



Society #: # S-28793

Name: Northern Environmental Action Team

Civic Address: 10421-100 St.

Mailing Address: Same

City: Fort St John

Postal Code: V1J 3Z3

Contact Person: Karen Mason-Bennett

Alternate Person: Bess Legault

Tel:

Tel:

Email:

Email:

SOCIETY EXECUTIVES

President: Jeff Aitken

Vice President: Ernie Freeman

Treasurer: Randi Loewen

PROJECT COSTS

Total Cost of Project: \$1.5 million

Amount Requested per 85000 **

For how many years? 1 yr ☐ 2 yrs ☐ 3 yrs ☒

** Requesting \$85,000/year for 3 years for total of \$255,000

Have you applied to a municipality for funding? Yes ☐ No ☒ If so, how much did you apply for?Was your application successful? Yes ☐ No ☒ If so, how much did you receive?

Describe the project for which your organization is requesting a grant and the reason for your request.

If more space is needed, please add it as an attachment to your application.

Please see attached

ATTACHMENTS REQUIRED:

- Project budget, including all sources of funding
- Current financial statements showing expenses, revenues & savings

Signature of Applicant: Karen Mason-Bennett

Date: Feb 17/2021

For Office Use Only

Fair Share: B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐Gas Tax: ☐PRA: B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐Other: ☐BCR/PRA: B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐



February 4, 2021

Director Goodings, Area B
Director Sperling, Area C
Director Hiebert, Area D
Director Rose, Area E

Re: Northern Co-Hort Financial Support Request

Dear Directors,

Since its inception in 2018, the Northern Co-Hort has been working to support regional horticultural producers, researching sector trends, building collaborative partnerships, and providing educational and capacity building opportunities based on the 2017 EcoTactix report: *Horticulture Business Case and Marketing Strategy*.

Our research has identified support gaps for small scale producers including marketing and distribution, community engagement and education, and strengthening the business case for production. As such, the Co-Hort's goals are to collectively engage with our members in order to develop and grow a strong regenerative horticultural sector and support the next generation of family farms in the region. Our success will be demonstrated through:

1. an increase in local dollars spent on locally produced food items,
2. an increase in the amount of diversified land that is being cultivated to develop and maintain soil health,
3. further development of an efficient and collaborative marketing and distribution system throughout the region and beyond, and
4. an increase in the number of financially sustainable small to medium scale producers that are able to focus fully on their farming activities

Together we are focused on climate resilience, local food security, and the support of a strong, diverse, and robust community of producers that are sharing, mentoring, and educating themselves and those around them.

For more than two years, the Northern Co-Hort has surveyed participants on their farming practices; provided education opportunities around regenerative farming practices, grant

Northern Environmental
Action Team

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writing training; and offer annual farm support through the Eco-Farm Skills program. Through the collaborative approach with provincial experts, the Co-Hort has demonstrated our commitment to exploring multiple avenues of diversified production driven by our member farms, innovative research through partially funded through Investment Agriculture Fund, oil and gas reclamation experts (Fixed Earth Innovations), and utilized the Regional Grant Writer to connect producers to funding opportunities.

One of the themes of the Co-Hort work has been collaborative partnerships regionally and across the country. Coordinator, Bess Legault has been instrumental in connecting local work to organizations such as, National Farmers Union, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Young Agrarians, the Small Scale Meat Producers Association, Farm Folk, City Folk, and the BC Association of Farmer's Markets. Her participation and leadership has been instrumental in ensuring a northern voice is heard across the province and country.

Another strongly identified theme of our work is farmer led research and development which is ensuring local producers have the ability to make important business decisions based on real research involving soil health and micro-climates, and leading to increased crop diversification and the planned commercialization of horticulture crops such as sour cherries, haskaps, and other soft fruits.

The third strongly identified theme of our work is community and producer interest in the development of a Peace Community Food Hub Network to strengthen northern food security. The Northern Co-hort will be receiving the Feasibility and Business Plan at the end of March for a Food Hub model that is tailored to our communities here in the Peace Region with the goal of increasing the amount of food dollars spent on Peace Region grown and processed food. We look forward to sharing more of the findings from this work conducted in our region.

