

Bill, Karen F AGRI:EX

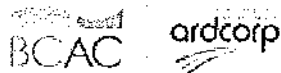
From: Reg Ens <reg@bcac.bc.ca>
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2015 12:09 PM
To: Letnick, Norm AGRI:EX
Cc: Bill, Karen F AGRI:EX; Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX; Stan Vander Waal
Subject: Foreign Ownership of Farm Land
Attachments: BCAC Letter to Minister Letnick re foreign land ownership May 2015.pdf

Minister Letnick

Attached is a copy of the letter, a draft of which had been leaked to the media. We apologize that the leak occurred. As always, our intent is to inform you first before publicly releasing such documents.

On behalf of the BCAC Board.

Reg Ens
Executive Director
BC Agriculture Council (BCAC)
604-854-4454
www.bcac.bc.ca/





8 May, 2015

The Honourable Norm Letnick
Minister for Agriculture
PO Box 9045, STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, B.C., V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Letnick:

Re: Foreign Ownership of Farm Land in British Columbia

The B.C. Agriculture Council (BCAC) is concerned that our province's current land use policies are not adequately managing foreign ownership of farm land. Given the significant impact to British Columbia and multiple generations of B.C. farmers, this issue is a high priority for BCAC. If government would like to acknowledge this issue and address BCAC's concerns, it will amend Section 22 of the ALC Act and engage with BCAC to establish a foreign ownership of farm land policy for British Columbia.

Why does BCAC want an amendment to Section 22(2) of the ALC Act?

Protecting land for agriculture within the ALR is the primary purpose of the ALC. It also supports the economic sustainability of small rural communities and future farm families. With renewed interest to use BC farm land for purposes unrelated to food production, there is an immediate need for government to proactively manage, and in some instances restrict, certain activities on lands reserved for agriculture. Section 22(2) of the ALC Act limits restrictive covenants on farm land, but it is not adequately protecting farm land for several reasons:

- There is no obligation for a registrar of titles to assess if a proposed covenant "...restricts or prohibits the use of agricultural land for farm purposes..." at the time of registration. In addition, the registrar of titles does not have the capacity to make such an assessment.
- There is no mechanism to ensure that the ALC is aware of proposed restrictive covenants at the time of registration. This means that the Agency delegated with the authority to protect farm land has no way of proactively monitoring what is happening on the land.
- While a prudent investor should pursue validation of the proposed covenant with the ALC, the process to pursue validation lacks both clarity and process. For example, what is or is not considered by government to be a restrictive covenant? How does a prospective purchaser know if a registered covenant is legal or not without contacting the ALC? How does a prospective purchaser know that he/she must contact the ALC?

P: 604.854.4454
T: 866.522.3447
F: 604.854.4485

230-32160 SOUTH FRASER WAY
ABBOTSFORD BC V2T 1W5

Leading the Way Together
bcac.bc.ca

- The ALC is most often made aware of restrictive covenants only after the land is removed from production. This awareness arises most often as a result of a complaint. BCAC would like to know how Section 22(2) of the Act will be proactively enforced at this stage, who will pay to return the land back into to a state suitable for agrifood production, and who will validate the returned land as suitable for agrifood production.

Amending Section 22(2) of the Act to follow the approach used in Section 19 will proactively protect BC farmland and create clarity for investors and residents. Proactive protection is necessary to reduce unwanted future consequences and enforcement costs. Section 19 of the Act requires a registrar of titles to obtain approval from the ALC prior to registering a subdivision in the ALR. BCAC sees opportunity to use a similar framework to manage the placement of restrictive covenants on land located within the ARL.

Why does BCAC want to engage with government to establish a foreign ownership of farm land policy for British Columbia?

Amending Section 22 of the ALC Act and strengthening land use regulations will only address some of BCAC's concerns related to unrestricted foreign ownership of farm land in British Columbia. BCAC understands that innovation and development of the agrifood sector may be enhanced by the investment of foreign businesses in BC. However, as stated by the government of Saskatchewan, restricting foreign ownership supports the goals and sustainability of a province by¹:

- Maintaining opportunities for residents to acquire farm land for agricultural purposes;
- Support the development of strong rural communities.

Allowing unrestricted foreign ownership of farm land may provide current BC farmers with the highest sales value for their land, but the long-term impacts to agriculture and rural communities must be examined to fully understand and weigh the cost of this short-term benefit. BCAC has identified four issues that require consideration.

- 1) Foreign interests acquiring large tracts of productive farm land for non-agricultural purposes. Strengthening Section 22 may reduce this demand when long term restrictive covenants are used, but would have no impact if a long term covenant is not registered.
- 2) Creating export markets for BC product can benefit our economy and farm sector, but to be truly beneficial, economic benefits must balance with social and environmental interests. Unrestricted foreign ownership heavily favors short-term economic gain at the risk of long-term economic, social and environmental wealth. For this reason, unrestricted foreign ownership of land is not always in the best interest of British Columbians, including B.C. farmers and ranchers.

