

From: Stan Vander Waal
Sent: June 24, 2020 9:56 AM
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX
Cc: Kennedy, Christine JEDC:EX
Subject: BC Ag Council support for Premier

The Honorable John Horgan

Id like to connect regarding the Premiers Agenda of Jobs Recovery, and the food stability of BC.

- We are aware of the report “the future of BC’s Food Systems”
- Could we have a discussion how BCAC could support the Premier in this Agenda?
- We are very happy to hear the Premier believes “Agri Tech” will play a strong role in BC’s post Covid-19 recovery benefiting British Colombians via food security and prosperity for the province and others!

Looking forward to a discussion

Stan Vander Waal
Chair of British Columbia Agriculture Council “BCAC”

And owner of

Phone: (604)-847-4000
Cell Phone 604-703-9040
svanderwaal@rainbow.ca

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX
Sent: July 14, 2020 1:52 PM
To: 'svanderwaal@rainbow.ca'
Subject: FW: BC Ag Council support for Premier

Dear Mr. Vander Waal:

Thank you for your email. We appreciate your taking the time to write and apologize for the delay in response.

We have also been in contact with the Ministry of Agriculture and have requested that they follow up with you directly regarding this matter. Please be assured that the appropriate ministry official will respond to your email at their earliest opportunity.

Thank you, again, for writing. We wish you all the best.

From: Reg@bcac.ca
Sent: June 26, 2020 12:43 PM
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX
Cc: Minister, AGRI AGRI:EX ; Shoemaker, Wes AGRI:EX ; Ethier, Tom AGRI:EX ; 'Brian Coombes' ; Stan Vander Waal
Subject: Support for BC Agritech

Dear Premier

The BC Agriculture Council supports the vision for B.C. becoming a leader in agritech as highlighted in the B.C. Food Security Task Force report. As is detailed in the attached letter, a strong and innovative food supply chain will help support that vision. Specifically, BCAC supports the investment in a new food processing facility in Chilliwack that will help bring food grown and raised by B.C. farmers to consumers.

On behalf of B.C. farmers and ranchers.

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX
Sent: July 8, 2020 12:20 PM
To: 'Reg@bcac.ca'
Subject: FW: Support for BC Agritech

Dear Mr. Vander Waal:

Thank you for your email regarding the BC Agriculture Council's support for the proposed Chilliwack processing facility within the ALR. We appreciate your taking the time to write on this important issue.

We see that you have also provided a copy of your message to the Honourable Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture, for her review and consideration. Please be assured that your suggestions will be included in any of the Minister's related discussions going forward.

Thank you, again, for taking the time to share your thoughts and recommendations with us. We wish you all the best.

From: Danielle Synotte
Sent: November 9, 2020 8:52 AM
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX
Subject: Letter from BC Agriculture to Honourable John Horgan

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

Dear Premier Horgan,

Please find the attached letter from BC Agriculture Council. As the voice of agriculture, BC Agriculture Council (BCAC) provides leadership on the collective interests of agricultural producers in our province. In partnership with industry and government, BCAC facilitates the delivery of programs and services to grow British Columbia into the most dynamic and robust agricultural province in Canada. We are a council of farm associations who in turn represents over 96% of provincial farm gate sales.

We were pleased to see your 2020 priorities for agriculture; we share your desire to see these outcomes and see opportunity for collaboration. The attached letter highlight a few of these key opportunities to bring them to your attention as you set priorities for your new mandate.

Best Regards,

Danielle

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX
Sent: November 12, 2020 11:52 AM
To: 'dsynotte@bcac.ca'
Cc: Minister, AGRI AGRI:EX
Subject: FW: Letter from BC Agriculture to Honourable John Horgan

Dear Mr. Vander Waal:

Thank you for your email on behalf of the BC Agriculture Council regarding your letter detailing key priorities and opportunities for the agriculture sector. We appreciate your taking the time to write.

On your behalf we have also provided a copy of your message to the Ministry of Agriculture. Please be assured your comments will be included in any related discussions going forward.

Thank you, again, for taking the time to share with us. We wish you all the best.

June 26, 2020

The Honourable John Horgan, M.L.A.
Premier of British Columbia
PO Box 9041, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E1

Via email: premier@gov.bc.ca

Dear Premier:

Subject: Support for increased food processing and agritech in British Columbia

BC Agriculture Council (BCAC) has been advised that a B.C. primary food processor is looking to invest in a new modern facility in the City of Chilliwack. Our understanding is that the proposed facility would be located in an area that has been designated for food processing within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR). Due to the sensitive and competitive nature of this investment, BCAC has not been provided with a number of details including the name of the processor.

BCAC continues to support the preservation of farmland for farming in British Columbia. When possible, intensive operations such as the one proposed in Chilliwack should be built on land zoned for industrial or commercial use. However, when the operation exists to directly support primary agriculture and industrial-land is unavailable, there should be considerations for construction in the ALR.

Our understanding is that there is no suitable industrial or commercial land available in the region for this proposed facility. For the reasons outlined below, BCAC supports the request to locate this facility within the ALR and ask that the Province also supports this plan.

1. Aligns with the B.C. Food Security Task Force Report.

The B.C. Food Security Task Force report titled, *The Future of B.C.'s Food System*, begins by acknowledging that "Agriculture is changing.", and that, "...B.C. has an opportunity to become a leader...". BCAC wholeheartedly agrees with these statements.

The fourth recommendation presented in the report is to "ensure there is a place to grow food and support emerging agritech industries by examining land use policies and other regulatory considerations".

