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Rhona Martin
Chair
Columbia Shuswap Regional District
Email: rmartin@csrd.bc.ca

Dear Chairperson Martin:

Thank you for your email dated February 7th 2019, regarding Class E licence requirements. I apologize for the delay in responding.

As you may know, the Select Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fish and Food (Committee) was established on April 24, 2018 and tasked with examining, inquiring into, and making recommendations concerning local meat production in B.C. After launching a public consultation, the Committee released their report with 21 recommendations for government related to licensing and oversight, skilled labour and workforce, and industry growth and development.

Since the Committee report came out, Ministry staff have been working to address many of the recommendations and take the time to get the government response right. We want to ensure we give appropriate consideration to the work of the Committee and address the recommendations appropriately. With regards to Class E licences, the current licensing requirements are being considered to ensure they reflect the needs of operators while maintaining competitiveness among enterprises of different scale, and continue to uphold B.C.'s high standards of food safety and animal welfare.

I appreciate your comments and your feedback in regards to the challenges facing smaller producers. I want to assure you that we are considering your letter as we respond to the Committee's recommendations.

Sincerely,

Lana Popham
Minister