



City of Pitt Meadows
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

April 15, 2025

File No: 01-0400-50/25

To: Elected Officials attending the LMLGA 2025 Conference & AGM.

City of Pitt Meadows resolution to call on the Government of British Columbia to increase funding for agriculture in the province

On behalf of the City of Pitt Meadows' Council, our attending City Councillors are looking forward to the upcoming Lower Mainland Local Government Association's 2025 Conference and AGM with you in April/May.

Aligned with the [City of Pitt Meadows' Strategic Plan](#)—and with this year's conference theme, "Building Stronger Communities"—I am writing you to raise awareness of the resolution we are asking for your endorsement. Please help us in calling on the Government of British Columbia to increase funding for agriculture in the province.

The City continues to pursue the priorities outlined in our [Agricultural Viability Strategy](#). According to the B.C. Agricultural Council (BCAC), B.C.'s five-year average of public spending on agriculture, as a portion of agriculture's contribution to GDP, was approximately 2.5 percent—the lowest of all provinces and well below the Canadian historical average of 12 percent. A significant increase in provincial agricultural funding could be invested in much-needed programs and support to make the agricultural sector more viable.

We are asking that you please endorse the following resolution:

R12 – Increased Ministry Funding for Agriculture

In Pitt Meadows, we are committed to a thriving and resilient agricultural sector. Increasing investment in agriculture is imperative to ensure the long-term sustainability of our farms, food producers and rural communities.

By aligning funding with the national average, the Province can demonstrate its commitment to a resilient, thriving agricultural sector that supports families, businesses and food security for all British Columbians. We hope to receive your endorsement.

For more information, please visit www.pittmeadows.ca/ubcm-resolution-2025.

Thank you in advance for your support,

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'NM' with a stylized flourish.

Nicole MacDonald
Mayor

cc: Pitt Meadows City Council

Attached: Excerpt from 2025 LMLGA Resolutions Book
 Backgrounder - Increased Provincial Funding for Agriculture

Excerpt from 2025 LMLGA Resolutions Book

[from p. 14...]

R12- Increased Ministry Funding for Agriculture

City of Pitt Meadows

Whereas provincial funding for agriculture in British Columbia as a percentage of the sector's contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the lowest in Canada;

And whereas an increase to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food's budget would demonstrate the province's commitment to food security and the sustainability of agriculture:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the provincial government to raise agriculture funding in BC to the national average to support much-needed investments in the agricultural sector.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2014-B29 that requested "the provincial government raise(s) agriculture funding in British Columbia to the national average."

In addition, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions that seek to support farming and agriculture through a variety of means, including:

- *2024-NR70 which asked the ALC to update event rules to ensure that farming is the primary use of ALR lands;*
- *2024-NR51 which asked the federal and provincial governments to prioritize funding for regionally tailored agricultural research to develop sustainable solutions for diverse farming challenges across British Columbia;*
- *2018-B105 which sought taxation reform measures to prioritize and promote the use of Agricultural Land Reserve lands for primary 'farm uses'; and*
- *2014-A3 which asked the Province, in part, to identify and implement additional measures that will increase the viability of farming and food production in BC.*

The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions calling on the Province to ensure food security for British Columbians (2023-NR61, 2022-NR8, 2021-EB70, 2020-EB78, 2019-B66, 2011-B100, 2011-B101).

Recommendation: Endorse

BACKGROUND

Proposed UBCM Resolution: Increased Ministry Funding for Agriculture

Proposed Resolution:

WHEREAS provincial funding for agriculture in British Columbia (BC) as a percentage of the sector's contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the lowest in Canada;

AND WHEREAS an increase to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food's budget would demonstrate the province's commitment to food security and the sustainability of agriculture;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call on the Provincial government to raise agriculture funding in BC to the national average to support much-needed investments in the agricultural sector.

The lack of agriculture funding in BC was last raised as an issue at UBCM in 2014 (see [Resolution Number B29](#)).

