

October 21, 2024

File: 0280-30 Ref: 203248

Lara Beckett, Chair Regional District of Fraser-Fort George 155 George St Prince George, BC V2L 1P8 lbeckett@rdffg.bc.ca

Dear Chair Beckett, et al:

I would like to thank you for meeting with the Minister and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food's executive team during this year's Union of British Columbia Municipalities Annual Convention. I am pleased that our governments had the chance to connect in person.

During our meeting, we discussed the shortage of veterinarians in the region and your support for the student internship program. You brought forward the regional district's desire to expand the vet medical training program at the University of Northern BC and we discussed capacity and certification ideas.

We also discussed the discrepancies between Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) and BC Building Code, particularly as it applies to basements. Please reach out to Kim Grout, Chief Executive Officer of the ALC by phone at 236 468-3265 or email at kim.grout@gov.bc.ca to schedule a further discussion in this regard.

Finally, you voiced your concerns regarding issues with foreign ownership of agricultural land in your region, particularly for the purposes of wildlife tourism and what solutions could be implemented on a provincial level.

Facsimile: 250 356-8392

5th Fl, 545 Superior Street

Web Address: http://gov.bc.ca/agri/

Thank you again for the meeting and we look forward to working with the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George in the Future.

Sincerely,

Peter Pokorny

Deputy Minister

cc: Kim Grout, Chief Executive Officer, Agricultural Land Commission Eric Kristianson, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Dr. Theresa Burns, Chief Veterinarian, Ministry of Agriculture and Food