

Ministry of Agriculture and Food

2025/26 Annual Service Plan Report

August 2026



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Minister's Accountability Statement



The Ministry of Agriculture and Food 2025/26 Annual Service Plan Report compares the Ministry's actual results to the expected results identified in the 2025/26 – 2027/28 Service Plan published in 2025. I am accountable for those results as reported.

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

Honourable Lana Popham
Minister of Agriculture and Food
July 31, 2026

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Letter from the Minister

I am pleased to share the Ministry of Agriculture and Food's 2025/26 Annual Service Plan Report, highlighting our performance, priorities and achievements from April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026.

Across British Columbia, I'm hearing a consistent message. People want food to remain affordable, farmland to be protected, and more of what we produce to be processed here at home—creating jobs and strengthening our economy. We are also hearing clearly that British Columbians love B.C. farmers, value the work they do, and want to see them grow, thrive, and be successful. There is strong, heartfelt support for the people who grow and raise our food, and a shared desire to see a vibrant and prosperous agricultural sector that can continue to expand and meet future demand. Many are also concerned about pressure on agricultural land from speculation and foreign investment, and about ensuring our finite farmland is used to produce food for future generations.

These concerns have become more urgent as global instability, shifting trade conditions and climate change continue to challenge food systems worldwide. Climate change is no longer distant for agriculture, it is being felt directly by farmers, ranchers and producers across our province. More frequent and severe wildfires, prolonged drought, unpredictable precipitation and extreme temperatures have placed real pressure on crops, livestock and farm operations. These events have affected yields, increased costs and added uncertainty to an already complex sector. They reinforce the importance of a strong, resilient and locally rooted agriculture and food system, and highlight the challenges farmers face in an increasingly uncertain future.

We also recognize that these pressures were not only financial and operational, they were deeply personal. Farmers and farm families have faced challenges they have not seen before, and the cumulative stress of climate impacts, market volatility, rising costs and uncertainty is taking a real toll on mental health across the sector. We recognize the importance of mental health and well-being in farming communities and the value of ongoing collaboration among governments, industry and community organizations to support awareness and access to available resources.

Through it all, B.C.'s farmers, ranchers, producers and processors continue to demonstrate the resilience, innovation and determination that define our agriculture and food sector. Our role is to support them as they adapt, grow and seize new opportunities.

Working closely with industry, we've focused on targeted investments that help farmers access and store more water, adopt labour saving agritech, replant after losses, promote B.C. products, and strengthen resilience against climate impacts and disease. These investments are helping ensure British Columbia can continue producing more of the food people rely on every day.

This past year also brought an important change with the BC Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch and the Liquor Distribution Branch joining the ministry. This strengthens our ability to

modernize B.C.'s liquor and cannabis industries while creating new opportunities for economic growth and value-added production.

We've also been active in promoting B.C. agriculture and food across Canada and around the world. I was proud to represent our province on a trade mission to Japan, South Korea and Malaysia, helping diversify markets, strengthen relationships and create new opportunities for B.C. producers. At international events such as Seafood Expo North America, we've ensured B.C. businesses have a strong presence and access to global buyers. At home, programs like Feed BC and Buy BC continue to connect British Columbians with food grown and produced close to home, strengthening food security and supporting farmers and processors.

We also remain focused on building long term resiliency in our agriculture sector. The poultry industry continues to recover from avian influenza, which has had a significant emotional and financial impact on farm families. We're supporting producers through enhanced biosecurity and disease prevention programs and investing in a new state-of-the-art Plant and Animal Health Centre to strengthen our ability to protect animal health and respond to emerging threats.

This new centre is a forward-looking investment. With the previous facility affected by flooding, we are building infrastructure that reflects the realities of a changing climate and supports a modern, resilient food system.

As we look ahead, we know there is more work to do. Protecting farmland, supporting the people who grow and produce our food, strengthening food processing in British Columbia and ensuring a secure, sustainable food supply will continue to guide our work. By working in partnership with producers, processors, Indigenous communities, industry and local governments, we can build a stronger, more resilient agriculture and food system that serves British Columbians today and for generations to come.

