

# Ministry of Agriculture and Food

## 2026/27 – 2028/29 Service Plan

February 2026



For more information on the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, please contact us at:

PO BOX 9120

STN PROV GOVT VICTORIA, BC

V8W 9B4

1-888-221-7141

Or visit our website at

<http://www.gov.bc.ca/agri/>

Published by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food

## Minister's Accountability Statement



The Ministry of Agriculture and Food 2026/27 – 2028/29 Service Plan was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*. I am accountable for the basis on which the plan has been prepared.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lana Popham". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Honourable Lana Popham  
Minister of Agriculture and Food  
January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026

## Table of Contents

Minister's Accountability Statement .....	3
Strategic Direction.....	5
Purpose of the Ministry.....	6
Performance Planning .....	7
Financial Summary .....	10
Appendix A: Public Sector Organizations .....	11
Appendix B: Minister Mandate Letter.....	12

## Strategic Direction

In 2026/27, the Government of British Columbia will prioritize support for people by taking action to make life better for everyone.

Despite a challenging fiscal environment due to global uncertainty, trade relationship reordering, and low resource prices, over the past year Government made significant progress on efforts to reduce costs for British Columbians, hire more doctors and nurses, and build more homes, hospitals and schools, faster. Government will continue to advance these key priorities even as tariffs, trade policies, and instability outside of the province's borders continue to put pressure on the province's finances.

Ongoing fiscal pressure means all parts of Government must continue to do their part to maximize efficiencies and make sure every dollar counts.

To respond to these extraordinary times, Government will focus on expanding trade and investment both within Canada and abroad and delivering major projects that offer good jobs and opportunities for people and communities. This focus on economic growth and prosperity is critical to delivering the revenue needed to provide services and infrastructure.

Good relationships and mutually beneficial partnerships with First Nations are critical to building a better future for everyone in British Columbia. Government will continue working diligently to implement the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan. Through collaboration and open dialogue, we aim to foster trust, stability and certainty for all.

This 2026/27 service plan outlines how the Ministry of Agriculture and Food will support the Government's priorities and selected action items identified in the Minister's most recent [Mandate Letter](#).

## Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food (the Ministry) is responsible for supporting the production, marketing, processing and merchandising of agriculture and seafood products; the implementation and carrying out of advisory, research, promotional, sustainability and adaptation, food safety and plant and animal health programs; providing business risk management programs including agriculture insurance and income stability programs; and the collection of information and preparation and dissemination of statistics relating to agriculture and seafood, supporting the province's food security and developing a resilient food system and economy.

The Ministry is a key contributor to economic development and diversification across the province and is a main contributor to rural economic development and province-wide job creation, particularly for small businesses. The agriculture, seafood and food and beverage sector create economic and social benefits for Indigenous groups and other underrepresented groups, has the potential to attract provincial investment, and contributes to workforce development and skills training.

The legal and regulatory environment that guides the work of the Ministry includes 30 statutes which relate wholly or primarily to the Ministry. A [complete list of legislation for which the Ministry is responsible](#) for is available online.

In July 2025 the Ministry assumed responsibility for the [Liquor Distribution Branch](#) (LDB) and the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB) which oversee provincial [liquor](#) and [cannabis](#) (cannabis) regulations, licensing, inspections, service and sales.

The LDB is responsible for the wholesale distribution and retail sale of beverage alcohol and cannabis. The [Liquor Distribution Act](#) (LDA) gives the LDB the sole right to purchase beverage alcohol both within B.C. and from outside the province, in accordance to the federal [Importation of Intoxicating Liquors Act](#). The [Cannabis Distribution Act](#) (CDA) establishes a government wholesale distribution model for cannabis, private cannabis retail stores, and a public run e-commerce retail channel.

## Performance Planning

### Discussion of Changes

The 2026/27 – 2028/29 Service Plan has been revised to reflect the addition of the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch, and to ensure the Ministry is well-positioned to fulfill the goals and objectives outlined in the July 2025 Minister’s Mandate-Letter.

