

From: noreply@northumberlandcounty.ca on behalf of Arisbe Castellanos
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 4:45 PM
To: Mather, Maddison
Subject: Support for small-scale food processors

CAUTION: External E-Mail

Hello Count clerk Maddison Mather,
This is Arisbe Castellanos, resident of Cobourg and owner of Mi Cocina Foods, a manufacturer of traditional Mexican salsas and corn chips. My family and I moved here for work/business opportunities in August of 2022. My husband and I have worked in the food industry for many years now and have seen its evolution. I personally understand the impact that small-scale food manufacturing has in the finances of a family, as well as the economy of a community. I currently use the facilities at the OAFVC to manufacture my product line. Having access to the centre was one of the main factors that we took into consideration when making the decision to relocate to Cobourg. I am aware of the potential loss of funding for the OAFVC and want to express my concern and ask for your support. Losing funding might mean that the current cost of production would go up, having a direct impact on the feasibility of my business, and many others in the community that rely on this production plant. As you know, the cost of most things has gone up, in my case, ingredients and packaging materials are no exception, and I've had to absorb these for the past couple of years. This has had a direct impact on my business profitability, and a substantial increase in fees at the centre can have a devastating impact on my business. When in season, I buy fresh produce from local farmers, I attend the Cobourg Farmers' Market, I supply my products to a variety of stores in Northumberland County and beyond, I talk about and recommend the OAFVC to any food processor that is looking for opportunities to grow their business, I try to support the economy of my community in any way possible. So, I can't stretch enough the need of your support in this matter. Thank you in advance,
Arisbe