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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 George Brown Polytechnic, I am pleased to express our support for The Canadian Centre for Food and Ecology and its proposed summer 2027 and 2028 farm tour initiative - *Cultivating Connections: From Farm Experience to Everyday Practice*.

While discussions regarding a potential partnership between George Brown and The Canadian Centre for Food and Ecology are ongoing, we are encouraged by the shared values reflected in this proposal and by the opportunity to explore meaningful ways of working together. As both organizations continue to assess opportunities for collaboration, we believe the initiative's focus on food literacy, community connection, and sustainable practices aligns strongly with George Brown's commitment to sustainability education and community engagement.

Through our support of the rooftop edible gardens component, we aim to help extend participants' learning beyond the farm tours. Our rooftop edible garden provides an urban growing space where participants can develop practical gardening skills, share knowledge, and build lasting connections with food and community. By encouraging participants to apply their learning in these community spaces and their own homes and neighbourhoods, the project can help cultivate sustainable everyday practices and strengthen ecological belonging.

We see particular value in the project's emphasis on lasting capacity. By complementing the farm tours with opportunities for continued learning and practical engagement, this project can help ensure that participants' experiences translate into meaningful, lasting changes in how they grow, understand, and relate to food. This approach aligns with George Brown commitment to sustainability education and community-focused learning, while reinforcing the important connections between urban communities, local agriculture, and ecological wellbeing.

We believe this initiative aligns with the L.E.A.F. Fund's goal of building strong communities through shared learning and connection. We're pleased to support this project, as it has the strong potential to cultivate lasting relationships, strengthen food literacy, and inspire more sustainable food practices across participating communities.

Sincerely,

Mary Livera Ranaweera – Director, Sustainability