

March 19, 2021

Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer  
[ProvHlthOffice@gov.bc.ca](mailto:ProvHlthOffice@gov.bc.ca)

Adrian Dix, Minister of Health  
[HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

John Horgan, Premier of British Columbia  
[premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:premier@gov.bc.ca)

Greg Kylo MLA for Shuswap  
[greg.kylo.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:greg.kylo.mla@leg.bc.ca)

Mel Arnold, Member of Parliament for North Okanagan-Shuswap  
[Mel.Arnold@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Mel.Arnold@parl.gc.ca)

**Re: Letter of Support – Permitting Non-Food Items at Farmers’ Markets**

Dr. Henry, Minister Dix, Premier Horgan, Mr. Kylo and Mr. Arnold,

The Salmon Arm & District Chamber of Commerce writes in support of local artisans and small businesses requesting the inclusion of non-food vendors at Farmers’ Markets. Farmer’s Markets are essential economic drivers and are the primary avenue for local artisans and producers to display and sell goods.

Like many other rural communities, Salmon Arm has been hard hit by the pandemic. The recent release of additional grant funding through the Launch Online Grant Program is a welcomed effort to those more established small businesses to assist with moving online. However, the eligibility criteria states that the business must be registered and have generated sales of more than \$30,000 in the past year. Many of our local vendors do not operate full-time and/or produce their products as their primary vocation and are thus not eligible for this assistance. Some will not be able to survive the year without opportunities to market their products during community markets over the spring and summer.

Farmers’ Markets support not only artisans and local producers but also encourage entrepreneurial spirits and create socio-economic benefits. The Downtown Salmon Arm Farmers Market is composed of approximately 45% non-food vendors and attracts an average of 1200 socially distanced customers per market from June to September, 800 during Spring and Fall. One of our Chamber Members, Monique Cusson, began participating in the Downtown Farmers Market in Salmon Arm last summer. Her experiences were nothing less than life changing, and she has now been able to successfully take a new hobby and building a career due to the connections and exposure the market provided. A year later she is now a thriving entrepreneur and owner of The She Shed by the Shuswap Shore.

One of her many aspirations has been to assist other local artisans, entrepreneurs, and tradespeople in the same way she had been inspired by creating a “Friday Night Open Market”. Ready to meet all the safety requirements and practices, this idea remains a dream unless the restriction is lifted.

For these reasons, the Salmon Arm Chamber of Commerce requests that the order restricting non-food vendors from attending B.C Farmers’ Markets be rescinded.

Sincerely,



Sandip Khrod  
Vice-President, Salmon Arm & District Chamber of Commerce

CC. Salmon Arm & District Chamber of Commerce Membership  
Monique Cusson, The She Shed by the Shuswap Shore  
Mayor Alan Harrison, City of Salmon Arm  
Shuswap Food Action Society  
BC Association of Farmers Markets  
Salmon Arm Economic Development Society  
BC. Economic Development Society  
Okanagan-Shuswap Chambers of Commerce  
BC Chamber of Commerce

**The Salmon Arm & District Chamber of Commerce**

The Salmon Arm Chamber of Commerce is a not-for-profit organization comprised of businesses, professionals, residents, and other community groups that work together to achieve a healthy economic and socio-economic environment that benefits the entire community.