



2025

# ANNUAL REPORT

Creating vibrant and welcoming markets that build community, feed people, and support small farms and producers.

A resilient local food network that values people and the land.

RESILIENCE

COMMUNITY

CONNECTION

JOY

DIGNITY



# INTRODUCTION

In conversations about infrastructure, we often picture bridges, transit lines, or buildings. But across Vancouver, another kind of infrastructure comes to life each week, one that feeds people, supports small farms, strengthens neighbourhoods, and builds resilience in uncertain times — **Farmers Markets**. For over 30 years, Vancouver Farmers Markets has been building more than markets. We have been building relationship infrastructure: networks of farmers, food producers, and communities that sustain local food systems.

In 2025, this work felt more essential than ever. As affordability pressures, climate impacts, and food insecurity continued to shape daily life, our markets remained steady, welcoming spaces, connecting people to fresh, local food and to each other.

Markets are places of exchange, but also of belonging. They support small businesses, circulate dollars locally, and create opportunities for new food entrepreneurs to grow. They strengthen short supply chains and foster trust between growers and eaters, trust that becomes critical in times of disruption.

They also bring joy: in shared meals, familiar faces, and the simple pleasure of seasonal food.

This report reflects a year of continuing to invest in this vital, often overlooked infrastructure and the communities that make it possible.



# ABOUT VANCOUVER FARMERS MARKETS

Vancouver Farmers Markets is a nonprofit organization that operates and supports a network of farmers markets across Vancouver.

Since 1995, we have been **building local food infrastructure**, creating **direct connections between farmers, food producers, and communities**. Our markets provide accessible platforms to not just farms but also small & medium businesses to sell their products, test new product ideas, and grow sustainably, while keeping dollars circulating locally. At our markets, we also operate community programming that involves other non-profit organizations extending outreach with **Community Tables**, local music creators with **Buskers Program**, and a range of people interested to work within a community setting that is welcoming and vibrant with our **Volunteer Program**.

Beyond markets, we deliver programs that increase food access, including the **Farmers Market Nutrition Coupon Program** and **Fresh to Families**, ensuring that fresh, local food is available with dignity to those who need it most.

We are guided by a commitment to strengthening regional food systems, supporting local economies, and fostering inclusive, vibrant public spaces. Through markets, programs, and partnerships, we continue to build resilient communities rooted in **Integrity, Dignity and Joy**.

---

## Our Vision

*A resilient local food network that values people and the land.*

## Our Mission

*We create vibrant and welcoming markets that build community, feed people, and support small farms and producers.*



Strategic Conversation and Farm Visit Day at Swallowfield Farm

# MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

In 2025, as Vancouver Farmers Markets marked 30 years of creating vibrant and welcoming markets that build community, feed people, and support small farms and producers, we are reminded that our farmers markets are about far more than local food. They are places where relationships are built, local economies are strengthened, and communities come together week after week.

In 2025, we saw continued growth across our markets and programs, alongside increasing recognition of the important role farmers markets play in our communities. This impact is only possible because of our staff teams, vendors, volunteers, partners, sponsors, and community members who continue to believe in this work.

On behalf of the Board, I thank you for supporting a local food system rooted in connection, care, and resilience. Together, we are helping ensure farmers markets remain vibrant public spaces of community, joy, food access and more.



*Kevin Klippenstein*  
Board Chair  
Vancouver Farmers Markets

## VFM Board

**Lana Shipley**  
Vice Chair

**Jeremy Dyson**  
Board Member

**Bree Hayden**  
Board Member

**Monique Pongracic-Speier**  
Board Member

**Terry Burmas**  
Treasurer

**Beth Shelton**  
Board Member

**Lisa Lam**  
Board Member

**Geneviève Blanchet**  
Secretary

**Tushar Shroff**  
Board Member

**Ramneek Kingra**  
Board Member

*Vancouver Farmers Markets is a dynamic community-based non-profit organization with a vision of a resilient local food network that values people and the land.*

# MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In 2025, we celebrated our thirty year story from grassroots movement into real-time resilience. On the ground, our markets were hives of activity - sales increased 18% and more neighbours and producers accessed markets and connected through local food than ever before.

