**Volunteering Opportunity- Costing of National Nutritious Food Basket in British Columbia 2022**

**Are you interested in food security? Looking to gain some experience?**

**We are currently looking for volunteers to support the 2022 Costing of National Nutritious Food Basket in British Columbia (BC) by collecting online food cost data of grocery stores across BC.**

Food Costing in BC started in 2000 and involves the biannual collection of food prices for 61 food items in order to calculate the average monthly cost of a nutritious diet in BC. The BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC), a part of Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA), works with the regional health authorities to coordinate food costing. The [Food Costing in BC 2017 Report](http://www.bccdc.ca/pop-public-health/Documents/food-costing-BC-2017.pdf) as a result of this work provides an important tool that assesses the cost and affordability of eating a nutritionally adequate diet in BC.

It’s that time again, and we are looking for talented volunteers to help with this work – that’s where you come in! The work involves surfing the online storefronts of grocery stores in communities across BC to record prices of specific food items.

All volunteers will need to be trained to collect the data by attending a live webinar training session in mid-May (dates/times to be confirmed) or by viewing the webinar recording prior to commencing data collection. Food costing will be conducted between **May 30th and June 10th** and will take approximately 1-1.5 hours per store to complete. The total amount of time involved will depend on how many stores the volunteer chooses to cost.

We are looking for volunteers who have: an interest in food, attention to detail, and accuracy when collecting data. Historically, students and volunteers have contributed in a big way to ensuring that we are able to continue to do this work, so please consider volunteering a few hours of your time for this important project.

**Join us!** **To volunteer, please contact Min Kim at** [**min.kim3@bccdc.ca**](mailto:min.kim3@bccdc.ca?subject=Food%20Costing%20in%20BC%20Volunteer%20Opportunity) **by April 29th, 2022.**

\*\**This online costing volunteer opportunity can be conducted remotely from anywhere in BC. There are also in-person costing volunteer opportunities in communities across BC. If you are interested in costing stores in your community in-person rather than online (i.e., visiting grocery stores to collect food prices), please contact Seri with your preferred location(s) and we will connect you with the Health Authority lead for your region.*

**Volunteer Position Description:**

* Attend a training webinar in mid-May (or watch a recording). Review the “Guide to Food Costing” booklet and the data collection tool before costing stores. Training in total will take approximately 2-3 hours.
* You will be provided with the names and postal codes for stores that you will cost online **between May 30-June 10.** For each online store you are assigned, complete the cover sheet and record the price of 61 food items using a standardized data collection tool.
* Food costing at each store takes approximately 1-1.5 hours. The number of stores you are assigned will depend on your interest and capacity.
* Submit the complete cover sheet and data collection sheet for each store you cost. Respond to any questions after you submit the data sheets.

**Good skills to have**:

* interest in food and food security
* good communication skills
* attention to detail
* excellent organization skills
* experience or interest in data collection and entry
* accuracy and clarity when collecting data.