



OCT 02 2018

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His Worship Mayor Malcolm Brodie
and Councillors
City of Richmond
6911 No. 3 Road
Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1

Dear Mayor Brodie and Council:

I am writing to you regarding a recent bylaw passed by the City of Richmond impacting agriculture in the City of Richmond. It is my understanding that at the June 18, 2018 meeting of the City of Richmond Council, Bylaw No. 9861 was passed limiting the floor area of farm buildings with concrete floors to 750 m² and prohibiting all greenhouses with any concrete in the structure. I understand that the primary reason for this was concern over the impact that legalization of cannabis may have on productive farmland.

On July 13, 2018 the Government of British Columbia announced an Order-In-Council amending the Agricultural Land Reserve Use, Subdivision and Procedure Regulation (ALR USPR) to provide local governments the authority to prohibit cannabis production in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) unless it is grown in ways that preserve the productive capacity of agricultural land. While Bylaw No. 9861 appears to be similar in intent to the new regulation as regards to cannabis, it has the potential to be significantly more restrictive of many other types of farm operations and may even constitute effective prohibition in some cases. This is inconsistent with the *Agriculture Land Commission Act* and the ALR USPR.

I am concerned that this bylaw has the potential to negatively impact several types of agriculture businesses and I strongly encourage the City of Richmond to review and amend Bylaw No. 9861 to ensure consistency with the new regulation, while ensuring that other types of farm operations are not negatively impacted by this attempt to restrict cannabis production.

Should you wish to have further prohibitions on cannabis production in the ALR than those outlined in the ALR USPR or prohibit other types of farm buildings, please be aware that this may only be done through a farm bylaw under s.552 of the *Local Government Act*, which requires regulation under s.553 of that Act. If you wish to discuss this option further, please do not hesitate to contact Willow Minaker, Director, Strengthening Farming at Willow.Minaker@gov.bc.ca or 778-974-3846 for assistance.

Sincerely,



Lana Ropham
Minister

pc: Jennifer Dyson, Chair, Agricultural Land Commission