

PILLAR 6: AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES



Agriculture is a foundational component of the South Okanagan economy and an important part of the region's identity, employment base, tourism industry, food security, and long-term economic prosperity.

The Chamber supports policies that protect and strengthen the long-term viability and competitiveness of agriculture while balancing responsible environmental stewardship, natural-resource management, and sustainable economic development.

The Chamber recognizes that agriculture and natural-resource policy are influenced by:

- agricultural land availability and productive use;
- water security, irrigation, and watershed management;
- climate resilience and extreme-weather events;
- crop insurance and agricultural risk-management programs;
- labour availability, including seasonal and temporary workers;
- production, transportation, and operating costs;
- access to domestic and international markets;
- interprovincial trade and direct-to-consumer sales;
- food processing and value-added agricultural production;
- innovation, technology, and agricultural productivity;
- wildfire prevention, mitigation, and recovery;
- responsible land, forest, and natural-resource management;
- environmental stewardship and biodiversity; and
- the relationship between agriculture, tourism, hospitality, and the regional economy.