



May 31, 2019

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Rhona Martin, Chair  
Columbia Shuswap Regional District  
Email: [rmartin@csrd.bc.ca](mailto:rmartin@csrd.bc.ca)

Dear Chairperson Martin:

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 in September 2018 with 21 recommendations for government, including recommendation 17 which is:

Reduce current travel time restrictions to one hour between Class A/B licensed facilities and Class D/E licensed facilities to help alleviate local slaughter capacity challenges and increase local livestock production.

As a matter of policy, the Ministry has recommended against a Class E licence if a Class A or B abattoir is located within two hours travel time of the proposed Class E establishment. Rural producers and local governments have raised concerns about lack of slaughter capacity stating that licensed Class A and B operators are either too busy or too far away to service smaller producers. These concerns were also raised when the Ministry conducted a targeted consultation with Class D and E licence holders and other interested parties in 2018.

In order to support local slaughter capacity and local food security, the Ministry of Agriculture is reducing the travel time restriction associated with Class E applications from two hours to one hour. The Ministry of Agriculture will recommend against a Class E licence if a Class A or B abattoir is located within one hour travel time of the proposed Class E establishment.

Please consider this a courtesy notification, this will be formally announced on Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Gavin Last  
Executive Director