

Letter from the BC Poultry Association

From: Christine Koch <koch.c@telus.net>
To: AGR.Minister@gov.bc.ca, Minister, AGRI AGRI:EX
Cc: Heppell, EOC Steve <steve@sheppell.ca>, Krahn, Dale
<dkrahn@krahngroup.com>, BCCGA <office@bcchickengrowers.ca>
Attachments: Letter to Ag Minister Sept 2020 re Animal activists.pdf

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Good morning,

Please find attached a letter from the BC Poultry Association.

Regards,

Christine Koch, Manager
BC Poultry Association
Cell: 604 866-7600
E-mail: koch.c@telus.net



September 25, 2020

Minister of Agriculture
PO BOX 9043, STN PROV GOVT.
Victoria BC
V8W 9E2

Sent via electronic mail to: AGR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister:

The BC Poultry Association would like to raise our concerns about the potential threat to BC farms by animal activists. Our concerns are shared by other livestock producers throughout the province.

We were all thrilled at the 2019 Ag Day when the current Agriculture Minister and British Columbia's Attorney General and the Solicitor General stood in front of farmers to make a proclamation with a commitment to help farmers.

"So, let me be clear, this government is working hard to deter those who are illegally harassing and intimidating farmers and ranchers. We are working hard to deter people who trespass on your property and damage your farm equipment and endanger the animals in your care. We understand the current rules are not stopping illegal protesting activity and we have already taken a number of steps to address this problem.

Since Ag Day, almost a year ago, very little progress has been made. True, we've had two round table meetings with the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and others, but we've seen very little progress made on the legislative front. In the past half year Ontario, Alberta and Saskatchewan have enacted strong laws to protect their farmers and their families. Manitoba is working on some legislative changes.

Meanwhile, several of our poultry farms have found intruders in their barns late at night. These illegal break-ins jeopardize the safety and health of the birds and could jeopardize the entire BC poultry industry if the trespassers introduce a disease into the barns such as avian influenza. Over the past years, and especially during the pandemic, many elected provincial officials have spoken about the importance of BC agriculture producing food for British Columbians. The

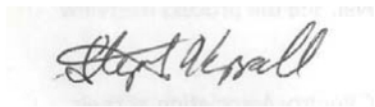
illegal actions of these trespassers put the half billion-dollar poultry sector at risk. In 2004, BC's poultry barns were emptied due to avian influenza and we had to import poultry products.

The poultry sector realizes that there will always be some people that are opposed to animal agriculture and we realize that they have a right to peaceful protests. We are asking for stronger legislation from the province for those activists that come onto our farms (private property), come armed with tools to break into our barns, cause malicious damage, steal our animals, endanger the physical and mental health of our family and workers, and jeopardize our very way of living and raising food for British Columbia. It is not right that our poultry farmers are being threatened for trying to feed British Columbia.

We are looking to the province of BC to take action to protect BC farmers and farms. The Federal Agriculture Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau has said repeatedly that the federal government is not looking at ways to boost trespassing legislation. We are asking for stronger legislation around trespass onto farms, illegal entry into our barns, theft of animals, and malicious damage. We recommend raising the minimum fine for these actions and using administration monetary penalties (AMPs) instead of going through the court system.

We would be pleased to meet with you at your convenience to discuss the issue in more detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Heppell", is centered on a light blue rectangular background. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Steve Heppell, President, BC Poultry Association

Cc

Reg Ens, BC Agriculture Council



October 15, 2020

File: 0280-30

Ref: 193017

Steve Heppell,
President, BC Poultry Association
Email: steve@sheppell.ca

Dear Steve Heppell:

Your letter of September 25, 2020 to the Minister of Agriculture concerning animal activism has been shared with me. As a provincial election has been called, and we are currently in an interregnum period, I am pleased to respond on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture.

The Ministry values all livestock and poultry producers in B.C. It is not acceptable that our province's farmed animal producers are subject to activities that impact their wellbeing and the welfare of their animals. Please be assured that ministry staff continue to work on the issue.

Good progress on understanding the issue within the B.C. context has been made through the first two British Columbia Animal Activism Roundtable discussions led by the Ministry. This understanding is necessary to develop effective solutions. Ministry staff will continue to engage with farmed animal producers and work towards effective solutions.

