

SITE C CLEAN ENERGY PROJECT

BC HYDRO PEACE AGRICULTURAL COMPENSATION FUND

BC Hydro recognizes the important role agriculture plays in the Peace River region. The Peace Agricultural Compensation Fund is a key mitigation measure of the Site C project, providing \$20 million to support agricultural production and agrifoods initiatives in the region.

The fund was identified in the Site C [Agricultural Mitigation and Compensation Plan](#). This plan outlines the ways BC Hydro will avoid or mitigate Site C's effects on agriculture. BC Hydro worked with many partners and stakeholders to develop the plan, including the provincial government and regional agricultural stakeholders such as landowners, tenure holders, Peace Region agricultural associations and local stakeholders.

In addition to the BC Hydro Peace Agricultural Compensation Fund, the Province of British Columbia has announced a new dedicated B.C. Food Security Fund. The fund is based on Site C revenues and will support farming and enhancement of agricultural innovation and productivity across B.C.

As of March 31, 2020, a total of \$399,128 has been distributed to 16 projects to support Peace Region agricultural production and agrifoods initiatives.

For more information and to apply, please visit www.sitecproject.com/AqFund or www.northerndevelopment.bc.ca (search "Agricultural Fund").

Board and governance

Implementation of the Agricultural Compensation Fund began in 2018, starting with formation of a 10-member funding board including:

- 6 appointees of regional agricultural associations or the Peace River Regional District (PRRD)
- 3 members-at-large
- 1 member who is a Peace River Valley agricultural producer

The board represents the diverse range of agricultural interests and opportunities in the Peace Region. Board membership is structured to be diverse, supporting existing major agricultural sectors as well as smaller or emerging agricultural sectors. It prioritizes consensus-based decision making, aimed at best supporting the Peace Region agricultural industry as a whole.

The board and fund administrator, Northern Development Initiative Trust, work together with BC Hydro to establish plans, procedures and processes to administer the Agricultural Fund.

Funding recipients: 2019 – 2020

Recipient	Project description
B.C. Grain Producers Association	To increase genetic availability of crops in the Peace Region while mitigating producers' financial risk on their own farms, as well as to bring varieties that are higher yielding and higher quality for unique conditions of northern B.C.
Blackbird Environmental Ltd.	To provide a field school with professional agrologists as training resources for participants to learn about integrating drone technology in agricultural production workflows in the Peace Region.
Northern Environmental Action Team	To provide outreach and educational opportunities that support best practices for alternative agricultural production in the Region and build community between primary and secondary producers.
Peace River Regional 4-H Council	To provide 4-H program leadership training for youth to build skills and gain experience in several agriculture related projects that will help members to become successful in agriculture industry employment and enterprise.
Arills Ranch Ltd.	To construct a high-quality, eight-foot game fence to enable the ranch to keep and protect more feed and cleaner feed, thereby increasing the production of locally raised beef.
RDR Ventures Ltd.	To increase grazing capacity by enhancing the rotational grazing water system on the ranch, thereby supporting local Peace Region agricultural production.
Don Titus Parent Advisory Council	To provide early agricultural education to students in grades K–7, to generate agricultural literacy and interest in a career path in the agricultural industry.
Kathleen Peck	To support the Canadian Acres Regenerative Agriculture Startup project in building a sustainable food system using regenerative agriculture practices.
Caitlin Vince	To support the start-up costs of a farm-to-table store in Hudson's Hope featuring all locally and regionally produced produce, wheats and grains, meats, and value-added products.
Eden Greens Inc.	To support local agricultural production by allowing year-round growth in a climate-controlled indoor growing facility.
Summit Acre Farms Ltd.	To undertake a pulse processing feasibility study to understand sustainability of running such an operation and determine viable markets.
North Peace Cattlemen's Association	To host the 2020 B.C. Cattlemen's Conference and AGM. The conference will showcase production tech and provide educational opportunities to producers.
Peace River Forage Association of B.C.	To provide an extensive knowledge transfer and mentorship plan that will address topics of interest to forage and livestock producers, thereby increasing profitability and sustainability of local agriculture enterprises.
Peace Region Forage Seed Association	To conduct a full review of the Peace agriculture weather monitoring network, including the physical stations and web-based platform, to identify and address gaps in the existing system and enhance its function for Peace producers.
North Peace 4-H District Council	To provide safety upgrades to the North Peace Fair grounds beef show ring facilities.
Hasberry Farms Inc.	To support trials of bird control measures for commercial haskap production, a new, diversifying crop for the Peace Region.