

## COLUMBIA SHUSWAP REGIONAL DISTRICT

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April 5, 2024

Sent by email: HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Honourable Adrian Dix Minister of Health

Dear Minister Dix:

## Re: BC Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program

The Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD) Board of Directors would like to express their gratitude to the BC Ministry of Health for the funding provided to the BC Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program in 2023 as it provided an invaluable service to residents in the Sorrento and Celista areas.

The Board recognizes the importance of this program and hopes that there will be ongoing and expanded funding for the BC Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program. Not only does it help strengthen food security and support nutrition, but it helps improve access to healthy locally grown food for lower-income pregnant persons, families, and seniors. This program also strengthens local food economies and the agricultural sector, including local entrepreneurs and growers.

At the Sorrento Village Farmers Market and Celista Hall Farmers' Market, \$41,556.00 worth of coupons were redeemed, thereby helping 115 residents with improved access to local, fresh foods and the local farmers they supported through their purchases.

We value the funding support provided to the BC Association of Farmers' Markets and it is our hope that this funding is secured and expanded going forward in the long term as the advantages are immeasurable.

Yours truly, COLUMBIA SHUSWAP REGIONAL DISTRICT Per:

Kevin Flynn Board Chair

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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