That said, when the federal government announced a significant investment in the Local Food Infrastructure Fund, supporting markets was not on the table.

Farmers markets have been showing up season after season, year after year, and we are determined to keep doing so. In this global climate of economic uncertainty, climate change, and social polarization, farmers markets are one of the most joyful, human-scale solutions we have that let us sink our teeth into the issues of our time.

As we reflect on our impact and look ahead to what's next, our challenge — and opportunity — is to move farmers markets from nice-to-haves to community infrastructure that sustains us for generations to come. We hope you'll join us as we have the kinds of conversations that get us there. See you at the markets!



*Laura Smit*  
Executive Director  
Vancouver Farmers Markets

## VFM Team

**Randy Elliott**

Director of  
Operations

**Robert Tucker**

Office Manager

**Isabella Carlyle**

District Manager

**Aria Wells**

Market Manager

**Monika Chowdhry**

Communications &

Development Manager

**Hannah Megally**

Programs Manager

**Paige Leslie**

Market Manager

**Anne Marie Paquin**

Market Manager

**Laura Gibson**

District Manager

**Ruvena Buslovich**

Market Manager

**Maike Fischer**

Market Manager

*Our staff curate vibrant markets that connect people, support local food systems, and strengthen communities.*

**\$350K**

circulated to lower-income families and households, providing dignified access to fresh, local food



**>675K**

unique visits, over 80% of which were made by foot, bicycle or public transportation

**231**

market days at 9 neighbourhood markets, with over 12,000 points of sale and connection

**264**

vendors, including 66 new entrant, 147 women-owned, 51 youth-run and 115 BIPOC businesses



**\$18M**

in direct sales for small farms and producers and over \$27M impact to the local economy

# 2025 IMPACT AT A GLANCE



In 2025, Vancouver Farmers Markets continued to strengthen local food infrastructure across Vancouver through measurable community impact. We supported hundreds of small businesses, generated millions in local economic activity, and expanded food access exponentially. These numbers are seeds of joy, dignity and connection cultivated week after week, rain or shine, at your local farmers market. We know our impact runs deeper and wider than the numbers reflect and this is only the beginning of what's possible when we think of markets as economic, social and climate infrastructure.

**Join us in creating a resilient local food network that values people and the land!**

# INFRASTRUCTURE

of joy, community, access, climate, economic resilience

At Vancouver Farmers Markets, our markets are more than places to shop. They are living infrastructure that supports everyday life across Vancouver.

- They are **community infrastructure**, where neighbours gather, relationships form, and public space comes alive each week.
- They are **economic infrastructure**, generating \$18 million in vendor sales and creating pathways for 264 small farms and food businesses to grow.
- They are **access infrastructure**, connecting families to fresh, local food through programs like FMNCP and Fresh to Families, that distributed over \$350,000 in 2025.
- They are **climate infrastructure**, strengthening short supply chains and supporting regional agriculture.
- And, they are an **infrastructure of joy**, where music, food, and shared moments create a sense of belonging.

Together, under a handful of tents, our markets form a resilient system, one that feeds people, supports livelihoods, and strengthens the social fabric of the city.



RESILIENCE

JOY

DIGNITY

CONNECTION

# STRENGTHEN MARKETS

At Vancouver Farmers Markets, our programs work together to strengthen farmers markets as essential community infrastructure. From our core market operations to food security initiatives like Fresh to Families and the Farmers Market Nutrition Coupon Program, we connect people to fresh, local food with dignity.

Access-focused programs such as Flavours of Hope, collaborations with Indigenous Tourism BC, and Community Tables create more inclusive spaces. Through membership, sponsorship, and on-site activations, from buskers to volunteer-led programming, we continue to grow vibrant, resilient markets that support farmers, entrepreneurs, and communities across Vancouver.



