



Support Local BC Program Coming to the Columbia/Kootenay/Boundary Country Regions

Thanks to our friends at Columbia Valley, East Kootenay Community, Grand Forks, Heritage, Kootenay Savings and Nelson & District Credit Unions, [Support Local BC](#) is now available in the Columbia/Kootenay/Boundary regions. The six credit unions have partnered together to provide the funding for the successful online gift certificate marketplace where 100% of the proceeds go directly to independently owned, local businesses.

What began in Victoria as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the changing business environment, the program has now processed over \$400,000 in gift certificate sales for more than 1,300 participating businesses from across the province.

How the Gift Certificate Process Works for Businesses

- Register your business at Support Local BC by completing the [“Submit your Business Form”](#). Once your business has been approved, it will be added to the webpage for your community or region. **There is no cost to you.**
- To purchase a gift certificate, a buyer will click on the region the business is located (Columbia Valley, East Kootenay, West Kootenay or Boundary Country) and search for the business of their choice.
- Businesses do not need to issue their own gift certificates.
- After the buyer has purchased a gift certificate for your business, they will receive a confirmation email with a unique order number and serves as their gift certificate or certificates if they purchase multiple. This includes the business name and the amount.
- The buyer will print it off and bring it to your business or show it on their smartphone.
- On the back end, Support Local BC has a business portal that shows gift certificate sales for each business in real-time.
- Businesses use this portal to manage the gift certificates and redeem them as they are used. A handy [step-by-step guide](#) helps you get the most of the business portal.
- Funds for gift certificate sales are sent weekly via direct deposit using a service called WayPay.
- There is no charge for payment processing fees to businesses - businesses will receive the full value of the gift certificate.
- Gift certificate are non-refundable, have no expiry date and are available in \$10, \$25, \$50 and \$100 denominations. Buyers also have the option to send them to friends and family.

We encourage you to sign up for this exciting program. To learn more, visit [Support Local BC](#) or call 1.888.772.4667.