¹ <http://www.farmland.gov.sk.ca/ownership/overview.shtml>, Accessed 21 Apr 2015

- 3) BC is not a self-sufficient food producer and is unlikely ever to be such. For this reason, it is imperative for government to make a commitment to maximize food security within British Columbia. By continuing to allow unrestricted foreign control of our primary food production base, we are limiting the already limited food security of British Columbia.
- 4) Encouraging the next generation of B.C. farmers is important. The most common barrier identified by young farmers today is the high cost of farm land. Farmers compete with each other and with a multitude of other interests for farm land (e.g. non- farm business, residential/industrial development, land value speculation). Forcing our young farmers to compete with international investors to access farm land compounds this problem.

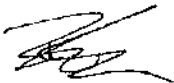
Establishing clear allowable use restrictions and implementing processes to support proactive management and enforcement represents only a portion of the solution. Land use regulations administered by the Agriculture Land Commission, must also address these issues if we are to keep farmland in BC for farming.

BCAC believes in a holistic approach to economic development. One that provides financial opportunities not just for today, but for future generations of British Columbians. We call for the development of foreign ownership land use regulations that support BC businesses, care for BC's environment and support the well-being of future generations of B.C. families.

We look forward to your response and the opportunity to work with you and the Ministry to establish a foreign ownership land policy that support this approach.

Sincerely,

Per:



Stan Vander Waal
Chair, BCAC Agriculture Council

cc: Lana Popham, Agriculture Critic
Deputy Minister Sturko
Richard Bullock, ALC Chair

Bill, Karen F AGRI:EX

From: Jaclyn Laic <jlaic@ardcorp.ca>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2015 9:02 AM
To: Bill, Karen F AGRI:EX; Phelps, Blair GCPE:EX
Subject: Revised: Today's Press Release
Attachments: For Immediate Release - Modernized Regulations Good News For BC Agriculture FINAL DRAFT June 15.docx

Good Morning,

His is our revised press release for today. Thank-you very much for helping point out those few needed changes/clarifications!

See you in a few hours. ^{s.22}

if you need anything please let me know.

Jaclyn
Cell: 778-227-7774



Modernized Regulations Good News For BC Agriculture

ABBOTSFORD – The BC government released new regulations today that specify new permitted uses on land located within the Agriculture Land Reserve (ALR). The new regulations have received a nod of approval from the BC Agriculture Council (BCAC).

“These regulations are good news for BC agriculture. BC farmers have been calling for the modernization of the Agriculture Land Commission Act for some time. With these regulations BC farmers can explore new farm business opportunities under continued proactive oversight by the independent Agriculture Land Commission (ALC). BCAC trusts the ALC to administer these new regulations in accordance with the commission’s primary purpose, which is to keep BC farmland for farming.” Said BCAC Chair, Stan Vander Waal.

Farmers located in Zone 2 can now sell their farm and continue to live on a segment of the property via a life-long lease back agreement with the new owner. There are also new options to create on farm residences for family members. The amendments are intended to support endurance of the family farm and provide new farmers with access to experienced farm mentors. “Farm succession planning is an important component of agri-sustainability in British Columbia” said Vander Waal.

The amended regulations provide all BC farmers with more options to engage in farm based culinary tourism. Breweries and distilleries can now operate on ALR land in the same capacity as BC wineries, provided at least 50% of the farm product required to make the beer, wine or spirits is harvested on the farm or from land leased to the farm in BC. The amendments also make it possible for wineries, breweries and distilleries with lounge areas to sell single servings of alcohol based products produced by other businesses. “It will provide culinary tourists with more variety and create sales opportunities for farms located off established tour paths.” Said Vander Waal.

The new regulations do not provide additional direction for the ALC in applying the controversial new section 4.3 of the Agriculture Land Commission Act. This section requires the commission to consider non-farm factors (economic, cultural, social values; regional and community planning objectives; and “other prescribed considerations”) while exercising its power in Zone 2. “BCAC understands that there are times when additional flexibility is needed for the benefit of society, but believes that a strong ALC committed to preserving agriculture land for future generations is the best way to ensure that this flexibility does not erode the potential of our agriculture sector or the food security of our province” said Vander Waal. Responsibility now lies with the ALC to enforce the new regulations in a way which supports a thriving agriculture sector in British Columbia.

P: 604.854.4454
T: 866.522.3447
F: 604.854.4485

230-32160 SOUTH FRASER WAY
ABBOTSFORD BC V2T 1W5

Leading the Way Together
bcac.bc.ca

BCAC supports the Agriculture Land Reserve and a strong, independent and transparent Agriculture Land Commission. A workable land base and farmers who are willing and able to farm are essential to the growth of agriculture and food security. BCAC looks forward to continued collaboration with government and the ALC to strengthen the economic, social and environmental sustainability of agriculture in British Columbia.