*Markets are reliable, adaptable community infrastructure*

# OUR MARKETS

## **Trout Lake Farmers Market**

Saturdays, 9am - 2pm  
Apr - Oct

## **Mount Pleasant Farmers Market**

Sundays, 10am - 2pm  
May - Oct

## **Downtown Farmers Market**

Wednesdays, 2pm - 6pm  
Jun - Dec

## **Riley Park Farmers Market**

Saturdays, 10am - 2pm  
Year Round

## **Kitsilano Farmers Market**

Sundays, 10am - 2pm  
Year Round

## **False Creek Farmers Market**

Thursdays, 3pm - 7pm  
Jun - Oct

## **West End Farmers Market**

Saturdays, 9am - 2pm  
May - Oct



*Bringing local food and local folks together since 1995*

# ABOUT OUR MARKETS

## **Trout Lake Farmers Market**

Where it all began, this is our longest-running market rooted in community and history. A vibrant east-side hub known for legacy vendors and a strong neighbourhood feel.

## **Riley Park Summer Farmers Market**

A compact, family-friendly market beside parks and gardens. A relaxed Sunday destination with fresh food, coffee, and community connection.

## **West End Farmers Market**

A beloved downtown weekend ritual near parks and the waterfront. Known for its loyal shoppers, diverse vendors, and lively atmosphere.

## **Kitsilano Summer Farmers Market**

A busy, energetic neighbourhood market packed with local food, buskers, and community presence. Small in size, big in spirit.

## **Mount Pleasant Farmers Market**

A charming, laid-back market at the edge of Dude Chilling Park. Perfect for local shopping followed by a picnic or family time.

## **Downtown Farmers Market**

A midweek market in the heart of the city, serving workers, residents, and visitors. Convenient, accessible, and deeply connected to urban life.

## **False Creek Farmers Market**

A waterfront market in Olympic Village with strong neighbourhood energy. A growing destination for locals, cyclists, and visitors alike.

## **Riley Park Winter Farmers Market**

Vancouver's iconic winter market with one of the largest vendor lineups. A year-round anchor for local food through all seasons.

## **Kitsilano Winter Farmers Market**

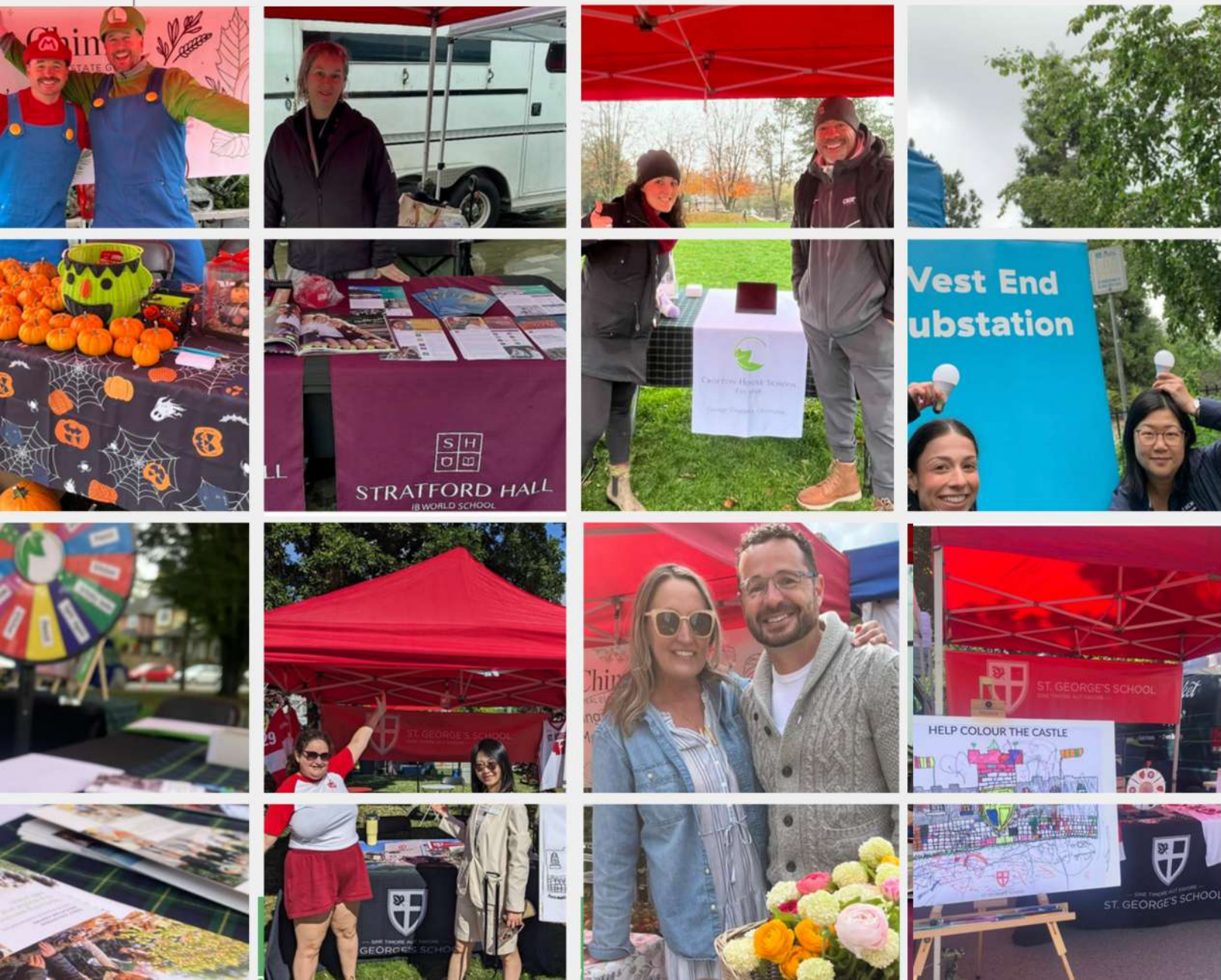
A newer winter market rooted in strong community support. Extending local food access year-round in the Kitsilano neighbourhood.



# EMPOWER COMMUNITY

We extend our gratitude to 2025 sponsors including BC Hydro, Chimes Real Estate Group, Crofton House School, St. George's School, and Stratford Hall for their continued partnership and support.

Special thanks to the vendors who supported our 2025 membership drives: Market 49, Hanceville Cattle Co., Nidhi's Cuisine, Morgan's Harbour, Drunken Chocolatier, Blue Comet Seafood, Dundrave Olive, Epicure Preserves, Le Meadow's Pantry, Luppolo Brewing, Darne Moroccan Flavours, Empanada Gal, Food on the Table, Indish, Kula Foods, Mogiana Coffee, Pastaggio, and Sole Food Farms.



# OUR VENDORS

The makers, bakers, growers — the farmers, crafters and all the hardworking local businesses who power our markets, rain or shine! Creating and sharing with love and passion.

They are the heart of our local food system and the communities we serve.



# COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

## Community Tables, Buskers, Volunteers, Creativities

Community programming at Vancouver Farmers Markets continues to strengthen markets as spaces of connection, creativity, and participation. In 2025, 25 organizations engaged directly with shoppers under the Community Table program, 61 volunteers supported markets, while 55 buskers and performers brought music and vibrancy to market days.

The introduction of the “Creativities” volunteer category created new opportunities for artists and community members to contribute. We are building more structured recruitment pathways, exploring improved platforms, and creating new ways for volunteers to engage, including participation in food jury programs, continuing to grow markets as inclusive, community-driven infrastructure.



