

NSNDP | CAUCUS

May 9, 2023

Dear Premier Houston, Minister Dunn and Minister Morrow,

I was recently disappointed to hear that the Nourishing Communities Food Coupon Program will be forced to cut services due to lack of funding. I am writing to urge your government to approve Farmers' Markets of Nova Scotia's request for bridge funding to grow the current impact of the program.

This program has a proven record of success in helping address food insecurity. It has helped hundreds of Nova Scotian households since it began as a province-wide program in 2019. We understand that this organization was anticipating increased funding that is on hold until the release of the Food and Beverage Strategy. Their requested bridge funding would prevent this organization from having to cut potentially hundreds of participants from the program while they wait for the strategy's release, during a time when 22% of Nova Scotians are experiencing food insecurity.

Our offices hear daily from Nova Scotians struggling to afford and access healthy food, and food prices are projected to keep climbing at historical levels this year. The program also doubly benefits communities by investing in local growers and producers. This is the time to be investing in programs like the Nourishing Communities Food Coupon Program, not cutting them. I hope your government will work with Farmers' Markets of Nova Scotia to prevent these worrying program cuts, and to grow this program to benefit more Nova Scotians in need.

Thank you,



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