



# DUNCAN FARMERS MARKET

PO Box 20074 Duncan BC V9L 5H1  
[www.duncanfarmersmarket.ca](http://www.duncanfarmersmarket.ca)

December 16, 2024

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

Dear Minister Osborne,

On behalf of the vendors, staff, and community of the Duncan Farmers' Market, we want to express our profound gratitude for the Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program (FMNCP). This program has made a tremendous difference in our community, ensuring access to fresh, nutritious, and locally grown food for families, seniors, elders and pregnant people, while also supporting the livelihoods of local farmers.

As a vibrant farmers market serving the Cowichan Valley, we have seen firsthand how the FMNCP strengthens food security and builds meaningful connections between residents and local agriculture. For many families, the coupons provide more than food—they offer dignity, health, and a sense of belonging in our community. For our farmers, the program represents a stable and essential source of income, enabling them to continue growing and offering fresh, sustainable products. "This program is one of the best initiatives that we have been involved in during our 33 years of supplying fresh fruit produced on our farm to customers in the Cowichan Valley" says Wayne Hadow from Hard to Come by Farms. "I have met many families and individuals participating in the FMNCP, and learned some of their stories, while building relationships with them. Often, these families are facing constant, heartbreaking choices - between paying rent or putting food on the table, between filling a prescription or buying groceries." says Celeste van Prattenburg from Moose & Bean Farm.

We understand there are challenging decisions ahead regarding the future of this program. However, we urge you to consider the profound and far-reaching impacts it has on communities like ours. The FMNCP is more than a financial investment; it's a lifeline for families and farmers alike, and its continued support would ensure that its benefits endure for years to come.

Thank you for your leadership and for recognizing the value of programs that nourish and uplift communities. We hope that the FMNCP remains a priority in 2025 and beyond, so that its legacy of health and resilience can continue to thrive across British Columbia.

With sincere appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Roberts'.

Janice Roberts  
Executive Director  
Duncan Farmers' Market

**Signed by the following Duncan Farmers' Market Vendor Participants:**

Wayne & Cindy Haddow, Hard to Come by Farms  
Shannon VanHemert, Island Shire Farm  
Kelly Grainger, Boots n Roots Farm  
Kyle Clayton, Haus Sausage Co.  
Jon Born, The Drift Meat & Seafood  
Satnam Dheeshaw, Gobind Farms  
Marlene Lewis, Empress Acres  
Celeste van Prattenburg, Moose and Bean Farm  
Grant Henry, Henry Farms  
Monty & Sharon Vanhouwe, South Island Saskatoons  
Cammy & James Lockwood, Lockwood Farms  
Celeste van Prattenburg, Moose & Bean Farm

Cc: Kerri Fulop, Regional Coordinator, Southern Vancouver & Gulf Islands, FMNCP  
Peter Leblanc, Program Manager, FMNCP  
Melissa Maltais, Memberships & Program Manager, BC Farmers Markets  
Kortnee Smith, Director of Operations, Cowichan Green Community