



February 9, 2022

Lyn Hall
Mayor of Prince George
1100 Patricia Blvd
Prince George, BC V2L 3V9

Dear Mayor Hall 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 **Prince George**, residents redeemed **\$43,440** with local farmers at the **Prince George Farmers Market** and the **Wilson Square Community Market**.

We proudly partnered with **Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction - Family Youth Partnerships,, Prince George & District Elizabeth Fry Housing Society - Let's Get Started and Nexus Place, Prince George & District Elizabeth Fry Society - Baby's New Beginnings, The Prince George Native Friendship Centre and Kikino Metis Children & Family Services**

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

Over 186 lower-income residents from Prince George 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 Prince George. 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.

BC Association of Farmers' Markets

208 - 1089 West Broadway Vancouver, BC V6H 1E5
604-734-9797 | bcfarmersmarket.org | bcfarmersmarkettrail.com

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

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H O'Hara', with a stylized, somewhat abstract flourish.

**Heather O'Hara
Executive Director**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vickey Brown', with a large, looping 'B' and a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**Vickey Brown
President, Board of Directors**