



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON

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File: 0410-31

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

March 3, 2025

Honourable Josie Osborne
Minister of Health
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

via email: HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Osborne:

Re: B.C. Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program

On behalf of Council and the City of Vernon, I would like to express our sincere gratitude for the Province's previous financial support of the B.C. Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program in Vernon.

During the 2024 season, over 179 lower-income households including: pregnant persons, families, and seniors were provided with coupons to purchase fresh fruits, vegetables, cheese, eggs, nuts, fish, meat, herbs, and honey directly from farmers at our local Vernon Farmers Market, redeeming over \$80,000 with local farmers.

Because of the success of this program, individuals received better access to local, fresh foods, a deeper connection with their community, and local farmers benefited from the additional income to sustain their farms.

We are asking you to financially support the 2025 program season and beyond, as this coupon program plays an important and meaningful role in our community to address nutrition needs, affordability, and food security for those who participate.

Sincerely,

Victor I. Cumming
Mayor

Copy: City of Vernon Council
Harwinder Sandhu, MLA – North Okanagan
BC Association of Farmers' Markets