Honourable Lana Popham
Minister of Agriculture and Food
July 31, 2026

Purpose of the Annual Service Plan Report

This annual service plan report has been developed to meet the requirements of the Budget Transparency and Accountability Act (BTAA), which sets out the legislative framework for planning, reporting and accountability for Government organizations. Under the BTAA, the Minister is required to report on the actual results of the Ministry's performance related to the forecasted targets stated in the service plan for the reported year.

Strategic Direction

The strategic direction set by Government in 2024 and Minister Lana Popham's 2025 Mandate Letter of [January 2025](#) shaped the goals, objectives, performance measures and financial plan outlined in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food [2025/26 – 2027/28 Service Plan](#) and the actual results reported on in this annual report.

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, including diagnostic laboratory services, disease surveillance, and emergency response activities that support the detection, prevention, and management of plant and animal pests and diseases; 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 28 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 with 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.

Report on Performance: Goals, Objectives, and Results

The following goals, objectives and performance measures have been restated from the 2025/26 – 2027/28 service plan. For forward-looking planning information, including current and future performance targets, please see the [latest service plan](#).

Goal 1: Strengthen B.C.'s food security and provincial food systems

Objective 1.1: Strengthen the capacity in the provincial food systems and increase economic opportunities for farmers, ranchers, and processors

Integrated programs targeting industry renewal and competitiveness, sustainability, and capacity will address gaps in food supply resilience, drive economic opportunities and job growth across the sector, increase the safety and availability of local food, and build the sustainability and reliability of the provincial food system.

Key results

- Established a Premier's Task Force on Agriculture and Food Economy to provide strategic external advice to government on growing B.C.'s food economy and ensuring reliable access to healthy, affordable food. In 2025, the Task Force met to talk about five key topics: water, competitiveness, labour and talent, land and investment. They came up with 32 recommendations for government to consider, all aimed to help strengthen B.C.'s agriculture and food economy.
- Provided 160 applicants with funding support for domestic market development activities through the cost-shared Buy BC Partnership Program, as well as over 1,600 companies are now logo licenced.
- Piloted the Buy BC Merchandising Team at 66 local retailers (132 total banner visits) to improve Buy BC retailer partnerships and consumer brand awareness through in-store sampling, signage support and store manager education.
- Delivered pre-tradeshow training and hosted a Buy BC Pavillion at two major tradeshow Grocery & Specialty Food West (37 companies) and Canadian Health Food Association Now West/Vancouver (13 companies).
- Developed strategic partnerships through Buy BC and Feed BC, including high profile announcements with BC Ferries and Sodexo Live! at the Vancouver Convention Center.

- Successful Feed BC partnership advocacy for B.C. food in institutional market channels, where both the post-secondary and health authorities are reported over the 30% B.C.-sourced food metrics.

Summary of progress made in 2025/26

The suite of programs offered by the Ministry that support this objective are long standing and relied-upon initiatives that continue to show improved outcomes and increased capacity of B.C. farmers, ranchers, and processors. The Buy BC program continues to see increasing interest in becoming logo licensed and participation in the cost-shared funding program to support companies access to domestic market channels, as well as the Merchandising Team delivery, strengthens brand recognition and consumer awareness of the program. Feed BC has established strong working relationships with partners that drive demand and availability of B.C. foods into B.C. institutional markets, including healthcare, post-secondary and K-12 schools.

Objective 1.2: Working with Indigenous people on food security initiatives and economic development opportunities

Working in partnership with First Nations rights-holders and Indigenous Peoples to advance responsive reconciliation actions, the implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, and to uphold Indigenous self-determination remains a priority and responsibility for the Ministry.

