by improving the environment, the economy, the health of our population and our community's well being. Access to quality, local food is increasing in demand throughout much of North America due to high cost of food, limited availability and a growing awareness in sustainable agriculture. The increasing costs associated with the production and shipping of food can result in limitations for community access to quality food. The production and supply of local food can help provide food security but requires support to establish systems for community food production at all levels. (page 72)

That call to action is supported by nine policies (7.3.7 to 7.3.15) contained in the OCP to encourage local food production, and a further seven policies (see sections 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 10.1, 11.3, 13.2, etc (Connell, 2019)) also included in the OCP, to encourage urban agriculture including community gardens, community kitchens and community greenhouses.

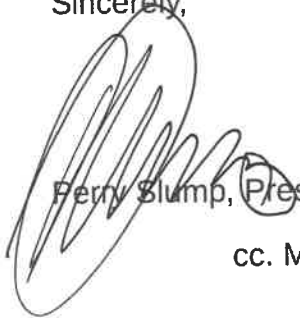
The new OCP, currently in draft and under review, but expected, after revisions, to replace the 2011 OCP, fails to recognize the importance of food, especially local food to our collective well-being. The omission of these sections represents a serious deficiency in the new OCP.

The introduction to the draft OCP of the section titled "Climate Action Resilience" could have covered some of the above policies, but doesn't. It states: "Prince George recognizes that now, more than ever before, our community needs to act to address climate change and become a climate resilient community".

Among the most serious impacts of climate change will be the impact on our food system and our food security. The draft new OCP fails to even comment on the need for food security, let alone explain how "our community needs to act", and "now, more than ever"!

Prince George Farmers' Institute calls on the City to address these omissions in the proposed OCP. At the very least, the policies enshrined in the existing OCP should be incorporated in the new OCP.

Sincerely,



Perry Slump, President



Del Myers, Secretary/Treasurer

cc. Mayor Simon Yu, Councillor Garth Frizzell, City Manager Walter Babicz