

Dear Cheryl,

Thank you for your email of January 24, 2024, regarding agriculture education in BC. As the Senior Program Developer for School Food Literacy with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, I am pleased to respond to your letter on behalf of both the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Ministry of Education and Child Care.

We appreciate your commitment to fostering a deeper understanding of agriculture, particularly beef cattle ranching, among students and recognize the importance of curricular connected resources in achieving these goals.

The Provincial Government supports agriculture and food education through various initiatives, including those facilitated by organizations like the BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation and Farm to School BC. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food collaborates in reviewing and supporting programs and resources from these organizations, such as the Beef Kits you have mentioned. It's worth noting that BC Agriculture in the Classroom's resources, including the Beef Kits, are accessible to educators across the province on the ShareEdBC platform, an online platform connecting educators to curated resources aligned with BC's curriculum to support collaborative resource sharing and discovery.

Regarding your suggestion for collaboration between Ministries, I am pleased to share that the province announced \$214 million for the Feeding Futures fund through Budget 2023, which is the largest investment in school food programs in the province's history. The Ministries of Education and Child Care and Agriculture and Food have been jointly working on the implementation of [Feeding Futures](#), which supports school districts to create and expand school food programs in BC. Through this initiative, The Ministries are also working together to integrate [Feed BC](#), bringing more local foods into BC schools. Bringing local foods into schools provides tangible opportunities for students to engage with BC's [food literacy-related curricular competencies](#) and build connections with local food producers and systems.

Boards of education have the responsibility for determining how learning resources are chosen for use in schools. The Ministry of Education and Child Care no longer conducts evaluation processes to recommend learning resources for school use. I recommend reaching out to local school boards and districts to discuss the Beef Kits resources being used in classrooms across the province. Local districts are best situated to select resources to ensure they are relevant and meaningful to students in order to support their learning in relation to the provincial curriculum.

Thank you again for your dedication and efforts to engage youth in agriculture. We value your input and look forward to further collaboration to advance agricultural education in our classrooms.

Sincerely,

Alana Petrella



Alana Petrella (she/her)

Senior Program Developer, School Food Literacy

Ministry of Agriculture and Food

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I acknowledge, with respect and gratitude, my privilege as a non-indigenous person to live and work in Cassyex House territory of the Wet'suwet'en First Nation