



KIMBERLEY FARMERS MARKET 2026 MARKET HANDBOOK



wildsight
Kimberley | Cranbrook

Updates for the 2026 season

Cannabis, CBD & Hemp Products

As members of the BC Association of Farmers' Markets (BCAFM), the sale of cannabis and cannabis-related products is not permitted at our market. This includes products intended for animal use. For more information, please refer to the BCAFM Cannabis and Hemp Regulation Quick Guide in the Market Handbook.

Market Fees

We are pleased to see the Kimberley Farmers' Market continue to grow, with increasing interest from both vendors and community groups in participating. The last fee adjustment took place in 2023, and since then, rising operational costs alongside added value and programming have made it necessary to find a careful balance: one that ensures the market remains financially sustainable while staying accessible and worthwhile for local businesses. As such, we have introduced a few updates designed to encourage returning vendors, streamline administration and better reflect space usage, as with a limited footprint, every foot of space matters.

Changes:

- Administrative fees for returning vendors will remain at \$15; new vendors will be set at \$20.
- Introduction of a new Quarter season bundle, to encourage participation across multiple markets and reduce administrative workload.
- Fees will now be scaled to reflect stall size and space usage. A standard stall is defined as a 10' x 10' space, and pricing remains unchanged. Stall sizes will now be categorized, as 1.5x, 2x, and 2+x, with increased fees.

Market Time

We have decided to conclude the market at 7 p.m. for all markets, rather than adjusting closing times for September. This decision was informed by observations of attendance patterns after 7 p.m. during last season, feedback from vendors gathered throughout market days, and responses from the post-season vendor survey. It also helps simplify communication and marketing by maintaining a consistent schedule across the season.

We greatly value your feedback throughout the season, as well as through the post-season survey, and will revisit this decision as part of planning for the 2027 season.



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Policy Updates & Standardization

In response to situations that have arisen in recent years, and in an effort to ensure fairness, clarity, and shared expectations across all vendors, we are introducing new policies and updating existing ones for the 2026 season.

These updates are also intended to standardize our processes and bring the Kimberley Farmers' Market in line with current best practices. This work has been informed by knowledge shared at the 2026 BC Association of Farmers' Markets conference, as well as ongoing consultation with markets throughout our region.

Our goal is to create a transparent, consistent, and supportive environment where all vendors understand what to expect and can plan accordingly throughout the season.

Please note that the Market Coordinator retains the discretion to interpret and apply these policies as needed, in the interest of fairness, safety, and the overall success of the market.

Cancellation, Refunds & Credits Policy

We have clarified and formalized our cancellation, refund, and credit procedures. This update establishes clear notice periods, outlines when credits or refunds may be issued, and defines expectations for no-shows and late cancellations. The goal is to reduce uncertainty, support effective market planning, and ensure equitable treatment across all vendors while maintaining the operational stability of the market.

Product Challenge

We have developed a formal Product Challenge process to improve transparency, provide clarity, and ensure vendors have a fair and consistent way to raise concerns.

Investigating potential reselling is a detailed and time-intensive process that places a significant demand on the Market Coordinator's time and resources. As such, a fee will be required to initiate an investigation. This fee will be fully refunded if the challenge is found to be valid.

This process is based on the model used by the Vancouver Farmers Market and has been adopted by a number of markets across British Columbia.

Vendor Insurance

By carrying insurance, you're covered if something unexpected happens, like property damage or a liability claim, and Wildsight Kimberley Cranbrook and the City of Kimberley are also protected, ensuring that we can continue to put on the market for a very long time.

Why do I need vendor insurance and how will it benefit me? *What If?*

- During a strong wind, a tent lifts off and hurts a person or damages a parked vehicle

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- During a sale, a person slips while in your area and gets hurt
- During a sale, a person knocks your table, the table falls and a patron is hurt
- Someone gets sick or reacts to the product you are selling at the market
- Someone breaks a tooth on your food

Violations & Fines

We encountered some minor complaints from vendors last year concerning traffic flow, especially around take-down time. We have been fortunate to experience very few issues in the past and it is our sincere hope that this system will not need to be utilized. However, establishing clear guidelines in advance helps ensure consistency and transparency, and supports a shared understanding of responsibilities within the market community.

Weather Policy

In recognition of ongoing climate change and the increasing frequency of extreme weather events, we have developed a weather policy outlining how different conditions may impact the market.

We will make every reasonable effort to avoid cancelling markets; however, the safety of our staff, volunteers, patrons, and participants remains our highest priority. As such, weather-related decisions will always be guided by safety considerations.

Where possible, contingency plans will be implemented to reduce disruption. These may include pausing and resuming the market, extending hours if conditions improve, relocating indoors when feasible, or taking other measures to minimize the likelihood of full cancellations.

Sales Tracking

To strengthen our ability to secure diverse funding, we must better understand the market's impact on our community and the broader region. A key measure of this impact for funders, municipalities, grants, and sponsors is economic activity.

To support this, we will be implementing a fully anonymous sales reporting system. At each market, vendors will receive a small envelope containing a colour-coded slip corresponding to vendor type and the specific market date. Vendors will be asked to record an approximate total of their sales for that market on the slip, then return it to the unmarked envelope.

Completed envelopes will be collected shortly before the end of the market and deposited into a secure, slotted collection box, ensuring complete anonymity.

This information is essential in demonstrating the significant economic and community impact of the market and is part of a broader effort to gather data that helps us better advocate for and promote the value of the market.



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Selection Guidelines

Vendor selection will continue to prioritize businesses located closest to Kimberley when similar or competing products are being considered. The 160-kilometre radius guideline from Kimberley remains in effect.

In 2025, we removed the previous restriction preventing businesses with a storefront within 15 kilometres from participating. With increased demand for market space, storefront businesses remain eligible; however, priority will be given to vendors without a permanent retail location when similar products are being offered by multiple applicants.

In alignment with the mission of Wildsight Kimberley Cranbrook to support small-scale producers, and in accordance with BCAFM guidelines, chain and franchise operations are not eligible to participate in the market. Larger businesses with multiple storefront locations may also be deemed ineligible, as we continue to prioritize small, local, and independent producers.