



BC ASSOCIATION OF FARMERS' MARKETS

For Immediate Release

B.C. Farmers' Market Association Announces New President from Cariboo Region

March 22, 2016 (VANCOUVER, British Columbia) – As farmers' markets across the province prepare for the 2016 season, the provincial body representing over 125 of the province's farmers' markets is welcoming a new president after its annual general meeting in Kelowna. BCAFM director, rancher, and farmers' market vendor, Wylie Bystedt from Quesnel was appointed to the role of president by the [BCAFM board of directors](#) at the meeting on March 6.

"It has been an honour to work with the past president, Jon Bell over the last three years and I look forward to working with our current slate of directors in the coming years," said Bystedt. "The BCAFM plays an integral role in agriculture in the province and I am grateful for the opportunity to work with our member markets to further the cause of farmers' markets and locally sourced food and crafts throughout B.C. With a membership that represents thousands of local family farms and artisans we truly are the source of local food."

Bystedt is the owner and operator of Coyote Acres Ranch, a diversified family-owned ranch in Quesnel that produces beef, pork, lamb, chicken and llama. She is a vendor at the Quesnel and McLeese Lake Farmers' Markets, a director of the Quesnel Farmers' Market, and an active member of the Northern Cariboo community. In addition to farming, Bystedt has operated a consulting firm that focuses on business management, social services, agriculture and agri-tourism for 25 years. She participates in a variety of regional and provincial agriculture and business associations, including the North Cariboo Sheep Producers Association and the North Cariboo Agriculture Marketing Association.

Outgoing BCAFM board members were also recognized at the meeting for their contributions to building the province's farmers' market sector, including former president, Jon Bell of the Sechelt Farmers' and Artisans' Market; and director, Cat Majors of the Armstrong Farmers' Market. Outgoing president, Jon Bell, completed a six year term on the board and will remain a member of the executive committee in the role of past president.

Two new directors were elected to the board: Vickey Brown, Executive Director of the Comox Valley Farmers' Market; and Laura Smit, District Manager for the Vancouver Farmers Markets. The annual general meeting took place on the final day of the 17th annual [BCAFM Conference, Nourish + Flourish](#) with the theme "Healthy Markets Make Healthy Communities." The event attracted over 140 producers, farmers' market organizers, and community leaders to participate in the two and a half days of workshops and networking events, including the [Best of 2015 – BC Farmers' Market Awards](#).

2016 BCAFM Board of Directors:

- Wylie Bystedt, President - Quesnel Farmers' Market (Cariboo Chilcotin Coast Region)
- Shankar Raina, Vice-President - Whistler Farmers Market (Sea to Sky Region)
- Bruce Fatkin, Treasurer – Abbotsford Farm and Country Market (Fraser Valley Region)
- Erna Jensen, Secretary - Cranbrook Farmers' Market (Kootenay Rockies Region)
- Helen Fathers, Director – White Rock Farmers' Market (Greater Vancouver Region)
- Rubina Jamal, Director – Artisan Farmers Markets Society (Greater Vancouver Region)
- James Macdonald, Director – Armstrong Farmers' Market (Thompson Okanagan Region)
- Vickey Brown, Director – Comox Valley Farmers' Market (Vancouver Island/Gulf Islands Region)
- Laura Smit, Director – Vancouver Farmers Markets (Greater Vancouver Region)



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The BCAFM is a registered B.C. society that represents over [125 farmers' markets](#) across the province. Its mission is to develop, promote and strengthen the capacity of farmers' markets. The BCAFM was founded in 2000 and operates out of Vancouver.

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Quick Links

- [BCAFM Board of Directors](#)
- [BC Farmers' Market Awards Winners – Best of 2015](#)
- [2016 Conference Nourish + Flourish: Healthy Markets Make Healthy Communities](#)
- Find a farmers' market: <http://markets.bcfarmersmarket.org/>

Website: www.bcfarmersmarket.org

Facebook: facebook.com/BCAFM

Twitter: [@BCFarmersMarket](https://twitter.com/BCFarmersMarket)

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