

March 5, 2021

The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau,
PC, MP Minister of Agriculture and Agri-
Food
1341 Baseline Road
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0C5

Dear Minister Bibeau,

On behalf of 11 Alberta agricultural associations and commissions, we thank you for your commitment to updating current Business Risk Management (BRM) programs, and in particular the changes to Agri-Stability proposed by the federal government (removal of the RML and increasing the compensation rate to 80%).

As a collective of 11 associations and commissions in Alberta, we have been communicating with our provincial government in support of these proposed changes. We have written several letters to collectively voice our support, as well as engaged in individual meetings with the Minister and senior government officials. Our associations believe these proposed changes would make the Agri-Stability program more effective, and the additional dollars would provide much needed support for Alberta farmers.

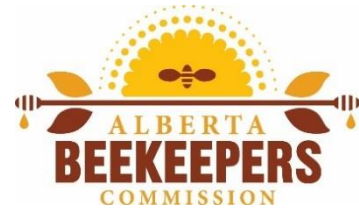
We have yet to receive a decisive answer from our Minister on whether or not the Government of Alberta will support these changes, and understand that several provinces are asking for a FPT meeting where all Canadian provinces can vote on the revisions being proposed. We encourage you to host this meeting swiftly so any potential changes can be implemented quickly, and further request that the changes be considered retro-active for 2020 to cover this very difficult year for many of our farmers.

We understand that the federal and provincial governments will continue to work towards BRM reforms under the new Canadian Agriculture Programs re-negotiation for 2023. We hope to be able to work with our provincial government and put forward meaningful suggestions towards more responsive, transparent and equitable targets. Until then, we want to share with you our support, urge you to continue to work towards making the current programming more effective, and thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,



Alberta
Barley



cc:

Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance

Honourable Jim Carr, Special Representative for the Prairies