From: Jenny Short <jenny.short@nanaimofoodshare.ca>
Sent: Monday, November 06, 2023 9:40 AM
To: Donna Stennes <<u>Donna.Stennes@nanaimo.ca</u>>
Subject: Letter of Support

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Hello Donna

Nanaimo Foodshare is currently working on a grant application to fund our Homegrown Youth Employment Program for another 4 years. This proposal will support 110 marginalized youth in the community, build skills and find employment. We would appreciate a letter of support from the Mayor and Council. I have provided a sample letter for your convenience.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thank you

Jenny Short She/Her <u>jenny.short@nanaimofoodshare.ca</u> 250-753-9393 - Foodshare Office Living, playing and learning with respect as an uninvited guest on Snuneymuxw, Snaw-Naw-As and Stz'uminus Coast Salish Indigenous Lands

Nanaimo Foodshare Letter of Support for Nanaimo Foodshare - Homegrown Youth Employment Program

The City of Nanaimo and Council fully support Nanaimo Foodshare Society's application to the Government of Canada's Youth Employment and Skills Strategy Fund (YESS) to support marginalized youth gain skills and find employment.

The City of Nanaimo is a supporter of Nanaimo Foodshare and its programs. Nanaimo Foodshare has a proven track record of running successful programs, including employability programs, which have added real value to the Nanaimo Community.

There is a high need for programs and resources that support the youth in our community to gain the necessary skills and confidence to further their development. The Homegrown Youth Employment Program continues to demonstrate its commitment to their participants and Nanaimo as a whole.

Homegrown is an inclusive program that will support youth-at-risk by providing skills and work experience in food related employment opportunities. It will also help their participants become more self-sufficient, accessing healthier food and building their self confidence. By providing a whole person approach they will be improving the standard of living and quality of life for the youth involved in the program.

Providing equitable access to the youth in our community is a crucial step in building a healthier Nanaimo.