



KASLO/RDCK AREA D PARTNERSHIP

## Climate Change Adaptation & You



### Agriculture and food security in Kaslo/Area D

(Dylan Hackenbrook, David Springer, Shannon Swayze, Selkirk College 2010, edited by Aimee Watson)

#### Land allocation

- average North American diet requires 0.524 hectares of productive farm land to be sustained annually (Grow BC 2008) – this is obviously a very rough estimate but is one way of assessing what is need in the way of productive lands for a population
  - Kaslo and Area D could be “food secure” because only 786 hectares of land would be required
  - 885 hectares of developed or cleared (agricultural) lands in Area D, and 6,630 hectares of forested, undeveloped (non-agriculture land) within the ALR
  - under utilization for ALR and farm land, vast majority is forested land
  - very little of the ALR is used for commercial farming/food production
  - very little information is publicly available on farm production and food export
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- Existing Farms in ALR = 49 Ha
  - Existing Farms not in ALR = 21 Ha
  - Unutilized Farms in ALR = 996 Ha

#### Food crops known to be grown commercially

- carrots, potatoes, leeks, cabbage, parsnip, corn, fava beans, tomatoes eggs
- No meat – nearest abattoir Creston
- Very little commercial grain and fruit produced

These numbers for “farm” land in ALR are higher because a different data set (RDCK cadastral and BC Assessment authority) was used than above where on provincial ALR data was used along with analysis of aerial photo imagery. However, in either case, there appears to be enough cleared or developed agricultural land in the ALR alone to feed the current population of Kaslo and Area D.

#### Problems faced with food growing:

Land access

Difficult to compete with industrial prices

High Cost of producing organic, high quality veggies

Lack of licensing administrative body for abattoirs

Lack of Storage Facilities

#### Food security initiatives

Re-launched Kaslo community garden program  
Kaslo Food Charter  
Food Security and our Official Community Plan  
West Kootenay Food Directory  
Founding of Community Garden Society of Kaslo  
Community Kitchen Feasibility Study  
Workshops: Canning, Cooking, Gardening, Seed Saving  
Speaker Events: 8  
Kaslo's Seedy Saturday  
North Kootenay Lake Food Assessment  
North Kootenay Lake Local Market Analysis  
Director for Kootenay Local Agriculture Society  
Director for Canadian Biotech Action Network

#### Ongoing Programs:

Lawns to Gardens- 3 gardens successfully installed!  
Video Publication to showcase and educate about Lawns to Gardens  
Community Garden  
Demonstration Garden  
Food for Families  
Bulk Food Club  
Food Hub working group  
Food Policy working group  
Farmer availability lists  
Knowledge Pantry  
Provincial Food Action E-Brief



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## Climate Change Adaptation & You



### Climate Change Adaptation Project & You! Food questionnaire summary

Aimee Watson

10 questionnaires's returned

Of those 10:

- 4 were homesteaders
- 4 commercial farmers (2 selling farmgate, not retail as their product are not deemed "legal")
- 2 were potential farmers or working towards farming

Of the commercial farmers:

- 3 meat producers (beef, rabbit, chicken, goats- none are legal at this moment)
- 1 hay producer
- 1 grain producers
- 2 veggie growers
- 2 dairy (eggs, yoghurt, cheese)
- 4 organic, 0 certified

Not on the surveys, but observed in comments:

- 2 retired farmers
- 1 beekeeper retired due to loss of hives
- 1 retired due to loss of market, regional distributor went out of business

Limits to Farmers

- Land access
- Market potential (global prices continuously undermine true costs and make the ability to sell for profit in the retail market impossible)

### Climate Change Summaries

All agreed on the following observations:

- Seasons are different every year
- Longer summers
- Hotter summers
- Less snow
- Less water
- Less mushrooms
- Less glaciers