



Pacific Rim School District

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June 12, 2025

Honourable Josie Osborne

Minister of Health

Po Box 9050, Stn Prov Govt

Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Honourable Lisa Beare

Minister of Education and Child Care

Po Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt

Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

ecc.minister@gov.bc.ca

Subject: Request to Reinstate Funding for Farm to School BC

Dear Ministers Osborne and Beare,

On behalf of the Pacific Rim School District, we are writing to express our deep concern regarding the Ministry of Health's decision not to renew funding for the Farm to School BC program for the 2025/26 school year.

Over the past 18 years, Farm to School BC has been a cornerstone of health promotion, food literacy, and community engagement in schools across our province. Through this program, more than 374 schools, including ours, have received essential support to develop school gardens, host local food programs, and integrate food literacy directly into the curriculum. The impact has been especially meaningful in rural, remote, and Indigenous communities, where the connection between local food systems and student well-being is both immediate and profound.

Since 2020, the hands-on support provided by Regional Coordinators has enriched programming in over 150 schools across all 60 school districts. These efforts have directly supported provincial goals for health promotion, climate action, and education by connecting students with healthy, locally sourced food while fostering a deep understanding of sustainability and community resilience.

The loss of this funding, places in jeopardy not only an exceptional and evidence-based program, but the broader vision of a healthy, sustainable school food system for British Columbia. We respectfully urge both Ministries to work together to reinstate this critical support and ensure the continuation of Farm to School BC's work in the years ahead.

Our district is proud to be part of a growing network of educators, health professionals, farmers, and families who have witnessed firsthand the long-term value of this program. We would welcome an opportunity to discuss its impact in our schools and collaborate on a sustainable path forward.

Thank you for your attention and support on this vital matter.

Sincerely,

Pam Craig, Board Chair

Pacific Rim School District's Board of Education

Cc: island@farmtoschoolbc.ca