



**BC Association of Farmers' Markets**  
**VENDOR MEMBERSHIP POLICY**

*Approved by BCAFM Board of Directors on December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024*

**PREAMBLE**

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As indicated in BCAFM Bylaw 2.2 the BCAFM defines two classes of membership:

Farmers' Market Members	Voting
Vendor Members	Non-Voting

The policies outlined in this document pertain to BCAFM Vendor Members only and have been established by the BC Association of Farmers Markets (BCAFM) Board of Directors in accordance with the Bylaws and Constitution of the BCAFM. Vendor membership with the BCAFM is annual, voluntary and not required to sell at a BCAFM member farmers' market.

Individual BCAFM Member Farmers' Markets may have their own vendor membership programs and requirements, and these are independent and separate from the BCAFM Vendor Membership program.

**KEY BYLAWS**

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Below are the relevant, key BCAFM bylaws which pertain to Vendor Members, referenced and highlighted for background purposes in this policy document. Please refer to the complete set of bylaws as needed which can be found on our website at [bcfarmersmarket.org](http://bcfarmersmarket.org)

**1. INTERPRETATION**

1.1 Definitions

**(k) "Farmers' Market" means either:**

1. a market operated by a Farmers' Market Member and located in British Columbia comprised exclusively (100%) of BC Vendors and Qualified Extra-Provincial Food Vendors, and which prioritize primary producers/farmers and food, all in accordance with such criteria as may be established by the Board from time to time; or
2. an online market operated by a Farmers' Market Member comprised exclusively (100%) of BC Vendors, and which prioritize primary producers/farmers and food, all in accordance with such criteria as may be established by the Board from time to time;"

- (dd) “Vendor” means a BC Vendor or a Qualified Extra-Provincial Food Vendor;
- (ee) “Vendor Member” means a Vendor that has become a Vendor Member of the Society in accordance with these Bylaws and has not ceased to be a Vendor Member;
- (c) “BC Vendor” means a Person or Organization located within British Columbia that grows, makes, bakes, raises or wild harvests the products it sells at a Farmers’ Market operated by a Farmers’ Market Member, all of which products must be grown, made, baked, raised, or wild harvested and processed (as applicable) in British Columbia;
- (v) “Qualified Extra-Provincial Food Vendor” means a Person or Organization that is not located within British Columbia, or whose food products are not grown, made, baked, raised or wild harvested within British Columbia but who is located in Canada not more than 300 kilometres away from the applicable Farmers’ Market at which it intends to sell food (and only food) products it has itself grown, made, baked, raised, wild harvested and processed (as applicable) within 300 kilometres of the applicable Farmers’ Market; made, baked, raised or wild harvested, all of which food products must be grown, made, baked, raised, wild harvested and processed (as applicable) within 300 kilometres of the applicable Farmers’ Market;

## **2. MEMBERSHIP**

### **2.2 Classes of Membership**

There will be one (1) class of voting membership, called Farmers’ Market Members, and one (1) class of non-voting membership, called Vendor Members.

### **2.3 Eligibility for Farmers’ Market Membership**

Subject to the provisions of this section, an Organization may be eligible to be accepted as a Farmers’ Market Member if it:

- (a) operates at least one (1) Farmers’ Market; and
  - (b) agrees to advance the purposes and support the activities of the Society.
- A Person is not eligible to be accepted as a Farmers’ Market Member.

### **2.4 Eligibility for Vendor Membership**

A Person may be eligible to be accepted as a Vendor Member if he or she:

- (a) is a BC Vendor or a Qualified Extra-Provincial Food Vendor;
- (b) is nineteen (19) years of age or older; and
- (c) agrees to advance the purposes and support the activities of the Society.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, a Person is not eligible to be accepted as a Vendor Member if he or she is:

- (e) an employee of the Society;

- (f) a contractor for services with the Society with an annual aggregate value of \$10,000 or more; or
- (g) the spouse of a Person referred to in either paragraphs (e) or (f), above.

An Organization may be eligible to be accepted as a Vendor Member if it:

- (h) is a BC Vendor or a Qualified Extra-Provincial Food Vendor;
- (i) is ineligible to be accepted as a Farmers' Market Member;
- (j) carries on regular operations in British Columbia, or within 300 kilometres of a Farmers' Market; and
- (k) agrees to advance the purposes and support the activities of the Society.