Key results

- The B.C. Indigenous Advisory Council on Agriculture and Food (IACAF) continued working with the Ministry to advance priorities, including economic revitalization, investment in Indigenous food systems, addressing policy gaps affecting access to traditional foods and promoting awareness and education. IACAF has partnered with Indigenous Tourism BC to support food sovereignty and tourism opportunities training initiative and guided the development of decision-making tools for Indigenous enterprises through six journey maps featuring market opportunities.
- A greenhouse management training initiative was launched with support from IACAF and the Ministry, with resources and training developed and delivered by an Indigenous Professional Agrologist. The greenhouse initiative provided 26 participants with one-on-one consultation support, reached over 80 participants through four virtual workshops and developed several online resources.
- The B.C. Indigenous Pathfinder Service provided one-on-one program navigation and coaching support for Indigenous clients to over 345 direct inquiries in 2025/26.
- The Food Systems Program delivered by I-SPARC supported 337 food security projects in 112 unique Indigenous communities, impacting 7,320+ individuals, including 1,836 school-aged youth and 515 Elders.
 - Four Indigenous-led projects were supported through the Indigenous Food Pathways Program. These projects were selected through a

competitive process, with strategic and provincial scale impact to support leadership and capacity growth in Indigenous food and agriculture.

- The Ministry provided funding support for a fisheries transition project with Kitsumkalum First Nation for the development of a dual fishery business model that can serve both commercial objectives and food, social and ceremonial purposes. This work reflects progress toward strengthening Indigenous-led economic development while supporting culturally important food security outcomes.
- Feed BC hosted a four-part “Cooking in Two Worlds” learning journey for 21 staff from kindergarten to Grade 12 schools and school districts to continue to expand access to traditional foods in public institutions.

Summary of progress made in 2025/26

Indigenous Peoples’ food security initiatives and economic development opportunities advanced through activities prioritizing Indigenous-led capacity development, training and applied agricultural supports. Training and supports included: B.C. Indigenous Pathfinder Service; hands-on technical coaching and training from Indigenous subject matter experts; establishment of peer networking opportunities; and, the development of new tools and resources, including materials tailored to small- and medium-scale Indigenous producers.

Partnerships with Indigenous organizations and other agencies were strengthened through the Ministry’s work with IACAF, and the Ministry’s co-led work with the First Nations Health Authority on the First Peoples’ Food Sovereignty Table. These partnerships improved collaboration and collective understanding of Indigenous Peoples’ perspectives and priorities for food security and food systems in B.C.

Objective 1.3: Expand the data available on the Agricultural Land Reserve

Ensuring that the ministry has access to comprehensive data and information on the usage of Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) is essential for informed land use decision-making. This information plays a pivotal role in guiding various ministry and government priorities, while also facilitating collaboration with farmers, industry stakeholders, and government entities in the development of long-term planning strategies and the enhancement of food security within the province.

Key results

- Agricultural Land Inventories (ALI) completed for 58% of parcels in the ALR, with more than 1.3 million Hectares mapped, providing comprehensive, standardized data on current land use and production potential within the ALR.
- Two phases of a three-phase Research and Development initiative have been completed towards establishing methods, tools, and partnerships required to update ALI data on a five-year cycle, improving data currency and consistency.

- An online ALI data portal is in the final stage of development. This portal will provide timely, user-friendly access to ALI information, supporting evidence-based decision-making, collaboration with partners, and provincial long-term planning to strengthen food security.

Summary of progress made in 2025/26

The area of ALR with completed ALIs increased from 663,000 hectares in 2023/24 to 1.36 million hectares in 2025/26, while remote sensing research and development is advancing approaches to maintain data currency through regular updates, and new online tools are being developed to provide timely access to ALI data.

Performance measure(s) and related discussion

Performance Measure	2023/24 Baseline	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Target	2025/26 Actual
1a Number of government or other Feed BC partner facilities that have committed towards a minimum 30 percent of B.C. food expenditures within total annual food expenditures ¹	201	225	219	227
1b Number of Buy BC logo licensed products ²	7,500	10,937	10,500	14,289

Data source: Ministry of Agriculture and Food

¹PM 1.a targets for 2026/27 and 2027/28 were stated in the 2025/26 service plan as 227 and 234, respectively.

