

September 8, 2025

Honourable Randene Neill  
Minister of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship  
Government of British Columbia  
PO BOX 9012 STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9L6

Sent via Email: [WLRs.minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:WLRs.minister@gov.bc.ca)

**Subject: Water Sustainability Planning Process in the Nicola Watershed**

Dear Minister,

On behalf of British Columbia's farmers and ranchers, I am writing to express our appreciation for the recent agreement between the Province and the Coldwater, Lower Nicola, Nooaitch, Shackan, and Upper Nicola Indian Bands to pursue a water sustainability plan for the Nicola watershed.

Agricultural water users in the Nicola have long sought sustainable solutions for the management of the watershed and have shown leadership in stewarding watercourses. It is our hope that a water sustainability plan for the Nicola can be quickly achieved through the commitment of adequate resources from your Ministry and other relevant government departments to the planning process.

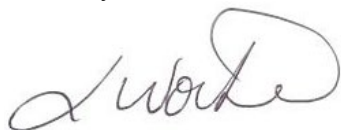
To ensure the success of this water sustainability plan, it is also vital that the agriculture sector is represented throughout the planning process and that farmers are consulted on decisions critical to the health of the watershed. Earlier this year, the Premier launched a Task Force on Agriculture and Food Economy, which has issued several recommendations with the participation of staff from your Ministry. Among the Task Force recommendations accepted by the Premier is that the Province commit to "ensure that farmers and ranchers have a seat at the table in watershed planning". This is essential to the development of solutions that promote the food security of communities in the watershed and of all British Columbians.

Through our membership, we would be pleased to coordinate with you in ensuring agricultural representation in the Nicola water sustainability planning process. BCAC would also appreciate any updates you can provide on efforts by the Province to engage farmers and ranchers in the region to date. Similar collaboration with the agricultural sector continues to benefit the water sustainability planning process in the Koksilah watershed.

BCAC is the unified voice of British Columbia'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 the Ministry of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship to further discuss the engagement of the agriculture sector in the Nicola water sustainability planning process. Please do not hesitate to contact BCAC's Executive Director, Danielle Synotte, via email at [dsynotte@bcac.ca](mailto:dsynotte@bcac.ca) or via telephone at 604-854-4454 for any additional information or to coordinate such a meeting.

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter and congratulations on the recent agreement with the Nicola 5 First Nations! I look forward to any opportunity to collaborate with you on the sustainability of agriculture and the well-being of British Columbians.

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  
Michelle Koski, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food  
Lori Halls, Deputy Minister of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship