

September 8, 2025

Honourable David Eby
Premier of British Columbia
Government of British Columbia
PO BOX 9041 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

Sent via Email: premier@gov.bc.ca

Subject: BCAC on the Essential Role of the Temporary Foreign Worker Program

Dear Premier,

On behalf of BC Agriculture Council (BCAC), I am writing in response to remarks during your media availability on Thursday, September 4, in which you raised concerns about the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP).

We appreciated your acknowledgement of the distinct needs of the agriculture sector and of farm employers. It is important to recognize that the TFWP is not a singular program but actually consists of many different streams serving very specific purposes, such as the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (SAWP) and the Agricultural Stream (AgStream).

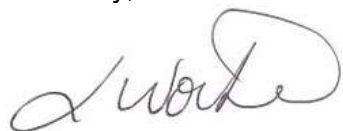
SAWP, for example, has operated for more than 50 years and is built upon bilateral agreements with several countries, ensuring strong oversight and protections for workers. Our sector relies upon workers recruited through SAWP, AgStream, and others to fill more than 10,000 positions that cannot otherwise be met by the domestic workforce. Work in these positions is typically season and so workers to fill these roles are often needed at a critical time in producing crops and raising animals. For these reasons and others, it is imperative that both SAWP and AgStream are preserved and recognized as longstanding, successful models. This is also why support for SAWP and for farm workers employed through this program have been key pillars of recent discussions in the Premier's Task Force on Agriculture and Food Economy.

Predictable, stable access to workers is vital not only for farms, but also for food processors and for sustaining markets, jobs, and British Columbia's food security. As such, we are seeking clarification as to which areas of the TFWP you see in need of significant reform.

BCAC is the unified voice of our province's agriculture industry, representing over 20,000 farm families and 96% of the province's farmgate sales through 28 member associations. We work to advance policies that support a strong and competitive agriculture sector across B.C. I would be happy to meet with you or relevant staff from your government to discuss the TFWP and the B.C. agriculture sector's labour needs. Please do not hesitate to contact BCAC's Executive Director, Danielle Synotte, via email at dsynotte@bcac.ca or via telephone at 604-854-4454 for any additional information or to coordinate such a meeting.

Thank you for your continued support for B.C. farmers and ranchers!

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. Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture and Food
Hon. Jennifer Whiteside, Minister of Labour
Michelle Koski, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food