



BRITISH COLUMBIA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Representing the Beef Cattle Industry of British Columbia

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Hon. Rob Fleming
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
Email: Minister.Transportation@gov.bc.ca

February 1, 2024

BCCA File: 2024-002
SENT BY EMAIL

Dear Minister Fleming,

RE: Fencing Program Renewal and Budget Request

The Highway and Railways Fencing Program began in 2010 and is now in its fourteenth construction year. This program is critical in preventing livestock from moving through antiquated fencing onto highway and railway corridors and becoming a hazard to travelers. We believe this is a high value program that warrants continued investment.

As part of the ongoing programs to support our BC ranchers, we are asking for the extension of the BCCA Highway Fencing Program and to also incorporate the ability to complete railway fencing projects within the program. The ability to fence cattle off of the railway was originally included in 2009 Highway Fencing Program but was removed from program in 2014 due to inability to access railway right of way for either CN or CP due to rail line restrictions.

Our continued work to develop, implement and facilitate the fencing program will ensure we have the ability to build on the previously completed and ongoing regional fencing projects, to monitor progress and to maintain efficiency.

The Provincial Highway Livestock Fencing Program is a multi-year fencing program developed by MOTI in partnership with FLNRORD and the BCCA.

- The current Provincial Highway Livestock Fencing Program has completed its 5th year of construction.
- The program started taking applications in 2018 and continues to do so annually.
- Applications = 387 applications (totaling 1162 km hwy + 102 km railway fence).
- Each year, the program is oversubscribed and has outstanding applications.

Therefore, we wish to request that your ministry allocate \$8 million in the budget for the Provincial Highway and Railway Livestock Fencing Program to be distributed over the next 5 years. In reviewing our past, completed fencing projects and looking ahead to the scope of ongoing and future projects, we have concluded that the most efficient method of delivery would entail BCCA to have the ability to draw funds each year as needed for programming, not to exceed \$8 million over the 5 years. Depending on the scope of the future program delivery and the nature of the work (seasonal), the ability to draw from the

funding as the projects are developed and implemented is crucial. In order to facilitate proper Indigenous consultation, most projects have a 2-year duration, therefore flexibility to access the funding will ensure we can work proactively and efficiently to complete the projects in a timely manner with our fencing contractors.

In our view, this program has been a very successful partnership between the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, the Ministry of Forests and BCCA Program Delivery Inc. We trust you will see value in continuing this program which protects the safety of the motoring public as the goal of the fencing program is highway and railway protection through reliable livestock containment.

We welcome the opportunity to meet and discuss our request further, in person or by phone. Please contact me at your earliest convenience to schedule a meeting, I look forward to hearing from your office.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Boon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kevin Boon,
General Manager
BC Cattlemen's Association