



City of Salmon Arm  
Mayor Harrison & Council  
PO Box 40  
Salmon Arm BC V1E 4N2

July 7, 2022

**Re: Zest Commercial Food Hub – Request for Letter of Support**

Dear Mayor Harrison & Council,

Salmon Arm Economic Development Society, in partnership with Shuswap Food Action Society, intends to submit a funding application to Agriculture Canada's Local Food Infrastructure Fund to support *Phase 2 Expansion of the Zest Commercial Food Hub*. In November 2021, SAEDS launched the Zest Commercial Food Hub to support the growth of the food and beverage processing sector throughout the region. This inclusive, shared-use, fully equipped, certified processing facility provides affordable access to processing space and equipment as well as programming and mentorship to support business development. SAEDS plans to proceed with Phase 2 of this program which includes:

- Outfitting and activating the shared-use cold storage refer on site
- Outfitting and activating a second shared-use commercial kitchen space to accommodate additional rotating tenants
- Activating two separate vacant spaces within the facility to accommodate additional anchor tenants
- Expanding food processing and packaging equipment options.

This project will enable Zest to support the sustainability and growth of additional food and beverage processing businesses and agriculture producers, as well as support regional food security through a partnership with Shuswap Food Action Society's hot lunch program for youth.

SAEDS is seeking Council's consideration to provide a letter of support to accompany this funding application. I am happy to provide any further information that may be required.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lana Fitt".

Lana Fitt  
Economic Development Manager