

June 4, 2024

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A2

**Subject: Support for Long-Term Flood Infrastructure Funding**

Dear Prime Minister,

On behalf of British Columbia's farmers and ranchers, I am writing to urgently request your government's support for infrastructure funding that can address long-term flood mitigation in the City of Abbotsford and other regions of our province impacted by severe flooding in 2021.

According to the Insurance Bureau of Canada, that flooding event was among the most costly climate-related disasters in Canadian history, with some estimates of the total economic impact as high as \$2.7 billion. From a food security perspective, the floods were particularly devastating, affecting some 1,100 farm properties covering 15,000 hectares of land as well as 2.5 million livestock. Farmers and ranchers experienced flood-related damages worth more than \$285 million.

The fear of another flooding event in this region weighs heavily on the minds of many farmers and their families. The Government of B.C. has demonstrated its commitment to the safety of British Columbians by funding some essential infrastructure improvements, such as upgrades to the Barrowtown pump station. But much more is needed to protect this vital farmland and a transportation corridor that holds national importance, and our province cannot support this work alone. Further, we have been alarmed to see the application by the City of Abbotsford to the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF) recently rejected without explanation. This joins a rejected application to the DMAF by the City of Merritt.

As such, we are seeking your leadership in ensuring the necessary funds be allocated for flood mitigation work in the Fraser Valley without any further delay. Regardless whether these funds come through DMAF or another Government of Canada initiative, action must be taken to protect these communities.

We must also emphasize that effective engagement with agricultural producers will be important to the success of future flood mitigation efforts in this region, and so farmers whose operations may be impacted by the works under consideration, they must be consulted and fairly compensated.

BC Agriculture Council (BCAC), the organization which I represent, sees the advancement of these funds and the associated work as a significant component of ensuring the future sustainability of agriculture in B.C. Our membership is comprised of 30 unique commodity

groups, who in turn represent approximately 20,000 farm families producing 96% of provincial farm gate sales.

If your staff might require any additional information or details regarding our support for the City of Abbotsford's DMAF application or the flood mitigation needs of farmers in this region of our country, I can be reached via email at [dsynotte@bcac.ca](mailto:dsynotte@bcac.ca) or via telephone at 604-854-4483.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this urgent matter, and I look forward to any future collaboration that can enhance the long-term sustainability of agriculture in B.C.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Danielle Synotte". The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Danielle Synotte, Executive Director  
BC Agriculture Council