



# COLUMBIA SHUSWAP REGIONAL DISTRICT

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April 11, 2024

Dear Funding Committee:

**Re: Letter of Support for Southern BC Agri-forum**

The Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD) Board of Directors is pleased to provide this letter of support for the proposed initiative to host a Southern BC Agri-forum. This initiative has the potential to offer urgently needed support to our regional agricultural sector, to help secure its continued growth and vitality.

In recent years, the agricultural sector in the southern interior of British Columbia has been increasingly affected by the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events. Rising temperatures and shifting precipitation patterns have led to prolonged droughts, exacerbating water scarcity and stressing crops and livestock. Heatwaves have caused heat stress in animals and crops, reducing yields, and affecting their quality. Additionally, more frequent and intense wildfires pose a significant threat to agricultural lands, destroying crops, damaging infrastructure, and impacting air quality. These challenges highlight the urgent need for adaptation strategies and resilience-building measures within the agricultural community to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change on farming practices and food production in the region.

The CSRD Board fully supports the goal of the proposed event to foster collaboration and opportunities for growth among farmers in the Southern Interior. It is critically important to provide the local agricultural sector with education and support in the areas of climate adaptation, risk management, agri-tourism, immigration policies, and agri-forestry.

For the reasons enumerated above, the CSRD Board strongly encourages a funding award to the Creston Valley-Kootenay Lake Economic Action Partnership for this important regional initiative to provide much needed support and assistance to the agricultural sector in the Southern Interior.

Yours truly,  
**COLUMBIA SHUSWAP REGIONAL DISTRICT**

Per:

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Kevin Flynn  
Board Chair

**ELECTORAL AREAS**

A GOLDEN-COLUMBIA  
B REVELSTOKE-COLUMBIA

C EAGLE BAY-WHITE LAKE-TAPPEN  
D FALKLAND-SALMON VALLEY

E SICAMOUS-MALAKWA  
F NORTH SHUSWAP-SEYMOUR ARM  
G BLIND BAY-SORRENTO-NOTCH HILL

**MUNICIPALITIES**

GOLDEN  
REVELSTOKE

SALMON ARM  
SICAMOUS