



Year-round Farmer's Market takes next step thanks to \$5,000 grant from Coastal Community

Wednesday-February 14, 2018 — Vancouver Island & the Gulf Islands:

Coastal Community recently awarded \$5000 through its Building Healthier Communities Fund (BHCF) to Island Roots Market Cooperative (IRMC). The funding will help the organization assess the demand for a permanent Farmers Market in Nanaimo, as well as investigate location options and partnership opportunities.

"This grant allows us to finish the study and brings Nanaimo a big step closer to eating local food and healthy living all year long. It is great to have Coastal Community Credit Union on board," said Larry Whaley, President, Island Roots Market Co-operative.

The IRMC currently operates three farmers markets in Nanaimo: Wednesdays and Saturdays at Beban Park in the summer and Wednesdays at Pleasant Valley Hall during the rest of the year. The Co-op's plan is to construct a building to house a year-round farmers market at Beban Park.

According to the association, a year-round market would strengthen communities in the region in a number of ways, including:

- creating local jobs;
- stimulating and raising the profile of the local food movement;
- increasing the health of Island residents through stable access to fresh local food; and
- decreasing the environmental impact of shipping food to the islands.

The emphasis on improving the well-being of Islanders and keeping money local makes the project a great match for the BHCF, according to Allyson Prescesky, Senior Manager, Community and Communications, with Coastal Community. "Supporting our local farmers and producers promotes economic development while building a sense of community, and that combination is something Coastal Community is proud to get behind."

Since 2014, BHCF has given hundreds of thousands of dollars in seed money to help dozens of local organizations fund long-term initiatives that contribute to building healthier Island communities. BHCF looks for projects that support a broad range of people, are sustainable and make a difference to a local community.

For more information on our Building Healthier Communities fund, please visit www.cccu.ca.

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About COASTAL COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION

Improving financial health, enriching lives, and building healthier communities...These are at the core of who we are and what we do at Coastal Community Credit Union (CCCU). With these as our focus areas, we continue to grow our position as the largest financial services organization based on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands, while remaining among the largest credit unions in Canada.

In order to help our members and clients improve their financial health, CCCU's family of companies offers a wide range of products, services and expertise in personal, business and commercial banking, general and commercial insurance* and wealth management**. Across the Islands, we operate 24 branches, 17 insurance offices, four regional business centres, one centralized contact centre (1.888.741.1010) with extended service hours, plus a team of mobile experts and a full range of online and mobile services. CCCU was the first to bring cutting-edge Interactive Teller Machine technology to the Island and continues to add new innovations to simplify finances—and life. By really listening and understanding, and then providing meaningful solutions, Coastal Community's 600-person-strong team is able to help our members and clients achieve their financial and life goals.

As a 100% Island-based business, we're committed to making meaningful differences in the places we call home. Our Building Healthier Communities Fund has provided hundreds of thousands in seed money to activate dozens of local community betterment initiatives. CCCU is also an award winning organization, having most recently been recognized as one of B.C.'s Top Employers.

Want to learn more? Visit cccu.ca or join us on our Facebook and Twitter pages.

*References to "insurance" in this article refer to the insurance services provided through Coastal Community Insurance Services (2007) Ltd., which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Coastal Community Credit Union

**References to "wealth management" in this article refer to the financial planning and investment services provided through Coastal Community Private Wealth Group, a division of Coastal Community Financial Management, Inc. which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Coastal Community Credit Union