## Goal 1: Explore Opportunities to build and Maintain a Competitive and Profitable Agriculture and Food Sector

### Performance Measures

Performance Measure	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Target	2027/28 Target	2028/29 Target
1.1 Number of B.C. agriculture and food businesses accessing Ministry market readiness and trade diversification programs and services. <sup>1</sup>	425	464	479	499

Data source: Ministry of Agriculture and Food program reporting

<sup>1</sup>Data includes export market programs including BCAFE, pre-trade show training, Feed BC and Buy BC supported B2B, webinar attendance and resource downloads

**Objective 1.1: Review Ministry programs and supports to identify opportunities to strengthen viability, productivity, and expand market access for growth-ready businesses.**

**Objective 1.2: Support food and beverage producers, processors, and retailers by reviewing regulatory barriers and ensuring flexibility in agritourism, and by fostering cross-sector collaboration.**

**Objective 1.3: Develop an operational framework to guide, attract and leverage capital investment to strengthen infrastructure, and support high-potential clusters and value-chains that drive competitiveness and growth.**

**Objective 1.4: Explore opportunities to advance economic reconciliation and support First Nations and Indigenous communities in developing food, agriculture, and cannabis enterprises.**

## Goal 2: B.C.'s Agriculture and Food Sector is Equipped to Manage Risk and Adapt to Change

### Performance Measures

Performance Measure	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Target	2027/28 Target	2028/29 Target
2.3a Percentage of BC Premises Identification (BCPID) operations and accounts that meet defined reliability and completeness standards for emergency use. <sup>1</sup>	60%	65%	70%	75%

Data source:

2.3a Ministry of Agriculture and Food BCPID online system reporting

<sup>1</sup>Defined as a measure of active accounts with complete information essential for emergency response

**Objective 2.1: Explore opportunities to improve access to land and water for agricultural purposes and ensure their efficient and responsible use; explore adoption of productivity-enhancing technologies to advance workforce development.**

**Objective 2.2: Support early awareness and understanding of emerging risks related to market uncertainty, climate impacts, and pests and diseases, helping to safeguard public health through strong monitoring, diagnostics and communication systems.**

**Objective 2.3: Strengthen sector and business preparedness and emergency management to reduce vulnerability to disasters, diseases, and disruptions.**

**Objective 2.4: Review licensing, enforcement, and permitting for opportunities to incorporate risk-informed regulatory approaches that support innovation and efficiency.**



### **Goal 3: Modernize British Columbia's liquor licensing and enforcement system to focus enforcement on high-risk and repeat non-compliant businesses, and to expedite and simplify licensing**

#### **Performance Measures**

<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>2025/26 Forecast</b>	<b>2026/27 Target</b>	<b>2027/28 Target</b>	<b>2028/29 Target</b>
3.1 Cumulative* number of rules streamlined or simplified to support risk-based licensing and compliance approaches.	13	23	33	43

\*Baseline for running total used from 2025

**Objective 3.1: Explore risk-based, innovative approaches to simplify licensing and permitting to grow our economy by supporting alcohol and cannabis producers, manufacturers, restaurants and the agri-tourism sector.**

**Objective 3.2: Support the liquor and cannabis industry by continuing the reduction of regulatory barriers, and by fostering cross-sector collaboration.**

**Objective 3.3: Support the safety of licensed spaces and explore opportunities to reduce the negative societal impacts from alcohol and cannabis on the population.**

## Financial Summary

(\$000s)	2025/26 Restated Estimates <sup>1</sup>	2026/27 Estimates	2027/28 Plan	2028/29 Plan
<b>Operating Expenses</b>				
Science, Policy, and Inspection	21,477	21,477	19,542	19,542
Industry Competitiveness	47,092	47,840	48,203	48,203
Programs and Sector Resilience	20,241	20,241	17,136	17,067
Liquor and Cannabis Regulation	10,584	10,584	10,584	10,584
BC Farm Industry Review Board	1,465	1,465	1,465	1,465
Executive and Support Services	6,447	6,405	6,405	6,405
Agricultural Land Commission	5,500	5,500	5,500	5,500
Production Insurance Account	38,349	21,209	21,467	21,797
<b>Total</b>	<b>151,155</b>	<b>134,721</b>	<b>130,302</b>	<b>130,563</b>
<b>Capital Expenditures</b>				
Executive and Support Services	853	922	922	922
<b>Total</b>	<b>853</b>	<b>922</b>	<b>922</b>	<b>922</b>

<sup>1</sup> For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2025/26 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2026/27 Estimates.

