

# **From Policy to Plate: Local Food Leadership**



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UBCM Convention, Victoria BC  
September 24, 2025



# Homelands are Foodlands



*Our regional partnership work takes place within the traditional unceded territories of the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), St'át'imc and Líl'wat, which is a distinct Nation with linguistic, cultural, familial and political ties to the St'át'imc Nation.*



1. Setting our Table
2. Seeding
3. Planting,  
Harvesting &  
Cooking  
Together



# Setting our Table: Squamish Food Charter Endorsement

## SQUAMISH FOOD CHARTER



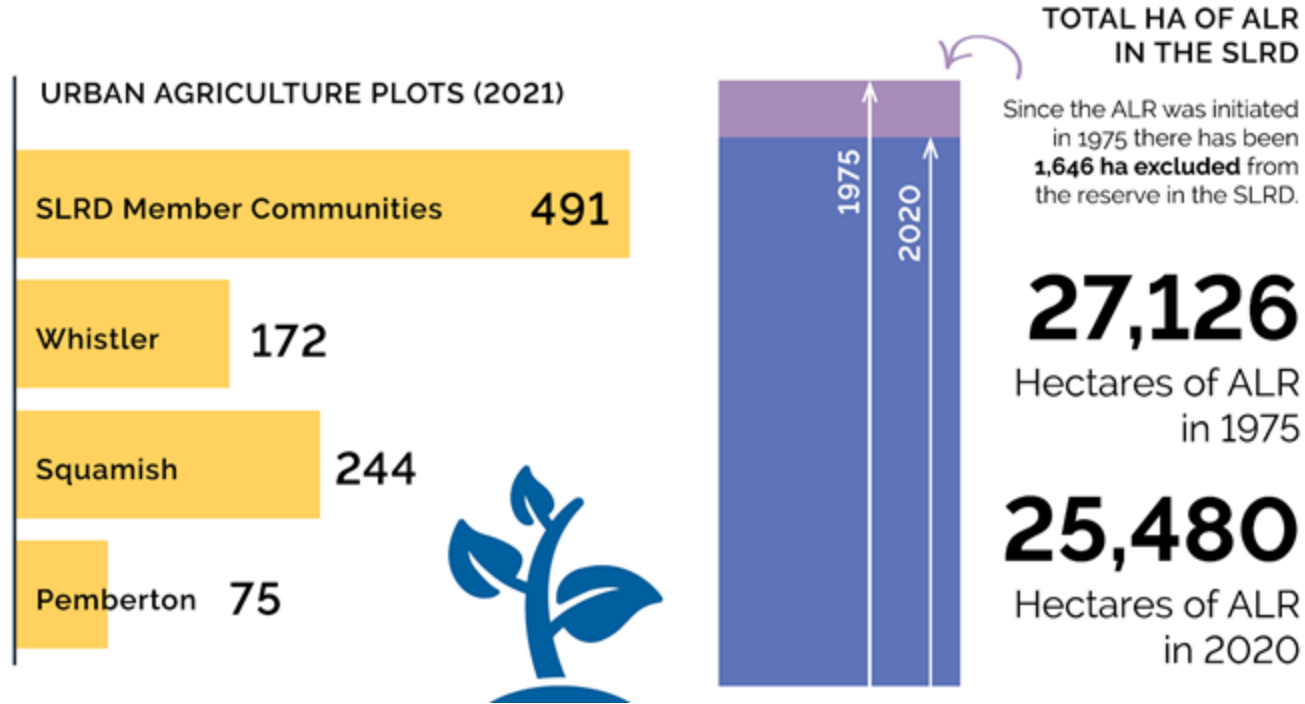
*Food Security exists when ALL members of the local communities have access to enough nutritious, safe, ecologically sustainable, and culturally appropriate food at all times.*





