

Subject: Board nomination by Ingrid Figueroa

Dear Members of the BC Agrologist Institute,

I am writing to express my interest in joining the Board of the Regional Electoral District 3 of the British Columbia Institute of Agrologists (BCIA). With my extensive experience and qualifications in agrology, community engagement, and program development, I believe I can make valuable contributions to the institute's mission and objectives.

As a seasoned professional agrologist with over fifteen years of experience, I have worked extensively with urban and rural indigenous communities across British Columbia. My expertise lies in community engagement, organizing activities and campaigns, and structuring and utilizing limited resources creatively to achieve goals effectively. Throughout my career, I have demonstrated a strong commitment to advancing sustainable agricultural practices and promoting food sovereignty within indigenous communities.

My multidisciplinary background in various fields, including Indigenous epistemologies, environmental and soil sciences, ecological restoration, and agroecology, provides me with a unique perspective and skill set. Additionally, my experience as a community artist and popular educator has enabled me to lead complex projects with intergenerational groups while building resilience to face multiple social, economic, and ecological challenges.

I have a proven track record of building and maintaining strong working relationships with community members, colleagues, government regulators, and contractors. I am adept at incorporating feedback and advice into project plans, study designs, analysis strategies, and assessment reports, ensuring successful project outcomes. Furthermore, my experience in project management, budgeting, and strategic planning makes me well-equipped to contribute effectively to the BCIA board.

I hold a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Engineering with a major in Agroecology from Veracruz University, Mexico, and I am a certified Professional Agrologist with the BCIA. Additionally, I am a Co-Director of the Ancestral Foodways Collective Society.

Enclosed is my resume, which provides a detailed overview of my education, professional experience, and qualifications. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss how my skills and expertise align with the goals of the BCIA and how I can contribute to the board's initiatives.

Thank you for considering my nomination application. I look forward to the possibility of serving on the Board of the British Columbia Institute of Agrologists and contributing to the advancement of agrology in our province.

Sincerely,

Ingrid Figueroa

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Community Artist and Agrologist

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Summary of Experience

Ingrid is a conscientious, self-reliant professional agrologist with over fifteen years experience working with urban and rural indigenous communities. Expertise in community engagement, organizing activities and campaigns, structuring and utilizing limited resources in creative ways to accomplish goals.

Ingrid's experience in both artist and agrologist contexts gives her a unique perspective and has allowed her to work in a multiple array of projects. Ingrid has worked throughout British Columbia engaging with Indigenous communities on projects related to the development and improvement of communities applying land based activities and participatory action research to achieve in a regenerative way the goals of the communities related to Food Systems.

Summary of Qualifications

- **Multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary** expertise in various fields, including Indigenous epistemologies, environmental and soil sciences, ecological restoration, agroecology, and land use principles, I have a unique position as an artist and agrologist. As a community artist and popular educator, I have led a number of complex projects with intergenerational groups while building resilience to face multiple social, economic, and ecological crises with a trauma-informed perspective.
- **Combination of systematization, strategic abilities and exceptional attention to detail**, I have designed and conducted participatory research processes to create sustainable indicators towards building policies, governance processes, and agreements.
- **Experience building and maintaining working relationships** with community members, colleagues, government regulators, founders and contractors. Effectively incorporate feedback and advice into the project plans, study design, analysis strategies, or assessments reports and speaking in public events.
- **Experience building and maintaining strong working relationships** with community members, colleagues, government regulators, founders, and contractors. I am adept at effectively incorporating feedback and advice into project plans, study designs, analysis strategies, and assessment reports.
- **Experience co-designing and facilitating** course content and programs related to sustainable food systems from a social justice perspective.
- **Proficient project manager**, I have successfully managed projects and tasks ranging from \$1K to \$100K, which involved multidisciplinary teams and community engagement, complex project scopes, timelines, and budgets. Through my work, I have built trusting relationships with numerous community members, Parks Board staff, and other organizations.
- **Ability to conduct in-depth research** and synthesize information from various sources to address complex issues.
- **Strong understanding of legislation, regulation, and policies** at all levels of government, including municipal, provincial, and federal legislation related to land use, health, urban development, archeological sites, and conservation areas. In addition, I am familiar with municipal reports and guidelines.
- **Enterprise and organizational development**, experienced in providing support for food systems-related initiatives
- **BCIA Profesional Agrologist**
- **First Aid, WHMIS**
- **I Food Safety Certificate**
- **GIS Advance certificate in process**

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- Fully vaccinated against Covid-19
- Clean driver abstract

EDUCATION

- **Indigenous Tools for Living - Indigenous Focus Oriented Therapy - Certificate 2021**
- **Geographical Information Systems (GIS) Advanced Certificate- BCIT - In progress**
- **Mayor in Fine Arts. Secondary college degree.** Promotion 2002-2007, Center for Artistic Education "Diego Rivera" National Institute of Fine Arts & Literature (INBAL). Mexico City, Mexico.
- **Composition, Environmental Geography- Langara college BC 2019**
- **Veracruz University, Mexico. Bachelor in Agricultural Engineering -Major in Agroecology-2013.**
Coursework included agricultural and forestry technical and research. Marketing and finances into the agriculture sector. GIS sciences along with academic and fieldwork. Social science that supports the field work with indigenous and campesino communities.

