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**Stan Vander Waal**

President, BC Agriculture Council

## Welcome Message from the President

As President of BC Agriculture Council (BCAC), it is my pleasure to welcome you to tonight's event. I'm grateful to you all for joining us to celebrate agriculture in British Columbia. On behalf of everyone at BCAC and our 27 member associations, I also want to recognize our sponsors and supporters for their generous contributions.

Last year was a year unlike any other - none of us have come away unaffected by the challenges we faced in 2021. B.C. farmers and ranchers faced record-breaking heat, flooding, and freezing temperatures, along with drought, wildfires, supply chain disruptions, all while the impact of COVID-19 continued to be felt across our businesses. Throughout it all, B.C.'s farmers and ranchers continued to persevere for the benefit of all British Columbians.

And that's why it's more important than ever to celebrate the resilience of farmers and ranchers, and their contributions to life in B.C. With over 200 primary commodities grown, harvested, and raised in the province, the sector is one of the most diverse in Canada. In 2019, the B.C. agriculture sector generated total farm cash receipts of \$3.8 billion, exported approximately \$3.2 billion worth of agriculture and agri-food products, and generated an estimated 35,100 direct jobs within the province.

You can help ensure that future generations understand the importance of agriculture. As part of this year's virtual BC Agri-Food Industry Gala, we're hosting an online silent auction. All funds raised by the silent auction will support BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation (BCAITC) in bringing agriculture and food education to students throughout the province. Together with farmers, teachers, and agriculture specialists, BCAITC tells the story of our food and farming in British Columbia. BCAC is proud to support this work and we encourage you to bid generously and often.

On behalf of BC Agriculture Council, I hope you have a wonderful evening.



**Hon. Marie-Claude Bibeau, PC, MP**  
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

## Message from the Minister

Thank you to the BC Agriculture Council for your commitment to a strong and prosperous future for the sector and for supporting your members and agricultural communities during these challenging times. The wildfires and catastrophic flooding in recent months have been devastating for British Columbia's farmers, in addition to labour and supply chain challenges from the ongoing pandemic.

The Government of Canada is here for you. On my visit to the Lower Mainland in December, I saw the devastation first-hand and heard heartbreaking stories from producers. In February, we announced up to \$228 million in federal-provincial government funding to help B.C. farmers return to production and support British Columbia's food security and agricultural communities in the years ahead. Those funds are now going out to farmers.

I am proud of the solidarity, grit and determination shown by British Columbia's producers and their communities. We are doing all we can to ensure producers have the workers they need to grow and harvest their crops. We will continue to listen and respond to your needs, while investing in a sustainable future.

British Columbia's agriculture is incredibly diverse, producing more than 200 agricultural commodities. I am always quick to boast about your delicious products. Once all of this is behind us, I am confident that producers—and the Canadian food system—will emerge stronger, more innovative and more resilient than ever, producing high-quality food for consumers in Canada and around the world.

The Council's slogan is "Leading the Way Together". The Government of Canada is very proud to be your partner, every step of the way.



**Hon. Lana Popham**  
Minister of Agriculture

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## Message from the Minister of Agriculture

Welcome to the BCAC President's Dinner. It's been a tough year, from the pandemic, wildfires, the heat dome and the recent flooding emergency, through all of it, you've come together to support one another. Your resiliency and strength continue to be proof of the amazing and generous people that make up the B.C. agriculture industry.

The BC Agriculture Council represents so many different sectors that contribute to the successful industry we have in the province. Each member association plays an integral part in supplying British Columbians with quality products and representing each sector to the highest degree. Your dedication and experience are what helps drive the industry to thrive and grow each year.

Thank you for your contribution to the B.C. agriculture, horticulture and food sectors and the work you do every day into growing, raising, producing and representing B.C. I wish you the best and I look forward to working with you all in the new year. Enjoy your evening!



25  
— YEARS —

## **BC Agriculture Council Celebrates 25 Years**

British Columbia Agriculture Council (BCAC) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization that provides leadership in the advocacy and proactive communication of the collective interests of all agricultural producers in British Columbia.

In 1997, the Investment Agriculture Foundation (IAF) of British Columbia allocated funding to the Central Farm Working Group to establish a new general farm organization, after the BC Federation of Agriculture had disbanded. The BC Agriculture Council emerged later that year as a result of the work undertaken. The new advocacy council was established with the stated purpose of efficiently addressing cross-commodity issues facing B.C. agriculture.

The BCAC structure was based on sector categories to facilitate effective communications and collaboration with its member organizations. The initial Board of Directors consisted of one director from each of the cattle, dairy, poultry, pork, and community agriculture sectors, and two from the horticulture sector. The Board elected Bruce Bakker, a flower grower from Langley, B.C., as its inaugural Chair.

Since its inception in 1997, BCAC has developed strong relationships with industry leaders, elected officials, policy makers, and government representatives through ongoing policy dialogues and events. BCAC staff and members are influential participants at the local, provincial, and national level where they are championing issues affecting farmers and dedicated to the advancement of B.C. agriculture.

**Check out the Silent  
Auction!**

**Bidding begins on March 20, 2022**



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## Silent Auction Proceeds Donated to BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation



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BC Agriculture Council (BCAC) is thrilled to announce that once again, all proceeds from the BC Agri-Food Industry Gala's silent auction will be donated to the BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation (BCAITC). BCAITC is a non-profit charitable organization that works to bring B.C.'s agriculture to over half a million teachers and students around the province. The Foundation helps students gain an appreciation for where food is grown or raised and an understanding of B.C. agriculture from farm to table.

The Foundation works with many partners, ranging from farmers, to teachers, industry organizations, and government to develop and deliver quality resources and agriculture programs for schools.

To learn more about BCAITC or if you would like to donate to their organization, please **visit [www.bcaitc.ca](http://www.bcaitc.ca)**.





# OUR MEMBERS

BC Blueberry Council

BC Broiler Hatching Egg  
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BC Cattlemen's Association

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BC Chicken Growers' Association

BC Cranberry Growers' Association

BC Dairy Association

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Raspberry Industry Development Council

United Flower Growers

[www.bcac.ca](http://www.bcac.ca)