



Public Health Association of British Columbia

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Union of British Columbia Municipalities
Poverty Reduction Planning & Action Program (Stream 1)
Suite 60-10551 Shellbridge Way
Richmond, BC V6X 2W9

Dear Poverty Reduction Planning and Action Program Application Review Committee,

The Public Health Association of BC (PHABC) is pleased to endorse the joint application for the Tri-Cities Community Food Security Assessment Project submitted by the “Tri-Cities” composing of Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam and Port Moody on behalf of the Tri-Cities Community Food Security Working Group. This project is important as our communities are experiencing alarming levels of food insecurity, poverty and over-reliance on food banks to alleviate the broader socio-economical challenges to procure and access healthy, local and sustainable foods especially among all citizens including vulnerable populations. There is a need to identify evidence-based metrics for food security, services/programs all while addressing the gaps in the community food system to build awareness and understanding of the challenges and to develop strategies and solutions that positively promote sustainable the local food system. This project aims to do just that.

PHABC is a voluntary, non-profit, non-government, member driven organization that provides leadership to promote health, well-being and social equity. PHABC engages in advocacy, collaboration, education and research to address climate change and healthy environments, contribute to a sustainable, equitable economy, reduce health and socioeconomic inequities, and more. This work is important as the last BC evaluation of food security in BC indicated that over one in 10 BC households (11.8%) and about one in six BC children (15.6%) under the age of 18 experienced some level of food insecurity (Hunt 2016). Furthermore, as families in the Tri-Cities experience growing cost with living, food and daily expenses, this problem will continue to grow.

The Public Health Association of British Columbia fully endorses the project, which is an urgent priority for the children, adults, families and seniors. PHABC’s mission and vision is closely aligned with that of the Tri-Cities Community Food Security Working Group. We applaud the Tri-Cities Community Food Security Working Group’s commitment to address important and complex food security challenges hope that you will support this project.

Sincerely,

Shannon Turner, BA, BSc, MSc, PhD(c)

Executive Director

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Hunt, T. (2016). Priority health equity indicators for British Columbia: Household food insecurity indicator report. Provincial Health Services Authorities. Accessed on February 11th, 2019; <https://proof.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/1186-PHS-Priority-health-equity-indicators-WEB.pdf>.