Thank you for sharing your concerns with me on this important issue. Input from livestock and poultry producers and their respective associations is essential to ensuring the needs of the sector are met by the Government.

Sincerely,

Tom Ethier
Deputy Minister

BC Ministers' Statements on Animal Welfare - October 28, 2019

From: office@bcchickengrowers.ca
To: AGR.Minister@gov.bc.ca, Minister, AGRI AGRI:EX
Cc: AG.Minister@gov.bc.ca, PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca, ian.paton.MLA@leg.bc.ca, david.eby.MLA@leg.bc.ca, lana.popham.MLA@leg.bc.ca, mike.farnworth.MLA@leg.bc.ca, Minister, AG AG:EX, Minister, PSSG PSSG:EX, Paton.MLA, Ian LASS:EX, Eby.MLA, David LASS:EX, Popham.MLA, Lana LASS:EX, Farnworth.MLA, Mike LASS:EX
Attachments: image002.png, 20-09-30 BCCGA letter to Ag Minister re Animal Activism.pdf

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Good morning,
Please see attached letter from the BC Chicken Growers' Association.
Thank you.
Margret Duin | Administrator
BC Chicken Growers' Association
PO Box 581
Abbotsford, BC V2T 6Z8
Phone: 604 859-9332
Email: office@bcchickengrowers.ca





September 30, 2020

BY EMAIL

AGR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

BC Minister of Agriculture
PO Box 9043 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister,

RE: BC Ministers' Statements on Animal Welfare – October 28, 2019

The BC Chicken Growers' Association (BCCGA) would like to raise our concerns about the potential threat to BC farms by animal activists. Our concerns are shared by other livestock producers throughout the province.

We were all thrilled at the 2019 Agriculture Day reception when the current Minister of Agriculture Lana Popham, British Columbia's Attorney General David Eby and Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, stood in front of farmers to make proclamations with a commitment to help farmers.

Minister Lana Popham:

"I have back-up from British Columbia's Attorney General and the Solicitor General, and these are the men responsible for B.C.'s laws and responsible for their enforcement.

So, let me be clear, this government is working hard to deter those who are illegally harassing and intimidating farmers and ranchers. We are working hard to deter people who trespass on your property and damage your farm equipment and endanger the animals in your care. We understand the current rules are not stopping illegal protesting activity and we have already taken a number of steps to address this problem."

From: Ministers' Statements on Animal Welfare: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/stories/ministers-statements-on-animal-welfare>

Since the 2019 Agriculture Days in Victoria, almost a year ago, very little progress has been made. We have had two round table meetings with the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and others, but we have seen very little progress on the legislative front.

The Ministry of Agriculture recently stated that a legislative change in the BC Legislature could take one to one and a half years. In the past half year, the provincial governments in Ontario, Alberta and Saskatchewan have managed to fast track the legislative process and have enacted strong laws to protect their farmers and their families. The provincial government in Manitoba is now working on similar legislative changes.

P.O. Box 581, Abbotsford, BC V2T 6Z8

tel 604.859.9332 | www.poultryinmotion.ca | office@bcchickengrowers.ca

September 30, 2020

Meanwhile, several of our poultry farmers have found intruders in their barns late at night. These illegal break-ins jeopardize the safety and health of the birds and could jeopardize the entire BC poultry industry if trespassers introduce a disease into the barns such as avian influenza. In 2004, BC's poultry barns were emptied due to avian influenza and BC had to import poultry products.

The illegal actions of these trespassers put our farmers at risk. Broiler chicken production is one of the top three agricultural commodities in BC. There are 308 chicken growers located primarily in the Fraser Valley, the Interior and Vancouver Island. Annually they produce more than 117 million birds or 255 million kg. The BC chicken sector provides 12,625 jobs and contributes \$1.1 billion to the GDP with farm cash receipts of \$519 million in 2019. British Columbia holds 14% of the national allocation and is the third largest in provincial chicken production behind Ontario and Quebec.

All BC chicken farms are regulated and certified under the national 'Raised by a Canadian Farmer' Animal Care Program which is based on the Code of Practice and recognized by the National Farm Animal Care Council. BC Chicken farmers are subject to regular on-farm audits. The program has strict enforcement measures to offer additional assurance. Raising healthy birds in a humane way is very important to BC Farmers.