In BC Agricultural Council's (BCAC) [BC Agriculture Sector Strategic Priorities](#) (released in 2024), the five year average of public spending as a portion of agriculture's contribution to GDP was reviewed for each province, and BC was last in provincial investment in agriculture, at approximately 2.5% (see Table 1 below):

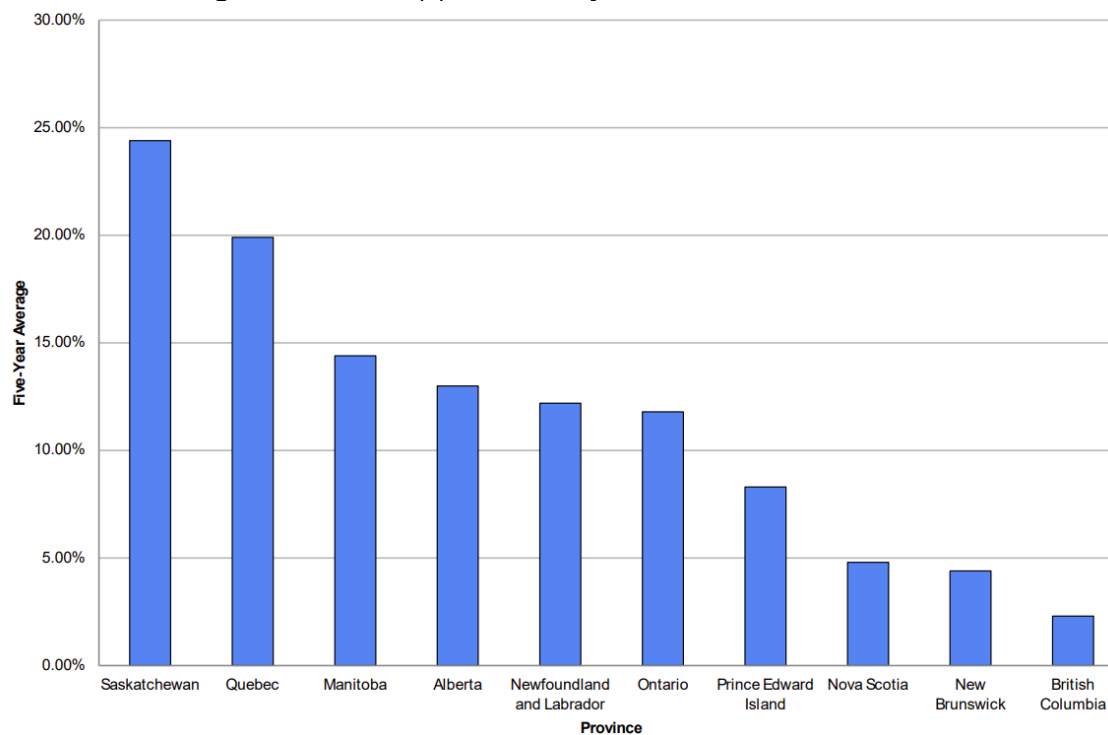


Table 1 – Five-Year Average of Public Spending on Agriculture by Province

The Canada-wide historical average of direct investment in agriculture is approximately 12%. Addressing this investment gap in BC would help level the playing field for BC producers and help to keep them in BC, rather than being attracted to other provinces where agriculture is prioritized.

An increase in provincial agricultural funding could be invested in much needed programs and support for:

- Regional water sustainability plans, agricultural water reserves, and upgrades to water infrastructure storage to help alleviate the increasing water shortages brought on by climate change;
- Emergency management programs and training for agricultural liaisons during emergency events, which are becoming more frequent due to climate change;
- Programs to provide immediate economic relief for producers who have experienced adverse climate and emergency events;
- Incentives, funding programs, and tax exemptions to enhance the viability of the agricultural sector;
- Programs for wage subsidies for farm workers to ensure a stable labour force; and
- Additional Ministry staffing to support the above-mentioned programs and improve much needed regulatory enforcement.

The economic viability of farming is in jeopardy in BC. Increasing the amount of funding invested into supporting agriculture would help keep producers in BC, keep the sector viable, and protect local food security.