# Setting our Table :

## Regional Growth Strategy & OCP aligned policy foundations for joint initiatives

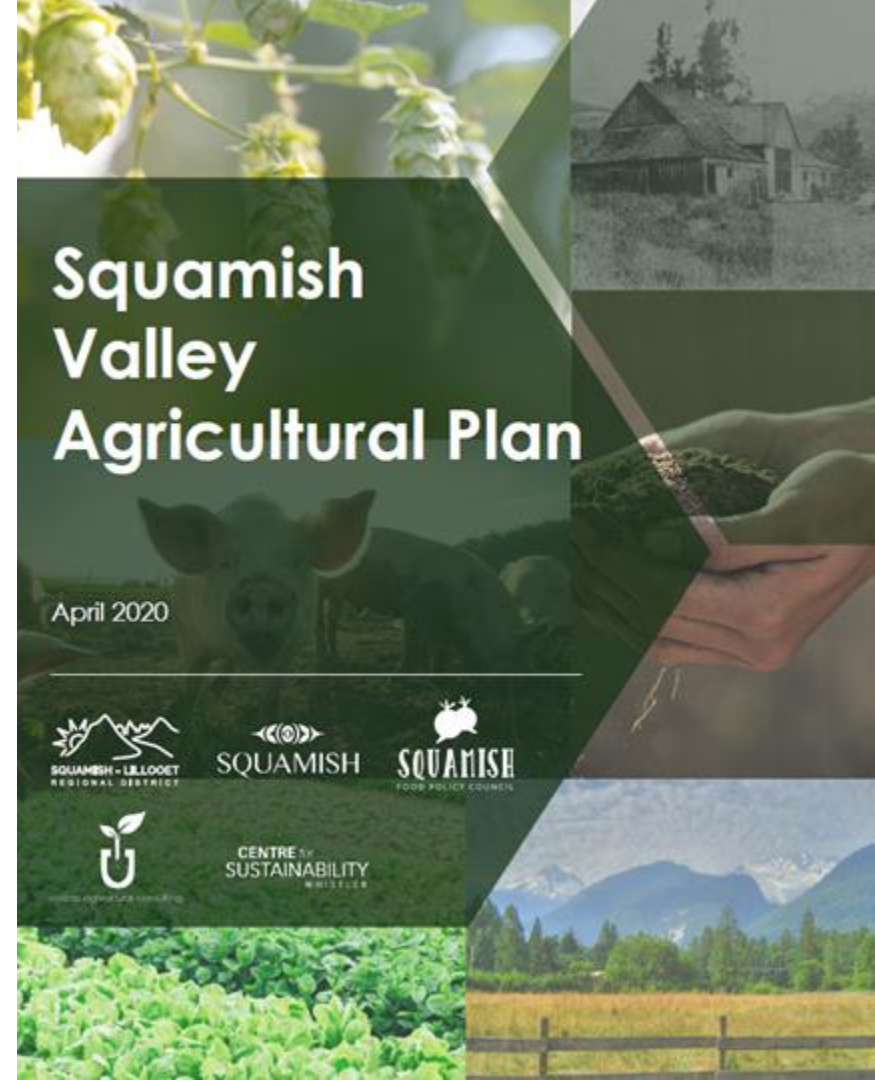


- SLRD RGS and DOS OCP updates provided opportunities for synergies and shared accountability
- Regional Food System connects RD and member municipalities

# Setting our Table:

## Agriculture Plans enabling community-driven leadership & partnerships

- innovative implementation strategy
- enabling on the ground, community-driven leadership, collaboration and action through a partnership lens