\* Further information on program funding and vote recoveries is available in the [Estimates and Supplement to the Estimates](#).

## Appendix A: Public Sector Organizations

As of February 2026, the Minister of Agriculture and Food is responsible and accountable for the following organizations:

### **Agricultural Land Commission**

The Provincial [Agricultural Land Commission](#) (ALC) is the independent administrative tribunal dedicated to preserving agricultural land and encouraging farming in B.C. The ALC is responsible for administering the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), a provincial land use zone where agriculture is the primary land use taking place on the limited agricultural land base.

### **British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board**

The [British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board](#) (the Board) is an independent administrative tribunal that operates at arm's-length from government. As the regulatory tribunal responsible for the general supervision of B.C. regulated marketing boards and commissions, the Board provides oversight, policy direction and decisions to ensure orderly marketing and to protect the public interest. In its adjudicative capacities, the Board provides a less formal system than the court for resolving disputes in a timely and cost-effective way.

### **B.C. Indigenous Advisory Council on Agriculture and Food**

The [B.C. Indigenous Advisory Council on Agriculture and Food \(IACAF\)](#) is a unique platform for collaboration between the Ministry and Indigenous Council Members to advance Indigenous priorities in food security, sovereignty, and economic development. It promotes Indigenous leadership and equitable participation in the agriculture and food sector, supporting the Ministry's reconciliation efforts under the [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#) and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.

### **Marketing Boards and Commissions**

The Marketing Boards and Commissions include:

[BC Broiler Hatching Egg Commission](#)

[BC Chicken Marketing Board](#)

[BC Cranberry Marketing Commission](#)

[BC Egg Marketing Board](#)

[BC Hog Marketing Commission](#)

[BC Milk Marketing Board](#)

[BC Turkey Marketing Board](#)

[BC Vegetable Marketing Commission](#)

### **BC Liquor Distribution Branch**

The [BC Liquor Distribution Branch](#) (LDB) is responsible for the wholesale distribution and retail sale of beverage alcohol and cannabis.

## Appendix B: Minister Mandate Letter



July 17, 2025

Honourable Lana Popham  
Minister of Agriculture and Food  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Popham:

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Agriculture and Food at a critical time for our province. Serving as a member of the executive council is a privilege and responsibility which I am confident you will fulfill with integrity and a commitment to the people of our province.

British Columbians have trusted us with a mandate to deliver for them in ways that make a tangible difference in their daily lives. They expect us to listen and learn from people of different perspectives – and work together to make things better for everyone.

Specifically, we will tackle the challenges people worry about at the kitchen table:

- **Grow the economy by creating good jobs across British Columbia.** We will collaborate with businesses, workers, and communities to attract investments in both new and traditional sectors as well as emerging sectors of the economy. This approach will bring certainty for business, security for workers, and generate the wealth needed to support the essential services British Columbians rely on.
- **Reduce costs for families,** including by helping people access homes they can afford through support for first-time homebuyers, increasing the supply of rental housing stock, and stronger measures to crack down on housing speculation.

.../2

- **Strengthen health care** by expanding access to family doctors and recruiting and training more health professionals, ensuring that every British Columbian can access the care they need, no matter where they live. We will also increase access to addictions treatment and provide help for people whose struggles require intensive supports.
- **Make our neighbourhoods and communities safer** by working with law enforcement and social agencies to address street disorder, crack down on organized crime, and do all we can to ensure repeat offenders stay behind bars.

Our commitment to take action on climate change remains foundational and will be key to a healthy and prosperous BC for future generations.

Underlying all this work is our partnership with Indigenous peoples. Advancing reconciliation, implementing the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* and working in partnership with First Nations rights-holders to advance shared interests is the responsibility of every Minister.

