

GULF ISLANDS FOOD CO-OP

Serving Producers, Eaters, and Local Food!

Website: www.gulfislandsfoodco-op.org

Email: info@gulfislandsfoodco-op.org

Southern Gulf Islands, BC, Canada

The **GULF ISLANDS FOOD CO-OP (GIFC)** is a non-profit co-operative, focused on supporting the food producers, food groups, eaters, and local food resilience of the islands of **Pender, Mayne, Galiano, and Saturna**. This is within the beautiful **Coast Salish WSÁNEĆ traditional territories** where we are grateful to be.

We offer **FREE OR LOW-COST SERVICES** to island food producers of all types and sizes (e.g. commercial and non-commercial, non-Indigenous and Indigenous, gardeners, fishers, value-added producers and more). The main goal is to increase their food production capacity, and to encourage community members to buy local food.

We are excited that the GIFC has **NEW FUNDING**, to pay islanders to work on the following supportive projects:

- (1) **CO-OP TABLES** for joint selling at the 4 island Saturday Markets, for producers a bit too small to have their own table each week (see more info below);
- (2) **CO-OP ECOMMERCE** for producers who want to try selling online through the Co-op;
- (3) **NEW EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS** to follow last year's Soil Building and Indigenous Foods workshops;
- (4) **ADDITIONAL INDIGENOUS OUTREACH** and support from Co-op programs;
- (5) **FREE HAULING** of compostable materials for soil building (e.g. manure, plant waste - coming in 2020);
- (6) **LESS-EXPENSIVE BULK BUYING** of other key things needed by food producers (e.g. soil tests, seed, fertilizer, and other supplies and small equipment).

For our first new project, GIFC is funding **CO-OP TABLES** (co-operative sales tables for the joint selling of fresh fruits and vegetables), at each of the 4 Saturday Markets in the Southern Gulf Islands. This project will also showcase the variety of produce available throughout the season, and provide Gulf Islands Food Co-op info.

Even small growers are invited to contribute surplus produce for sale at the Co-op Tables (subject to local Market Manager requirements). All of this is valuable for local food resilience! For each island, GIFC is currently arranging a paid person to connect with the growers offering produce that week - to set up/take down the Co-op Table, sit for the length of the weekly market to sell the produce, and then divvy up the cash and leftovers later.

CONTACT new Co-op Coordinator Nancy Klein (info@gulfislandsfoodco-op.org), if you are interested or have questions about the Co-op generally or any of the above projects (especially the Co-op Tables starting soon).

You can also google "gulf islands food" to find our **WEBSITE** with more info (<https://gulfislandsfoodco-op.org>).

This includes a **GULF ISLANDS FOOD REGISTRY** of 65 amazing commercial food producers on our islands.

You can easily register online to **BECOME A CO-OP MEMBER** - for food producers of any type, or Co-op supporters. Then you will be sure to hear about future offerings, and also help us grow in our services to you!

Nancy Klein, Gulf Islands Food Co-op Coordinator (info@gulfislandsfoodco-op.org)