### COMMUNITY TABLES

25 organizations attended markets under the Community Table program



### BUSKERS

55 buskers performed at our markets through the year



### VOLUNTEERS

Our markets were supported by 61 volunteers to make the magic happen



### CREATIVITIES

Typewriter Poet—highlight of the year!



# OUR TEAMS

The people who reach the market sites at the crack of dawn, work behind the scenes to make sure that our markets happen, week after week, rain or shine.

There is no way we can enjoy our love for local without all the amazing staff, crew, and volunteers, who work year-round to support vendors, build community connections, and keep this local food infrastructure running.



# ENHANCE ACCESS

In 2025, the Farmers Market Nutrition Coupon Program and Fresh to Families together circulated nearly \$350,000 back to local farms while improving access to fresh, local food for hundreds of households.

We are grateful to all donors and partners who supported this work, including West Coast Seeds, Hot Chocolate Festival vendors, Feast in the Flower Fields supporters, and Giving Tuesday donors.

Flavours of Hope’s Dream Cuisines program once again supported five newcomer women-led food businesses in 2025.



**FMNCP**  
\$265,605 worth of coupons accepted at our markets

**FLAVOURS OF HOPE**  
5 new women led businesses launched at Vancouver Farmers Markets



**FRESH TO FAMILIES**  
\$71,280 circulated back to local farms while supporting 165 families



# ACKNOWLEDGMENT & GRATITUDE

## Rhonda May, founder and organizer of the Vancouver Hot Chocolate Festival

In 2025, Vancouver Farmers Markets is honored to extend deep gratitude to Rhonda May for her longstanding support of the Fresh to Families program through the annual Hot Chocolate Festival.

For many years, the festival has helped connect thousands of people through a shared love of hot chocolate while raising critical funds to improve access to fresh, local produce for families across Vancouver. Rhonda's leadership, generosity, and belief in community-centred food systems have helped sustain and grow this work year after year.

Her tireless work, since the last 17 years, reflects the power of creative collaboration and the impact that community partnerships can have in strengthening resilient local food systems that support communities.



## SPECIAL PARTNERSHIP



*Traditional drumming by Willie at the opening ceremony of Downtown Market*

In 2025 VFM took its first practical step on its reconciliation journey with a pilot program launched with Indigenous Tourism BC. Four Indigenous vendors were welcomed to the Downtown Farmers Market. Launched on the first market day of season and celebrating Indigenous History month, the ceremony was blessed by traditional drumming.

Launch of this program at the Downtown Market, graciously hosted at the ʂxʷʌnəq Xwtl'e7énk Square was a moment of gratitude for the VFM team and the board, as well as, an attempt to go beyond the land acknowledgements of operating markets on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and sə́lilwətaʔt / sə́lilwítulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

# NOTE FROM TREASURER

2025 reflected both the opportunities and realities of operating community infrastructure in a rapidly changing environment. As Vancouver Farmers Markets continued to grow its programs and impact in 2025, financial stewardship remained focused on balancing long-term sustainability with responsiveness to community needs.

Through careful planning, strong partnerships, and the support of members, sponsors, donors, and partners, we continued investing in market operations, food access initiatives, and organizational capacity. These investments help ensure that our markets remain resilient, adaptable, and accessible.

Thank you to everyone who contributed time, resources, and trust to this work. Your support strengthens our organization, and the broader local food systems and communities that rely on it.



*Terry Burmas  
Treasurer & Board Member  
Vancouver Farmers Markets*

## DEVELOP ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

### **Adapting to Increased Complexity and Change**

We continue to work behind the scenes to strengthen our systems and support our organization's ability to adapt to a rapidly changing environment. From piloting new tools & systems to improving how we respond to challenges, adaptability has become central to how we operate. As we build collective resilience, we affirm the importance of caring for each other and taking a restorative approach to creating markets and work spaces that are safer, inclusive, and welcoming for all.

