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Salmon Arm, BC V1E 4P2

Danelle Greebe
Director, Continuing Studies and Corporate Training
Okanagan College
1000 KLO Road
Kelowna, BC V1X 4Y8

May 4, 2023

Dear Ms. Greebe,

Re: Support for Professional Cook Training in Salmon Arm/Shuswap Region

The Salmon Arm & District Chamber of Commerce is pleased to offer this letter of support for the Professional Cook, Level 1 program being submitted by Okanagan College as a Community Workforce Response Grant (CWRG). We support their proposal to deliver a program to train professional cooks that will help respond to critical need for this type of employee in communities in the Shuswap region.

The need for trained professional cooks continues to grow in the Shuswap and Okanagan, as tourism rebounds post-pandemic. Professional cooks may work in fast food, small, family-run restaurants, catering business, spas and resorts, as well as in professional kitchens for community kitchens, group homes, hospitals and other care facilities.

As a business support organization in Salmon Arm, we are directly working with employers and organizations and see the need to increase both the skill set and number of employees in this field. This work can be extremely satisfying for the right individual and may provide a long and varied career path for those entering the industry.

We recognize that with ongoing labour shortages, our hospitality industries are urgently in need of trained professionals and believe we have sufficient and appropriate referrals for the project. We anticipate that the project will provide job skills and training that will support the resiliency of the restaurant and tourism industries going forward.

We look forward to working with you on this project.

Sincerely,

Shelley Desautels
Executive Director,
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