

VTE 6M9.  
march 11<sup>th</sup> 2008

Mayor's Council (Public Hearing).

Members of the Agricultural Land Commission.

I have lived and worked in Richmond since 1985 and I am an active volunteer in the community.

I support the Garden City lands remaining in the Agricultural Land Reserve.

I support all levels of government, and the Musquam Band, working together to create an urban agriculture facility on the Garden City lands that will benefit all residents of Richmond and even Canada.

I support using this great opportunity to create a world-class innovative Food Systems Centre, which will encourage initiatives that increase food security for all.

There are opportunities to develop a teaching environment that could encourage the revival of traditional Aboriginal agriculture on these lands. New immigrants could be encouraged and supported to develop small-scale intensive agriculture and food-related businesses that reflect their cultural preferences. Young people could be mentored by older farmers, wanting to retire but anxious to pass on their knowledge and skills to encourage the next generation to become agricultural professionals.

The Agricultural Land Reserve means just that. Land held in reserve so that it can be used to feed future generations.

The Garden City lands' situation offers Richmond the chance to honour the rich agricultural heritage of this community and to ensure not only the survival of agriculture under overwhelming pressure from urban sprawl but also the flourishing of much-needed innovative ways to provide sustainable local food for all of Richmond's residents.

Sincerely,

May Phillips (MS. MARY M. PHILLIPS.)