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April 28, 2022

File No. DE-6410-03; 0110-20-LTC Chairs

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

The Honorable Adrian Dix
Minister of Health
PO Box 9050, Stn Prov Govt,
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Dix:

Re: BC Farmers Market Nutrition Coupon Program

I am writing you as the elected Chair of the Denman Island Local Trust Committee ("Denman Island LTC") pursuant to a motion passed by the LTC at its regular public meeting of March 22, 2022.

The Denman Island LTC strongly supports the continuation of the BC Farmers Market Nutrition Coupon Program and particularly notes its beneficial impacts on both the farmers and residents of Denman Island. We understand that last year residents of Denman Island redeemed coupons worth \$6,864 at the Denman Island Farmers Market in partnership with the group Denman Island Community Education Society. This community partner provided lower income families and seniors coupons to purchase fresh fruits, vegetables, cheese, eggs, nuts and more from local famers.

In all, over 25 lower income residents on Denman Island accessed more local food, learned about healthy eating, and connected with their community. Local food systems were strengthened as farmers benefited from the additional revenue. With all of these benefits on Denman Island replicated across the province, we urge the Province to continue to enhance and strengthen this valuable program.

The Islands Trust is a special-purpose government representing over 30,000 people living within the Islands Trust Area and another 10,000 non-resident property owners. The Islands Trust Area is located within Coast Salish territory and is the homeland to over 28,000 Coast Salish Peoples who have called this place home since time immemorial. Islands Trust is responsible for preserving and protecting the Islands Trust Area's unique environment and amenities by planning and regulating land use, development management, education, and land conservation in cooperation with other agencies.

Sincerely,

Sue Ellen Fast
Chair Denman Island Local Trust Committee

cc.
BC Association of Farmers Markets, Heather O'Hara Ex Director
Denman Island Local Trust Committee
Islands Trust Executive Committee
Islands Trust Website

Preserving and protecting over 450 islands and surrounding waters in the Salish Sea

Bowen Denman Hornby Gabriola Galiano Gambier Lasqueti Mayne North Pender Salt Spring Saturna South Pender Thetis