



## ***NEWS RELEASE***

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### **Start planning now for future farming – Campbell River Food Map can help!**

With fall harvests well underway, now's the time to think about next year's gardening – or even plan to start your own farming business.

If you're a new or aspiring farmer, use the Campbell River *Food Map* to connect with other community members and farmers to bring your land into production. The *Food Map* contains an inventory of public and private lands that may be available for food growing and gardening.

*"The Campbell River Food Map is a great way for veteran farmers to connect with young British Columbians pursuing a career in agriculture,"* said Agriculture Minister Norm Letnick. *"Helping new farmers access smaller parcels of land will result in new businesses starting on a scale their owners find comfortable and affordable, and more local foods being produced in Campbell River."*

Private land owners can list farming or gardening properties available for lease or rent. And new farmers who lack the resources to bring their entire property into production may benefit from partnering with aspiring farmers or community groups interested in small-scale food production. Simply log on to list your property in the database.

*"A number of properties on the food map might be suitable for community gardening, and we encourage private land owners to list their property if they're interested in developing partnerships for gardening and farming,"* says Amber Zirnhelt, the City's manager of long range planning and sustainability. *"This emerging industry can provide livelihoods for a new generation of farmers, agricultural producers and food entrepreneurs, while adding to the resiliency of the community."*

There are more than 5,000 hectares of agricultural land in Campbell River, and 18 per cent of Campbell River Chamber of Commerce members work in the food and hospitality sector.

The *Food Map* was created by the City in partnership with the Campbell River Chamber of Commerce and with funding from the Real Estate Foundation of BC. The online registry also lists information about local food production and opportunities to purchase local food products and has had more than 22,000 visits since it was launched this April.

For more information about the *Food Map* or to have your business or property listed, please visit [www.foodmap.campbellriver.ca](http://www.foodmap.campbellriver.ca) or contact the City of Campbell River at [sustainability@campbellriver.ca](mailto:sustainability@campbellriver.ca).

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