The BCCGA realizes that there are people opposed to animal agriculture and that they have a right to peaceful protests. We are asking for stronger trespassing legislation from the province for those activists who come onto our farms (private property), come armed with tools to break into our barns, cause malicious damage, steal our animals, endanger the physical and mental health of our family and workers, and jeopardize our very way of living and raising food for British Columbia. It is not right that our chicken farmers are being threatened for trying to feed British Columbians.

Over the past years, and especially during the current pandemic, many elected provincial officials have spoken about the importance of BC agriculture producing food for British Columbians.

The Federal Minister of Agriculture Marie-Claude Bibeau has stated

"Trespassing legislation needs to be enacted at the provincial level, but I'm following it closely because this is something that I care about. This is not acceptable, that our farmers are being threatened for feeding us."

We are asking the Government of British Columbia to take action to protect BC farmers and farms and make stricter trespassing legislation a priority. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Dale Krahn
President, BC Chicken Growers' Association

cc. BC Attorney General
BC Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
BC Official Opposition Critic for Agriculture and Food

P.O. Box 581, Abbotsford, BC V2T 6Z8

tel 604.859.9332 | www.poultryinmotion.ca | office@bcchickengrowers.ca



October 15, 2020

File: 0280-30

Ref: 193053

Dale Krahn
President, BC Chicken Growers' Association
Email: office@bcchickengrowers.ca

Dear Dale Krahn:

Your letter of September 30, 2020 to the Minister of Agriculture concerning animal activism has been shared with me. As a provincial election has been called, and we are currently in an interregnum period, I am pleased to respond on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture.

The Ministry values all livestock and poultry producers in B.C. It is not acceptable that our province's farmed animal producers are subject to activities that impact their wellbeing and the welfare of their animals. Please be assured that ministry staff continue to work on the issue.

Good progress on understanding the issue within the B.C. context has been made through the first two British Columbia Animal Activism Roundtable discussions led by the Ministry. This understanding is necessary to develop effective solutions. Ministry staff will continue to engage with farmed animal producers and work towards effective solutions.

Thank you for sharing your concerns with me on this important issue. Input from livestock and poultry producers and their respective associations is essential to ensuring the needs of the sector are met by the Government.

Sincerely,

Tom Ethier
Deputy Minister

ID: 1760, Title: Letter from the BC Poultry Association re Animal Activists and government's assistance

Full Name: Steve Heppell

Approval Route: CU-ADMO-BDD-CGPL-ED-ADMO-CU-DMO

Assigned To: Rayner, Jena **Rush:** No **Category:** Correspondence - Email **Signature:** Deputy Minister

Branch: Minister's Office **Other Number:** 193017 **Link:**

Due Date: 10/19/2020 **Date Completed:** 10/15/2020 **Date Initiated:** 9/25/2020 **Date Reply Sent:** N/A

