



FEB 15 2022

February 9, 2022

Leonard Krog
Mayor of Nanaimo
455 Wallace Street
Nanaimo, BC V9R 5J6

Dear Mayor Krog and Council,

There is no question that 2021 was challenging for British Columbians. The province continued to struggle with the pandemic, economic consequences of the pandemic and multiple adverse weather events from the heat dome to floods and fire.

BC farmers and farmer's markets across the province were on the frontlines, doing the work to remain open, supporting our communities with food, and our farmers with a strong source of income.

BC Association of Farmers' Markets worked diligently with the Province of BC's Ministry of Health to deliver, for the 10th year, the BC Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program across the province. We are extremely proud of its deep impact on both people and farmers across British Columbia. This valued program connected with **86** communities making fresh, healthy, local foods more accessible to over **19,000** lower-income British Columbians and directly benefited **1,125** farmers across British Columbia.

In **Nanaimo**, residents redeemed **\$26,676** with local farmers at the **Island Roots Farmers' Market** and **Cedar Farmers' Market** we proudly partnered with **Nanaimo Foodshare Society**, **Snaw-Naw-As Health Centre**, **Snuneymuxw First Nation** and **Kiwanis Village Nanaimo**.

These community partners provided lower-income pregnant people, families and seniors with coupons to purchase fruits, vegetables, cheese, eggs, nuts, fish, meat and herbs from farmers at your local farmers' markets.

Over 140 lower-income residents from Nanaimo ate more local foods, learned about healthy eating, and felt connected to their community. At the same time, the local food system was strengthened with farmers in your community benefitting from additional revenue to sustain their farms.

Our Request To You

Our community partners, participants and farmers are grateful for this Program in Nanaimo. If you agree, we kindly ask you to send a letter to the Minister of Health Adrian Dix. Your encouragement and feedback can strengthen support for ongoing funding for the Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program and ensure we continue to build healthier BC communities together.

We are ready to roll up our sleeves and work with your community again in 2022!

With gratitude,

Heather O'Hara
Executive Director

Vickey Brown
President, Board of Directors

BC Association of Farmers' Markets

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