

**BC FARMERS' MARKET** 



### Summer is in full swing, and so is the FMNCP!

We hope you're enjoying the season and that things are running smoothly at your market or community site. Thanks so much for your overwhelming interest in our grant opportunities. We also hope you've had a chance to explore the <u>Accessibility Toolkit</u> we shared recently it's full of ideas to help make markets more welcoming and inclusive for everyone.

In this newsletter, we've got a few new funding opportunities to share, plus exciting news about a new coupon program launching elsewhere in Canada.

We also wanted to highlight this inspiring initiative one of our partners shared:

"This coming Saturday we have a multi-lingual team escorting FMNCP participants to their first experience at the local farmers' market, where they will do a tour and walkabout and answer questions about using the coupons. About 16 people are involved!"

We love hearing about creative, community-driven efforts like this—keep the stories coming!

Thanks for everything you're doing to support participants and bring markets to life each week.

## **How One Market Supports Participants**

Below is a great example of a resource created by the Duncan Farmers' Market. They share it with their Community Partners to pass along to participants. It's fully customized for their market, including a list of eligible vendors and everything participants might need to know.

Thanks to the Duncan team for sharing this with us!



## Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR) STUDY UPDATE

We're excited to let you know that we're nearly at full capacity for the study, and study coupons are now being used in most areas across the Province. Huge thanks to all of you for helping us get here! We still are recruiting for approximately 25 more families, so if you have anyone left on your waitlist who may meet the criteria please reach out to the study team with the University of Calgary at <a href="mailto:fmstudy@ucalgary.ca">fmstudy@ucalgary.ca</a>. The Study has funding for these remaining spaces as additional spots to the ones you were allocated. Recruitment will end this Friday, so time is of the essence to reach out if you have any families who may be able to participate in the study. Just a reminder: families must not have used any coupons yet if they want to join the study!

### To our amazing partners:

Thank you for your help in recruiting participants—it's made a big difference. We also really appreciate your efforts in setting aside the 16 coupon sheets per spot that were replaced by study envelopes (unless you made other arrangements with the University of Calgary to fund an extra spot). Your support and flexibility have kept things running smoothly.

### To our market teams:

Thanks for staying on top of sorting coupons by the coloured bands at the top of coupons and including them in your weekly reports. We know it's a bit of extra work, and we truly appreciate your attention to detail—it helps us keep track of everything accurately. So far over 165 families have started receiving their packages over the past few weeks so coupons should be rolling in across most markets already or will be soon. You may notice study participants taking photos of the items they bought and taking notes in an app at your markets- this is part of the study for participants to record what they purchased with the coupons to help the study team better understand the impact of the coupon program on individual's health.

If you have any questions about the study or coupons as they come in please let us know, you can reach out to Kerri@bcfarmersmarket.org.

# **Funding Opportunities**



United Way- Work Experience Opportunities Grant

FCC AgriSpirit Fund **Community Gaming Grants** 

Enabling Accessibility Fund - Youth Innovation Component

## Saskatchewan's First Nutrition **Coupon Program!**

Exciting news out of Regina— Saskatchewan's first-ever nutrition coupon program has launched at the Regina Farmers' Market in partnership with YWCA Regina. The 14-week program provides weekly vouchers for fresh and preserved foods to individuals and families facing food insecurity, offering up to \$840 in support over the season. Funded entirely through community donations and sponsorship, the initiative was inspired by our very own FMNCP here in BC!



Read More Here

# Program Portal

# What you'll find:

- redemption
- Provincial dashboard of distribution and - ALL weekly reports
- operations manual

- Orientation slide deck and program

- Vendor and participant brochures and enrolment forms
- Grant applications - Translations of farmers market produce
- Recipes and food literacy activities - Coupon order form
- **Program Portal**

- And more!

# Get in Touch

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In alliance with Community Food Centres Canada 2025

BC Farmers' Markets and our members largely operate on unceded Indigenous territories across the land now known as British Columbia. We welcome you to visit www.whose.land to learn which territory your local farmers' market is located on.

BCAFM expects professional and respectful behaviour from our members, stakeholders, and general public towards our staff and board. We will not tolerate harassment, swearing, bullying, or other disrespectful behaviours.

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