Title	Comments	Date
Rayner, Jena [Assignee] has closed this item for the following reason: Completed.	signed and sent from CU inbox. Cliff closed	10/15/2020, 11:39:37 AM
Evers, Charlene AGRI:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Rayner, Jena for action	DM approved	10/15/2020, 9:10:21 AM
Ethier, Tom [Assignee] approved the item and forwarded it to Evers, Charlene AGRI:EX for action	No Comment	10/14/2020, 3:51:45 PM
Evers, Charlene AGRI:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Ethier, Tom for action	For your review/approval.	10/13/2020, 2:30:25 PM
Rayner, Jena [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Evers, Charlene AGRI:EX for action	for DM review and approval	10/13/2020, 9:04:07 AM
McGuire, Jennifer [Assignee] approved the item and forwarded it to Rayner, Jena for action	ready for DM review s.13	10/9/2020, 4:45:51 PM
Norton, Chris [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to McGuire, Jennifer for action	For ADM Review/Approval	10/7/2020, 4:17:11 PM
Travia, David V [Assignee] approved the item and forwarded it to Norton, Chris for action	Approved	10/7/2020, 3:54:50 PM
Shew, Hanna AGRI:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Travia, David V for action	Ready for your review. Thank you!	10/7/2020, 3:39:43 PM
Giacomazzi, Terri AGRI:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Shew, Hanna AGRI:EX for action		10/7/2020, 3:25:51 PM
Anderson, Arlene AGRI:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Giacomazzi, Terri AGRI:EX for action	I made some edits to naturalize the language a bit more.	10/7/2020, 1:32:37 PM
Botkin, Clayton [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Anderson, Arlene AGRI:EX for action	Forwarding as directed by James Street. James' comments went to Terri, and I would suggest correcting the spelling of Steve's last name in the greeting line - Heppell, not Heppel.	10/7/2020, 8:47:05 AM
Giacomazzi, Terri AGRI:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Botkin, Clayton for action	Clayton, as per the previous, similar correspondence. Please forward to Arlene Anderson following your review. Thank you.	10/6/2020, 2:44:35 PM
Shew, Hanna AGRI:EX [Colleague of Giacomazzi, Terri AGRI:EX] added a comment	New due dates: Fri Oct 9 to ED and Tue Oct 13 to ADMO	10/5/2020, 12:18:37 PM
Rayner, Jena made some changes to this item's details		10/2/2020, 12:03:52 PM
Irvine, Britney [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Giacomazzi, Terri AGRI:EX for action	Hi Terri - as discussed, one of two animal activism eApps. We have requested an extension on the due date. Britney.	10/2/2020, 10:35:24 AM
Shew, Hanna AGRI:EX [Colleague of Irvine, Britney] has shared an eApprovals item with Anderson, Arlene AGRI:EX.	Hi Arlene - Sharing this with you as suggested by David. Thank you!	10/2/2020, 10:12:30 AM
Shew, Hanna AGRI:EX [Colleague of Travia, David V] forwarded an eApprovals item to Irvine, Britney for action	Hi Britney - This is similar to eapp 1792. Please see comments below for more details. Due to ED by Wed Oct 7. Due to ADMO by 9 AM Fri Oct 9. Thank you!	10/2/2020, 10:11:43 AM
Raymond, Mark AGRI:EX [Colleague of Street, James AGRI:EX] forwarded an eApprovals item to Travia, David V for action	Hi Dave - For CGPL to take lead on as discussed. The incoming focuses on legislative asks. Please loop in Taylor and Clayton on the response.	10/2/2020, 10:06:57 AM

Title	Comments	Date
Margerison, Elizabeth [Colleague of McQueen, Andrea] forwarded an eApprovals item to Street, James AGRl:EX for action	James, please assign to staff for a DM response using template provided. Due back to Andrea by Friday Oct 9th at 9am.	9/28/2020, 4:36:45 PM
Wong, Jane T [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to McQueen, Andrea for action	Hi Andrea - please ask staff to draft a DM Response. Due back to the ADM by: Friday, Oct. 9th (noon). Thank you, Jane (obo Dawnae)	9/28/2020, 2:35:45 PM
Rayner, Jena [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Wong, Jane T for action	for staff to draft a DM response, due back to CU Oct 12th.	9/28/2020, 2:25:02 PM
Norton, Chris [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Rayner, Jena for action	For redirecting to BDD - SDB. Please forward to Jane Wong.	9/28/2020, 1:01:29 PM
Rayner, Jena [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Norton, Chris for action	to ASP for staff to draft a DM response in template attached. Due back to CU Oct 12th.	9/28/2020, 12:16:46 PM
Rayner, Jena added a document: 193017 Heppell Draft.docx		9/28/2020, 12:13:04 PM
Rayner, Jena created this item		9/28/2020, 12:09:30 PM
Rayner, Jena added a document: 193017 heppell incoming.msg		9/28/2020, 12:09:30 PM

ID: 1792, Title: potential threat to BC farms by animal activists**Full Name:** Dale Krahn**Approval Route:** CU-ADMO-CGPL Staff-ED-ADMO-CU-DMO**Assigned To:** Rayner, Jena **Rush:** No **Category:** Correspondence - Email **Signature:** Deputy Minister**Branch:** Minister's Office **Other Number:** 193053 **Link:****Due Date:** 10/19/2020 **Date Completed:** 10/15/2020 **Date Initiated:** 9/30/2020 **Date Reply Sent:** N/A

