



February 16, 2023

Simon Yu
Mayor, City of Prince George
1100 Patricia Blvd
Prince George, BC V2L 3V9

Dear Mayor Simon Yu and Council,

We are writing to share a great story from your community with wonderful outcomes:

- People in your community accessed fresh, healthy local food from local farmers.
- Local farmers saw greater economic activity - strengthening their sustainability.

Each year, with funding from the Province of British Columbia, the BC Association of Farmers Markets delivers the BC Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program across the province. In 2022, through an increase in funding we expanded the number of seniors and elders in the program and increased the weekly coupon allocation per family from \$21 to \$27.

In Your Community

In **Prince George**, we proudly partnered with **AHSPG, Carrier Sekani Family Services - Urban Family Preservation, Family and Youth Partnership - Prince George, Niwikowin METIS CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICE SOCIETY, Prince George & District Elizabeth Fry Housing Society - Let's Get Started, Prince George & District Elizabeth Fry Society - Baby's New Beginnings, Prince George Council of Seniors and The Prince George Native Friendship Centre** who provided lower-income pregnant persons, families, and seniors with coupons to purchase fresh fruits, vegetables, cheese, eggs, nuts, fish, meat, herbs and honey directly from farmers at your local farmers' market.

And with these coupons they redeemed **\$89,004** with local farmers at the **Prince George Farmers Market Association and Wilson Square Community Market**.

Over **287** lower-income residents from **Prince George** ate and enjoyed more local, fresh foods, learned about healthy eating, and felt connected to their community. At the same time, your local food system was strengthened with farmers in your community who benefited from this additional income to sustain their farms.

Our Request To You

If you agree the BC Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program is a valuable program, we kindly ask you to send a thank you letter to the Minister of Health, Adrien Dix. Your encouragement and feedback means a lot and can strengthen support for ongoing funding for the BC Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program.

BC Association of Farmers' Markets

208 - 1089 West Broadway Vancouver, BC V6H 1E5
604 /34 9/9/ bcfarmersmarket.org bcfarmersmarket@trail.com



We are ready to dig in and work with your community again in 2023!

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heather O'Hara".

Heather O'Hara
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wylie Bystedt".

Wylie Bystedt
President, Board of Directors