-30-

For more information:

Jaclyn Laic

BCAC Communications

T: 604.854.4454

C : 778-227-7774 (text for quick response)

jlaic@bcac.bc.ca

About BCAC

The BC Agriculture Council (BCAC) is the province's umbrella farm organization. We are a council of commodity groups and, through our members, represent approximately 14,000 of the 20,000 B.C. farm families who, in turn, generate 96 percent of the farm gate receipts in British Columbia. Agriculture is the third largest resource sector in the province, playing a significant and important role in the provincial economy.

Bill, Karen F AGRI:EX

From: Bill, Karen F AGRI:EX
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2015 12:40 PM
To: 'Reg Ens'; 'Jaclyn Laic'
Subject: any concerns
Attachments: BC-PNP-redesign-matches-workers-with-labour-market-needs.pdf

Hi, just wanted to check in with both of you to find out if there are any concerns related to this redesign?

Thank you

Karen Bill
Chief of Staff
Office of the Minister of Agriculture for British Columbia

Phone: (250) 387-1023
Email: Karen.Bill@gov.bc.ca



INFORMATION BULLETIN

For Immediate Release
2015JTST0085-000999
July 2, 2015

Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training
and Responsible for Labour

PNP redesign matches workers with labour market needs

VICTORIA – The redesigned Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) is accepting applications again effective July 2, 2015.

The PNP has reopened after a 90-day pause that allowed the PNP to be redesigned so the Province could maximize the impact of its allocation of 5,500 nominees from the federal government for 2015. The redesign shifts the program's focus to high-impact workers and entrepreneurs that bring the PNP into closer alignment with B.C.'s labour market and economic development priorities.

Progress has been made during the 90-day pause in number of key areas, including:

1. Introduction of an online application process with an electronic-payment system to make it easier and faster for applicants.
2. Initiated development of a new intake system that will prioritize in-demand, skilled immigrant applications beginning in 2016, so that 95% of B.C.'s annual nominations will be for in-demand skilled workers.
3. Streamlined two categories – Business Skills and Regional Business – into one Entrepreneur Immigration stream to improve efficiency and outcomes.
4. Introduced an online Entrepreneur Registration to simplify the intake process and ensure timely processing for high-impact applications.
5. The Fast Track Option, which has been suspended since October 2012, has been terminated.

The PNP will continue to accept applications under the Express Entry BC, Health Care Professional and Northeast Pilot Project categories.

The PNP will continue to process applications already in the Skills Immigration inventory. To be fair and transparent to those people already in the inventory the PNP will limit the number of new Skills Immigration applications to 200 for the rest of 2015. This limit is in place as B.C. continues to advocate for an increase to the number of PNP nominations it receives annually from the federal government.

New Entrepreneur Immigration applications will be invited from the highest-scoring registrations submitted through the new online Entrepreneur Registration process.

For more information on who can apply and other changes to program criteria, please go to:
www.welcomebc.ca/pnp

Quick Facts:

- The PNP is the Province's only direct economic immigration tool for bringing in new British Columbians.
- B.C.'s quota of PNP nominations is set by the federal government. For 2015, that allocation is 5,500.
- B.C. continues to advocate for an increased PNP allocation from the federal government.
- Since the 2001 inception of the program, more than 26,000 workers and entrepreneurs have been attracted to the province through the PNP.
- B.C. was an early adopter of the federal Express Entry priority system and the first province to introduce a new PNP stream to align with the federal Express Entry priority system.
- Since January the PNP has issued more nominations than any other province under Express Entry BC.
- To date, the PNP has nominated more than 60% of the province's 2015 quota from the federal government and the province expects to achieve 100 per cent of its quota again in 2015.
- In 2014, 80% of B.C.'s total immigrants came to B.C. through federal immigration streams.
- Only 20% of B.C.'s total immigrants came through the PNP in 2014.

Forces driving changes to the PNP include:

- Economic growth and demographics as in 2016, B.C. hits a tipping point - fewer young people will enter the workforce than older people leaving it - B.C. needs workers.
- Recent changes to the federal government's immigration programs, including the Temporary Foreign Worker Program and the Immigrant Investor Program have increased the number of applications to the B.C. PNP.

Media Contact:

Media Relations
Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training
and Responsible for Labour
250 387-2799

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: www.gov.bc.ca/connect

BACKGROUND

For Immediate Release
2015JTST0085-000999
July 2, 2015

Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training
and Responsible for Labour

The Provincial Nominee Program Redesign

Skills Immigration stream

The aim of the Skills Immigration stream is to attract skilled workers for in-demand jobs.

To ensure fairness and transparency for those who have already applied to the program, the PNP will continue to focus on assessing applications from the existing Skills Immigration inventory for the remainder of 2015.

