



REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL AGENDA

Monday, April 28, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Council Chambers

325 Wallace Street, Hope, British Columbia

For those in attendance at District of Hope Open Council Meetings and Public Hearings, please be advised that the Hope Ratepayers Association is recording these meetings and hearings. The District, in no way, has custody or control of the recordings. Therefore, all persons who do not want their presentation or themselves recorded, please approach the Clerk to declare same and the District will relay this to the Association so that you can freely speak.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor to acknowledge that the meeting is being held on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the Stó:lō people, particularly the Chawathil, Union Bar and Yale First Nations.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Recommended Resolution:

THAT the April 28, 2025, Regular Council Meeting Agenda be adopted, as presented.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

(a) Regular Council Meeting

(1)

Recommended Resolution:

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held April 14, 2025, be adopted, as presented.

4. DELEGATIONS

There are no Delegations.

5. STAFF REPORTS

There are no Staff Reports.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

There are no Committee Reports.

7. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS**8. PERMITS AND BYLAWS**

- (a) **Report dated April 24, 2025 from the Director of Finance**
Re: 2025 Annual Tax Rate Bylaw No. 1601, 2025

(7)

Recommended Resolution:

THAT 2025 Annual Tax Rate Bylaw No. 1601, 2025 be read a first, second and third time this 28th date of April, 2025.

9. FOR INFORMATION CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) **For Information Correspondence**

(11)

Recommended Resolution:

THAT the For Information Correspondence List dated April 28, 2025, be received.

10. OTHER PERTINENT BUSINESS**11. QUESTION PERIOD**

Call for questions from the public for items relevant to the agenda.

12. NOTICE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Monday, May 12, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

13. ADJOURN REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR
COUNCIL MEETING**

Monday, April 14, 2025
Council Chambers, District of Hope Municipal Office
325 Wallace Street, Hope, British Columbia

Council Members Present: Mayor Victor Smith
Councillor Scott Medlock
Councillor Pauline Newbigging
Councillor Heather Stewin
Councillor Dusty Smith

Council Members Absent: Councillor Angela Skoglund

Staff Present: John Fortoloczky, CAO
Donna Bellingham, Director of Corporate Services
Robin Beukens, Director of Community Development
Branden Morgan, Deputy Corporate Officer
Danielle Laporte, Communications/IT

Others Present: 11 members of the Public and 1 Media

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and acknowledged that the meeting is being held on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the Stó:lō people, particularly the Chawathil, Union Bar and Yale First Nations.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved / Seconded

THAT the April 14, 2025, Regular Council Meeting Agenda be adopted, as presented.
CARRIED.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

(a) Regular Council Meeting

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held March 24, 2025, be adopted, as presented.
CARRIED.

4. DELEGATIONS

There were no Delegations.

5. STAFF REPORTS

**(a) Report dated April 7, 2025 from the Director of Corporate Services
Re: Purchasing Policy Amendment**

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Purchasing Policy amendment be adopted this 14th day of April 2025.
CARRIED.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committee Reports.

7. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

(a) Letter of Support to the Economic Trust of the Southern Interior

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council issue a Letter of Support to the Economic Trust of the Southern Interior Grant Review Committee regarding continued funding for the Community Futures Sun Country Regional Business Liaison position. **CARRIED.**

Mayor Smith Reported:

- He spoke regarding U.S. tariffs, the effects they are having on Canadian consumers and companies, and the need to show solidarity. He added that he has seen more U.S. visitors in Hope in the last three weeks than ever before and that we should not alienate the U.S. tourists coming to Canada this summer.
- He took part in a speed carving demonstration at the Fraser Hope Lodge along with chainsaw carvers Randy Swope, Hannu Yliruuse, and Shae Larking.
- He announced that the \$1.8 million Othello Road project will be moving forward thanks to a \$1.66 million grant from the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program. He thanked staff for their continued work in applying for grants and noted that Council is committed to being fiscally responsible as the community continues to grow.