Title	Comments	Date
Rayner, Jena [Assignee] has closed this item for the following reason: Completed.	signed and sent from CU inbox. Cliff closed	10/15/2020, 10:34:09 AM
Evers, Charlene AGRI:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Rayner, Jena for action	DM approved	10/15/2020, 9:09:50 AM
Ethier, Tom [Assignee] approved the item and forwarded it to Evers, Charlene AGRI:EX for action	No Comment	10/14/2020, 3:53:32 PM
Evers, Charlene AGRI:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Ethier, Tom for action	For your review/approval	10/13/2020, 8:59:25 AM
Rayner, Jena [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Evers, Charlene AGRI:EX for action	for DM review and approval	10/13/2020, 8:47:16 AM
McGuire, Jennifer [Assignee] approved the item and forwarded it to Rayner, Jena for action	same edits for DM consideration as Heppell letter	10/9/2020, 4:48:43 PM
Norton, Chris [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to McGuire, Jennifer for action	For ADM Review/Approval	10/7/2020, 4:06:42 PM
Travia, David V [Assignee] approved the item and forwarded it to Norton, Chris for action	Approved	10/7/2020, 3:52:02 PM
Shew, Hanna AGRI:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Travia, David V for action	Ready for your review. Thank you!	10/7/2020, 3:48:12 PM
Giacomazzi, Terri AGRI:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Shew, Hanna AGRI:EX for action		10/7/2020, 3:21:40 PM
Anderson, Arlene AGRI:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Giacomazzi, Terri AGRI:EX for action	Some edits consistent with earlier letter.	10/7/2020, 2:04:15 PM
Botkin, Clayton [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Anderson, Arlene AGRI:EX for action	Forwarding as directed. James Street provided comments to Terri.	10/7/2020, 8:49:32 AM
Giacomazzi, Terri AGRI:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Botkin, Clayton for action	Clayton, for your review. Drafted as per discussions with GCPE. Please forward to Arlene Anderson after your review. Thank you.	10/6/2020, 2:37:42 PM
Shew, Hanna AGRI:EX [Colleague of Giacomazzi, Terri AGRI:EX] added a comment	New due dates: Fri Oct 9 to ED and Tue Oct 13 to ADMO	10/5/2020, 12:19:13 PM
Rayner, Jena made some changes to this item's details		10/2/2020, 12:04:40 PM
Irvine, Britney [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Giacomazzi, Terri AGRI:EX for action	Terri - the second animal activism eApp. Again, an extension was requested. Please reach out to me or Jackie with questions. Britney.	10/2/2020, 10:36:08 AM
Shew, Hanna AGRI:EX [Colleague of Irvine, Britney] has shared an eApprovals item with Anderson, Arlene AGRI:EX.	Hi Arlene - Sharing this with you as suggested by David. Policy team will reach out to you when needed. Thank you!	10/2/2020, 9:54:07 AM
Shew, Hanna AGRI:EX [Colleague of Irvine, Britney] has shared an eApprovals item with Raymond, Mark AGRI:EX.	Hi Mark - Sharing eapp with you as suggested by David. Thank you!	10/2/2020, 9:52:01 AM
Shew, Hanna AGRI:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Irvine, Britney for action	Hi Britney (and Jackie) - If this isn't something CGPLB can respond to, please send it back to me asap. Otherwise it's due to ED by Wed Oct 7 and due to ADMO by Fri Oct 9. Thank you!	10/2/2020, 9:49:48 AM

Title	Comments	Date
Norton, Chris [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Shew, Hanna AGRI:EX for action	Due to ADMO: Oct 9 by 12pm.	10/2/2020, 9:38:28 AM
Rayner, Jena [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Norton, Chris for action	to ASP staff to draft a response in template attached. Due back to CU by Oct 14th.	10/1/2020, 4:26:38 PM
Rayner, Jena added a document: 193053 Krahn Draft.docx		10/1/2020, 4:25:27 PM
Rayner, Jena created this item		10/1/2020, 4:23:51 PM
Rayner, Jena added a document: 193053 krahn incoming.msg		10/1/2020, 4:23:51 PM