For 2015, new intake will be limited to a total of 200 applications with the following restrictions:

- In Metro Vancouver, new applications are restricted to employment offers above the B.C. median wage of \$22.00 per hour.
- For regions outside of Metro Vancouver, new applications will be accepted for all Skills Immigration categories including entry level and semi-skilled occupations.

As well, the PNP is introducing minimum language requirements of Canadian Language Benchmark (CLB) 4 for new applications in National Occupation Classification (NOC) B occupations. Applicants will also be required to demonstrate at least two years of work experience related to their occupation in B.C.

For 2016 Skills Immigration application intake, the PNP will introduce a points-based selection system to prioritize high-impact applicants and ensure occupations and skills are aligned with B.C.'s labour market needs.

Express Entry, Health Care Professionals, Northeast Pilot streams

No changes have been made to these categories and all remain open to new applications.

Entrepreneur Immigration stream

The Business Skills and Regional Business categories have been streamlined into one under the updated Entrepreneur Immigration stream. This category targets investment-ready entrepreneurs who support innovation and create jobs.

This stream will introduce an Entrepreneur Immigrant Registration and a registration fee of \$300. Registrations will be valid for six months and the PNP will limit the number of new registrations to 200 each month. Periodically, based on program capacity, the highest-scoring registrants will be invited to apply. There will also be an increase in the Entrepreneur application fee from \$3,000 to \$3,500.

Those registrants invited to apply will be required to meet a minimum net worth threshold of \$600,000 and must complete a third party review of their net worth by a qualified accounting firm.

There is no change to the minimum requirements to invest of at least \$200,000 in eligible expenses and create at least one new job in the B.C. business.

For complete information on the PNP requirements and application process, please see:
www.welcomebc.ca/pnp

Media Contact:

Media Relations
Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training
and Responsible for Labour
250 387-2799

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: www.gov.bc.ca/connect

Johnson, Lisa E AGRI:EX

From: Glen Lucas <glucas@bcfga.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2015 10:50 AM
To: Smukowich, Don AGRI:EX
Cc: Reg Ens; Johnson, Lisa E AGRI:EX; Puhky, Brittany AGRI:EX
Subject: Re: Conference call -Work Camp Regulations

Don,

I will be available.

Glen

On Mon, Jul 13, 2015 at 10:14 AM, Smukowich, Don AGRI:EX <Don.Smukowich@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hope you are both available for a conference call with Terry Lake and Norm Letnick this Thursday July 16th at 1:15 pm

Conference Details are as follows

Dial-in Phone Numbers:

s.17

Access codes:

Participant Conference ID: s.17 : (Minister Letnick to Moderate)

--

Glen Lucas, MBA, P.Ag.
General Manager
BC Fruit Growers' Association
880 Vaughan Avenue, Kelowna, BC V1Y 7E4
250-762-5226 (ext. 2)

Johnson, Lisa E AGRI:EX

From: Reg Ens <reg@bcac.bc.ca>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2015 10:33 AM
To: Smukowich, Don AGRI:EX; 'Glen Lucas'
Cc: Johnson, Lisa E AGRI:EX; Puhky, Brittany AGRI:EX
Subject: RE: Conference call -Work Camp Regulations

Hi Don

I am available Thursday. Should this invite also go to Rhonda (BCAC Labour Committee Chair)?

Reg

From: Smukowich, Don AGRI:EX [<mailto:Don.Smukowich@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: July-13-15 10:15 AM
To: 'Reg Ens'; Glen Lucas
Cc: Johnson, Lisa E AGRI:EX; Puhky, Brittany AGRI:EX
Subject: Conference call -Work Camp Regulations

Hope you are both available for a conference call with Terry Lake and Norm Letnick this Thursday July 16th at 1:15 pm

Conference Details are as follows

Dial-in Phone Numbers:
s.17

Access codes:

Participant Conference ID: s.17

(Minister Letnick to Moderate)

Puhky, Brittany AGRI:EX

From: Glen Lucas <glucas@bcfga.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2015 10:50 AM
To: Smukowich, Don AGRI:EX
Cc: Reg Ens; Johnson, Lisa E AGRI:EX; Puhky, Brittany AGRI:EX
Subject: Re: Conference call -Work Camp Regulations

Don,

I will be available.