British Columbia's farms and food processors seeking to grow, improve efficiency and become more sustainable support innovation and create demand for an emerging agritech sector. These agri-businesses work with technology developers to identify ideas, test prototypes and provide feedback. Supporting businesses that are reinvesting in B.C.'s agri-food sector will strengthen and foster its growth.

2. Strengthens B.C.'s food security

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that Canada's food system is not broken. There has not been an overall increase in the number of people going hungry. However, we have seen that our food system is fragile. The current pandemic has shown what the industry knew; our supply chains are highly centralized and complex. They are very efficient, but have very little redundancy or flexibility.

Many of the recent food-related disruptions seen during the pandemic were not a result of a food shortage, it was a lack of capacity within Canada's agri-food processors. British Columbia's citizens, hospitals and restaurants rely on processors to help access the food and products grown and raised by B.C.'s farmers and ranchers. This investment will aid to modernize and improve resiliency within B.C.'s food supply system.

In addition to the specific points above, building this facility in close proximity to the farms that it services will address issues of Highway 1 congestion, reduce the overall amount of time that animals are in transit and create jobs for the local community.

BC Agriculture Councils asks that the Province of British Columbia supports the proposal for a modernized processing facility within the designated food processing hub in the City of Chilliwack.

Sincerely,



Stan Vander Waal

President, BC Agriculture Council

cc: The Honourable Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture, Province of British Columbia
Wes Shoemaker, Deputy Minister, Agritech Land Use Secretariat
Brian Combes, President, Chilliwack Economic Partners Corporation

November 9, 2020

Via e-mail: premier@gov.bc.ca

THE HONORABLE JOHN HORGAN
PREMIER OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
PO BOX 9041 STN PROV GOVT
VICTORIA, BC V8W 9E1

Dear Premier Horgan:

Subject: British Columbia Agriculture Sector Key Priorities and Opportunities

On behalf of British Columbia's farmers and ranchers, congratulations again on your majority government and being re-elected as Premier.

As the voice of agriculture, BC Agriculture Council (BCAC) provides leadership on the collective interests of agricultural producers in our province. In partnership with industry and government, BCAC facilitates the delivery of programs and services to grow British Columbia into the most dynamic and robust agricultural province in Canada. We are a council of farm associations who in turn represents over 96% of provincial farm gate sales.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and accompanying public concerns about food security, governments and the public have started to re-evaluate the way they see and value agriculture.

A recent economic impact study reaffirmed that the agriculture sector has been an important piece of British Columbia's identity for more than a century.¹ With over 200 primary commodities grown, harvested and raised in the province, the Sector is one of the most diverse in Canada.

In 2019, the economic impacts of the sector were significant; here are the highlights:

- Total economic output was \$8.5 billion;
- Gross domestic product was 3.9 billion;
- The sector provided 35,100 direct and 19,900 indirect FTE's;
- More than 10,000 temporary foreign workers; and
- Paid \$950 million in government taxes.

As you can see, agriculture in British Columbia is a major contributor to the province's economy.

¹ Study of the British Columbia Agriculture Sector: Available at bcac.ca

We were pleased to see your 2020 priorities for agriculture included:

- Continuing and expanding the *Grow, Feed and Buy BC* programs to encourage greater food security and local business growth.
- Creating jobs for workers, opportunities for farmers, and sustainability for BC agriculture.
- Increasing your support through the Canada/BC Agri-Innovation program.
- Creating a new Regenerative Agricultural Network that will bring together natural systems of production with agri-technologies that enhance production.

We share your desire to see these outcomes and see opportunity for collaboration. We would like to highlight a few of these key opportunities to bring them to your attention as you set priorities for your new mandate.

SUSTAINABLE WORKFORCE: The sector generates significant employment opportunities and shortages of skilled and unskilled labour are an ongoing and significant challenge.

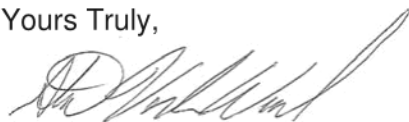
- Improve cooperation across government levels and industry to meet the challenges of COVID-19 and ensure access to employment for both domestic and foreign workers.
- Continue to protect workers and communities by providing centralized quarantine facilities for temporary workers entering B.C.

FOOD SECURITY: As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and accompanying public concerns about food security, governments and the public have started to re-evaluate the way they see and value agriculture.

- The foundation for improving food security starts with securing producers' resources including **land**. Updating the farm tax threshold and aligning policy with producer needs will ensure food security.
- Ensure that government policies and legislations do not add regulations unnecessarily that add costs to the food supply system.
- Ensuring food security also means on-farm safety. Continue with commitments made to guarantee farm families **are safe from trespassers** who may violate biosecurity, compromise animal health, and put entire operations at risk.
- **Water security** will be ensured by developing an agricultural watershed reserve as part of the watershed security strategy and investment in water management infrastructure to control run-off and increase storage helps farmers adapt to a changing climate.
- Food security also requires **consumer confidence**. As the voice of industry, BCAC's We Heart Local BC informs consumers about farming practices - complementing the efforts of Buy BC; expanding cooperation will increase our shared impact.

Let me conclude by saying that our farmers and ranchers understand that there are many high priorities and demands that require investment within the province. We believe we can work together to deliver for British Columbians and bring about mutually beneficial outcomes for both government and the agriculture sector.

Yours Truly,



Stan Vander Waal
President, BC Agriculture Council