



Gift Proposal Farm Hub Food Processing Facility

PRESENTED BY GREGORY WARNER

DISTRICT OF NORTH SAANICH

APRIL 28, 2025

- ▶ Offering a gift of \$750,000 to cover the cost of construction of a farm hub food processing facility in the District of North Saanich

- ▶ Consistent with the Draft Official Community Plan presented to Council on March 24, 2025

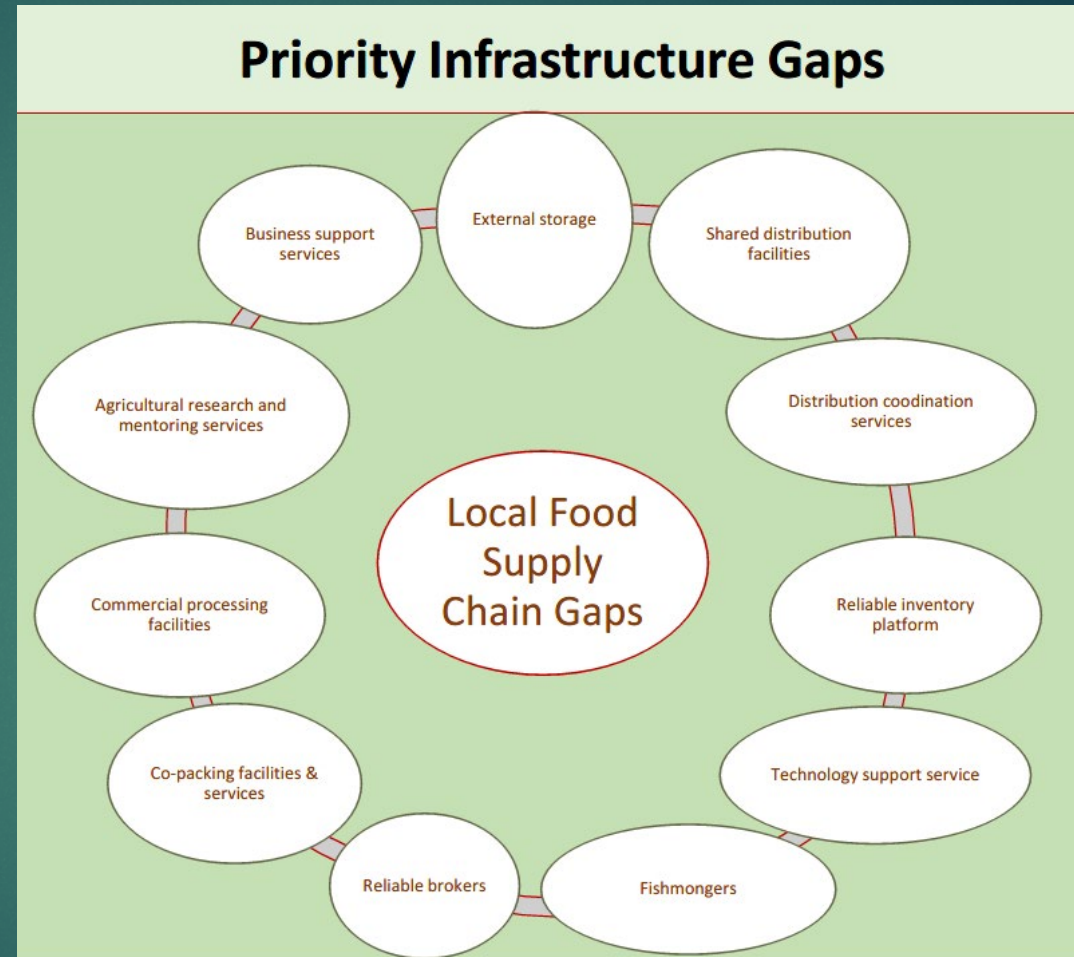
5.6.17 Support access to agricultural processing facilities and services including kitchen, cold storage, aggregating service, abattoir, tool access to reduce the greenhouse gases emitted to transport food.

- ▶ Consistent with community feedback reported in the Staff Report to Council on August 12, 2024

Farmer access to services that support their agricultural activities	• A food hub/co-op with features include processing facilities (storage areas, cleaning facilities, commercial kitchens), tool access and educational spaces and retail; location most cited was Sandown; diverse opinions and desire for community engagement • Need for an abattoir • Branding for agriculture
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The studies and analyses have been done – we know what is missing.

- Closing the Supply Gap: Making Transformational Change in the Food System
- District of Central Saanich Comprehensive Feasibility Study
- District of North Saanich Preliminary Feasibility Study



Phase 1 – Food Hub

- ▶ A minimum 1,000 square foot, slab-on-grade metal frame food hub facility
- ▶ Constructed with a view to expansion as the needs and resources of the community permit
- ▶ Estimated cost per square foot of construction is \$350.00
 - ▶ Building construction estimated to cost \$350,000.00
 - ▶ Remaining \$400,000.00 to outfit the facility with cold storage, freezers, combi oven, and other basic shared-use food processing amenities
- ▶ Total cost of project estimated to be \$750,000.00

Contribution of the District of North Saanich

- ▶ District of North Saanich to provide the lands on which the facility will be built
 - ▶ Possibly the district lands adjacent to the municipal facilities
- ▶ All utility hook-ups required to operate the facility, including three-phase electrical power services
- ▶ The District will be the sole owner of the facility, and responsible for the planning, design and construction of the facility

Other Considerations

- ▶ After construction, priority access to the facility should be made available to small- and medium size agricultural producers from the community (with excess capacity to be made available to other farmers that don't meet these qualifications)
- ▶ Ideally the facility will be used as a community hub and education facility in time
- ▶ Victoria Foundation has commented that there may be options through the Victoria Foundation where support could be encouraged for other members of the community to support the farm hub food processing facility in the District of North Saanich if it proceeds

The Purpose of the Gift

- ▶ To preserve, promote and revitalize local agriculture
- ▶ To encourage a new generation of local farmers by reducing their capital investment requirement by providing infrastructure to support their agricultural pursuits
- ▶ To address gaps in the local food chain and encourage local small- to medium-size producers to produce more food by having facilities to assist with sale, storage and processing of their produce
- ▶ To provide investment in capital intensive agricultural infrastructure projects to be accessed by farmers in North Saanich
- ▶ To foster a sustainable, knowledgeable and food-secure community
- ▶ To support and inspire a vibrant, thriving and prosperous agricultural community, increasing the percentage of local food that is grown, purchased and consumed for a more sustainable, equitable and food secure future
- ▶ To reduce the carbon footprint of the current food supply chain