



Online Delegation Form

YOUR WORSHIP, MAYOR TAYLOR, AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL, I/WE ARE HERE THIS EVENING ON BEHALF OF:

West Boundary Community Services Co-operative Association (the Co-op)

TO REQUEST THAT YOU CONSIDER:

signing letter of support for a Food Hub grant; we're organizing signatures from all 6 political jurisdictions in a single letter

THE REASONS THAT I/WE ARE REQUESTING THIS ACTION ARE:

The Province has issued an RFQ to determine if there are Qualified Respondents to establish and operate regional food innovation and processing hubs ("Food Hubs"). Development of secondary processing is a priority of the Minister of Agriculture. We feel the Boundary is well positioned to qualify (the number of agricultural operations, existence of a Class B provincially inspected abattoir, the planning that has gone into the creation of a meat cluster, the work of multiple non-profits in the farming/food sector, the completion of the Boundary Area Food and Agriculture Plan).

I/WE BELIEVE THAT IN APPROVING OUR REQUEST THE COMMUNITY WILL BENEFIT BY:

Farmers across the Boundary will benefit from increased capacity for meat processing. Currently, the entire sector is bottle necked by lack of facilities. Developing secondary processing is beyond the reach of most individual farmers. Grant funding would be used for provision of professional food consulting services, in addition to facilities. It's important for farmers to have the opportunity to add value to their products to increase their income and stretch sales throughout the year. There are opportunities for shared transportation and marketing.

I/WE BELIEVE THAT BY NOT APPROVING OUR REQUEST THE RESULT WILL BE:

Lack of support from all political jurisdictions in the Boundary will weaken our chances of getting this grant in our area.

IN CONCLUSION, I/WE REQUEST THAT COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS ADOPT A RESOLUTION STATING:

Authorizing the Mayor to sign the attached letter of support

NAME

Vicki Gee

ORGANIZATION

Electoral Area Director, E-West Boundary, RDKB; ex-officio member of W.Boundary Community Services Co-operative Assoc.

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Support from Boundary political jurisdictions for value added services in agricultural sector

The 2018 Boundary Area Food and Agriculture Plan was funded and developed by the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary and Interior Health. A region wide advisory committee was created (Boundary Area Food & Agriculture Committee). Interior Health continues to work with the RDKB. A key action item is:

2.2.1 Seek grant and community investment opportunities to find investment and ownership solutions to the regional need for additional meat processing.

The West Boundary Community Services Co-operative Association (the Co-op) was incorporated in early 2019. This is a non-profit co-operative. Member organizations are:

- Rock Creek Farmers' Institute (established in 1914)
- Osoyoos Credit Union (established in 1946)
- Trails to the Boundary Society (established in 2015)
- Boundary Family Services (established in 1984), membership pending

The primary purposes of the Co-op are:

- a) Create and manage initiatives to collectively address community development and community economic development in the West Boundary
- b) Address issues of poverty and inequality in the West Boundary
- c) Coordinate, develop, manage and provide training and education for individuals, groups and organizations to strengthen local capacity
- d) Broker, provide and manage space for public amenities, high speed internet, technical assistance, tools and materials
- e) Facilitate communication and marketing assistance to local organizations and initiatives aimed at benefiting people in the West Boundary
- f) Facilitate and support emergency and disaster preparedness initiatives
- g) Support health and wellness initiatives

In 2018 Rock Creek Farmers Institute and Osoyoos Credit Union partnered to purchase a piece of property near Rock Creek. They have given a 99 year, renewable lease to the Co-op for management of the land, construction of buildings and management of activities and programs on the land. The site is called Riverside Centre, in recognition of the historic town site established there in the 1850s.

Actions of the Co-op to date:

- Funding raised for construction of a Community Centre building; construction is underway
- 3 long-term lease clients in place
- Grant received from Vancouver Foundation for creation of an economic development plan for the West Boundary
- Grant received from the Co-operators for co-op development
- Contract for Executive Director/Economic Development Manager

Phase 2: Creation of a Food Hub for the Boundary, the need:

- There is a bottleneck in meat processing capacity in the Boundary
- A local family owns and operates a Class B, provincially inspected abattoir in Rock Creek
- There is a region wide shortage of cut & wrap and value added meat processing in the Boundary
- Farmers are restricted in their ability to grow/expand as a result of this constriction
- Currently the abattoir serves farmers from Keremeos to the Kootenays and north to Kelowna
- Lack of region wide food processing facilities and marketing capacity
- Individual producers lack resources to develop on their own
- Local organizations across the Boundary are individually trying to address these issues, but lack resources & capacity

The plan:

- Build a facility at the Riverside Centre site
- lease for cut & wrap operation (Memorandum of Understanding in place with potential client)
- space for smoking, sausage making, commercial soup line
- support for businesses to raise funds for equipment, coolers, freezers
- support for farmers and other potential small scale food processors for business planning for value-added enterprises throughout the Boundary through outreach and a virtual incubation/accelerator service
- accelerator services to scale up and finance existing food processing businesses when they are ready to grow
- involve Kettle Valley Food Co-op for marketing and distribution
- create retail space for direct sales to public of locally produced food
- marketing plan and branding (would likely start with Boundary beef)
- create Social Enterprise opportunities

Next steps:

- the Co-op is applying for grants to raise money for capital and services (Rural Dividend and Food Hub grants)
- we're asking for support from all 6 political jurisdictions in the Boundary in support of these grant applications

Support from Boundary political jurisdictions for value added services in agricultural sector

The 2018 Boundary Area Food and Agriculture Plan was funded and developed by the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary and Interior Health. A region wide advisory committee was created (Boundary Area Food & Agriculture Committee). Interior Health continues to work with the RDKB. The plan is overseen by the Boundary Community Development Committee. It has received support of all Electoral Areas and municipalities in the Boundary.

The jurisdictions listed below acknowledge:

- the urgent need for meat value-added services in the Boundary
- the importance of farmers to be able to scale up their production to meet existing demand
- the importance of farmers to have the opportunity to add value to their products to increase their income and stretch sales throughout the year
- the need for professional food consulting services to support food processing enterprises

Grace McGregor, Director, Area C (Christina Lake)

Date

Mayor Taylor, for City of Grand Forks

Date

Roly Russell, Director, Area D (Rural Grand Forks)

Date

Support from Boundary political jurisdictions for value added services in agricultural sector

Mayor Smith, for City of Greenwood

Date

Mayor Fromme, for Village of Midway

Date

Vicki Gee, Director, Area E (West Boundary)

Date