The Northern Co-Hort has now grown to require a regular full time assistant in addition to the program coordinator. Our 2021 programming is tackling difficult conversations around climate change through soil health discussions between producers of different scales and types of production in Rose Prairie and connecting them with experienced agrologists in our region that will inform climate specific adaptation using regionally specific soil information. This innovative pilot project is funded through an initial systems change grant from Vancouver Foundation.



The Ask: The Northern Co-Hort requests financial support in the amount of \$85,000 annually for the next three years.

NEAT and the Co-Hort have been both intentional and creative with funding and partnership development to maximize our impact. We have utilized a combination of grant funding, membership fees, and paid service offerings to grow the Co-Hort to this point. We are requesting financial support from the Rural Directors to support the next step of development: to further the economic development and administration work being done for regional horticultural production. This support will tie together all of the research projects taking place with outreach and engagement opportunities, marketing and distribution efforts, and our Eco-Farm Skills program, ensuring that momentum and opportunities for impact are not lost.

These funds will be used to provide staffing and administrative support for the program. There is a detailed budget attached to this letter that clearly outlines our plans for 2021-2023.

Over the next three years, we will grow the Northern Co-Hort into a robust local advocacy and education organization that builds collaborative successes throughout the Region. This is why we are inviting you to help us achieve this goal.

We are excited about all of the opportunities ahead of us and the ability to positively impact the development of a robust local horticultural sector in The Peace. We appreciate your consideration of this request and are happy to answer any questions you may have about the program and our plans.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Karen Mason-Bennett
Executive Director
Northern Environmental Action Team

Bess Legault
Northern Co-Hort Coordinator
Northern Environmental Action Team



Northern Co-Hort & Rural Official Community Plan By-law No. 1940, 2011 Goals

OCP Goals & Objectives		Northern Co-Hort	Extension Programming	Research & Development	Summer Student/ECO Farm Skills	Food Hub
Goal 1: Land use that is supportive to the agricultural community and its industry						
Objective A: To encourage preservation and enhancement of the agricultural sector		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Objective B: To maintain a sufficiently large population in rural communities and the farming and ranching areas to ensure the continuing viability of community facilities and rural commercial establishments		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Objective C: To support the longevity of the agricultural industry through encouragement of farm diversification initiatives, allowing for uses compatible with agriculture, and generally supporting family and corporate farms		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Objective D: To promote agricultural products from the Peace Region		Y	Y			Y
Goal 2: Protection of the rural lifestyle which provides residents with rural characteristics such as peace, privacy, friendliness, access to community facilities, the enjoyment of open space, and the quiet enjoyment of the land; all of which contribute to a desirable rural way-of-life						
Objective A: To provide for the continuance and enhancement of the lifestyle enjoyed by rural residents and to provide for the availability of this lifestyle to future rural residents		Y				
Goal 3: Effective provision of local and regional government services to the rural area						
Objective A: To plan for population growth in rural communities and neighbourhoods while directing more high density development to the municipalities and Fringe Areas		The Northern Co-Hort is dedicated to ensuring that smaller scale, regenerative farming practices are economically viable in the local context. We believe this commitment will help support the Rural Directors' goals around population growth in rural communities.				
Objective C: To assist community organizations, residents, and applicable agencies, in determining the feasibility of additional public facilities and local government services in the rural area, where such facilities and services are affordable to the residents receiving the facilities and services		The Northern Co-Hort is dedicated to the development of a regional food hub which will be available to the community of agricultural producers.				
Objective D: When helping build public facilities, to include accessibility features and remove barriers to universal accessibility		The regional food hub will be an accessible facility and will make every effort to reduce barriers to universal accessibility.				



