

From: [Cow-op Community](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: Investing in Local Food & Economic Resilience with Cow-op
Date: Friday, February 7, 2025 2:00:50 PM

Dear Rob Douglas, Chris Istace, Christopher Justice, & Mike Caljouw,

We are reaching out on behalf of Cowichan Valley Cooperative Marketplace (Cow-op) to explore an exciting opportunity for local governments to help strengthen our regional food system. Cow-op plays a vital role in connecting farmers, food producers, and consumers across our region. Through our online marketplace, aggregation, and distribution services, we support local businesses, create sustainable jobs, reduce food miles, and enhance food security in our community.

Following our delegation to the CVRD Committee of the Whole on December 11, 2024, we received strong interest and thoughtful questions about how to best support Cow-op's role in expanding local food distribution and economic resilience. Based on that positive response, we are seeking opportunities for collaboration and support from key partners like yourself.

North Cowichan's Official Community Plan highlights **Food Security**, with objectives to "enhance access to healthy, affordable, locally grown, high-quality, nutrient-dense food" and "sustain and increase local agricultural activity, especially of food systems that can improve the food security for the local population."

As a social impact business, Cow-op plays a central role in achieving these goals. However, like many social enterprises and social purpose businesses, it is challenging for us to operate solely on self-generated revenue. Supporting Cow-op's ongoing work is essential to ensuring that we can continue to offer resources and services that directly benefit local farmers, strengthen the regional food system, and build resilience in our community.

We appreciate any financial contribution North Cowichan may be able to provide to sustain this vital work. Thank you for considering this opportunity to invest in the future of local food in the Cowichan Valley. We look forward to discussing this further.

Warmly,

Hanna Elise & Robyn McLean
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