March 12, 2025

**City of Courtenay**
**Mayor and Council**

**RE: Support for Motion that City of Courtenay encourage residents, businesses, and municipal departments to prioritize the purchase of Canadian-made goods and services whenever feasible; etc.**

Dear City of Courtenay Mayor and Council,

The Comox Valley Food Policy Council (CVFPC) is a forum for policy development and advocacy towards the creation of a food system that is ecologically sustainable, economically viable and socially just. Our members comprise diverse perspectives within the food system, including farmers, food service and distribution businesses, dietitians, policy specialists, emergency food access program coordinators, etc. We are particularly interested in supporting a thriving agricultural community in the Comox Valley to underpin food security and resilient food supply chains and food economies.

We are writing to you to express our support for the Notice of Motion brought to Council on Feb 26th, 2025 [Attachment 1] to support purchasing Canadian products in the face of US tariffs.

We are also writing this letter to offer our support, should this motion move forward, to help council gain access to precedent in policy and language around local food procurement policy and other policy tools to support implementation related to increasing support for our local food economy. In particular, we ask that Council consider a "Comox Valley-local first" approach to food procurement where possible. The CVFPC exists to support local municipalities develop policy to build a stronger local food economy and our expert members and resources are available to the City of Courtenay in developing a local procurement policy.

We intend to present a delegation to the City to propose some ways the CVFPC could support the proposed motion and its implementation.

Some examples of how the City could support the local food system through the above mentioned motion:

1. Create and support contracts for local food suppliers (farmers, producers, restaurants, catering)
2. Encourage restaurants and other businesses to procure a % target (15-30%) Comox Valley produced food goods where appropriate.
3. Create Comox Valley local first food procurement policy

Sincerely,
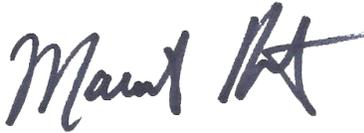
Maurita Prato,
Co-Chair, Comox Valley Food Policy Council
Policy Council

Naomi Robert,
Co-Chair, Comox Valley Food
Policy Council

Attachment 1

5.1 - Tariffs Response - City of Courtenay Joins Team Canada (Councillor Jolicoeur)

**WHEREAS** the United States government is proposing to impose tariffs on Canadian imports, including a 25% tariff on all Canadian goods entering the US, except for energy resources, which face a 10% tariff; and

**WHEREAS** these tariffs may negatively impact Canadian businesses, industries, and workers, particularly those engaged in manufacturing, agriculture, forestry, and other export-driven sectors, leading to job losses and economic instability in communities such as Courtenay; and

**WHEREAS** supporting Canadian-made goods and services sustains local businesses, protects Canadian jobs, and strengthens the national economy in response to trade restrictions; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the City of Courtenay encourage residents, businesses, and municipal departments to prioritize the purchase of Canadian-made goods and services whenever feasible; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City of Courtenay prioritize Canadian-made goods and services in current and upcoming municipal procurement and contracts, provided they meet financial and operational requirements; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City engage with local business organizations, including the Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Courtenay Business Improvement Area to promote initiatives supporting Canadian businesses and local employment; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that staff report back to Council on the impacts of the above actions;

**AND FURTHER THAT** this resolution be shared with other Comox Valley local governments and K'omoks First Nation for consideration.