Professional Societies

British Columbia Institute of Agrologist- Profesional Agrologist

Pacific Regional Society of Soil Science - Member

Latinoamerican Scientific Society of Agroecology - North American chapter

Employment History

Director & Researcher, Ancestral Food Ways, Vancouver BC. June 2022 - present

- **Support the Development of agreements** with Vancouver Parks Board and the Working Group on Indigenous Food Sovereignty within UNDRIP perspective that will support the partnerships agreements.
- **Mobilized the creation of an urban Indigenous council** engaging with community members of the Coast Salish Territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-waututh First Nations to oversee projects at Strathcona Park.
- Curate and oversee operations, seek funding.

Indigenous Foodland Coordinator, Part time- Collingwood Neighborhood House- Food Justice Institute, July.

- **Program Development,** build and sustain partnerships within Indigenous protocols to sustain the Indigenous Food Festival and the Indigenous Foodland Corridor projects.

Solidarity Economy Activator, *Indigenous Food and Freedom School, Working Group on Indigenous Food Sovereignty, Vancouver and Chase, BC. October 2020 - June 2023.*

- **Created Internal Evaluation Finance/Administration,** experience in managing field house operations and budgets, supported the development of a financial and internal policy systems that accounts the multi-layers and complexity of the indigenous food systems

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- **Program Development**, created educational and spaces and programs for healing and learning purposes. Designing and conducting food land conservation areas and corridor, has allowed me to engage knowledge holders with co-learners and volunteers. Make accessible culturally appropriate foods to urban indigenous peoples.

Agricultural Technician- McTavish Resource & Management Consultants Ltd, Fraser Valley, BC. August - December 2022

- Monitoring and reporting on the reclamation process of the gas line replacement project in the Fraser Valley.

Fire Assay Technician-SGS, Burnaby, BC. November - January 2021

- Perform Fire Assay techniques, such as fluxing, fusing, and cupelling samples according to written procedures. • Setting up analytical batches. • Calibration and set up of equipment prior to analysis. • Maintain and record equipment calibrations. • Interpret and evaluate all results.

Assistant Farm Supervisor - Hanna Brook Organic Farm, Burnaby, BC. Fall season

- Perform diverse agricultural activities with over 40 crops such as harvesting, planting and weeding.

Assistant Farm Manager – Soul Foods Garlic, Horsefly, BC . Seasons of 2018- 2019

- Worked hand in hand with ownership to coordinate staff and all satellite farm practices including, planting, composting, harvest, weed control, seed selection and processing garlic products. • Sold and delivered garlic production to familiar customers and reach 20 percent more of customers

Canvasser - Wilderness Committee, Vancouver, BC. Ocasional 2019

- Conducted outreach and promoted its campaigns for protecting wildlife. Offer strategic deals to donors. • Reported financial reports and worked with cash

Community Garden Coordinator– New Westminster, BC May 2016- September 2021

- Facilitate Participatory Action Research with neighbours and the community in regards to small-scale farming. • Produce fresh vegetables for self-consumption for families involved. • Organize activities and monthly schedule

Research assistant Cranberry soil project UBC, Vancouver BC . July –August 2015

- Participated in related laboratory work, such as: taking field samples, color identification nomenclature, PH levels, LOI%, and identifying absorption quality.
- Performed field testing and collection of soil samples. • Generated reports and provided recommendations

Environmental educator - Nezahualcoyotl Forest Tree Nursery at the Ministry of the Environment (Federal District, Mexico). 2013

- Design an educational visitor program at the Conservation Area of Nezahualcoyotl Forest Tree Nursery utilizing participatory tools and surveys to highlight cultural and biocultural areas at the CA, conduct a botanical inventory and work along a multidisciplinary team to create signs and didactic material.

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Executive Director at "Environmentalists Rurban, AC" - NPA (Natural Protected Area Tiled Garnica), Xalapa, Veracruz. 2012

- Design a Replanning Project to Coordination Program of Reforestation and Protect an Archeological Site.

Founder, Research Assistant and Instructor, UV Farm Mexico .2010-2013

- An environmental educator with Mexico based Urban UV Farm to promote community gardens and heritage orchards as part of a mixed residential retail community. • Co-design sustainability course content and programs. Food Sovereignty promotor and co designed food systems with campesino and small scale farming systems. Create participatory sustainable indicators with diverse communities.

Social Initiatives

Indigenous Permaculture Expert, See-mia Cultural Studies Society- Harmony Gardener - Xwemelch'stn peñemáy, Capilano Reserve 5, North Vancouver, BC. February 2021 - present

- Work along matriarchs and knowledge holders to set up land use principles. Grow food for indigenous urban people, facilitate work parties and cultural revitalization events at the garden.

Vancouver Urban Farm Society- Volunteer. October 2019 - present

- Witness of organizational meetings

Ayotzi 68 Collective Society - Vancouver, BC.

February 2015 – present

- Organize educational events aimed at defining the role of the mining industry in Canada and the developing world. • Effectively coordinate fundraising, relationship building and management, special events and general program responsibilities to drive the success and growth of the Wild Salmon Caravan. • Develop solid, trusting relationships with peers and community members to achieve objectives in a multigenerational and multicultural framework

**Community Organizer, Wild Salmon Caravan and Indigenous Food System Network, BC
2016 - 2021**

- Collaborated in organizing groups as community organizer and art builder. • Engaged up to 30 persons and 2 organizations through art building and popular education. Created art for the Wild Salmon Caravan