

B.C. Agrifood Strategic Growth Plan Under Review By B.C. Agriculture Council

ABBOTSFORD, December 2, 2015 – The provincial government released a plan to increase annual agrifood and seafood revenues to \$15 billion by 2020 today. The five year growth strategy is being carefully reviewed by the B.C. Agriculture Council (BCAC) to ensure it includes the supports and direction needed to build a future for B.C.'s 21,000 farm families.

BCAC is encouraging its membership of 28 provincial farm organizations to review the plan carefully to make sure it includes avenues to address prominent sector issues and opportunities. “BCAC supports multi-year planning and investment and we share government’s goal to grow agriculture in B.C.” said Stan Vander Waal, BCAC Chairman. “Unfortunately, the success of agriculture in BC is not guaranteed so diligence is required to ensure we invest in the correct path. I look forward to working closely with Minister Letnick and his team, and with BCAC membership in the days and weeks ahead to complete this important review process.”

The [B.C. Agrifood and Seafood Strategic Growth Plan](#) was developed by the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with the Minister’s Agrifood Advisory Committee (MAAC). MAAC is comprised of business owners, academics, and local food movement leaders from within BC’s seafood, agriculture and food processing sectors. “The B.C. Agrifood and Seafood Strategic Growth Plan highlights the importance of farming and offers a plan to drive our agriculture sector to new levels of growth and sustainability” said Rhonda Driediger, B.C. Agriculture Council director and MAAC participant. “Following a thorough review by the B.C. Agriculture Council, I look forward to the implementation phase which will support farmers’ goal to continue producing agricultural products that are among the safest and highest quality worldwide.”

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View B.C. Ministry of Agriculture’s news release [here](#).

The **B.C. Agriculture Council (BCAC)** is the province’s umbrella farm organization. As a council of 28 provincial farm organizations, we represent the majority of B.C. farm families who, in turn, generate 96 percent of the farm gate receipts in British Columbia. Agriculture is the third largest resource sector in B.C., playing a significant and important role in the provincial economy and the health of British Columbians.

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