

March 11, 2026

The Honourable Kelly Greene, M.L.A.
Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness
Government of British Columbia
PO Box 9020 Stn Prov
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Sent via email: EMCR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Subject: BCAC on the Maximum Payable Limit for Disaster Financial Assistance

Dear Minister,

On behalf of British Columbia's farmers and ranchers, thank you for the support your Ministry has made available to those affected by the recent flooding in the Fraser Valley as well as other extreme weather events. The impacts from such disasters can sometimes continue for years after, including the financial viability of affected farm operations and their capacity to support the food security of their communities.

I am writing on this occasion to seek your leadership in increasing the maximum payable under Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) for farmers.

Since the \$400,000 cap on assistance was established, farm operations in B.C. have needed to incorporate increasingly sophisticated and capital-intensive technologies while farmland values have considerably risen. Sustained high inflation and high interest rates have also raised the cost of replacement or repair beyond what might have been reasonably expected years ago.

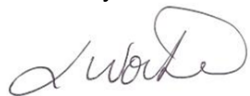
Furthermore, unlike most small businesses that operate from a single structure, farms function as complex, multi-asset enterprises that may include multiple barns, production facilities, storage buildings, irrigation systems, and specialized infrastructure spread across large geographic areas. When extreme weather events strike, damages are not confined to one building — entire production systems can be compromised. As a result, recovery costs for farms are structurally and consistently higher than those of other small businesses.

The 2021 Canada-B.C. Flood Recovery Program for Food Security limited payments to a maximum of \$3 million, which seemed to reflect an understanding of these factors. Based on this precedent, BC Agriculture Council (BCAC) strongly supports raising the maximum limit on DFA to \$3 million for farmers. Although we recognize that the *Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation* is next expected to be reviewed in 2027, we believe that implementing this increase now would reassure farmers amid the ongoing vulnerability of farmland in the Fraser Valley and other regions to extreme weather events.

As you may know, BCAC is the unified voice of our province's agriculture industry, representing over 20,000 farm families and 96% of farmgate sales in B.C. through our 29 member associations. We work to advance policies that support a strong and competitive agriculture sector across B.C. In case of any questions or if you might need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Danielle Synotte, BCAC's Executive Director, via email at dsynotte@bcac.ca or via telephone at 604-854-4454.

Thank you once again for your collaboration and attention to our farmers' needs! I look forward to our next opportunity to meet.

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