Glen

On Mon, Jul 13, 2015 at 10:14 AM, Smukowich, Don AGRI:EX <Don.Smukowich@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hope you are both available for a conference call with Terry Lake and Norm Letnick this Thursday July 16th at 1:15 pm

Conference Details are as follows

Dial-in Phone Numbers:

s.17

Access codes:

Participant Conference ID: s.17 (Minister Letnick to Moderate)

--

Glen Lucas, MBA, P.Ag.
General Manager
BC Fruit Growers' Association
880 Vaughan Avenue, Kelowna, BC V1Y 7E4
250-762-5226 (ext. 2)

DMO Deputy Minister's Office

Referral Slip

Fri, Jul 24, 2015 2:55 PM

Action: **FILE-information and file** Due: Log ID: **182316**

Stan Vander Waal
Chair
BC Agriculture Council (BCAC)
32160 South Fraser Way
Suite 230
Abbotsford BC V2T 1W5

Type: ML-Mail
Office: CU-COORD
Entered By: sushust
Sign By:
Batch:
File No.:

Written: 2015/05/08
Received: 2015/05/29
Interim:
Signed:
Closed: 2015/05/29

Confidential Frequent Writer Elected Official

Phone:

Fax:

Email:

Addressed to: Minister

Drafter:

Issue: Carbon Offset

MLA: Plecas, Darryl (BC Liberal)

X-Ref: 182176

Electoral Dist: Abbotsford South

ADM OFFICE:

Copied To: Lana Popham, Derek Sturko, Richard Bullock

Subject

Foreign Ownership of Farm Land in British Columbia
Amendment to Section 22(2) of the Agricultural Land Commission Act (ALCA)
Afforestation

Referrals

From:	CU-COORD	Sent:	2015/05/29	Rcvd:	Status:	Completed
To:	DMO Deputy Minister's Office	Due:		Active:	State:	
Action:	FILE-information and file	Cmplt'd:	2015/05/29			

From Notes:: 2015/05/29T15:57 sushust (CU-COORD) BN prepared on this issue. Reference cliff 182176 for DN.

From:	DMO Deputy Minister's Office	Sent:	2015/05/29	Rcvd:	Status:	Completed
To:	CU-COORD	Due:		Active:	State:	
Action:	FILE-information and file	Cmplt'd:	2015/05/29			

From Notes:: 2015/05/29T15:57 sushust (CU-COORD) Decision note prepared for Minister's office. Returned for revisions to add option 3 - waiting on approved option prior to sending letter for action.

To Notes:: 2015/05/29T16:05 sushust (CU-COORD) For whole history of log and response - see log 182176

Page 02 to/à Page 04

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

DUPLICATE

DMO Deputy Minister's Office

Referral Slip

Fri, Jul 24, 2015 2:58 PM

Action: **UR-Under Review @MO** Due: **2015/06/23 [23]** Log ID: **182438**

Reg Ens Executive Director BC Agricultural Council	Type: ML-Mail Office: MO Minister's Office Entered By: BPUHKY Sign By: Batch: File No.:	Written: 2015/05/25 Received: 2015/06/19 Interim: Signed: Closed:
--	--	---

Confidential Frequent Writer Elected Official

Phone: 604-854-4454 Fax: Email: reg@bcac.bc.ca

Addressed to: MNL Drafter:

Issue: Invitation - Ministry MLA:

X-Ref: Electoral Dist:

ADM OFFICE:

Copied To:

Subject
 Invitation to the CFA rountable July 15

Referrals

From: MO Minister's Office	Sent: 2015/06/19	Rcvd:	Status: Completed
To: MO Minister's Office	Due: 2015/06/23	Active: 14 days	State:
Action: UR-Under Review @MO	Cmpltd: 2015/07/09		

From Notes: 2015/06/19T13:20 BPUHKY (MO Minister's Office) Sent to Don for initial review.
 To Notes: 2015/07/09T11:45 BPUHKY (MO Minister's Office) Minister will be attending



25 May, 2015

The Honourable Norm Letnick
Minister for Agriculture
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E2

Via email: norm.letnick@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Letnick:

As you will recall, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) and its members, including BCAC, have for the past 12 years hosted an Industry-Government Roundtable session in conjunction with the Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) Agriculture Ministers' meetings. This forum has proven over the years to be very successful in promoting industry-government cooperation and ensuring all stakeholders in Canadian agriculture build consensus on key issues. CFA will be hosting another such Roundtable on Wednesday, July 15, immediately preceding the next FPT meeting, and we are inviting you and your federal, provincial and territorial minister colleagues to join us.

CFA and BCAC believe the discussions that will take place at the upcoming FPT meeting are critical in continuing to develop agriculture policy that helps to both address the challenges and capture the opportunities facing the agri-food sector. We firmly believe that only by continuing to work in collaboration can we ensure the future success and sustainability of our industry. As such – this year's agenda will focus on social license and what we need to do collaboratively to address this important issue. We believe this face-to-face dialogue with Canadian farm leaders on this key issue will provide an excellent beginning to your deliberations.

The CFA Roundtable will take place Wednesday, July 15th 2014, 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm in the Coles meeting room of the PEI Convention Centre, Charlottetown. For further information and to confirm your attendance your staff may contact CFA Acting Executive Director Errol Halkai in our Ottawa office: errol@canadian-farmers.ca or (613) 236-3633.

