



BC ASSOCIATION OF
FARMERS' MARKETS
**FARMERS' MARKET MEMBER
MEMBERSHIP POLICY**

Approved by BCAFM Board of Directors on November 2nd, 2017

PREAMBLE

As indicated in Bylaw 2.2, the BCAFM defines two classes of membership:

| | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Farmers' Market Members | Voting |
| Vendor Members | Non-Voting |

The policies outlined in this document pertain to Farmers' Market Members and have been established by the BC Association of Farmers' Markets (BCAFM) Board of Directors in accordance with the Bylaws and Constitution of the BCAFM.

Farmers' Market Member membership in the BCAFM is annual.

KEY BYLAWS

Below are key bylaws referenced and highlighted for background purposes in this policy document. Please refer to the full complete set of bylaws as needed.

1. INTERPRETATION

1.1 Definitions

(i) **"Farmers' Market"** means a market located in British Columbia comprised exclusively (100%) of vendors who grow, make, bake, raise or wild harvest the products they sell, all of which products must be grown or processed in British Columbia, and which prioritize primary producers/farmers and food, all in accordance with such criteria as may be established by the Board from time to time;

(j) **"Farmers' Market Members"** means those Organizations operating a Farmers' Market that have been admitted as Farmers' Market Members of the Society in accordance with these Bylaws and that have not ceased to be Farmers' Market Members;

(r) **"Organization"** means an association, cooperative, corporation or society;

2. MEMBERSHIP

2.3 Eligibility for Farmers' Market Membership

Subject to the provisions of this section, an Organization may be eligible to be accepted as a Farmers' Market Member if it:

- (a) operates at least one (1) Farmers' Market; and
- (b) agrees to advance the purposes and support the activities of the Society.

A Person is not eligible to be accepted as a Farmers' Market Member.

POLICY & CRITERIA

The Bylaws are supported by additional policy and criteria for Farmers' Market Members as follows.

Farmers' Market Criteria

As indicated in Bylaw 1.1 (i), the additional criteria established by the BCAFM Board is as follows. A "Farmers' Market" must:

- prioritize and include BC primary producer vendors
- have a majority of vendors (ie; 51%) in the following categories combined, present on a typical market day:
 - primary producers
 - processed/prepared food
 - ready to eat food
- have at least 4 vendors present on any market day
- operate for 2 or more hours per day, for a minimum of 4 occasions in a year

100% Grow, Raise, Wild Harvest, Bake, Make

As indicated in Bylaw 1.1 (i) a farmers' market is comprised exclusively (100%) of vendors who grow, make, bake, raise or wild harvest the products they sell.

The reselling of goods purchased from wholesalers or other commercial outlets is not allowed.

Grow means:

- Farm products that are grown or produced on BC land.
- Nursery products, such as plants, trees, or seeds that are grown and/or propagated by a farm vendor in BC for the purpose of re-planting.
- Cut flowers and herbs that were grown and/or propagated by the farm vendor.

Make means:

- Processed/prepared foods: value added edible product that has been cut, cooked, smoked, canned or otherwise altered from its original/natural state.
- Artisanal and craft products: value added products that are created, sewn, constructed or otherwise fashioned from component materials in a way that makes the item unique. These may include raw component products that were purchased or that originated on one's farm. An artist may sell reproductions of their own original creation.
- Services that are provided at the farmers' market. Examples include knife sharpening, chair massage.
- Priority should be given to makers that source ingredients and components of BC origin.

Bake means:



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- Products that are baked from scratch ie; utilizing basic ingredients, not purchased pre-mixed or pre-made components.
- Priority should be given to bakers that source ingredients of BC origin.

Raise means:

- Farm products that are raised on BC land or wild lands or waters in BC, with the appropriate permits.

Wild Harvest means:

- Products harvested, caught, hunted or wild crafted from wild lands or waters in BC, with the appropriate permits.

Vendor Selling Arrangements

1. Vendor selling arrangements, such as formal vendor cooperatives or informal vendor collectives/associations, are allowed to sell at a BCAFM Farmers' Market Member at the discretion of the individual Farmers' Market Member provided that:

The cooperative, collective or association is comprised 100% of vendors who meet the definition of vendor as described in Bylaw 1.1 (bb)

"Vendor" means a Person or Organization located in British Columbia that makes, bakes, grows, raises or wild harvests the products it sells at a Farmers' Market operated by a Farmers' Market Member, all of which products must be grown or processed in British Columbia;

and

all vendors adhere to the 100% Grow, Raise, Wild Harvest, Bake, Make policy described above.

and

the vendor cooperative, collective or association clearly indicate who its members are, through display signage at the farmers' market.

Each vendor in a vendor cooperative, collective/association are not required to attend on the day of a farmers' market.

Vendor Representatives

1. Another person(s) may represent a vendor at the farmers' market provided the representative(s) are affiliated with the producer of the goods for sale, including family members, employees or those who assist with the cultivation and/or production of those products sold at the farmers' market and are knowledgeable about those products being sold.
2. Multiple vendors may share a booth stall at the discretion of individual farmers' markets.

Vendors with Retail Locations

Franchises and chains are not allowed as vendors at BCAFM Farmers' Market Members. Vendors with retail locations may be allowed in exceptional circumstances at the discretion of individual Farmers' Market Members. Farm gate sales are not considered retail locations under this policy.

Promotional Materials

Farmers' Market Members are allowed to sell or provide promotional materials free of charge.

Community Groups/Non-Profit Organizations

Community groups and/or non-profit organizations are not considered vendors and are allowed to participate at Member Farmers' Markets at the discretion of individual Farmers' Market Members.

BCAFM Programs and Initiatives

As indicated in Bylaw 3.1 (f), BCAFM Farmers' Market Members may participate in the programs and initiatives of the Society in accordance with such criteria as may be determined by the BCAFM board from time to time. For example, the following program, among others:

- **Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program:** Current BCAFM Farmers' Market Members are eligible to apply to participate in the BC Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program.

Dispute Resolution

The BCAFM is not a legal or regulatory entity. As such, BCAFM will not resolve or mediate individual conflict or issues pertaining to individual Farmers' Markets Members.