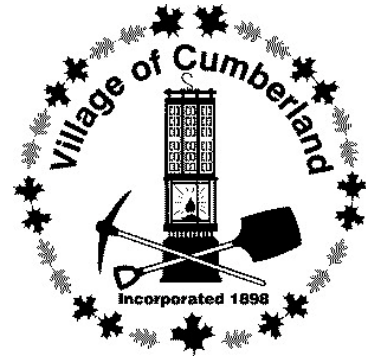


OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



July 2, 2024

File No. 1855-15-20
BCHC Plan H

By email: grants@bchealthycommunities.ca

BC Healthy Communities
c/o the Dock Centre for Social Impact
100-722 Cormorant Street
Victoria BC

Dear Plan H staff,

The Village of Cumberland and Lush Valley Food Action Society are pleased to partner for the Health Public Policy stream of the Plan H Health Communities Grant. Our organizations have worked well together to foster the development of healthy public policy at the local community level and are excited about the opportunity to continue this work.

In 2023, the Village became a signatory to the Vancouver Island Food Policy Council and the Village is working with the Comox Valley Food Policy Council, administered by the Lush Valley Food Action Society, to enhance food security provisions in the Village's Official Community Plan review update taking place to the end of 2024. Food production space for residents was identified by Council as an objective for its official community plan and land use regulation updates. The Village already has a number of policy and regulatory provisions in the Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw that support local food production, including permitting urban agriculture and market gardens in all residential areas.

Also in support of local food security the Village has provided special projects grants to the Comox Valley Farmers Market for its food coupon program and is now providing interim operating funding to the Cumberland Community Schools Society food share program that delivers healthy food hampers. Both programs support residents who have financial barriers to accessing nutritious food.

The development of healthy public policy is supported by a number of goals in Cumberland Council's 2023-2027 Strategic Plan. In support of a Diverse and Healthy Community, Council is continuing to explore opportunities for food security to meet the goal of Socio-Economic Diversity and Inclusion. Other policy works also support this goal of a diverse community, including non-market housing opportunities, diversity in housing, and an accessibility plan.

The Village is well on its way to healthy public policy and additional policy work to support local and regional food security, including policies on food infrastructure, processing, and post-production, and emergency planning with the support of the Lush Valley Food Action Society would benefit both the Village of Cumberland and the wider Comox Valley. The Village has committed to meaningful reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples through furthering the goals of the UNDRIP and through mutually beneficial partnerships. This healthy public policy work would be pursued through this equity and reconciliation lens.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'V. Brown', written in a cursive style.

Vickey Brown
Mayor

- c. Maurita Prato, Executive Director, LUSH Valley Food Action Society
Michelle Mason, Chief Administrative Officer, Village of Cumberland