### **3. MEMBERSHIP RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS**

#### **3.1 Rights**

In addition to any rights conferred by the Act, a Member in good standing has the following rights and privileges of membership, by class:

##### **Farmers' Market Members**

- (a) to receive notice of, and to attend, all General Meetings;
- (b) to make or second motions at a General Meeting and to speak in debate on motions under consideration in accordance with such rules of order as may be adopted;
- (c) to exercise a vote on matters for determination at General Meetings;
- (d) may nominate eligible Persons for election as a Director, in accordance with these Bylaws;
- (e) may serve on committees of the Society, as invited; and
- (f) may participate in the programs and initiatives of the Society, in accordance with such terms and criteria as may be determined by the Board from time to time.

##### **Vendor Members**

- (g) to receive notice of, and to attend, all General Meetings;
- (h) to speak in debate on motions under consideration in accordance with such rules of order as may be adopted;
- (i) may serve on committees of the Society, as invited; and
- (j) may participate in the programs and initiatives of the Society, in accordance with such terms and criteria as may be determined by the Board from time to time.

#### **3.2 Member not in Good Standing**

A Member who is not in good standing has the right to receive notice of, and to attend, all General Meetings, and may participate in programs or initiatives of the Society (subject to eligibility) but is suspended from all of the other rights and privileges described in Bylaw 3.1 for so long as he or she remains not in good standing.

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### **POLICY & CRITERIA**

The Bylaws are supported by additional policy and criteria for BCAFM Vendor Members as follows:

*Approved by BCAFM Board of Directors on December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024*

## **Vendor Membership Fees**

The BCAFm Board of Directors establishes Vendor Membership Program fees. Current membership fees are \$75 per year and will be due by January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Vendor membership applications will be accepted at any time during the year but will not be prorated.

## **Application for Vendor Membership and Benefits**

Only Vendors who sell at or intend to sell at a BCAFm member farmers' market are eligible to apply to this BCAFm Vendor Member program.

An eligible Vendor may apply to BCAFm to become a BCAFm Vendor Member by:

- (a) submitting a completed online application; and
- (b) submitting payment for applicable fees; and
- (c) submitting information or documentation as the membership coordinator may require to confirm eligibility for membership.

The BCAFm website outlines the benefits of vendor membership for subscribing to the BCAFm Vendor Membership Program.

At its sole discretion, BCAFm may determine eligibility and/or deny membership enrolment to any vendor in the BCAFm Vendor Membership Program at any time.

## **BCAFm Vendor Membership Program Grace Period**

Occasionally, farmers' markets may for one reason or another choose not to return as BCAFm member farmers' markets. Vendors already enrolled in the annual BCAFm vendor membership program for insurance benefits or other reasons will not be penalized should a farmers' market does not renew its BCAFm market membership in that given year.

A grace period of 1 YEAR shall be extended to BCAFm Vendor Membership Program members whose farmers' market they were attending has chosen not to renew their BCAFm Farmers' Market membership.

## **100% Grow, Make, Bake, Raise, Wild Harvest**

As indicated in Bylaw 1.1 (j) a Farmers' Market is comprised exclusively (100%) of BC Vendors and Qualified Extra-Provincial Food Vendors who grow, make, bake, raise or wild harvest the products they sell.

The reselling of products of any kind at BCAFm member farmers' markets is not allowed.

Reselling means to sell something one has previously bought, and then sell it on to someone else.

Note this includes, but is not limited to:

- **Accrual-Based Transactions:** Products purchased for the purpose of reselling, whether purchased in advance or on an accrual basis (e.g. invoiced net 30 terms), fall under the definition of reselling.
- **Intermediary Sales:** Acting as a sales intermediary/distributor between a producer and a farmers' market customer, where the seller, whether individual or entity, has not directly contributed to the creation, cultivation, or production of the goods, constitutes reselling.

**Grow** means:

- Farm products that are grown or produced in BC or extra-provincially (see definitions above).
- Nursery products, such as plants, trees, or seeds that are grown and/or propagated by a farm vendor in BC or extra-provincially
- Cut flowers that were grown and/or propagated by the farm vendor.

