



COLUMBIA SHUSWAP REGIONAL DISTRICT

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April 25, 2019

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Via Email: AGR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

The Honourable Lana Popham
Minister of Agriculture
PO Box 9056, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Popham:

At the regular meeting of the Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD) Board held on April 18, 2019, the Board received your letter of March 28, 2019 advising that the Ministry is working to address many of the recommendations made by the Select Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fish and Food, in relation to local meat production in BC. Your letter mentioned that with regard to Class E licences, the current licensing requirements are being considered to ensure they reflect the needs of operators while maintaining competitiveness amongst enterprises of different scale, with the emphasis on upholding the Province's high standards of food safety and animal welfare.

Your letter lead to a request from the Electoral Area A Director asking for the Board's support to extend a meeting invitation to the Minister to travel to Area A (rural Golden) to meet with the local farming community. This request came about as local farmers in rural Golden have expressed to the Area A Director that they want a more clear indication if the changes to Class E licensing are going to happen and when. Farmers continue to express that they want the option to slaughter on premise and/or take their animals to an abattoir; they want the ability to sell their products through farm gate sales; they want the ability to have a living income. As you know, these concerns are not isolated to this area of the Columbia Shuswap Regional District, this is a Province wide issue.

We understand that the Ministry of Agriculture has many factors to consider in promoting a prosperous agricultural industry, particularly in regards to local meat production, as you stress the need for high standards of food safety and animal welfare. At the same time, we believe it is important to support the sentiments of rural farmers in their ask for changes to Class E licensing. We also believe it important for the Minister to hear first-hand from affected farmers about the issues they are facing. We hope that your schedule is able to accommodate travel to rural Golden, such as in spring or early summer, 2019. We look forward to hearing from your office in regards to a potential meeting date.

Yours truly,
COLUMBIA SHUSWAP REGIONAL DISTRICT

Rhona Martin, Chair

cc: Director Karen Cathcart, Electoral Area A

ELECTORAL AREAS

A GOLDEN-COLUMBIA
B REVELSTOKE-COLUMBIA

C SOUTH SHUSWAP
D FALKLAND-SALMON VALLEY

E SICAMOUS-MALAKWA
F NORTH SHUSWAP-SEYMOUR ARM

MUNICIPALITIES

GOLDEN
REVELSTOKE

SALMON ARM
SICAMOUS