²PM 1.b targets for 2026/27 and 2027/28 were stated in the 2025/26 service plan as 12,000 and 13,500, respectively.

The Ministry continued to see strong uptake in the Buy BC logo licencing program, with increased companies participating and more products licenced. Capitalizing on growing interest from consumers and buyers, Buy BC has targeted key areas such as expanded social media and web content, and working through retail partnerships and tradeshow to increase the number of logo licensed products.

Goal 2: Support the B.C. agriculture and food sector to be competitive and profitable while adapting to climate change

Objective 2.1: Improve emergency preparedness and climate resilience

In 2025/26, climate-related events, pests and pathogens continued to create risks for producers, livestock, crops, infrastructure, food supply chains and rural communities. The ministry's emergency management and climate resilience work focused on understanding agriculture-sector risk, strengthening governance, supporting on-farm resilience, enhancing preparedness, and building capacity with partners.

Key Results

- Improved agriculture-sector emergency risk awareness by using climate, water, animal health, premises identification and geospatial information, while addressing Office of the Auditor General audit findings to strengthen B.C. Premises Identification data reliability. Maintained a network of 250 agricultural weather monitoring stations across B.C.
- Strengthened emergency management governance by advancing the Emergency Management Team's role in coordinating agriculture-sector preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery.
- Supported producers in strengthening on-farm resilience and preparedness for extreme weather events through more than 1,200 environmental stewardship, farm planning and technology adoption projects and plans delivered through environmental and resilience-focused programs, including the Beneficial Management Practices Program, Environmental Farm Plan, Agri-Ecosystem Stewardship Initiative and On-Farm Technology Adoption Program.
- Enhanced preparedness for high-risk plant and animal health events, including Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, through coordination with technical leads, industry and government partners, and the Novel Tools and Technologies Program.
- Built local and regional emergency management capacity by supporting local authorities, First Nations, Indigenous Peoples, regional districts and industry organizations with agriculture-sector information, planning support and emergency preparedness tools.

Summary of progress made in 2025/26

The Ministry continued to advance efforts to strengthen climate resilience and emergency preparedness in the agriculture sector by delivering targeted funding and supports to producers. Through environmental and resilience-focused programs, producers were supported to adopt practices and technologies that improve their ability to respond to extreme weather events and changing climate conditions.

Objective 2.2: Continue to optimize Business Risk Management programs to meet the recovery needs of B.C. farmers when they experience a catastrophic loss event

The Business Risk Management (BRM) suite (Production Insurance, AgriStability, AgriRecovery, AgriInvest, Agricultural Wildlife Compensation) assists B.C.'s viable agricultural producers to recover from extreme loss events beyond their control, including production losses, severe market volatility, extreme weather events, and disasters. The BRM suite of programs evolve through continual review of policy, design and administrative processes so the programs meet the recovery needs of viable B.C. farmers when catastrophic loss events occur.

Key results

- Improvements to BRM client service were made in the following areas:
 - An AgriStability “Notice of Loss” process was implemented which resulted in a majority of farms with payable claims using and receiving significantly faster claim payments (\$14 million).
 - The full suite of BRM web pages was rebuilt resulting in improved and enhanced marketing and communication, making the program more accessible for farmers.
- Support equity under the AgriStability program was increased by enabling the inclusion of feed costs associated with rented pasture as an allowable expense in advance of the 2026 program year.
- Increased trade risk for farm exports was mitigated through a significant increase in the compensation rate (from 80 percent to 90 percent) for the 2025 program year.

Summary of progress made in 2025/26

Business Risk Management programs are able to better meet the recovery needs of B.C. farmers when they experience a catastrophic loss event, as a result of program changes directly informed through engagement with farmers through B.C.’s Risk Management Advisory Committee, multiple Commodity Advisory Committees, and other formal and informal discussions with farmers.

