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February 9, 2022

Darryl A Walker  
Mayor of White Rock  
15322 Buena Vista Avenue  
White Rock, BC V4B 1Y6

CITY OF WHITE ROCK  
ADMINISTRATION

Dear Mayor Walker and Council,

There is no question that 2021 was challenging for British Columbians. The province continued to struggle with the pandemic, economic consequences of the pandemic and multiple adverse weather events from the heat dome to floods and fire.

BC farmers and farmer's markets across the province were on the frontlines, doing the work to remain open, supporting our communities with food, and our farmers with a strong source of income.

BC Association of Farmers' Markets worked diligently with the Province of BC's Ministry of Health to deliver, for the 10<sup>th</sup> year, the BC Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program across the province. We are extremely proud of its deep impact on both people and farmers across British Columbia. This valued program connected with 86 communities making fresh, healthy, local foods more accessible to over 19,000 lower-income British Columbians and directly benefited 1,125 farmers across British Columbia.

In **White Rock**, residents redeemed **\$26,907** with local farmers at the **White Rock** and we proudly partnered with **Sources White Rock/South Surrey Food Bank**.

This community partner provided lower-income pregnant people, families and seniors with coupons to purchase fresh fruits, vegetables, cheese, eggs, nuts, fish, meat and herbs from farmers at your local farmers' market.

Over lower-income residents from White Rock ate more local foods, learned about healthy eating, and felt connected to their community. At the same time, the local food system was strengthened with farmers in your community benefitting from additional revenue to sustain their farms.

#### **Our Request To You**

Our community partners, participants and farmers are grateful for this Program in White Rock. If you agree, we kindly ask you to send a letter to the Minister of Health Adrian Dix. Your encouragement and feedback can strengthen support for ongoing funding for the Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program and ensure we continue to build healthier BC communities together.

We are ready to roll up our sleeves and work with your community again in 2022!

With gratitude,

Heather O'Hara  
Executive Director

Vickey Brown  
President, Board of Directors

BC Association of Farmers' Markets

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