



BRITISH COLUMBIA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Representing the Beef Cattle Industry of British Columbia

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March 12, 2024

Hon. Pam Alexis
Minister of Agriculture & Food
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Victoria, BC V8W 9E2
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SENT BY EMAIL

Dear Minister Alexis:

RE: Thank you for providing support to veterinary clinics

The BC Cattlemen's Association applauds your recent announcement to provide funding to support student training in rural communities and food animal practices.

The dedication of veterinarians serving our industry, often traversing great distances to reach rural clients, is invaluable. Without their tireless efforts, our industry would undoubtedly face challenges. This acknowledgment underscores our appreciation for your endeavors, as well as Dr. Burns' work in assessing access to veterinary care and extending support where feasible.

I wish to extend our compliments to Dr. Burns for her proactive measures in addressing veterinary and vet technologist shortages, and for her accessibility in providing updates to our association. British Columbians are fortunate to have a Chief Veterinarian dedicated to developing policies and programs in support of farm animal health.

While we express gratitude for the allocated funding, we also urge ongoing collaboration with the Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills to develop recruitment incentives. We strongly support the creation of incentives, like loan forgiveness programs, for recent veterinary school graduates opting to work in rural areas or practices catering to food animals.

BCCA welcomes further discussions with both ministries to explore additional avenues to tackling the veterinary care shortage in BC.

If you have any questions or would like to exchange ideas, please feel free to call me at the ranch (250-486-3552) or contact our General Manager Kevin Boon at the office (250-573-3611).

Best regards,

Brian Thomas, President

CC: Dr. Theresa Burns (Email: Chief.Veterinarian@gov.bc.ca)