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April 6, 2022

File No. GB-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 Chair of the Gabriola Local Trust Committee (“Gabriola LTC”) pursuant to a motion passed by the LTC at its regular public meeting of March 3, 2022.

The Gabriola 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 Gabriola Island. We understand that last year residents of Gabriola Island redeemed coupons worth \$18,747 at the Gabriola Agricultural Co-op in partnership with the group People for a Healthy Community. This community partner provided lower income families and seniors coupons to purchase fresh fruits, vegetables, cheeses, eggs, nuts and more from local farmers.

In all, over 67 lower income residents on Gabriola 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 Gabriola Island replicated across the province, we urge the Province to continue to enhance and strengthen this valuable program.

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, cooperation with other agencies, and land conservation. The area covers the islands and waters between the British Columbia mainland and southern Vancouver Island. It includes 13 major islands and more than 450 smaller islands covering 5,200 square kilometres.

Yours truly,

Dan Rogers
Chair Gabriola Local Trust Committee

cc.

BC Association of Farmers Markets, Heather O'Hara Ex Director
Gabriola 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