We sincerely hope to see you at the Roundtable on July 15th.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stan Vander Waal', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Stan Vander Waal, Chair
BCAC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ron Bonnett', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Ron Bonnett, President
Canadian Federation of Agriculture

P: 604.854.4454
T: 866.522.3447
F: 604.854.4485

230-32160 SOUTH FRASER WAY
ABBOTSFORD BC V2T 1W5

Leading the Way Together
bcac.bc.ca

Fair, Susan P AGRI:EX

From: Bill, Karen F AGRI:EX
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 1:14 PM
To: Puhky, Brittany AGRI:EX; Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX; Fair, Susan P AGRI:EX
Subject: 182438-Incoming- BCAC Invite to Minister Letnick to the CFA Roundtable July 15
Attachments: image003.jpg; ATT00001.htm; BCAC Invite to Minister Letnick to the CFA Roundtable July 15.pdf; ATT00002.htm

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Brittany, would you please cliff.

Susan/ Derek, just dug this out of my inbox.^{s.13}
Karen

Let me know.

From: Letnick, Norm AGRI:EX
Sent: Monday, May 25, 2015 1:34 PM
To: Bill, Karen F AGRI:EX
Subject: Fwd: Emailing: BCAC Invite to Minister Letnick to the CFA Roundtable July 15

Norm Letnick, MLA
Minister of Agriculture

Begin forwarded message:

From: Reg Ens <reg@bcac.bc.ca>
Date: May 25, 2015 at 1:29:59 PM PDT
To: <Norm.letnick@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Stan Vander Waal <svanderwaal@rainbow.ca>
Subject: Emailing: BCAC Invite to Minister Letnick to the CFA Roundtable July 15

Minister Letnick

I understand from Stan that you are planning on attending the FPT Agriculture Ministers' meetings in Charlottetown this year. Attached is the invite from BCAC and CFA to participate in the Industry-Government Roundtable session on July 15th.

We hope that you are able to join Stan and your colleagues from across the country for this discussion.

Reg Ens
Executive Director
BC Agriculture Council (BCAC)
604-854-4454
www.bcac.bc.ca/

Fair, Susan P AGRI:EX

From: Bill, Karen F AGRI:EX
Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2015 8:24 PM
To: Letnick, Norm AGRI:EX; Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX
Subject: FW: BCAC Press Release & Letter
Attachments: BCAC presentation to the Opposition Standing Committee on Agriculture and Food 15 June 2015 FINAL DRAFT.docx; For Immediate Release - Modernized Regulations Good News For BC Agriculture FINAL DRAFT.docx

s.22

I will respond shortly and thank they for sending it and let them know our regs are silent on water. I will also mention the leased land and co op options for the 50%.

s.22

Happy Sunday.
Karen

From: Jaclyn Laic [<mailto:jlaic@ardcorp.ca>]
Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2015 6:42 PM
To: Bill, Karen F AGRI:EX; Phelps, Blair GCPE:EX
Cc: 'Reg Ens'; Stan Vander Waal
Subject: BCAC Press Release & Letter

Good Evening Karen & Blair,

Apologies for the late arrival, we've been working as quickly as possible through the engagement of all involved. Please find enclosed what I think is the final draft of BCAC's press release for tomorrow. I have also included the letter that BCAC will leave behind after a presentation to the opposition standing committee on agriculture. This letter is very similar to the letter BCAC presented to government.

Please feel free to call anytime at 778-227-7775.

Jaclyn Laic
BCAC Communications
Cell: 778-227-7774 (text for quickest response)



Submission to the Opposition Select Standing Committee on Agriculture and Food

Chilliwack, BC

June 15, 2015

The BC Agriculture Council (BCAC) is British Columbia's umbrella farm organization. We are a council of commodity groups, and through our growing membership, we represent the majority of BC farm families who in turn generate 96 percent of British Columbia's farm gate receipts. Our Board of Directors is regionally representative and comprised of BC farmers and ranchers who work together to ensure the economic, social and environmental sustainability of BC agriculture.

Agriculture in British Columbia

Agriculture continues playing a significant and important role in the provincial economy overall. The agri-food sector generated almost \$11.7 billion in revenues in 2012¹, directly employing 61,000 people and creating an additional 237,500 agriculture-related jobs through wholesaling, retailing and food service.

As a major provider of jobs and secondary business opportunities, BC agriculture is a significant contributor and stabilizing factor in many of the province's regional economies outside of the major urban centres. In 2009 the Union of British Columbia Municipalities stated that, "a strong agriculture sector providing a secure food source is essential to support the residents of British Columbia..."

Agriculture's true contribution is often overlooked because of its' intrinsic and diverse nature and the scope of this important industry. In addition to the economic benefits, BC agriculture provides a number of other societal benefits, such as rural community sustainability, community involvement, open spaces for recreation and tourism, and investments to encourage environmental sustainability.

Meeting the future agriculture and food security needs of the province serves a compelling public interest that cannot be taken for granted. B.C. is not alone in the need to access more food. Several sources indicate that global food production will need to double in the next 40 years to meet demand. Losing BC's current production capacity will expose our province to not only price instability but also food insecurity.