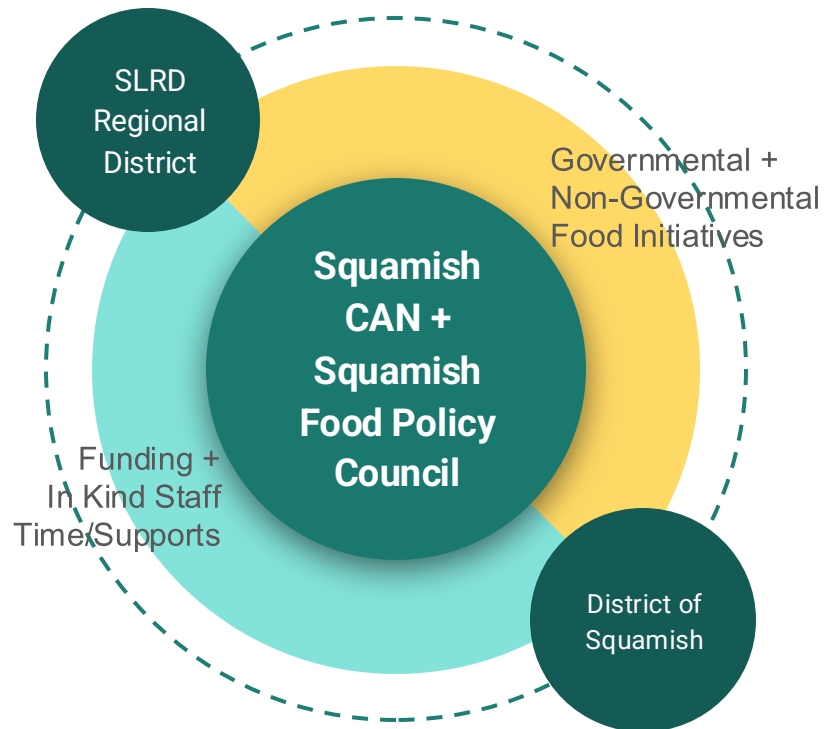


Seeding: Partnerships + Funding  
leveraging resources and growing impact

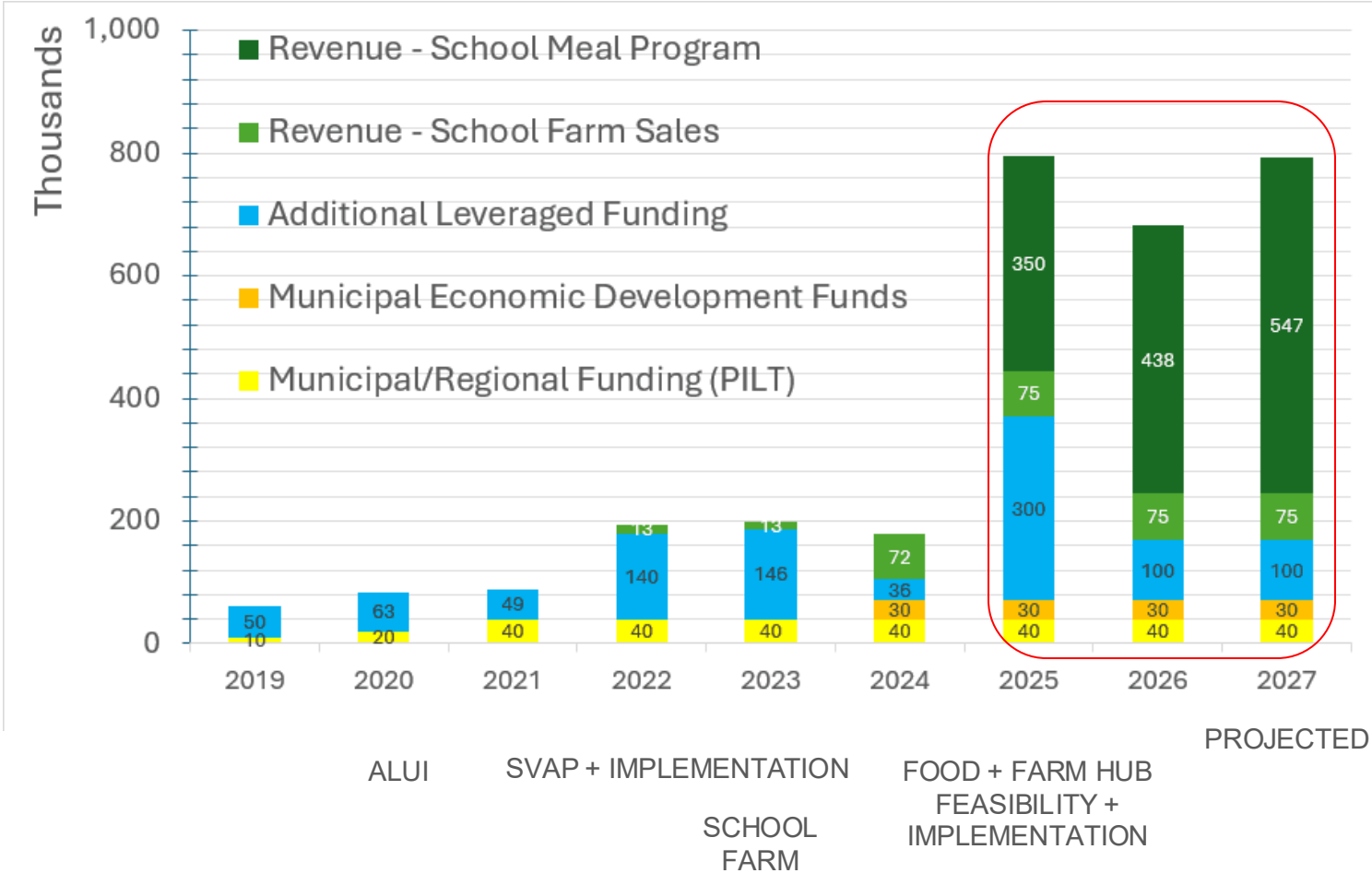


# Seeding: Partnerships and Joint Funding

- Squamish Food Policy Council - an inspiring constellation and model for local organizations, municipal and regional government collaboration
- Joint governmental funding of Land Use Inventory, Agri-Food Impact Study, Agriculture and Food Hub Feasibility Plans
- Ag Plan Implementation Agreement for Priority Actions with Annual Operating Funding + Reporting
- New 4 Year Partnership Agreement in 2024 for Food and Farm Hub development (Commissary Kitchen + Cold Storage Hub)



# Seeding: Partnerships and Joint Funding



NEW!  
School Meal  
Programs

Food & Farm  
Hub (Kitchen +  
Cold Storage  
Development)





# Our Secret Sauce



- Implementation Plan of ACTION!
- Consistent annual Seed Funding
- Non-Profit Funding Leverage (Major ROI)
- Dedicated partnership + relationship building
- Ongoing cross-sector collaboration
  - Municipality and Regional Districts
  - Provincial and Federal agencies
  - School District
  - Health Authority
  - Land Owners / Community Builders + Developers
  - Farmers / Producers
  - Young Agrarians
  - Farmers Market
  - Local Food Recovery Organizations...
- Reporting Progress + Celebrating Successes!



# Planting, Harvesting and Cooking Together



# School Farm

**81** low income families received a subsidized harvest box weekly



**100+** students have completed the Farm Studies Elective since 2022



**1138** Harvest boxes distributed in 2024





# Community Farms

- Healthy Local Economies
- Environmental Solutions
- Local Food Security
- Market Stability
- Social Capital



# Kitchen & School Meal Program

Launched a universal school meal program serving **500 kids daily**



**Procuring over 60%** of purchased food from BC producers and growers



Diversified organizations revenue to grow operations by **100%** and decreased dependency on grants



# The Harvest Hub (food hub)

*Where Local Food Stays Local*



Secure storage for fresh, frozen or processed goods

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Expanded and diversified direct sales opportunities for farmers

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Flexible scheduling and access for both farmers and customers

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Support for new and existing farming ventures



