

June 3, 2024

The Honourable David Eby
Premier of British Columbia
Government of British Columbia
PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Gov
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E1

Sent via Email: premier@gov.bc.ca

Subject: BCAC on Matching the Canada Carbon Rebate for Small Businesses

Dear Premier,

On behalf of British Columbia's farmers and ranchers, thank you for your ongoing support for the agriculture sector and the food security of our communities! Your participation in several of our recent events was deeply appreciated, including Farm Fest, held at the University of the Fraser Valley on November 16, 2023 and attended by many young and emerging leaders from our sector, as well as our Agri-Food Industry Gala, held in Abbotsford on January 24, 2024.

As you may know, the Government of Canada's Budget 2024 includes the announcement of a new Canada Carbon Rebate for Small Businesses, which will return proceeds from the federal carbon backstop from 2019-20 through 2023-24 to an estimated 600,000 businesses in those provinces where the backstop applies. The Canadian Federation of Agriculture has confirmed with the Department of Finance Canada that this will include farm operations in those provinces. This means that agricultural producers will soon receive a significant rebate that can be reinvested in their businesses and ensure cashflow amid a challenging year – that is, except in B.C. and Quebec.

We strongly believe that B.C. farmers and ranchers should never be at a disadvantage to their competitors in other provinces. We are writing on this occasion **to seek a rebate from your government to agricultural producers that matches the Canada Carbon Rebate for Small Businesses**, thereby leveling the playing field with other provinces and ensuring producers are well-positioned to meet the challenges ahead in 2024-25. Prompt action is also needed to ensure this level playing field as the Canada Carbon Rebate for Small Businesses is expected to be delivered soon after July 15, 2024.

As a real-world example of the impact such a rebate would have for the B.C. agriculture sector, the mean of carbon taxes paid to the Government of B.C. in 2023-24 by a greenhouse operation was about \$42,000 but would have been \$156,540 without the point-of-sale relief granted in Budget 2023. Clearly, a provincial rebate from 2019-20 through 2023-24 could make a tangible difference for all farm operations by empowering employers to hire additional staff, allowing farm operations in drought affected regions to purchase irrigation equipment that allows them to produce agricultural goods with less water, and more.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this carbon rebate in further detail with you or your staff. To coordinate such a meeting or obtain any additional information that might be

helpful, please do not hesitate to contact Danielle Synotte, the Executive Director of BC Agriculture Council, via email at dsynotte@bcac.ca or telephone at 604-854-4483.

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter! I look forward to engaging with you further on this relief for our producers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. Woike', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Jennifer Woike, President
BC Agriculture Council

CC: Hon. Pam Alexis, Minister of Agriculture and Food