



# 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

September 10, 2025

**The Honourable Lana Popham**  
Minister of Agriculture and Food  
PO Box 9043, Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4  
[AF.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:AF.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

*BCCA File #: 2025-025  
SENT BY EMAIL*

Dear Minister Popham,

**Re: Urgent Request for Meat Inspection to Resume Immediately**

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The BC Cattlemen's Association is writing to request your attention to an urgent matter involving BC provincial meat inspection services. Meat inspection is a mandatory requirement on our industry and it is critical that the government continue to provide this service even during strike action.

This week, our office has received numerous calls from concerned ranchers who are unable to have their beef cattle processed at local abattoirs due to ongoing job action by the BC Government Employees Union. These issues not only affect the farm families themselves but also have ripple effects to farmers markets and local meat supplies in local retailers.

Many of these ranchers have diversified their operations to include sales at local farmers markets and through online platforms. However, without access to inspection services, they are unable to supply these markets with product. Unlike large retailers that maintain months of inventory, local producers harvest animals every week or two. Their operations directly support local abattoirs and play a vital role in sustaining rural economies.

Local abattoirs have been deeply impacted. Many of these abattoirs are family run small businesses who will feel the financial impact of the service shut downs for months to come. There will also be a backlog of animals at the abattoirs that will be unable to be processed requiring extra feed and care in the interim. These finished cattle are ready to be processed and the extra time on feed have a negative implication on the quality of the product.

Unfortunately, this situation is also impacting our 4-H youth, who are unable to have their beef projects inspected and processed for the annual provincial competitions and auctions that are happening in the coming days. It's deeply upsetting to explain to a young participant, who has dedicated an entire year to their beef carcass project, that they will not be able to have their hard work evaluated or auctioned at the annual fair. Many of the youth use the proceeds from their market animals to fund their education.

**BC Cattlemen's Association urges you to ensure continued access to meat inspection services during this labour disruption.** Agriculture should be recognized as an essential service, along with the crucial supporting services that sustain it.

We recognize the complexity of labour relations and support the rights of workers to negotiate fair contracts. However, at the same time, we feel it is critical to maintain essential services that support food safety, animal welfare, and economic resilience in BC's agricultural communities.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent issue, and for your continued support of BC agriculture. Please feel free to call me to discuss this matter further and find a workable solution, Ph 250-804-5136.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Werner Stump', enclosed within a faint, light-colored rectangular border.

Werner Stump, President

Cc: Michele Koski, Deputy Minister of Agriculture & Food [Michelle.Koski@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Michelle.Koski@gov.bc.ca)  
Gavin Last, Executive Director, Food Safety & Inspection Branch [Gavin.Last@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Gavin.Last@gov.bc.ca)