Performance measure(s) and related discussion

Performance Measure	2023/24 Baseline	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Target	2025/26 Actual
2a Number of beneficial management practice projects* completed by farmers which support climate resilient agriculture practices and technologies ¹	653	701	800	475

Data source: Ministry of Agriculture and Food (*includes BMP and EWP projects)

¹PM 2a targets for 2026/27 and 2027/28 were stated in the 2025/26 service plan as 800 and 800 respectively.

Results in 2025/26 were lower than target due to reduced funding following one time increases in the previous year. To support the B.C. government’s expenditure reduction and increased efficiency efforts, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food reduced program spending across several areas including the Beneficial Management Program.

Goal 3: Support the agriculture, food and beverage sector in growing and diversifying domestic and international markets

Objective 3.1: Increase the capacity and manage risks for the B.C. agriculture, food and beverage sector to expand domestic and international competitiveness

Leveraging B.C.'s agriculture, food and beverage sector's competitive advantages, addressing barriers to growth and building capacity to capitalize on market opportunities will enable business and job growth.

Key results

- Launched Processor Productivity Program to help processors identify and implement operational productivity improvements and increase competitiveness.
- Delivered five market readiness and pre-trade show training webinars to 326 participants to support B.C. agriculture and food companies growing and diversifying into new markets and market channels. 50 companies received one-to-one coaching as part of the pre-trade show training program.
- Supported 15 companies to learn more about exporting to the United States through the New Exporters to Border States (NEBS) mission to Washington State. The mission included market readiness and access training sessions with in-market wholesalers and logistics service providers as well as site tours and meetings with retail buyers.

Summary of progress made in 2025/26

Uncertain market dynamics in 2025/26, including geo-political implications, trade risks, and affordability challenges impacted B.C. competitiveness. Ministry action focused on increasing sector capacity by creating awareness of market opportunities and considerations, informing activities through market research and planning, and preparing companies to meet market requirements. In essence, providing information, training, and in-market opportunities to companies so they can be successful in entering into new, or expanding into existing markets (domestic, interprovincial, or international).

Objective 3.2: Expand and diversify B.C. agriculture, food and beverage export markets

B.C.'s broad array of products and strong international reputation for high food safety standards positions the sector to expand export opportunities. Increasing and diversifying export sales increases the long-term resiliency of the sector by reducing market risk and contributes to economic growth and job creation across the province.

Key results

- Supported 66 B.C. companies to participate and promote at international trade shows and business-to-business match making activities in partnership with the Ministry of Jobs and Economic Growth (JEG) to deliver agriculture and seafood trade events.
- Provided \$1.6M in funding to 68 companies to support export market development activities through the cost-shared funding B.C. Agriculture and Food Export Program.

Summary of progress made in 2025/26

In response to a year of significant global market uncertainty and geo-political challenges, the Ministry sought to expand export market readiness training and create more market diversification opportunities via tradeshow participation. The delivery of pre-tradeshow training and webinar series improved the readiness and success of companies at tradeshow and international market development activities.

The expansion of the JEG MOU to include two new shows in Mexico and South-East Asia created new market opportunities focused on diversification priorities as identified by B.C.'s Trade Diversification Strategy, and the continued impact of the B.C. Agriculture and Food Export Program to allow B.C. companies to participate in in-market promotional activities, ensuring the development of strong consumer awareness and demand of B.C. products.

Objective 3.3: Support market access through a high standard of animal and plant health programming and diagnostic services

Plant and animal health and welfare are key factors in increasing the production of a wide range of agricultural products for domestic consumption, for sustaining and building public confidence in those products, and for maintaining international trade. Strategies that enhance and protect plant and animal health and welfare in the province are critical to growing and diversifying domestic and export markets.

