

July 27, 2026

Sent via email: [PermittingSolutions@gov.bc.ca](mailto:PermittingSolutions@gov.bc.ca)

**Subject: BCAC on Potential Changes to Natural Resource Tribunals**

To Whom It May Concern,

While we welcome efforts by the Government of British Columbia to streamline permitting requirements and expedite approvals for projects important to our provincial economy, BC Agriculture Council (BCAC) does not support the proposal to no longer pause monetary penalties when an appeal of a decision is filed with a natural resource tribunal and to instead refund the penalty if the appeal is successful.

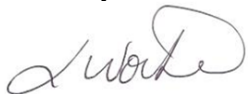
Such an approach would be financially devastating for farm operations seeking to appeal a decision made by government. Many farms in B.C. rely on tight operating margins and experience cash flow challenges at certain points in their production cycles. As such, most, if not all, B.C. farmers and ranchers lack the resources that some larger businesses may have to pay a monetary penalty upfront and lose access to those funds for the duration of an appeal at a natural resource tribunal. In short, the Government of B.C.'s proposal would create a new obstacle for some British Columbians to access justice and safeguard their rights.

Further, the proposed approach could create a moral hazard for the Province. For example, funds obtained from imposing monetary penalties could be used to generate interest, disincentivizing quick and timely participation on the part of provincial authorities in an appeal process.

BCAC is the unified voice of our province's agriculture industry, representing over 20,000 farm families and more than 96% of farm gate 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.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to contribute feedback to these efforts to streamline permitting in B.C. In case of any questions or if we can provide any additional information or details, 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.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Woike, President  
BC Agriculture Council