



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEBRUARY 6, 2024

FROM: The Town of Fort Frances

TO: Vendors

RE: Rainy Lake Square Market Thursdays

You Spoke and We Heard You

In 2023, for the Rainy Lake Square Market Thursdays, we became aware that under our Business Licencing by-law, vendors must have business licencing and general liability insurance. You let us know the rollout of the 2023 Market Thursdays was not perfect, and using your feedback we believe for 2024 we have a solution that's suitable for everyone.

The Town of Fort Frances is introducing a low fee per table. While some municipality-run markets have a high fee, the Town of Fort Frances is committed to keeping these costs at a minimum to encourage our makers, artists, growers, farmers, service providers, curators of quality goods, and artisans to participate and to allow them to succeed.

The Market will run on Thursdays weekly from **May 23rd to October 3rd 2024**, with the vendor charge being **\$10 +HST per market**, or **\$50 +HST for an entire season** (working out to only \$2.50 per market).

Your \$10 (or \$50 for the season) +HST payment covers:

- Market Thursdays business licencing;
- Market Thursdays general liability insurance;
- Access to water;
- Access to electricity;
- Staff labour to assist with setting up tables and tents;
- And advertising for the market.

Registration for the Market Thursdays will begin February 15, 2024 and invoices to secure your space will be sent to you mid-March.

Make sure to keep an eye on the www.FortFrances.ca website for important information, as well as the [Town of Fort Frances](#), [Fort Frances Museum & Cultural Centre](#), and [Rainy Lake Square](#) Facebook pages.

FAQs



If I don't commit to a season and decide after I've done five markets to continue booking market tables, do I need to pay more than the \$50/season charge?

No, after you've spent \$50 you will not be charged further and can continue booking tables for Thursday Markets when there is space available.

Do the fees cover my business and general liability insurance outside of the Market?

No, vendor Fees include General Liability Insurance and Business Licencing for registered vendors at the Rainy Lake Market Square only. The fee does not include licencing or insurance for vendor activity outside of the Rainy Lake Market for dates and times that are not included in this agreement.

What makes me an eligible vendor?

The vendor must be a **Maker, Grower, Farmer, Service Provider, Curator of Quality Goods, or Artisan** who sells their own brand, creations, or handmade/grown items.

How can I register?

You will need to complete a package. After the opening date of February 15, 2024, these will be available online at www.FortFrances.ca, by email smanty@fortfrances.ca, or in person at the Museum, Civic Centre, or Memorial Sports Centre.

Packages are to be returned in-person at the Museum or by emailing smanty@fortfrances.ca

The markets were always free before; why do I need to pay now?

Having a Business Licence and General Liability Insurance can be costly, and these are mandatory to sell at the market. By implementing a minimal fee for all vendors, this eliminates the need for vendors to pay larger amounts to participate.

Is space guaranteed?

Table spots are allocated on a first-come, first-serve basis, determined by the order in which vendors submit their contracts and complete full payment. We encourage all to register as soon as possible if you're planning on booking a table.

I have complaints regarding the Market. How do I submit these?

- Customer Complaint Form on our website at www.FortFrances.ca under Contact Us, or www.fortfrances.ca/customer-complaint-form. These are tracked, gone through daily during the week, and sent to the appropriate manager; or
- Fill out a Customer Complaint Form at our Civic Centre at 320 Portage Avenue.

I have questions about the registration package. Who do I contact?

You can contact Samantha Manty, Programming and Events Coordinator, at smanty@fortfrances.ca, calling (807) 274-7891, or by stopping into the Museum in person.