



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 12, 2025

Hon. Tamara J. Davidson
Minister of Environment and
Climate Change Strategy
PO Box 9360, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9M2
ENV.minister@gov.bc.ca

Hon. Randene Neill
Minister of Water, Land and
Resource Stewardship
PO Box 9012, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9L6
WLRS.minister@gov.bc.ca

Hon. Lana Popham
Minister of Agriculture and Food
PO Box 9043, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2
AF.Minister@gov.bc.ca

BCCA File #: 2025-027
SENT BY EMAIL

Dear Ministers,

Re: Request to Separate Agricultural Water from Industrial Use Category

For over a century, ranchers have played a key role in managing water in BC. We have been instrumental in creating water storage in this province and continue to work to protect and support multiple values through water management.

For generations, ranchers and farmers have understood that water is a precious and finite resource. This has led farm families to make significant investments in water-efficient technologies, conservation practices, and land stewardship. These efforts demonstrate our commitment to sustainable use and responsible management of the resource.

We are concerned that with the expansion of BC's mining sector and the emergence of industries such as AI data centers, agricultural users' distinct relationship with the environment will be overlooked. Therefore, BCCA is asking the province to establish a clear separation between industrial water use and water used for food production. While all water use is important, water for agricultural use provides an essential service to families and communities.

The Association respectfully urges your offices to support the establishment of a separate category for agricultural water use. This would protect the interests of ranchers and farmers and demonstrate your commitment to British Columbia's food security.

As British Columbia develops its watershed security strategy and water use plans, we urge that agricultural water use be given careful consideration and treated separately from industrial use.

Please feel free to contact me at the ranch, 250-804-5136, or our General Manager, Kevin Boon, at the BCCA office to discuss this request.

Yours truly,

Werner Stump, President