P: 604.854.4454
T: 866.522.3447
F: 604.854.4486

230-32160 SOUTH FRASER WAY
ABBOTSFORD BC V2T 1W5

Leading the Way Together
bcac.bc.ca

BCAC recommends that:

- 1. The provincial vision for the BC agrifood sector be expanded and that the province work with the agrifood industry and other stakeholders to develop a 50 year agri-food strategy for BC.**

The current provincial vision for the agrifood sector as outlined in the 2012 B.C. Agrifoods, a strategy for growth document, is to grow the sector to \$14 billion annual revenue by 2017. While this is a laudable goal that BCAC supports, a vision of just being “bigger” is incomplete. The provincial vision for the BC agrifood sector needs to be expanded; it must consider the “bottom line” of farm profitability as much as the current focus of top line revenue. It is through strong farm profits that we will attract the next generation to the farm and see reinvestment and innovation in the sector.

But agriculture is more than a simple financial equation. The BC agrifood vision has to include other societal values with which agriculture is intertwined – family, community health, and the environment.

Many BC residents are passionate about their food, how it is produced and the impact that producing food has on the environment. This is a complex discussion – how do we continue providing affordable healthy food choices while protecting the environment? In light of changing climatic conditions and growing world demand for food, how do we ensure the long term security of British Columbia’s food supply?

Investing only in sectors that export high value crops will grow revenue, but could reduce biodiversity, reduce local food choices and food security. BC is blessed with a diverse environment that enables us to grow many crops. However, we also generally have a higher cost of production. With competing interests and limited resources to invest in the sector, BC needs to develop a long term vision for what the agrifood sector will look like in 50 years. As a former Minister of Agriculture concluded about the CFA National Food Strategy – it provides a lens through which policies and programs can be reviewed and prioritized.

- 2. The Province work with industry to ensure that the Agricultural Land Commission has the resources needed to proactively enforce regulations and encourage farming while protecting farm land.**

BCAC supports the Agriculture Land Reserve and a strong, independent and effective Agriculture Land Commission. Government has repeatedly assured farmers, ranchers and the public that the changes being made to the ALC/ALR will support farmers while preserving farmland for future generations. A sustainable land base must be preserved to ensure that food can be grown in BC and a strong future for farming.

One theme articulated by many participants during last summer’s consultations on the ALR/ALC regulations is concern that a lack of resources have not enabled the ALC to proactively and adequately enforce regulations. Due to the significant difference in value between farmland and other land uses, there is a significant economic incentive to use farm land in ways that do not grow food (or the sector). We hope that the changes being enacted by the province will make the improvements indicated. However, it is critical that the ALC have sufficient resources to monitor activities within the ALR and enforce regulations preserving farm land.

3. The Province work with industry to ensure access to affordable labour.

Access to a stable pool of appropriate labour is fundamental to the success of BC agriculture. There are three key components to this,

- Assist farmers and ranchers to expand their HR management skills. People interested in working on farms often have different backgrounds than farming. Equipping the farmer to better lead people from different cultures, various levels of ability or disability, and different values systems will enable farmers to create more positive work environments.
- Help train and educate future employees – not all jobs in agriculture are low skilled. As the industry automates or incorporates new technology, farmers and ranchers need employees who have the skills to work in these environments.
- Access to temporary workforces. Much of agriculture remains seasonal. Finding individuals wanting to work hard for shorter periods of time is challenging. Using programs such as the Season Agricultural Worker Program (SAWP) to augment domestic labour forces is critical.

4. The Province engage established industry organizations to collaboratively develop policies and programs to help producers proactively adapt to changing consumers expectations.

The BC agrifood associations have a strong history of collaborating with government, regardless of which party is in power. While there are times we disagree, more often our interests are aligned and by working together we accomplish more. With ongoing financial pressure for government to “do more with less”, the need to work with industry is even more critical. This is a simple request that requires a commitment from government to engage with industry leaders selected by their peers to represent them. It also requires government policies and programs to be aligned with existing industry structures and it requires a commitment to listen to the people who are investing their lives in the sector.

Today, food in North America is safer, more available, and more affordable than ever in the past¹. Yet the systems that have created this food supply are under attack every day. This increasing gap

¹ [Charlie Arnot, www.foodintegrity.org](http://www.foodintegrity.org)

in understanding between rural and urban populations is a threat to the security of our food supply.

BC farmers and ranchers are facing increasing public consumer enquiries in the areas of environment, labor standards, food safety, affordability, and animal welfare. Agriculture's social license to operate reflects trust from consumers that agricultural practices align with their values and expectations. To remain competitive, primary agriculture producers are investing in new farm management practices.

By investing in programs that help farmers proactively meet changing consumer expectations and strengthen the connections between farmers and consumers, government would support the growth and sustainability of BC agriculture.