Objective E: To implement the PRRD Solid Waste Management Plan and effectively manage domestic solid waste throughout the rural area	In partnership with other NEAT programs, the regional food hub will work towards zero food waste. Additionally, the Northern Co-Horts programming supports the use and reuse of organic waste as part of the regenerative farming philosophy.			
Objective F: To collaborate with provincial agencies, member municipalities, and volunteer organizations to provide emergency management and preparedness for the region.				
Goal 5: Economic opportunities that benefit residents and land-owners				
Objective A: To allow residents with skills to capitalize on their talents through home-based businesses and employment in the rural area	Y	Y		Y
Objective B: To designate a sufficient supply of land whose development could be affordable and flexible to meet prevailing economic opportunities				Y
Objective C: To recognize the important social and economic contributions made by the major resource sectors, such as agriculture, forestry, tourism, petroleum development and others	Y	Y	Y	Y
Objective D: To support an integrated and balanced approach to managing the major resources in a manner that considers the maximum long term benefits of the region's residents and the environment	Y	Y	Y	Y
Objective E: To support the strategies and policies of the South Peace Economic Development Commission and the North Peace Economic Development Commission				
Goal 6: Recognition of surface and ground water sources as critical, life-sustaining resources and use of best practices in preserving, restoring, and protecting watershed areas				
Objective A: To help protect the water quality and quantity of both surface and ground water sources, throughout the rural area, used for domestic water consumption	Y	Y	Y	
Objective C: To encourage water management strategies that increases the availability of water to the agricultural sector, while striving to ensure management operations are consistent with provincial and federal objectives for protecting water quality and supply	Y	Y	Y	
Objective F: To assist in the protection of lakes, river corridors, and waterways in the rural area, including but not limited to the Peace River, the Kiskatinaw River, and the Pine River	Y	Y	Y	
Objective J: To recognize the importance of riparian areas for maintaining aquatic ecosystem function and water quality				
Objective K: To work with and encourage the Federal and Provincial governments to identify and map aquifers				
Goal 9: Living sustainably with the natural environment				
Objective A: To protect farmland from the intrusions of wildlife while working towards enhancing alternative (non-agricultural) areas for wildlife such as wetlands and natural grassland areas		Y		
Objective B: To help prevent and remove invasive plants in accordance with the BC Weed Control Act				Y
Objective D: To protect the region's ecosystems and biodiversity, and support the rehabilitation of damaged areas	Y	Y	Y	
Objective E: To recognize the potential effects of and need to monitor landscape change from large-scale	Y	Y	Y	



ecosystem processes such as interface fire, mountain pine beetle infestation, and climate							
Goal 1.1: Achieving reduction targets for greenhouse gas emissions being generated within the plan area by 5% by 2020 and 15% by 2030, from 2007 levels (or the per capita equivalents of 25% by 2020 and 45% by 2030) as measured by the PRRD Community Energy Plan	Y	Y	Y	Y			Y
Objective A: To implement the strategies and actions as described in the PRRD Community Energy Report (Sept 2010)							
Objective B: To participate with the member municipalities in regional greenhouse gas reduction strategies							
Objective C: As opportunities arise, to participate in projects being implemented by other organizations, that would contribute to the greenhouse gas reduction goal							

2021 Northern Co-Hort Budget

2022 Budget

2023 Budget

Notes:

	Northern Co-Hort	NDIT BC Hydro Compensation Fund - Extension (Approved)	Soil Research (Approved)	Co-Hort: Demo Farm (Pending Approval)	KPU Organic & Regenerative Extension Management (pending)	Co-Hort: Student/ECO Farm Skills (Pending Approval)	Food Hub (Approved - remaining funds from 2020)	Food Hub Business Plan & Follow up	Co-Hort Totals
Revenue									
Donations	\$ 5,000								\$ 5,000
Donations in Kind	\$ 5,000		\$ 34,130						\$ 39,130
Freeweed Revenue	\$ 1,500								\$ 1,500
Memberships	\$ 2,450								\$ 2,450
Fundraising - Bingo			\$ 9,280			\$ 1,101			\$ 10,381
Grants	\$ 3,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 120,000	\$ 45,000		\$ 39,400	\$ 40,000	\$ 235,000	\$ 486,400
Grants - PRRD			\$ 25,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 15,000		\$ 15,000	\$ 85,000
Grants - Vancouver Fdn	\$ 20,000								\$ 20,000
General Revenue						\$ 7,200			\$ 7,200
Registration Fee			\$ 2,000	\$ 1,000					\$ 3,000
Revenue - Co-Hort Sales						\$ 2,000			\$ 2,000
Total Revenue	\$ 36,950	\$ 5,000	\$ 190,410	\$ 66,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 63,701	\$ 40,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 662,081

