



NOURISH



Pumpkins on the stands, crisp leaves underfoot- it must be October!

Farmers' markets are bursting with squash, apples, and cozy fall flavours, and we have plenty of reasons to be thankful as we wrap up another FMNCP season.

This month's newsletter highlights our gratitude campaign, navigating the postal strike, a job opportunity, and a glimpse at how one partner made the most of their Fruit and Veggie grant.

Thanks, as always, for taking a moment to read through these updates and for the care you bring to your community.

2025 Gratitude Campaign

As we head toward the end of the season, it's time once again to show our appreciation to the Province of British Columbia for funding the FMNCP in 2025. Since funding is confirmed only year to year, your voices are essential in helping demonstrate the impact of the program and encouraging continued support into 2026.

Over the past 13 years, one thing has been clear: gratitude matters. When the Ministry of Health hears directly from markets, farmers, partners, and participants, they see just how valuable the FMNCP is in communities across the province. And because government funders rarely receive positive feedback, your thanks really stand out.

This is where you come in. Get creative with your gratitude! Letters, cards, posters, photos, or even a short video- personal touches go a long way. Share your stories, highlight the impact you've seen, and let the Ministry know why this program is worth celebrating and sustaining.

To spark some ideas, here are a few prompts:

- What's been your favourite part of the FMNCP this year?
- How did the program benefit you, your family, your market, or your farm?
- What difference did fresh, local food make in your community?

Thank you for helping us keep the FMNCP strong by sharing your gratitude and stories. Together, we can help ensure this program continues to grow and nourish communities into the future.

WHERE TO SEND IT?

Hon. Josie Osborne
Ministry of Health
PO Box 9050 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

DIGITAL OPTION

Sending a physical letter is preferable, however you can email the letter instead:

Minister of Health: HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Please also send a copy to:

Deputy Minister of Health: hlth.dmo@gov.bc.ca
BC Association of Farmers' Markets: nutrition@bcfarmersmarket.org
Your local MLA: Find their email in the link below

In addition to our usual Gratitude Campaign, this year we are asking markets and community partners to invite your MLA to meet with you during the market season.

Invite them for a visit, a coffee, or a walk through the farmers market so they can see firsthand the impact of the Farmers Market Nutrition Coupon Program in their riding.

This in-person contact will help build valuable connections and strengthen our advocacy as we seek program funding in 2026.



[FIND YOUR MLA HERE](#)

Reminders For Farmers Markets

It's time to send in your August and September coupons, but with the Canada Post strike underway, we're adjusting how we collect them.

Here are your options:

- **Regional Coordinator Pick-Up:** If you're near your Regional Coordinator, they'll be reaching out to make arrangements. If your market season is wrapping up soon, collection can wait until you're finished.

- **Lower Mainland Drop-Off:** If you're in the lower mainland we have drop-off points available in Vancouver and New Westminster. If you're able to drop off your coupons please contact Quinn at quinn@bcfarmersmarket.org for details.

- **All Other Markets:** Please hold onto your coupons for now. If the strike continues long-term, we'll send further instructions for using UPS.

Thank you for your patience and flexibility as we navigate this together!

Vendor Report- No need to wait until your season is over. If you won't be accepting any new coupon-eligible vendors into your market this year you can submit your vendor report now! Your honorarium won't get paid out until this report is received.

[Vendor Report](#)

Partner Spotlight – Turning Grants into Goodness



Thank you to our partner **Interior Community Services** for giving us a glimpse of their Fruit & Veggie Grant in action! With the support of the grant, a program participant prepared a delicious and healthy Nigerian lunch to share with their group- a wonderful example of how fresh food brings people together.

Here's what they had to say:

"We are truly grateful for the Farmer's Market Coupon Program and the opportunities that it offers to our pre-natal and post-natal participants with barriers to accessing nutritious food!"

This story is a beautiful reminder of the creativity, culture, and connection that the FMNCP makes possible in communities across BC.



Reminders For Community Partners

As coupon distribution comes to an end for many of you, please keep these tasks in mind:

Participant Report- If you're finished enrolling participants for the year you can submit your report at any time! Please return your completed report in excel format to nutrition@bcfarmersmarket.org

[Participant Report](#)

Participant Survey- Please help us by sharing our survey with your FMNCP participants. Their feedback is vital and helps us advocate for secured funding in 2026 and beyond. The survey is available in both digital and print formats. Completed paper surveys can be returned to your regional coordinator or mailed directly to our Vancouver office.

[Participant Survey- Online](#)

[Participant Survey- Print](#)

Grant Report- If you received our Transportation Grant or Fruit and Vegetable vouchers, complete this report to let us know how you used your funds.

[Grant Report](#)

As a reminder, you do NOT need to mail us your participant enrolment forms or the stubs from the top of your coupons. Please keep these on file for your records as needed.

BCAFM is Hiring!

BCAFM is seeking an Indigenous Reconciliation Lead, either an individual, organization or business, to move our Indigenous Reconciliation journey to a deeper level. Working with the Executive Director and Management Team, along with the BCAFm Board of Directors, the successful applicant will nurture and deepen BCAFm's existing and new relationships with Indigenous people, leaders and communities.

Deadline to apply is Monday, October 13th.

[Learn More](#)

Program Portal

What you'll find:

- ✓ Provincial dashboard of distribution and redemption
- ✓ ALL weekly reports
- ✓ Orientation slide deck and program operations manual
- ✓ Vendor and participant brochures and enrolment forms
- ✓ Grant applications
- ✓ Translations of farmers market produce
- ✓ Recipes and food literacy activities
- ✓ Coupon order form
- ✓ And more!

[Program Portal](#)

Get in Touch

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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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You are receiving this email because you are associated with the nutrition coupon program.