**Make** means:

Processed/prepared foods in BC or extra-provincially: value added edible product that has been cut, cooked, smoked, canned or otherwise altered from its original/natural state. Qualified Extra-Provincial Food Vendors must comply with British Columbia health authority regulations.

- Artisanal and craft products: value added products that are created, sewn, constructed or otherwise fashioned from component materials in a way that makes the item unique. These may include raw component products that were purchased or that originated on one's farm. Artisan and craft items must show artistic effort and a substantial change from base components. An artist may sell reproductions of their own original creation. AI generated design is not considered original creation.
- Services that are provided at the farmers' market. Examples include knife sharpening, chair massage.
- Priority should be given to makers that source ingredients and components of BC origin.

**Bake** means:

- Products that are baked from scratch in BC or extra-provincially (i.e. utilizing basic ingredients, not purchased pre-mixed or pre-made components).
- Priority should be given to bakers that source ingredients of BC origin.

**Raise** means:

- Farm products that are raised on land or waters in BC or extra-provincially, with the appropriate permits and/or approvals.

**Wild Harvest** means:

- Products harvested, caught, hunted or wild crafted from wild lands or waters in BC or extra-provincially, with the appropriate permits and/or approvals, including the approval of Indigenous communities.

## **Vendor Selling Arrangements**

1. As outlined above, reselling of products of any kind at BCAFM Member Farmers' Markets is not allowed. However, joint vendor selling and marketing arrangements, such as formal vendor cooperatives or informal vendor collectives/associations, may be allowed. Joint vendor selling arrangements differ from reselling in that products are jointly sold or marketed by an informal collective of vendors, or a formal vendor cooperative. These vendor selling arrangements may be allowed at the discretion of the individual Member Farmers' Market, provided that:
  - the cooperative, collective or association is comprised 100% of vendors who meet the definitions of BC Vendor or Qualified Extra-Provincial Food Vendor as described in Bylaw 1.1 (c) and (v).
  - all vendors adhere to the 100% Grow, Make, Bake, Raise, Wild Harvest policy described above.
  - the vendor cooperative, collective or association clearly indicate who its members are, through display signage at the farmers' market.

## **Vendor Representatives**

1. Each vendor in a vendor cooperative, collective/association is not required to attend on the day of a farmers' market.
2. Another person(s) may represent a vendor at the farmers' market provided the representative(s) are:
  - a. A family member or employee of one of the primary producer; or
  - b. A primary producer within the formal vendor cooperative or informal vendor collective; or
  - c. An employee hired by a formal vendor cooperative; or
  - d. A person who assists with the cultivation and/or production of those products sold at the farmers' market and are knowledgeable about those products being sold.
3. Multiple vendors may share a booth stall at the discretion of individual farmers' markets.

## **Dispute Resolution**

BCAFM may receive concerns or complaints related to:

1. Non-compliance with BCAFM bylaws and policies, including reselling.
2. Other concerns directly related to BCAFM programs and services.

For those concerns above, the following process applies:

1. Complaints must be in writing and [submitted online via the BCAFM Complaint Web Form](#).
2. BCAFM will retain confidentiality of the complainant where possible.

3. BCAFM will direct both parties to follow and review BCAFM mission, policies, bylaws and constitution.
4. BCAFM will notify the market that there has been a complaint.

BCAFM is a voluntary, member association and is not a legal or regulatory entity. As such, BCAFM will not directly assist, resolve or mediate individual conflict, concerns or issues pertaining to individual Farmers' Markets Members or Vendors. This may include, but is not limited to, issues that pertain to market board governance, market management or market vendor decisions.

However, if you wish to share this type of complaint with BCAFM, the following procedure applies:

1. Complaints must be in writing and [submitted online via the BCAFM Complaint Web Form](#).
2. We will keep the complaint on file and review complaints prior to the BCAFM annual membership renewal date.
3. Where a complaint pattern emerges in which BCAFM receives multiple complaints, BCAFM at its discretion may reach out to the member and inform them about the complaints.

[Weblink: BC Association of Farmers' Markets Complaint Web Form](#)