



# COLUMBIA SHUSWAP REGIONAL DISTRICT

555 Harbourfront Drive NE, PO Box 978, Salmon Arm, BC V1E 4P1  
T: 250-832-8194 | F: 250-832-3375 | TF: 1-888-248-2773 | [www.csr.bc.ca](http://www.csr.bc.ca)

April 4, 2025

Sent by email: [HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

Honourable Josie Osborne  
Minister of Health  
PO Box 9050 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC, V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Osborne:

## **Re: BC Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program**

The Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD) Board of Directors would like to extend their gratitude to the BC Ministry of Health for its 2024 funding of the BC Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program. This program provided an invaluable service to residents in the Sorrento and Celista areas.

The Board recognizes the important role this initiative plays in improving food security and nutrition while enhancing access to healthy, locally grown food for lower-income residents, pregnant individuals, families, and seniors. Additionally, the program bolsters local food economies and the agricultural sector by supporting entrepreneurs and growers. We hope there will be ongoing and expanded funding for the BC Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program.

In 2024, \$26,820 worth of coupons were redeemed at the Sorrento Village Farmers Market, Celista Hall Farmers' Market, and Scotch Creek Farm & Craft Market. This program helped 134 residents with improved access to fresh local foods while directly supporting local farmers through their purchases.

The CSRD Board values the funding support provided to the BC Association of Farmers' Markets and strongly advocates for sustained and expanded support for this program. Its long term impact on community health, local agriculture, and food systems is immeasurable.

Yours truly,  
**COLUMBIA SHUSWAP REGIONAL DISTRICT**  
Per:

  
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Natalya Melnychuk  
Board Chair

#### ELECTORAL AREAS

A GOLDEN-COLUMBIA  
B REVELSTOKE-COLUMBIA

C EAGLE BAY-WHITE LAKE-TAPPEN  
D FALKLAND-SALMON VALLEY

E SICAMOUS-MALAKWA  
F NORTH SHUSWAP-SEYMOUR ARM  
G BLIND BAY-SORRENTO-NOTCH HILL

#### MUNICIPALITIES

GOLDEN  
REVELSTOKE

SALMON ARM  
SICAMOUS