



RE: Nanaimo Foodshare – Letter of Support

Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
PO BOX 9310 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9N1

I am writing on behalf of the Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools Board of Education's support of the Nanaimo Foodshare Society's Gaming application. Currently the Gaming Grant supports the Resource Centre, Youth Focus on Food, Good Food Box, and the Gleaning Programs.

Nanaimo Foodshare has a proven track record of running successful programs and supporting members of the community in connecting them with food related resources and education.

Nanaimo Foodshare Centre provides an invaluable service to the community and the students in our schools through its *Youth Focus on Foods* program that includes Kids Get Cooking and the Community Roots School Gardens.

Nanaimo Food Share has been a long standing partner in providing a number of programs in our schools and community. The Kids Get Cooking programs have been an integral part of our Healthy Eating Initiative. The cooking programs benefit our at-risk students, not only in appropriate afterschool activities, but more importantly, how to cook healthy meals for themselves. The food they learn to prepare in the cooking classes are eaten together as a meal, which provide certain social skills and table etiquette. Many of our students come from families with financial barriers, the cooking classes provide a meal that was perhaps skipped during the day and any leftovers are packaged up for them to take home. For over 10 years, Nanaimo Food Share has provided after-school cooking programs for our students and this has proven to be very successful. Their programs are well organized and very educational on the aspects of healthy, low-cost eating.

The Community Roots School Gardens program provides students with the chance to learn how to grow their own food, teamwork skills, and practice following through on the commitment it takes to tend a garden. Through this program, the students learn about healthy eating and nutrition, as well as garner a sense of pride.

We believe this is an essential community service, and that the work Nanaimo Foodshare does is essential in creating a culture of nutrition-focused learning and development in the Nanaimo community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "C McKay". The signature is written in a dark grey or black ink.

Charlene McKay
Board Chair