

July 2024

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the Peninsula and Area Agricultural Commission?

The Peninsula and Area Agricultural Commission (PAAC) advises municipalities on matters involving agriculture, facilitates the development of programs for implementation of the Saanich Peninsula Agricultural Strategy objectives and keep municipalities advised of these programs. Established in 1997, PAAC is supported by the member municipalities. More information is available [here](#).

### Why is Council reviewing the District's participation with PAAC?

The PAAC Terms of Reference (TOR), which guide the function of the group, have not been updated since 2014. General best practice is to review TOR every few years. Some recent procedural mix-ups resulted in Central Saanich wanting to take an opportunity to review the governance, to see what our local agricultural community wants in terms of a voice with the District, to ensure that the PAAC still has a role in providing feedback to the District on agricultural issues, and that there are not other ways to better serve our local farmers.

### How does Central Saanich support the farming and agricultural communities

Council and the community are invested in supporting local farms and improving food security. Support for the agricultural sector is a priority on the 2024-2027 Strategic Plan.

In recent years the District has invested in developing a management plan for XIKEL (Maber Flats), initiated a review of farm worker accommodations and housing on ALR, working to improve drainage in Martindale Valley, providing FireSmart resources to local agricultural land owners, and updating our Official Community Plan to reflect current feedback on agricultural topics.

On the horizon includes an update Central Saanich's Agricultural Area Plan in 2026, establishing a more formal environmental monitoring program, and hosting open houses for local farmers to exchange ideas.

### What are the next steps?

Staff will bring a report back to a Council meeting in September.