

February 17, 2021

Director Margo Wagner, Chair  
Cariboo Regional District  
180 North 3rd Avenue, Suite D  
Williams Lake, BC V2G 2A4

Dear Director Wagner,

**Re: Letter of Endorsement for Organic Extension Service**

The Institute for Sustainable Food Systems (ISFS) is an applied research and extension unit at Kwantlen Polytechnic University that investigates and supports regional food systems. Our applied research focuses on the potential of regional food systems in terms of agriculture and food, economics, community health, policy, and environmental integrity. Our extension programming provides information and support for farmers, communities, business, policymakers, and others. You can find more information about our work on our website: <https://www.kpu.ca/isfs>.

Our Institute is conducting a feasibility study, funded by the BC Ministry of Agriculture, for the development and implementation of an organic agriculture and food system extension service in BC. Our goal is to bring forth a comprehensive Organic Sector Extension Service development, implementation, operations, and funding plan for BC. We believe a coordinated province-wide organic extension service can contribute to the agricultural and economic development priorities of the Cariboo Regional District. Programs, resources, and connections would be available to support the sustainability and viability of farms and food businesses in your region. The extension service will be accessible to and inclusive of all farmers and processors, regardless of organic certification status or inclination.

Attached is a 1-page graphic summary of the proposed service's goals and structure. At this juncture the 'plan' is a work in progress as we continue to consult with food system actors, including regional government staff. We would be pleased to share the final report with you upon its completion.

**Our invitation to the Regional District is to consider providing a letter of endorsement in concept for the organic extension service.** In the letter you may choose to elaborate on your region's agricultural and economic development priorities that must be addressed by an organic extension service. In addition, we invite you to indicate if there might be a willingness from the regional district to consider a tangible financial contribution to support such a service, and what amount might be feasible. Of course such indication confers no obligation. The letter of endorsement will be included in our final report to strengthen the case for the provincial government to join with stakeholders to establish this service in the near future.

Thank you for your consideration.



Sincerely,  
Kent Mullinix, PhD.  
Director