Conclusion

The BC agriculture sector is poised to have an even greater impact on the provincial economy, increasing jobs and prosperity for all British Columbians. The BC Agriculture Council has estimated that agricultural capacity in this province could be doubled. However this is only possible if the provincial government and industry share a collaborative long term vision, if BC's agriculture land base is protected for farming and if government proactively engages with BC agri-food leaders.

Respectfully submitted,

The British Columbia Agriculture Council

Modernized Regulations Good News For BC Agriculture

ABBOTSFORD – The BC government released new regulations today that specify new permitted uses on land located within the Agriculture Land Reserve (ALR). The new regulations have received a nod of approval from the BC Agriculture Council (BCAC).

“These regulations are good news for BC agriculture. BC farmers have been calling for the modernization of the Agriculture Land Commission Act for some time. With these regulations BC farmers can explore new farm business opportunities under continued proactive oversight by the independent Agriculture Land Commission (ALC). BCAC trusts the ALC to administer these new regulations in accordance with the commission’s primary purpose, which is to keep BC farmland for farming.” Said BCAC Chair, Stan Vander Waal.

The amended regulations clarify that water is not a farm product and provide new succession planning opportunities to some BC farm families. Farmers located in Zone 2 can now sell their farm and continue to live on a segment of the property via a life-long lease back agreed to by the new owner. There are also new options to create on farm residences for family members. The amendments are intended to support endurance of the family farm and provide new farmers with access to experienced farm mentors. “Farm succession planning is an important component of agri-sustainability in British Columbia” said Vander Waal, “BCAC appreciates the intent of these new amendments but would have liked to see the opportunities extended to all BC farm families.”

The amended regulations provide all BC farmers with more options to engage in farm based culinary tourism. Breweries and distilleries can now operate on ALR land in the same capacity as BC wineries, provided at least 50% of the farm product required to make the beer, wine or spirits is harvested on the farm. The amendments also make it possible for wineries, breweries and distilleries with lounge areas to sell single servings of alcohol based products produced by other businesses. “It will provide culinary tourists with more variety and create sales opportunities for farms located off established tour paths.” Said Vander Waal.

The new regulations do not provide additional direction for the ALC in applying the controversial new section 4.3 of the Agriculture Land Commission Act. This section requires the commission to consider non-farm factors (economic, cultural, social values; regional and community planning objectives; and “other prescribed considerations”) while exercising its power in Zone 2. “BCAC understands that there are times when additional flexibility is needed for the benefit of society, but believes that a strong ALC committed to preserving agriculture land for future generations is the best way to ensure that this

P: 604.854.4454
T: 866.522.3447
F: 604.854.4485

230-32160 SOUTH FRASER WAY
ABBOTSFORD BC V2T 1W5

Leading the Way Together
bcac.bc.ca

flexibility does not erode the potential of our agriculture sector of the food security of our province” said Vander Waal.

BCAC supports the Agriculture Land Reserve and a strong, independent and transparent Agriculture Land Commission. A workable land base and farmers who are willing and able to farm are essential to the growth of agriculture and food security. BCAC looks forward to continued collaboration with government and the ALC to strengthen the economic, social and environmental sustainability of agriculture in British Columbia.

-30-

For more information:

Jaclyn Laic

BCAC Communications

T: 604.854.4454

C : 778-227-7774 (text for quick response)

jlaic@bcac.bc.ca

About BCAC

The BC Agriculture Council (BCAC) is the province’s umbrella farm organization. We are a council of commodity groups and, through our members, represent approximately 14,000 of the 20,000 B.C. farm families who, in turn, generate 96 percent of the farm gate receipts in British Columbia. Agriculture is the third largest resource sector in the province, playing a significant and important role in the provincial economy.

Fair, Susan P AGRI:EX

From: Letnick, Norm AGRI:EX
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2015 5:23 PM
To: Reg Ens
Cc: Bill, Karen F AGRI:EX; Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX; Stan Vander Waal
Subject: Re: Foreign Ownership of Farm Land

Reg,

Thank you very much Reg! Appreciate the good working relationship between you, Stan, BCAC, and me. Staff will review the issues identified in the letter and provide their advice to me soon.

I look forward to seeing all of you very soon.

Norm Letnick, MLA
Minister of Agriculture

On May 8, 2015, at 12:15 PM, Reg Ens <reg@bcac.bc.ca> wrote:

Minister Letnick

Attached is a copy of the letter, a draft of which had been leaked to the media. We apologize that the leak occurred. As always, our intent is to inform you first before publicly releasing such documents. On behalf of the BCAC Board.

Reg Ens
Executive Director
BC Agriculture Council (BCAC)
604-854-4454
www.bcac.bc.ca/



<BCAC Letter to Minister Letnick re foreign land ownership May 2015.pdf>

Page 16 to/à Page 18

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

DUPLICATE