



BRITISH COLUMBIA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Representing the Beef Cattle Industry of British Columbia

AGRI CENTRE - #4 - 10145 DALLAS DRIVE, KAMLOOPS, B.C. V2C 6T4 PHONE (250) 573-3611 FAX (250) 573-5155

December 11, 2023

Hon. Bruce Ralston

Minister of Forests

PO BOX 9049, STN PROV GOVT.

Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

FOR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

BCCA File: 2023-049

SENT BY EMAIL

RE: Representation of Range issues on the Forest Practices Board

Dear Minister Ralston,

The BC Cattlemen's Association (BCCA) wishes to express support for the essential role that the Forest Practices Board (FPB)¹ plays in supporting the implementation of forest and range policy and practices that instill confidence with the public and Indigenous peoples, promote forest and range stewardship and ensure the fair and equitable application of the laws that impact forest and range values.

We are pleased to see that the FPB's strategic plan (2023-2028) prioritizes encouraging forest and range policies and practices that are adapted to climate change effects and support ecological resilience, including conservation of biodiversity and wildlife habitat. Their role will be important in helping shape the collective dialogue around stewardship and resilience across our forest and range landscapes.

While both forest and range issues are explicitly within scope of the work of the board, the BCCA is concerned that range interests are underrepresented through the board composition. While there is a requirement for at least one of the board members to have a Professional Agrologist designation, this does not alone provide adequate assurance that they will have had range experience and that range issues will be effectively understood and represented by the board.

Moving forward, The BCCA suggests that your Ministry consider requiring that at least one representative of on the board have explicit understanding and experience on issues associated with range and the ranching sector. Furthermore, BCCA would be happy to play a role in establishing a list of recommendations for strong candidates for the Board's consideration.

Sincerely,

Brian Thomas

President, BC Cattlemen's Association

¹ Established by the **Forest Practices Board Regulation** establishes an independent Forest Practices Board to carry out independent audits of compliance, and investigate public complaints regarding forest practices related to the scope of the *Forest and Range Practices Act* and the *Wildfire Act*.