October 28, 2026

Re: Letter of Support for *Cultivating Connections: From Farm Experience to Everyday Practice* - Commonwell L.E.A.F. Fund

To the L.E.A.F. Fund Review Committee,

On behalf of Growing Growers and Zawadi Farm, we're delighted to support The Canadian Centre for Food and Ecology and its summer 2027 and 2028 farm tour initiative - *Cultivating Connections: From Farm Experience to Everyday Practice*. We welcome the opportunity to contribute to this initiative and share our respective approaches to growing food, nurturing community, and learning from the land.

This initiative offers a valuable opportunity for people to engage directly with the realities of growing food and the principles that guide responsible land stewardship. We look forward to welcoming visitors into our growing spaces, exchanging knowledge, and encouraging participants to explore how regenerative practices and food growing can become part of their own lives. We hope these experiences will spark curiosity, build confidence, and inspire people to share what they learn with their families and communities long after their visits have ended.

Through regenerative farming and accessible, experiential education, we aim to demonstrate how caring for the soil can also strengthen individual well-being, build practical skills, and contribute to a more resilient and equitable local food system. These initiatives are vital to changing the perception of farms as merely production sites.

We believe this initiative aligns with the L.E.A.F. Fund's goal of building strong communities through the power of shared learning and valuable connections. We are pleased to support this project as we see *Cultivating Connections* as an important step toward creating a stronger culture of food literacy, environmental care, and community participation.

Sincerely,

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