

**RDN BOARD ADOPTS REGION-WIDE AGRICULTURAL AREA PLAN**

The Regional District of Nanaimo Board of Directors has adopted its first-ever region-wide Agricultural Area Plan. Directors approved the final plan at the Oct. 23 Board meeting. The Plan is the result of nearly two years of collaboration between the community, stakeholders, the RDN's Agricultural Advisory Committee and the project consultant, Upland Consulting.

"The Agricultural Area Plan has been developed with extensive input from farmers, food producers and consumers, and is intended to support, preserve and enhance local food production in our Region," said RDN Chairperson Joe Stanhope. "The Plan is an important guide to addressing the needs of local food producers and it promotes actions that will build resiliency within our Region."

In early 2011, the RDN partnered with the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC to develop a region-wide Agricultural Area Plan. The process was funded in part by the RDN, and by the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC through programs it delivers on behalf of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the BC Ministry of Agriculture.

Members of the public are encouraged to visit [www.growingourfuture.ca](http://www.growingourfuture.ca) to view the Plan and to access additional background information and documentary videos. For more information, contact the RDN Planning Department at 250-390-6510.

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**Contact:** Lainya Rowett  
Senior Planner  
Regional District of Nanaimo  
250-390-6510 or toll-free 1-877-607-4111