
NEWS RELEASE

B.C. Farmers and Ranchers Connect With Government in Victoria

VICTORIA – November 7, 2017: Eighty farm and ranch leaders from across the province have arrived in Victoria for “Ag Day”, BC Agriculture Council’s premier advocacy event.

Organized by BC Agriculture Council (BCAC), *Ag Day* is a series of scheduled meetings between B.C. farmers and ranchers, Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, and senior government officials and other key stakeholders such as B.C.’s Agriculture Land Commission (ALC). The purpose? To discuss the sustainable growth of agriculture in British Columbia.

“B.C. agriculture, including ocean based farmers is a vibrant part of our province’s economy,” said Stan Vander Waal, Chair of the Board for BCAC. “The agriculture and aquaculture sectors are critical for provincial labour and food security in B.C. and act as pillars for sustainable and diverse rural communities. We are here to communicate this message today.”

The meetings take place on Tuesday and are followed by an evening networking reception. The goal of Ag Day is to increase awareness around the positive impact agriculture has on the B.C. economy while also communicating the challenges that the sector experiences.

Investment in agriculture is cited by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations as “one of the most effective ways to reduce hunger and poverty, particularly in rural areas”. As British Columbia’s third largest resource sector, agriculture is a major economic contributor and a pillar for provincial food security, sustainable rural communities, agri-tourism and agri-food processing.

British Columbia is Canada’s most agriculturally diverse province. According to the most recent Canadian Census data from 2016, farm cash receipts were over 3 billion dollars while the sector employed nearly 45,000 workers.

“By proactively working together, we can achieve mutually beneficial policies, regulations and programs that support the sustainability and growth of B.C.’s land and water based industries.” Said Vander Waal.

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BC Agriculture Council (BCAC) is the only provincial-wide general farm organization representing the farmers and ranchers of British Columbia. BCAC proudly serves nearly 30 commodity associations who in turn generate 96% of the farm gate sales in B.C.