

March 25, 2026

Environment and Climate Change Canada
Sustainability Directorate
351 boul. St-Joseph, 4th floor
Gatineau, QC K1A 0H3

Sent via email: SDO-BDD@ec.gc.ca

Subject: BCAC on the Draft 2026-29 Federal Sustainable Development Strategy

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of British Columbia's farmers and ranchers, thank you for the opportunity to contribute feedback on the draft 2026-29 Federal Sustainable Development Strategy (FSDS). This document, once finalized, will demonstrate to Canadians and international partners what specific priorities and actions the Government of Canada associates with the overall principle of sustainable economic development.

As such, it is important that the final document reflects the perspectives of the Canadian agriculture sector, which is not only world-leading in sustainable production methods but is also uniquely vulnerable to climate change impacts. To support the achievement of that aim, BC Agriculture Council (BCAC) is happy to respond to this consultation and we would welcome efforts by the federal government to engage with agriculture industry associations at an earlier stage in the development of the next FSDS.

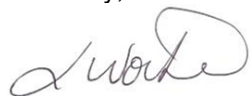
We believe the current draft FSDS could be significantly improved through the addition of a new implementation strategy 2.2.1.3, the purpose of which would be for Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and other relevant federal departments to work closely with industry to identify opportunities to improve regulatory efficiency, as overlapping or duplicative regulations may hamper the competitiveness of Canadian agriculture. Such an implementation strategy would not require the commitment of significant new resources from the federal government and could in fact achieve cost-savings while also advancing Goal 2.2.

To strengthen the connection between Goal 2.2 and implementation strategy 2.2.1.3, a new target could be added to the draft FSDS regarding permitting timelines. Significant delays in the issuance of permits can deter investment in farm operations, curb innovation, and otherwise leave Canadian farmers and ranchers at a competitive disadvantage to producers in other jurisdictions. Measuring these timelines and setting approximate targets for the timely processing of certain types of permitting applications would help to ensure regulatory efficiency is indeed being achieved and for a mutual identification by government and industry of potential areas for improvement.

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 a need for additional information on the proposed new implementation strategy, 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.

Thank you once again for your collaboration in achieving sustainable development for B.C. and all Canadians!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Woike', written in a cursive style.

Jennifer Woike, President
BC Agriculture Council