*Focus continues on developing organizational capacity and strengthening the foundation needed to sustain and grow this vital local food infrastructure.*

# FARMERS MARKETS ARE INFRASTRUCTURE

**of Community, Joy, Food Access, Climate, Economic Resilience, and more**

When was the last time you finished a delicious meal and thought: “Wow, that was so sustainable?” Probably never!

But if the ingredients came from your farmers market, chances are it was.

This is what local food infrastructure looks like, one that you enjoy with your community, that is economically resilient, sustainable and accessible.

**Here’s to laying the groundwork and creating space for market infrastructure that sustains us for generations to come!**



**COMMUNITY**  
Every market is a gathering place.



**JOY**  
Small moments matter. Food is not just nutrition — it’s culture, connection, and joy.



**ECONOMIC**  
Every dollar spent at the farmers market circulates locally.



**CLIMATE**  
Short supply chains matter.

**ACCESS**  
Good food should never be a luxury.





# THANK YOU



We are grateful to operate markets on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətaʔ / səliłwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

 604-879-3276

 661-C Market Hill, Vancouver, BC V5Z 4B5

 [www.eatlocal.org](http://www.eatlocal.org)

**YOUR LOCAL FARMERS MARKET SOCIETY  
FINANCIAL INFORMATION  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025**

**YOUR LOCAL FARMERS MARKET SOCIETY**  
**Index to Financial Information**  
**For the Year Ended December 31, 2025**

---

	Page
COMPILATION ENGAGEMENT REPORT	7
FINANCIAL INFORMATION	
Statement of Financial Position	8
Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets	9
Notes to Financial Information	10 - 11

---

## COMPILATION ENGAGEMENT REPORT

---

To the Members of Your Local Farmers Market Society

On the basis of information provided by management, we have compiled the statement of financial position of Your Local Farmers Market Society as at December 31, 2025, and the statement of operations and changes in net assets for the year then ended, and Note 2, which describes the basis of accounting applied in the preparation of the compiled financial information ("financial information").

Management is responsible for the accompanying financial information, including the accuracy and completeness of the underlying information used to compile it and the selection of the basis of accounting.

We performed this engagement in accordance with Canadian Standard on Related Services ("CSRS") 4200, *Compilation Engagements*, which requires us to comply with relevant ethical requirements. Our responsibility is to assist management in the preparation of the financial information.

We did not perform an audit engagement or a review engagement, nor were we required to perform procedures to verify the accuracy or completeness of the information provided by management. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or a review conclusion, or provide any form of assurance on the financial information.

Readers are cautioned that the financial information may not be appropriate for their purposes.

Burnaby, BC  
March 31, 2026

*Achieve CPAs LLP*  
Achieve CPAs LLP  
Chartered Professional Accountants


**YOUR LOCAL FARMERS MARKET SOCIETY**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
**As at December 31, 2025**

	2025	2024
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current assets		
Cash	\$ 353,021	\$ 185,947
Term deposits	400,000	563,821
Accounts receivable	80,189	66,669
Inventory	7,832	7,483
Prepaid expenses	10,836	1,447
	851,878	825,367
Tangible capital assets <i>(Note 3)</i>	14,317	14,856
	\$ 866,195	\$ 840,223
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 112,017	\$ 118,718
Market money obligations	4,725	7,550
Deferred revenue	239,371	222,868
	356,113	349,136
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted	510,082	491,087
	\$ 866,195	\$ 840,223

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

*Kevin Klippenstein*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Chair

\_\_\_\_\_ 

\_\_\_\_\_  
Treasurer

See notes to financial information

**YOUR LOCAL FARMERS MARKET SOCIETY**  
**Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets**  
**For the Year Ended December 31, 2025**

	2025	2024
<b>Revenue</b>		
Market fees	\$ 1,072,721	\$ 1,021,070
Donations and fundraising	75,919	63,948
Interest income	32,171	34,302
Membership fees	27,119	31,953
Merchandise sales	24,019	19,801
Other fees	4,403	4,834
	<b>1,236,352</b>	<b>1,175,908</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Advertising and promotion	30,680	19,707
Amortization	4,738	7,665
Bad debts (recovery)	10,177	(305)
Board meetings and retreat (Note 4)	23,890	3,086
Insurance	2,120	2,611
Interest and bank charges	10,537	8,018
Markets' operating expenses	324,485	264,166
Merchandise	12,938	14,287
Office	30,544	24,525
Professional fees	58,411	58,258
Programs	6,356	10,014
Rent	70,516	63,150
Repairs and maintenance	2,798	1,952
Salaries and wages (Note 5)	608,400	611,974
Training	3,843	2,780
Utilities	6,046	5,221
Volunteers and staff	8,979	8,906
	<b>1,215,458</b>	<b>1,106,015</b>
<b>Income from operations</b>	<b>20,894</b>	<b>69,893</b>
<b>Other items</b>		
Loss on disposal of tangible capital assets	(1,899)	-
<b>Net excess of revenue over expenses for the year</b>	<b>18,995</b>	<b>69,893</b>
Net assets - beginning of year	491,087	421,194
<b>Net assets - end of year</b>	<b>\$ 510,082</b>	<b>\$ 491,087</b>

See notes to financial information

**YOUR LOCAL FARMERS MARKET SOCIETY**  
**Notes to Financial Information**  
**For the Year Ended December 31, 2025**

**1. PURPOSE OF SOCIETY**

Your Local Farmers Market Society (the "Society") is a Not-for-Profit Organization and was incorporated under the Society Act of British Columbia on May 24, 1995. The Society operates under the name of Vancouver Farmers Market whose purpose is to:

- Contribute to the economic viability of small farms and local cottage industries by providing ready markets and creating long-term opportunities for them to retail their products at a fair return;
- Provide consumers with a choice of fresh, quality produce and other agricultural goods in settings that allow them to interact with the people who grow the food they eat and to, thereby, foster stronger connections between urban and rural dwellers;
- Help create a sense of community in the urban neighbourhoods where markets are held;
- Help preserve rural communities and farmland by fostering sustainable small-scale agriculture; and
- Serve as a practical and accessible medium for public education and mobilization around nutrition, agricultural and food policy issues.

**2. BASIS OF ACCOUNTING**

The basis of accounting applied in the preparation of the statement of financial position of Your Local Farmers Market Society as at December 31, 2025, and the statement of operations and changes in net assets for the year then ended is the historical cost basis and reflects cash transactions with the addition of:

- Term deposits recorded at cost;
- Accounts receivable less an allowance for doubtful accounts;
- Inventory valued at cost based on the first in, first out method;
- Tangible capital assets are amortized over their useful lives;
- Accounts payable and accrued liabilities;
- Market money obligations represent the deferred revenue estimate for outstanding tokens available for redemption;
- Deferred revenue recognizes payments received but not yet earned.

**3. TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS**

	Cost	Accumulated amortization	<b>2025 Net book value</b>	2024 Net book value
Computer equipment	\$ 14,886	\$ 6,528	\$ <b>8,358</b>	\$ 8,332
Furniture and fixtures	9,247	3,288	<b>5,959</b>	4,625
Leasehold improvements	-	-	-	1,899
	<b>\$ 24,133</b>	<b>\$ 9,816</b>	<b>\$ 14,317</b>	<b>\$ 14,856</b>

**YOUR LOCAL FARMERS MARKET SOCIETY**  
**Notes to Financial Information**  
**For the Year Ended December 31, 2025**

---

**4. BOARD MEETINGS AND RETREAT**

During the fiscal year, the Society incurred a one-time expense of \$11,681 in connection with a membership dinner held to commemorate the 30th Anniversary.

**5. REMUNERATION**

As required by Societies Act of British Columbia, remunerations to employees and contractors earning more than \$75,000 annually must be disclosed. During the year, three employees (2024: one) was paid a total of \$256,590 (2024: \$84,752).