

Vancouver Coastal  
**Health** Authority  
*North Shore/Coast Garibaldi, Vancouver & Richmond*

Paul Teichroeb  
Director  
Permits and Licenses Department  
City of Vancouver  
453 West 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver, BC  
V5Y 1V4

Dear Paul:

Re: Operation of farmer's markets in the City of Vancouver.

I am writing to you to clarify our position on the operation of farmer's markets in the City of Vancouver and to give you some background information on the rationale for the development of our new proposed health guidelines on the operation of farmer's markets.

As you are well aware, farmer's markets have been operating in the City for a number of years. The first market at Trout Lake was a small operation and the types of foods sold at the market were limited to relatively non-hazardous foods, such as produce and bake goods.

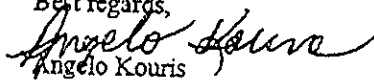
Over the years, we have noted a few changes in the operation of farmer's markets. The number of farmer's markets operating in the City has increased, with three markets operating during the spring and summer months at Trout Lake, in the West End and at Nat Bailey Stadium. The type of foods sold at the markets has also changed with more potentially hazardous foods are being offered for sale. Some examples include meat, poultry, sausages, hard and soft cheeses. In addition, homemade foods made in private residences are being offered for sale. The premises where these homemade foods are made are not inspected. We have allowed the sale of homemade foods provided they fall into the non-hazardous food category. We have also noted that more vendors are offering food samples at the markets. The preparation of the food samples involves some food handling by the vendors.

Due to the changes in the operation of farmer's markets noted above we felt that it was necessary to develop a set of guidelines that would formally outline our health requirements for the operation of farmer's markets. The intent of the proposed guidelines is to protect the health of the public.

The Guidelines are at the draft stage and have not been adopted. Our plan has always been to consult with all stakeholders and to receive their input prior to adopting and implementing the Guidelines.

I hope that you find this information is useful in putting together your report for Council. If you have any questions or require additional information, please give me a call at 604-714-5664.

Best regards,



Angelo Kouris  
Senior Environmental Health Officer  
VCHA, Environmental Health