

# BCALOA

## BC Agricultural Landowners Association

December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Honourable Lana Popham,  
Minister of Agriculture, Food, and Fisheries

Dear Minister Popham,

Congratulations on your reappointment as the Minister of Agriculture. We are happy that you are continuing in this position so we can continue the progress made in your first term.

The BCALOA Board is excited to work closely with yourself and the Ministry of Agriculture to further support our mutual goals of encouraging farming and revitalizing farmland in BC.

We want to take a moment to share our story. The BCALOA was formed in 2019 and grew from a grassroots movement to support the forgotten voice of farmers and residents in the ALR. The BCALOA is a volunteer run organization and is not for profit.

The BCALOA's mission is to advocate on behalf of farmers and agricultural landowners and occupants, working with all levels of government and other organizations to promote the viability, sustainability and preservation of independently owned and operated farms and farmland in BC. We believe that the farmer is a forgotten but vital voice in the discussions about preserving and revitalizing farmland.

We look forward to finalizing the policy ideas presented in the January 2020 [Ministry of Agriculture Policy Intentions Paper: Residential Flexibility in the ALR](#). We understand that the Covid-19 Pandemic has required our focus in 2020. But now more than ever, Farmers and ALR land owners/occupants are hurting and are expressing urgency. Farmers in BC are desperate for residential flexibility so they can house their family, workers, and/or tenants. These residential options provide farmers with farm succession opportunities, on-farm labour and stable rental income that supports farming activities and reduces the need to seek off-farm income. Farming is becoming increasingly unaffordable, and the public engagement sessions made it clear, small secondary residences make farming more economically viable. [“During the September to November 2019 engagement, the Ministry heard a key theme: more flexibility is needed for residences in the ALR. Therefore, this work has been given priority.”](#)

We also look forward to further improvements to the [Rural Slaughter Modernization Intentions Paper](#). Farmers has stated loud and clear that meat processing regulations need to have less

restrictions and more processing opportunities for all farmers in BC. This is critical to food security, farm viability, farmer health and wellness and animal welfare.

Given your experience in 2007, in fighting against misguided farm tax policies in Saanich, we are asking for assistance with reducing surging farm insurance rates and onerous commercial water rates for all farmers in BC.

We have many similar goals in that the BCALOA promotes sustainable agriculture in response to climate change.

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BC Agricultural Land Owners Association  
Board of Directors  
Info@bcaloa.com