Key results

- Provided diagnostic, surveillance, prevention, and response programs for trade-limiting diseases such as Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) and African Swine Fever (ASF). This included conducting avian influenza tests to detect disease in sick birds, support rapid outbreak response, and enable business continuity for healthy flocks. The Ministry developed new capacity for avian influenza genetic sequencing at the PAHC. The first influenza genome was sequenced in early 2026. Sequences from animals are monitored for mutations of concern for human health and are compared directly to influenza sequences from humans as part of pandemic prevention.
- The Plant and Animal Health Centre (PAHC) delivered comprehensive plant and animal health diagnostic services to clients, to support disease surveillance,

monitoring, regulatory requirements, food safety, animal welfare, agricultural sustainability, and market access.

- The Ministry increased the number of veterinary professionals, and veterinary students working in rural veterinary practices that service food animals, creating new capacity equal to approximately generated 180 additional days of care by licensed veterinarians; and 2000 days of professional student work in food animal practices, strengthening the on the ground animal health and welfare assurance systems that increase market access.

Summary of progress made in 2025/26

The strong performance reflects several contributing factors, including increased uptake of the B.C. Agriculture and Food Export program following two intake periods during the year, expanded participation through export-focused webinars and trade shows, and growth in Feed BC directory listings. Together, these initiatives broadened the Ministry's reach to a greater number of businesses than anticipated.

Objective 3.4: Supporting Plant and Animal Health

The B.C. Plant and Animal Health Centre (PAHC) sustained significant flood-related damage during the atmospheric river event of November 2021. While extensive rehabilitation work enabled the facility to resume operations, its long-term viability remains uncertain due to ongoing seismic vulnerabilities and its location within a floodplain. A subsequent flood event in December 2025 further highlighted these risks. The PAHC is now preparing to relocate to another site outside of the floodplain zone.

PAHC provides zoonotic disease surveillance, helping to safeguard public health in B.C. This was demonstrated during concurrent outbreaks of HPAI, COVID-19, and Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), which led to significant surges in testing demand to determine the scope of outbreaks and assess the effectiveness of response measures.

Key results

- The Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Ministry of Infrastructure continue to advance plans for a new Plant and Animal Health Centre (PAHC) facility to ensure the long-term sustainability and resilience of British Columbia's critical plant, animal, and public health diagnostic services. As the only licensed, accredited, staffed, and fully equipped facility in the province capable of providing these services, PAHC plays an essential role in supporting disease surveillance, emergency response, food security, and the prevention of trade disruptions affecting B.C.'s agriculture sector.
- The PAHC Relocation Project successfully completed the Request for Qualifications phase and is now advancing to the next stage of procurement through a competitive Design-Build process. This important milestone advances the development of a new, resilient PAHC that will ensure the long-term sustainability of British Columbia's critical plant, animal, and public health diagnostic services.

- Strengthening disease surveillance and biosecurity, the Ministry developed and implemented 'world's first' cutting edge methods for determining if avian influenza is present in air and sediment samples, and ~400 air and 250 sediment samples from the Fraser Valley were tested.
- The PAHC and the Office of the Chief Veterinarian (OCV) developed and implemented 32 projects addressing priority issues such as Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), Salmonella Enteritidis, Little Cherry Disease, and Agrobacterium biocontrol in blueberries, etc. These initiatives support producers through enhanced surveillance, monitoring, prevention, and management of pests and diseases affecting British Columbia's agriculture sector.
- In partnership with the BC Centre for Disease Control, PAHC also sequenced approximately 161 HPAI positive samples to support disease surveillance and outbreak response. These programs are built on strong partnerships with farmers, producers, industry organizations, and other stakeholders to improve crop and livestock health, strengthen biosecurity, and support the long-term sustainability of the sector.

Summary of progress made in 2025/26

The Ministry convened the joint industry-government Avian Influenza (AI) Preparedness and Prevention Table (AIPP) to develop and implement new programs, tools, and technologies for avian influenza prevention on B.C. poultry farms. The number of infected commercial farms dropped from 75 in 2025 to 27 in 2026, and the initiative was selected as a finalist for a Premier's Award for Innovation and Excellence.

In the face of increasing disease threats from other countries, the Ministry supported ~400 B.C. dairy farms to test their herds for avian influenza and Salmonella to protect the health of the B.C. dairy herd.

