BRITISH COLUMBIA	

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JUL 25 2019

File: 0280-30 Ref: 190594

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

Dear Chairperson Martin:

Thank you for your letter dated April 25th, 2019 regarding Class E licensing.

I am pleased to let you know that the Province announced on June 3 that it has accepted all 21 of the Select Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fish and Food's recommendations from its report on improving local meat production in British Columbia.

In particular, progress has been made on supporting rural producers such as Ms. Persson and others in the rural Golden area highlighted in your past communication, including:

- developing and launching food safety and animal welfare training workshops for rural producers and processors, as well as regional health authority inspectors, with \$290,000 to the BC Food Processors Association;
- reducing travel time restrictions to one hour between Class A/B licensed facilities and Class E licensed facilities to help alleviate local slaughter capacity challenges and increase local livestock production; and
- seeking public input on new Class D licence regions to help alleviate regional or subregional slaughter capacity challenges and increase local livestock production.

We listened to the concerns of rural producers around the province and these actions are a strong response that balances the needs of local farmers and ranchers with maintaining high standards of food safety and animal welfare in British Columbia.

These concrete actions, among others, have addressed the matters raised and I look forward to ongoing conversation and hope there will be other opportunities to visit your region in the future.

Office of the Minister

Mailing Address: PO Box 9043 Stn Prov Govt Victoria BC V8W 9E2 Telephone: 250 387-1023 Facsimile: 250 387-1522 Thank you again for taking the time to write to me.

Sincerely,

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Lana Popham Minister