

June 24, 2025

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Via email: <u>SSmith@vernon.ca</u>

Their Worship Victor Cumming Mayor of the City of Vernon

Dear Mayor Cumming,

Thank you for your letter of March 3, 2025, regarding the Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program (FMNCP). I appreciate hearing directly from you about the positive impact this program has had on local farmers, the agricultural sector in the Regional District of North Okanagan, and households with lower incomes over the past year.

I'm pleased to share that the BC Association of Farmers' Markets has received \$4.25 million from the Ministry of Health to continue delivering the FMNCP this year. This funding will help over 8,500 lower-income households in approximately 90 communities across the province access nutritious foods at local farmers' markets.

Thank you again for taking the time to write and share your perspective.

Sincerely,

Josie Osborne Minister