Extension on the grant received this year

	Northern Co-Hort	NDIT BC Hydro Compensation Fund - Extension (Approved)	Soil Research (Approved)	Co-Hort: Demo Farm (Pending Approval)	KPU Organic & Regenerative Extension Management (pending)	Co-Hort: Student/ECO Farm Skills (Pending Approval)	Food Hub (Approved - remaining funds from 2020)	Food Hub Business Plan & Follow up	Co-Hort Totals
EXPENSES									
WAGES									
Accounting & Legal	\$ 1,000								\$ 1,000
Advertising - Marketing	\$ 1,200		\$ 300	\$ 500					\$ 2,000
Admin/Overhead Charge			\$ 9,000	\$ 1,000			\$ 8,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 28,000
Consulting Fees	\$ 5,000		\$ 106,030				\$ 30,000		\$ 141,030
Infrastructure Investment				\$ 20,000				\$ 200,000	\$ 220,000
Insurance				\$ 1,000				\$ 2,000	\$ 3,000
Meals/Accommodation	\$ 500		\$ 2,000	\$ 500					\$ 3,000
Office Rent & Utilities	\$ 3,000			\$ 2,000	\$ 1,000				\$ 6,000
Office Exp-Stationery/Printing/Diar	\$ 200		\$ 125					\$ 2,500	\$ 2,825
Participant Value (In Kind Expense)	\$ 2,000		\$ 20,000						\$ 22,000
Professional Dev/training	\$ 9,000							\$ 6,000	\$ 15,000
Resource materials				\$ 1,000					\$ 1,000
Event Expenses	\$ 3,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 8,000						\$ 16,000
Supplies-Materials for Programs	\$ 1,500			\$ 5,075					\$ 6,575
Vehicle/travel	\$ 18,000		\$ 7,100	\$ 4,000		\$ 3,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 35,100
Website				\$ 1,500					\$ 1,500
Total Expenses	\$ 44,400	\$ 5,000	\$ 143,430	\$ 44,700	\$ 2,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 221,500	\$ 504,030
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 44,400	\$ 5,000	\$ 190,336	\$ 59,779	\$ 10,000	\$ 63,701	\$ 40,000	\$ 248,500	\$ 661,716
NET INCOME	\$ (7,450)	\$ -	\$ 74	\$ 6,221	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,500	\$ 345

Hoping we can travel for outreach again in 22/23

Eco-Farm skills support travel

PRRD Rural Directors Request for Support

Northern Co-Hort	NDIT BC Hydro Compensation Fund - Extension (Approved)	Soil Research (Pending Approval)	Co-Hort: Demo Farm (Pending Approval)	KPU Organic & Regenerative Extension Management (pending)	Co-Hort: Summer Student/ECO Farm Skills (Pending Approval)	Food Hub (Approved - remaining funds from 2020)	Food Hub Business Plan & Follow up	Co-Hort Totals
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REVENUE

Revenue

Grants - PRRD		\$ 25,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 15,000		\$ 15,000	\$ 85,000
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Northern Co-Hort	NDIT BC Hydro Compensation Fund - Extension (Approved)	Soil Research (Pending Approval)	Co-Hort: Demo Farm (Pending Approval)	KPU Organic & Regenerative Extension Managment (pending)	Co-Hort: Summer Student	Food Hub (Approved - remaining funds from 2020)	Food Hub Business Plan & Follow up	Co-Hort Totals
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EXPENSES

WAGES

		\$ 22,500	\$ 15,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 10,000		\$ 10,500	\$ 66,000
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Accounting & Legal								\$ -	
Advertising - Marketing								\$ -	
Admin/Overhead Charge		\$ 2,500	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,500		\$ 1,500	\$ 8,500	
Consulting Fees								\$ -	
Infrastructure Investment								\$ -	
Insurance			\$ 1,000					\$ 1,000	
Meals/Accommodation								\$ -	
Office Rent & Utilities				\$ 1,000				\$ 1,000	
Office Exp-Stationary/Printing/Diar								\$ -	
Participant Value (In Kind Expense)								\$ -	
Professional Dev/training			\$ 2,000				\$ 3,000	\$ 5,000	
Resource materials								\$ -	
Event Expenses								\$ -	
Supplies-Materials for Programs								\$ -	
Vehicle/travel					\$ 3,500			\$ 3,500	
Website								\$ -	
Total Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,500	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 4,500	\$ 19,000

Total Expenses

\$	-	\$	-	\$	2,500	\$	5,000	\$	2,000	\$	5,000	\$	-	\$	4,500	\$	19,000
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TOTAL EXPENSES

\$	-	\$	-	\$	25,000	\$	20,000	\$	10,000	\$	15,000	\$	-	\$	15,000	\$	85,000
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NET INCOME

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