



Hello Friends of AITC,

Warm greetings as we celebrate the gifts of family, good friends, healthy food and holiday cheer! We are happy to celebrate another year of growth with each of our programs and on our educational resource shelf, as well as new adventures with BC Agriculture in the Classroom in 2019!

We expanded the learning for classes in *Spuds in Tubs* program with *Blossoms Big Job*, a story book about a bee's job in pollination, thanks to partnerships with Agriculture in the Classroom Canada and FCC.

The classes that learn about daffodil bulbs and growing *Planting a Promise* extended their learning this year to add planting Canadian Liberator Tulips as part of our *Celebrating Liberation with a Promise* program thanks to the donations from Van Noort Bulb Company and partnership with the Dutch Liberation Canadian Society 2020. Looking forward to seeing all of those blooms in April and May!

The *Harvest Bin Project* starting school gardens has grown with new teaching lessons and more schools participating thanks to new partnerships with Vancity, BC Youth in Agriculture Foundation, Silver Valley Farms, and Rick's Heart Foundation.

The greenhouse tours with school classrooms hit a number of over 1300 teachers and students touring and learning about pepper greenhouses from Abbotsford to Delta in May. Thanks to the BC Greenhouse Growers who opened their doors for tours and the neighbouring growers who helped as added speakers and guides, it was a great learning week.

Educators Agriculture Tour was a new two-day summer tour for teachers to learn first hand about the farm, the challenges agriculture producers face and the real dirt on agriculture right from the Farmers themselves. It was a fast paced, action packed tour with a gourmet food experience. Thanks to Ag More than Ever, Crop Life and partnership with BC Agriculture Council and Agriculture in the Classroom Canada this was a hit!

Also, this summer, we began our BCAITC Teacher Ambassador program. Check out our team on our website. They are spread out across BC to help us share the story about BC agriculture and food. We will be building the team each year with training and resources; we are constantly working on expanding our reach. Thank you to Royal Oak Women's Institute and North Cariboo Agricultural Development Advisory Committee for sponsoring Ambassadors

We are excited to have launched the Grow BC GIS map and commodity teaching resource this year, it is found only on our website. It is a popular update to the previous paper copy edition and has caught the interest of teachers and students at all levels.

Another popular resource for Farmers who are willing to host class tours and for teachers to prepare the educational trip was updated this year: *Tips for Tours*. There is a Dairy Farm, Beef Ranch and Greenhouse booklet.

Our BCAITC Chef Randle has been out with students at community events all year but new this summer was the PNE Agriculture Culinary Stage where we highlighted cooking with BC products. We have a whole new Vancouver following!

Thanks to everyone who came out to our Sips and Sprouts Friendraiser in the Spring! It was great to meet new friends and talk about our work, as well as having everyone participate in hands on projects that we do with students and teachers! In 2020, Saturday, April 25th we will be hosting a Dinner Fundraiser for our Foundation. We hope you save the date and join us for dinner at Thomas Haney Secondary in Maple Ridge.

From all of us at BC AITC, we wish you and your families the joy of the holiday season!

Pat Tonn, Executive Director



BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation is a non-profit organization and offers tax receipts for your donation to help young people learn about BC Agriculture, their food, their environment and their future. Check us out at www.bcaitc.ca

Pat Tonn
Executive Director

