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COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Hello ,

We hope you are staying well and safe during this extraordinary time.

Who would have ever thought we would all be dealing with so many important considerations and taking so many precautions, both in our personal lives and as we head into the Farmers' Market season.

We've often discussed the importance of food security and maintaining domestic food production. This is certainly a time when it has moved closer to the forefront.

Here's an update on the status of the farmers' markets as it relates to the COVID-19, coronavirus situation.

Cancellations and Postponements

- **The Burnaby Farmers' Market will not be open this weekend** (more details below)
- Reminder: Artisan Farmers' Markets Society's annual general meeting has been postponed to a later date, TBA.

BC Farmers' Markets Declared Essential Service



In a press release today, the Province of BC has declared that BC farmers' markets are essential services.

"Essential services are those daily services essential to preserving life, health, public safety and basic societal functioning. In consultation with the PHO, these services should and are encouraged to remain open."

These services include under retail: grocery stores, convenience stores, and farmers' markets.

B. C. Ministry of Agriculture Supports and Provides Funding for Farmers' Markets



To quote from the letter published March 19th:

"First, Farmers' Markets. Under additional conditions regarding COVID-19, Farmers Markets can continue to operate in B.C. at this time. The Ministry of Agriculture is working directly with the BC Association of Farmers' Markets to assist with this season and I'm pleased to share that the Ministry of Agriculture will be providing

financial support for them to develop an operating model better suited to times of emergency."

Burnaby Farmers' Market Permitted to Proceed and Planning to Reopen Over the Coming Weekends

After considering the advice of the BCCDC, the City of Burnaby changed its earlier position to disallow continuation of the Burnaby Farmers' Market, at this time. They stressed that the situation is fluid and could change at anytime.

We are learning from other jurisdictions who have also put farmers' markets on the essential services list, and gathering input from the community vendors and stakeholders to determine exactly which modifications we will implement when we reopen the Burnaby Farmers' Market.

The BC Ministry of Agriculture has made funding available to farmers' markets, through the BCAFM, which will be used to assist farmers' markets in implementing systems that can help modify their operations to deal with this new reality.

Some of the best practices that are being developed, and modifications we are likely to implement include an online shopping system that will allow you to preorder from vendors and pickup at the market, a drive-through option and a check in and check out process that will allow a limited number of people in the market at one time to facilitate ample social distancing.

Volunteers Needed to Help Markets Modify



Your help is needed to meet the modified market guidelines. If you would like to volunteer, please submit this simple [Volunteer Form](#) on our Website. Together we will beat the impact COVID-19 is having on the small businesses who participate in the markets and continue serving the community. Your help is needed!

Ambleside Farmers' Market

We are discussing plans with the Municipality of West Vancouver for the season opening of the Ambleside Farmers' Market. As the current COVID-19 situation is fluid, approaching the season opening, we will keep you posted of any changes that may be required.

Lonsdale Quay Farmers' Markets

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, we are working with Lonsdale Quay to expand the market to twice its usual size. We remain hopeful that the market will reopen in its expanded form and on its normal season opening date, in May.

Please stay tuned for updates!

Be safe, be healthy!

AGM 2020 POSTPONED!

Artisan Farmers' Market Society Annual General Meeting will be rescheduled. Please stay tuned for updates.

A R T I S A N



FARMERS MARKETS

Burnaby • Ambleside • Lonsdale