Performance measure(s) and related discussion

Performance Measure	2023/24 Baseline	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Target	2025/26 Actual
3a Number of B.C. agriculture and food businesses accessing ministry business and market programs ¹	705	915	867	1,223

Data source: Ministry of Agriculture and Food

¹PM 3a target for 2026/27 was stated in the 2025/26 service plan as 917.

In 2025/26, the Ministry continued to expand access to business and market development programs for B.C. agriculture and food businesses, reflecting strong demand and effective program outreach across the sector. 1,223 B.C. agriculture and food businesses accessed ministry business and market programs, surpassing the target of 867. This result also represents a substantial increase over the 2024/25 actual of 915, continuing an upward trend from the 2023/24 baseline of 705.

Financial Report

	Estimated (\$000)	Other Authoriz- ations ¹ (\$000)	Total Estimated (\$000)	Actual (\$000)	Variance (\$000)
Operating Expenses					
Science, Policy and Inspection	18,311	(357)	17,954	23,612	5,658
Agricultural Resources	72,205	16,005	88,210	81,129	(7,081)
BC Farm Industry Review Board	1,473	(8)	1,465	1,437	(28)
Executive and Support Services	7,131	(646)	6,485	7,949	1,464
Agriculture Land Commission	5,508	(6)	5,502	5,502	0
Crown Agencies Secretariat (Transferred from Finance)	0	158	158	158	0
Liquor and Cannabis Regulation (Transferred from Public Safety and Solicitor General)	0	8,390	8,390	7,296	(1,094)
Cannabis and Corporate Policy (Transferred from Public Safety and Solicitor General)	0	2,545	2,545	2,996	451
Production Insurance Special Account (Net)	38,349	0	38,349	33,397	(4,952)
Sub-total	142,977	26,081	169,058	163,476	(5,582)
Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual ²	0	0	„0	(138)	(138)
Total	142,977	26,081	169,058	163,338	(5,720)
Ministry Capital Expenditures					
Executive and Support Services	853	0	853	685	(168)
Total	853	0	853	685	(168)

¹ “Other Authorizations” include Supplementary Estimates, Statutory Appropriations, Contingencies and Government Reorganizations. Supplementary Estimates and Government Reorganization amounts in this column are included in the “estimated amount” under sections 5(1) and 6(1) of the Balanced Budget and Ministerial Accountability Act for ministerial accountability for operating expenses under the Act.

² The Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual of (\$0.138) million is a reversal of accruals in the previous year.

Appendix A: Public Sector Organizations

As of July 31, 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: Progress on Mandate Letter Priorities

The following is a summary of progress made on priorities as stated in Minister Lana Popham's 2025 Mandate Letters.

2025 January Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2026
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 B.C. families by supporting B.C. farmers and food producers.	In collaboration with the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry initiated a review of its programs and initiatives to improve efficiency, strengthen alignment with sector priorities, and support the growth, competitiveness, and resilience of B.C. farmers and food producers. Preparations for broader industry engagement have been completed, with engagement activities scheduled to begin in spring 2026.
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.	- Established in February 2025 to provide strategic external advice to government on growing B.C.'s food economy and ensuring reliable access to healthy, affordable food. - The Task Force consisted of 16 members including producers, processors, retailers, and labour. - The Task Force produced 32 recommendations across five key themes: water, land, competitiveness, investment, and labour and talent. - Ministry executive reviewed the 32 recommendations and identified 17 recommendations be the main point of focus for the next 12 to 18 months. - The Ministry initiated progress tracking activities and will report out in 2026/27.

