



**BC Association of Farmers' Markets**  
**FARMERS' MARKET MEMBER**  
**MEMBERSHIP POLICY**

*Approved by BCAFM Board of Directors on October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025*

## **PREAMBLE**

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As indicated in 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 Farmers' Market 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.

Farmers' Market Member membership in the BCAFM is annual and voluntary.

## **KEY BYLAWS**

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Below are key bylaws referenced and highlighted for background purposes in this policy document. Please refer to the full complete set of bylaws as needed.

### **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;"

**(l) "Farmers' Market Members" means those Organizations operating a Farmers' Market that have been admitted as Farmers' Market Members of the Society in accordance with these Bylaws and that have not ceased to be Farmers' Market Members;**

**(r) "Organization" means an association, cooperative, corporation or society;**

(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**

### **2.3 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 as defined above; 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.

If a new Organization takes on the governance of a Farmers’ Market Member, regardless of circumstance and at any point in the membership year, BCAFM membership status is non-transferable to the new Organization. The new Organization must apply as a “new member” as indicated in Bylaw 2.12.

## **POLICY & CRITERIA**

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The Bylaws are supported by additional policy and criteria for Farmers’ Market Members as follows.

### **Farmers’ Market Member Criteria**

As indicated in Bylaw 1.1 (j), the additional criteria established by the BCAFM Board is as follows.

#### **An in-person market operated by a Farmers’ Market Member must:**

- prioritize BC primary producer vendors (ie; farmers)
- have a majority of vendors (ie; 51%) in the following categories combined, present on a typical market day:
  - primary producers
  - processed/prepared food

- ready to eat food
- have at least 4 vendors present on any market day
- operate for 2 or more hours per day, for a minimum of 4 occasions in a year

**An online market operated by a Farmers' Market Member must:**

- be comprised exclusively (100%) of BC Vendors and prioritize primary producer vendors (i.e., farmers)
- have a majority of vendors (i.e., 51%) in the following categories combined, present on a typical market day:
  - primary producers
  - processed/prepared food
  - ready to eat food
- have at least 4 BC Vendors selling online

**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 or prepared foods that have undergone a transformation from their original or natural state through cooking, curing, smoking, canning, fermenting, blending, baking, roasting or other forms of value-added processing. Portioning, trimming, or cutting raw

products — such as meat, fish, or produce — does not constitute “making” under this definition. Products must demonstrate a change in form, flavour, or composition beyond basic butchering or packaging. Qualified Extra-Provincial Food Vendors must comply with all applicable 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. All 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.

### **Sale of Live Animals at Farmers’ Markets**

The sale of live animals at BCAFM member farmers’ markets are at the discretion of individual farmers’ markets and Environmental Health Office (EHO) requirements.

### **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 family member or employee of one of the primary producer; or
  - A primary producer within the formal vendor cooperative or informal vendor collective; or
  - An employee hired by a formal vendor cooperative; or
  - 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.

### **Vendors with Retail Locations**

Franchises and chains are not allowed as vendors at BCAFM Farmers' Market Member markets. Independent business with retail or store-front locations that produce and sell their own products are welcomed at the discretion of individual Farmers' Market Members.

Farm gate sales are not considered retail locations under this policy.

### **Promotional Materials**

Farmers' Market Members are allowed to sell or provide market promotional/branded materials free of charge (e.g., branded tote bags, reusable produce bags, t-shirts).

### **Community Groups/Non-Profit Organizations/Sponsors**

Community groups and/or non-profit organizations and/or sponsors - who are participating at a market solely for the purposes of information sharing, education and awareness - are not considered Vendors and are allowed to participate at Member Farmers' Markets at the discretion of individual Farmers' Market Members.

Community groups and/or non-profit organizations and/or sponsors - who are selling at a Farmers' Market as a Vendor - are considered Vendors (as defined in Bylaws) and are allowed to sell at Member Farmers' Markets (e.g., social enterprises).

Community groups and/or non-profit organizations and/or sponsors must be based in BC.

### **BCAFM Programs and Initiatives**

As indicated in Bylaw 3.1 (f), BCAFM Farmers' Market Members may participate in the programs and initiatives of the Society in accordance with such criteria as may be determined by the BCAFM board from time to time. For example, the following BCAFM program, among others:

- **Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program:**
  - Current BCAFM Farmers' Market Members are eligible to apply to participate in the BC Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program, in conjunction with approved community partners.
  - Coupons may be accepted at BCAFM member online markets, at the discretion of an individual Farmers' Market Member or BCAFM.

## **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](#)