# Principles to Policy to Plate!

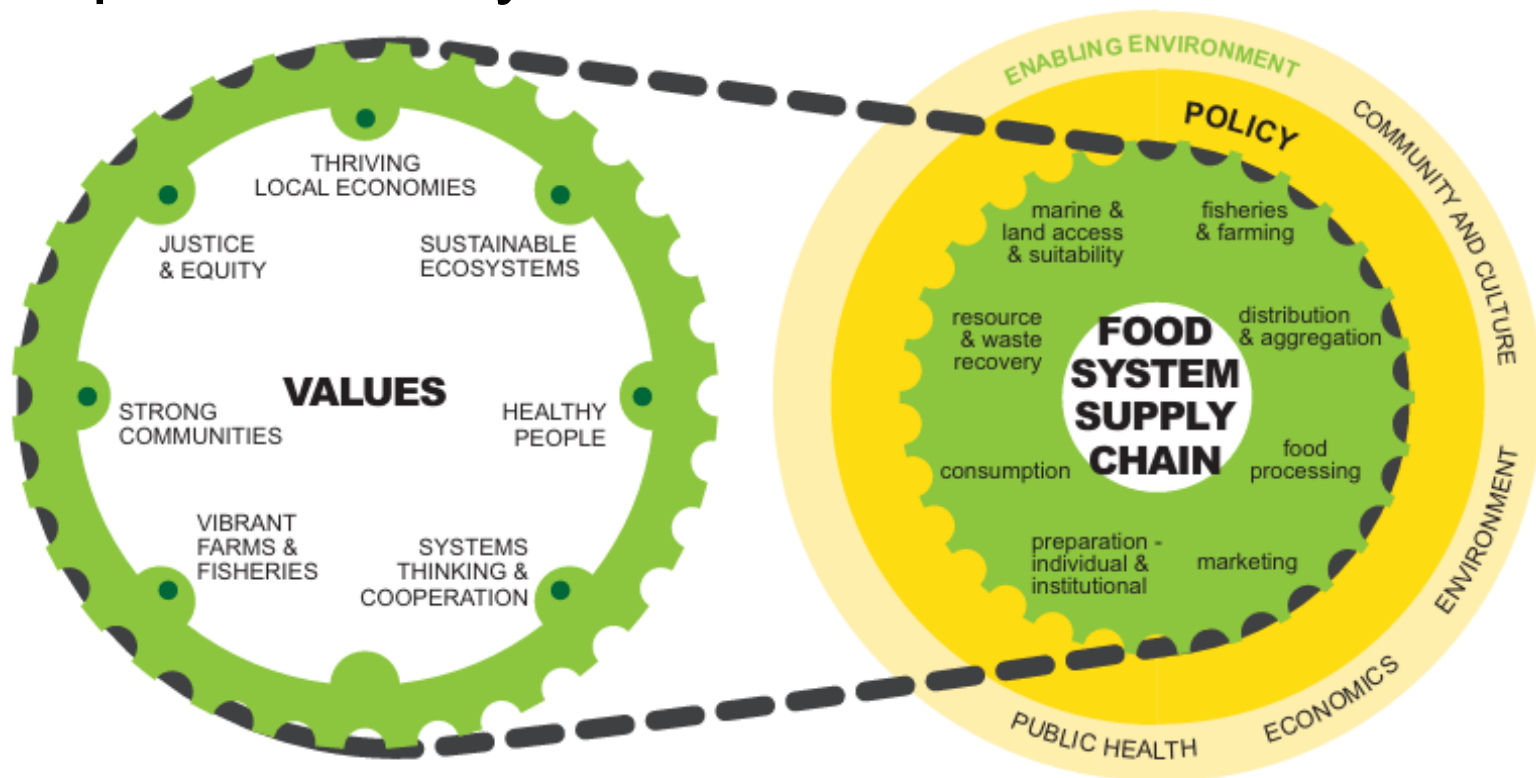


Figure 4: Bicycle gear food systems model.<sup>26</sup> (Figure 3)



Krystle tenBrink  
Executive Director  
Squamish Climate Action Network  
[krystle@squamishcan.net](mailto:krystle@squamishcan.net)  
[www.squamishcan.net](http://www.squamishcan.net)

Claire Dewar  
Senior Planner  
Squamish Lillooet Regional District  
[cdewar@slrd.bc.ca](mailto:cdewar@slrd.bc.ca)  
[www.slrd.bc.ca](http://www.slrd.bc.ca)

Sarah McJannet  
Manager, Community Planning  
District of Squamish  
[smcjannet@squamish.ca](mailto:smcjannet@squamish.ca)  
[www.squamish.ca](http://www.squamish.ca)