2025 January Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2026
Support work led by the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation (JEG) by working with farmers and food producers, and customers of B.C.'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 for our products to diversify and reduce trade risk; and, • preparing contingency plans in the event that tariffs are imposed.	• Worked closely with the Ministry of Jobs and Economic Growth and federal government on trade policy advocacy, including addressing tariffs and existing trade agreements, and pursuing new trade negotiations. • Expansion of the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Growth / Ministry of Agriculture and Food Memorandum of Understanding to include key markets, Mexico and Singapore. • Hosted sector roundtables on tariff impacts and developed recommendations to mitigate risks.
Assume the role of government's liaison to the restaurant industry. In partnership with the Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport (TACS), be innovative in finding ways to connect farmers, restaurants, and the tourism sector to grow all three sectors.	• In collaboration with TACS, supporting agritourism initiatives and highlighting agritourism opportunities via Ministry social media promotions. • Supporting TACS efforts on planning for opportunities in conjunction with FIFA™.
In partnership with the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, support work led by that Ministry to reform B.C.'s liquor and cannabis rules in ways that support the restaurant and agricultural sector.	• Delivering a B.C. Cannabis Legal Market Strategy and public report to grow the regulated sector at the expense of illicit players.

2025 January Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2026
Ensure a continuation of public support for the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), including protection of B.C. 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.	- Completed an analysis of competitiveness in the agriculture sector, analyzing opportunities to enhance growth and competitiveness for B.C. farmers. - Delivered multiple and varied programs in support of financial success for farmers: Agri-Business Planning, New Entrant Farm Business Accelerator, BC Land Matching, Agriculture Workforce Development Initiative, and Knowledge and Technology transfer programs. - Initiated policy and/or economic work to improve financial success of farmers.
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.	Conducted discussions to explore current state and options to address ALR land use restrictions.
Expand affordability and food security in the province by working with farmers to find ways to control costs for them and for the B.C. families who rely on their products, and by advocating with the federal government for fair programs for British Columbia food producers.	In 2025/26, the On-Farm Technology Adoption Program (OFTAP) helped farmers address rising labour costs and strengthen farm profitability by supporting adoption of automation and digital technologies, with 92% of participants reducing labour requirements (over 53,000 labour hours saved annually) and 100% lowering overall production costs.

2025 January Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2026
Strengthen our regional food systems by supporting farming, expanding local food processing, identifying supply chain disruption vulnerabilities, and by increasing economic opportunities through Feed BC and Buy BC.	• Developed a Feed BC strategy for healthcare, post-secondary, K-12 and new partners to increase BC food suppliers and use in public institutions. New Feed BC partnerships with BC Ferries and BC Pavilion Corporation/Sodexo Live. • Completed initial phase of mapping of food supply-chain identifying regional, provincial and commodity supply chain vulnerabilities. • Established a plan for institutional market readiness activities and K-12 market readiness training. • Awarded Food Hub Network to BC Food and Beverage and developed a three-year work plan to support and strengthen food hub network for affordable, regional processing. • Increased Premises Identification capacity.

2025 July Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2026
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.	• Updated liquor licence renewal fees were approved, to be implemented as of May 1, 2026. Updated fees will help to support new service improvements that matter to licensees — including faster licensing processes, clearer timelines, and practical tools that make it easier to stay compliant and operate with confidence. • To provide bars and restaurants with more flexibility in sourcing specialty products and to help support high-quality hospitality experiences during major events such as FIFA World Cup 2026™, the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB) authorized a three-year trial allowing eligible private liquor retailers to sell directly to hospitality licensees. • LCRB and LDB worked together to complete an extension of the Direct-to-Consumer Sales Memorandum of Understanding with Alberta. Work related to the National Direct to Consumer Sales agenda is ongoing.

2025 July Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2026
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.	• The Ministry began exploring options to support processing and agritourism on the Agricultural Land Reserve, while ensuring agricultural land is available now and into the future. • LCRB provided an education session at the BC Wine Insight Conference, to help industry understand recent regulatory changes that support more flexibility in hosting visitors to wineries. • LCRB updated terms and conditions to clarify that manufacturers can use their licensed facilities to make non-intoxicating beverages such as soda, tonic, and non-alcoholic and de-alcoholised beverages. They may also solicit and receive orders for non-intoxicating beverages they make and sell or serve these product samples in a sampling area. This clarification supports ongoing innovation in the sector and aligns the terms and conditions with current industry practice.