Over this mandate I expect you to prioritize making progress on the following:

- In order to protect key services that British Columbians rely on, work with the Minister of Finance to review all existing Ministry of Agriculture and Food programs and initiatives to ensure programs remain relevant, are efficient and make life better for BC families by supporting BC farmers and food producers. This is important in the context of current Provincial budget constraints, market conditions, tariff threats and the economic realities of farmers.
- Help grow the profitability and success of our agricultural sector by ensuring close connection between agricultural stakeholders and government policy makers through a Premier's Task Force with connections to relevant ministries across government.
- Support work led by the Ministry of Jobs and Economic Growth by working with farmers and food producers, and customers of British Columbia's agricultural products in:
  - advocating against proposed tariffs from the United States and ensuring continued expansion of our agricultural export programs for the mutual success of British Columbians and our trading partners;
  - expanding global markets for our products to diversify and reduce trade risk; and,
  - preparing contingency plans in the event that tariffs are imposed.
- Assume the role of government's liaison to the restaurant industry. In partnership with the Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport, be innovative in finding ways to connect farmers, restaurants and the tourism sector to grow all three sectors.

- Modernize British Columbia's liquor licensing and enforcement system to focus enforcement on high-risk and repeat non-compliant businesses, and to expedite and simplify permits. Use examples like Ontario to inform program design.
- Grow our economy by supporting food and beverage producers, farmers, restaurants and the tourism sector with flexible liquor, land use and cannabis regulations in relation to the development of innovative tourism products and unique experiences.
- Ensure a continuation of public support for the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), including protection of BC families from food price shocks, promotion of financial success for farmers, access to farming as a career for aspiring farmers and expanded economic growth in the province.
- Ensure that ALR land use restrictions are consistent with the potential and available uses of the actual land in the reserve, and that provision is made to expand food processing in the province to grow our food processing sector.
- Expand affordability and food security in the province by working with farmers to find ways to control costs for them and for the BC families who rely on their products, and by advocating with the federal government for fair programs for British Columbia food producers.
- Strengthen our regional food systems by supporting farming, expanding local food processing, identifying supply chain disruption vulnerabilities, and by increasing economic opportunities through FeedBC and BuyBC.

To assist you in meeting the commitments we have made to British Columbians, you are assigned a Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture whose focus will be to:

- Work with you to ensure that farmers and food and beverage producers across the province are represented and heard through the policy development process.
- Work with farmers and food and beverage producers in the Okanagan valley who have been impacted by significant weather-related crop loss.
- Work with Indigenous communities to identify opportunities for expansion of food security initiatives as well as economic development opportunities for rural and remote Indigenous communities.
- Make particular efforts to reach out to young people interested in agriculture and farming to identify their concerns and interests and ensure they are represented at the table.

You will work closely together and ensure your Parliamentary Secretary receives appropriate support to deliver on this work.

As you are aware, we have established an accord with the BC Green Caucus that supports our shared commitment to ensuring stable governance focused on delivering progress and tangible outcomes for British Columbians. The commitments in that accord complement the direction in these mandate letters.

As a Cabinet, we will uphold the highest standards of ethics, collaboration, and good conduct in service of the public, and as a Minister of the Crown, you are expected to review, understand, and act according to the Members' Conflict of Interest Act. You will establish a collaborative working relationship with your Deputy Minister and the public servants under their direction, who provide the professional, non-partisan advice that is fundamental to delivering on our government's priorities. Your Minister's Office must meet the highest standards for integrity and provide a respectful, rewarding environment for all staff.

The work we have ahead takes place in a profoundly challenging geopolitical environment. Close friends and neighbours to our south are contemplating imposing draconian tariffs on our products that would hurt both Americans and Canadians. Our allies internationally face governmental instability. Hate and racism are on the rise around the world. Artificial intelligence breakthroughs with unclear implications and astonishing potential are announced daily. Global inflation, snarled supply chains, and war are threatening global economic growth and prosperity as well as the transition to a low-carbon economy.


We have an obligation to protect and defend British Columbians, as well as seize opportunities, in these uncertain times.

The good news is that we have everything we need to succeed, and we will succeed. British Columbia's people – our workers, entrepreneurs, business leaders, artists, and innovators – are among the most talented in the world. We are home to world-class educational institutions and public services. Our natural beauty is unmatched, we have internationally envied resources, and we are one of the most diverse places on the planet. Your job is to help us leverage these advantages in perilous times.

Use this mandate letter to guide your work, and do not be afraid to challenge assumptions, or be innovative, bold and aggressive in achieving the goals set out for you and your Ministry by the people of this province.

Thank you for joining me in the work ahead.

Sincerely,



David Eby, KC  
Premier

cc: Harwinder Sandhu  
Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture