

7 AUGUST, 2026
SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
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HONOURABLE LANA POPHAM
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD
PO BOX 9043 STN PROV GOVT
VICTORIA, BC V8W 9E2



Dear Minister Popham,

Re: Compensation for Food Recovery Programs

On behalf of the Southern Interior Local Government Association (SILGA), representing 37 municipalities and regional districts across British Columbia's Southern Interior, I am writing to the Province to bring attention to the need for stronger compensation models for British Columbia's Food Recovery Programs.

Food Recovery Programs play an essential role in communities of various sizes, both by expanding access to foods for those who struggle to afford to feed themselves and their families, and also by diverting organic waste from landfill. These programs are usually non-profits, and they save for-profit businesses money on waste management by taking food that would otherwise be discarded and putting it on tables. When there are foods that must be disposed of, however, the cost of waste management is now put upon the shoulders of these non-profits, reducing their operational capacity due to the expenses that would otherwise have been borne by for-profit food sellers.

Our communities rely on Food Recovery Programs to strengthen food security and food access for vulnerable members of our population. The burden of waste disposal has fallen to them, but the Province is capable of offsetting the burden of cost by offering these essential services rebates to recover the operating costs. These rebates would enable small non-profit organizations to focus on feeding communities instead of paying to dispose of for-profit businesses' food waste. This request echoes UBCM's 2025-EB33, calling for the same provisions to be enacted.

In the face of increasing food insecurity and a seemingly uncontrollable cost of living crisis, creating a rebate program diverting profits from businesses creating food waste to non-profits diverting waste from landfill is a simple, effective way for the Province to support constituents in communities of all sizes.

We hope to hear from the Province concerning this request and the Ministry's plans to strengthen our Food Recovery Programs in the Interior and across the Province. SILGA is also happy to meet with Minister Popham to further discuss this request.

Sincerely,

Bill Sarai, President
Southern Interior Local Government Association (SILGA)