

CR – FAIR includes local food producers, food banks and poverty groups, community kitchens, food retailers, community gardens, nutritionists and other health professionals, the hospitality industry, educators, government and more.

The CR – FAIR Steering Committee includes representation from: the Vancouver Island Health Authority, Groundworks Learning Centre, the Community Social Planning Council; LifeCycles; and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

CR-FAIR appreciates funding support it has received from: the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries; Thrifty Foods; the Peninsula Vegetable Growers Association; and Farm Folk/City Folk.

Capital Region Food & Agriculture Initiatives Roundtable



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CR – FAIR’S BACKGROUND

In February 1997, the first Greater Victoria Food Forum was held.

It was focused on community-based solutions for people unable to purchase adequate food for their families.

The Capital Region Food Roundtable was formed, and through Food Forums and other initiatives helped increase community agri-food awareness.

In January 1999 an Organizational Development Task Force was struck to review the Roundtable’s mandate and future direction.

CR – FAIR’S VISION

The organization, renamed CR-FAIR, adopted as its vision the following statement:

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

CR – FAIR’S MISSION

Our mission is to bring about positive change in the food and agriculture system within the Capital Region.

This includes increasing the viability of farming, reducing hunger, increasing the supply, consumption and diversity of locally processed and produced food, and increasing our community’s knowledge and involvement with food and agriculture issues.

CR – FAIR’S ACHIEVEMENTS

- Managing a regional “Buy Local” Campaign to increase public awareness about the benefits of buying locally produced food, and to increase retail opportunities for same
- Acts as a catalyst for linking food security to community sustainability, for example, participation in regional growth strategies, interventions regarding removals from the Agricultural Land Reserve
- Provides opportunities for diverse groups to exchange information regarding food security
- Helps form networks such as Community Kitchens Network and Food Front Consumer Co-op
- Interacts with the provincial government regarding agri-food policy through, for example, presentations to the Select Standing Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries, and Ministry staff
- Produces and distributing “Focus on Food”, a local food security newsletter
- Maintains a database of over 500 contacts in the Capital Region