

January 19, 2018

Kamloops Okanagan Dairymen's Association, (KODA), represents the eighty dairy farms in the North Okanagan, Shuswap region. Encompassing an area stretching from Wallacheen to Edgewood with the bulk of our members living and operating their farms in the Salmon Arm, Enderby, and Armstrong area. We provide representation for our members to the provincial and federal governments with a number of our members serving on select committees at the request of the ministries of these two levels of government.

With local and regional government now being expected to do more of the legwork of the two senior levels of government. KODA feels it's time for our organization to renew our relationship with local government, and demonstrate our considerable contributions to the region's economy to the elected officials and senior staff of our region. Because our membership base farms in four regional districts, one municipality, four cities and two villages we would like to offer a day of learning for our elected officials. Starting with a farm tour showing the growth and structural changes of our farm sector, the responsibility our members take to the environment, to the social expectations of our businesses, and how we care for our animals, for our soils, and the people who work with and for us. Followed by a sit down lunch with farmers, elected officials and support businesses and a presentation of how interactive our farm sector is with local businesses within all of the political boundaries in our area.

We are inviting all the elected officials, their staff from local and regional government, our two MLA's, our federal MP and we have extended an invitation to our Minister of Agriculture Ms. Lana Popham to attend. It is our intention to provide bus transportation starting from Salmon Arm and from Vernon to collect those wishing to attend, several of our members will be on the buses for one on one discussions of question that should arise from the day's topics.

We are aiming for a date in the first week of April, not yet finalized, so the weather will be gentler for the on farm tours and our MP, MLA's and the Minister are not sitting in legislature. We will be looking for numbers of who will be attending by March 15 so we can arrange transportation and lunches.

Respectfully submitted

Henry Bremer

President KODA