Councillor Smith Reported:

- He announced that the Silver Creek School courtyard is being cleaned up to facilitate the installation of two pickleball courts as part of a project by AdvantageHOPE, Communities in Bloom, and School District 78. He added that the courts should be open in May.
- He noted that works have restarted on Richmond Hill, and that he has received positive comments from the public. He added that the contractor and District Staff have done a great job communicating and reporting updates.
- He advised that he has been approached by multiple members of the public regarding Air BnB zoning and licensing in the community and noted that he would like to have a Committee of the Whole discussion regarding the topic.
- He noted that he spoke with the contractor working on Silver Skagit Road, and was told that they hope the road will be open for use after the May long weekend. He added that users of the road should be cautious, as there is currently a significant amount of truck traffic.

Councillor Stewin Reported:

- She attended the Hope Inclusion Project meeting on April 8th, where they discussed the curriculum project from schools in Hope which continues to focus on anti-discrimination and anti-oppression.
- She noted that she will be presenting at a workshop regarding diversity and inclusion in Local Government.

Councillor Newbigging Reported:

- She noted that an All-Candidates Meeting is being hosted by the Hope and District Chamber of Commerce on April 16th at 6:30 p.m. at the Recreation Centre.

- She noted that the 2025 By-Election voting will take place on April 16th, 23rd, and 26th from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at District Hall.
- She noted that Earth Day is being hosted by the Hope and District Chamber of Commerce, Communities in Bloom, and the Hope Standard and will take place on April 26th in Memorial Park along Wallace Street from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. She added that those interested can check the District's website or the Hope Standard for more information on what can be recycled.
- She announced that the Hope and District Chamber of Commerce will begin installing white lights on members' businesses to brighten the downtown area. Businesses interested in joining the chamber can find more information on their website.

Councillor Newbigging Reported, on Behalf of Councillor Skoglund:

- She announced that Kal Tire will be taking part in Earth Day by collecting scrap passenger vehicle tires (no commercial or farm vehicle tires), with hot dogs given out for every set of four tires brought in. She added that \$50.00 Kal Tire coupons will be given out for any invoice for work over \$300.00.
- She announced that Kal Tire is hosting a Women's Information Session on April 23rd from 5-7pm to provide details on their vehicles, vehicle maintenance, and general knowledge about vehicles. She added that there has been a great response so far with a potential second session in the Fall and urged those interested to register in advance.

Councillor Medlock Reported:

- He attended the Cedar Strong Board meeting as a Council liaison on March 31st, noting that the www.cedardstrong.org website will be soft launched soon. He added that they are looking for two new Board members to replace those whose two-year terms are expiring. He noted that the Ryder building, which is operated by Cedar Strong, is currently at capacity with a waitlist.
- He noted that an All-Candidates Meeting is being hosted by the Hope and District Chamber of Commerce on April 16th at 6:30 p.m. at the Recreation Centre. He added that the 2025 By-Election voting will take place on April 16th, 23rd, and 26th from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at District Hall.
- He noted that General Voting for the Federal Election will take place on April 28th.
- He will be attending an AdvantageHOPE Board Meeting on April 17th.
- He announced that the Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt will take place on April 20th at 1:00 p.m. at Silver Creek Elementary.

8. PERMITS AND BYLAWS

(a) Report dated April 4, 2025 from the Planner II

Re: Development Variance Permit Application at 661 Maple Street

The Director of Corporate Services noted that the District received a petition from neighbouring properties that they are in favour of the development; a copy has been provided to Council.

The agent for the applicant advised that he was in attendance for any questions from Council or the public.

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council approves a Development Variance Permit for the following *Zoning Bylaw* variances for 661 Maple Street:

- Part 10.1.5.1 (height) to increase the maximum height for an accessory building from 5.0 m to 6.5 m.

CARRIED.

(b) Report dated April 4, 2025 from the Planner II

Re: Temporary Use Permit – 62870 Flood Hope Road

The Director of Corporate Services noted that three written were received; JMH Industries (Mr. Ken Hall), Marilyn Wiens and the Fraser Valley Regional District

The Mayor called for any questions or comments from the public regarding the proposal.

Ken Hall, owner of JMH Industries at #1-63370 Flood Hope Road, opposed the proposal citing concerns regarding availability of existing land zoned for the proposed use, a lack of equity in property taxation, a lack of demand that would require a Temporary Use Permit (TUP) to be issued, and concerns regarding disruptions to adjacent residential properties. He added that he currently has 7 acres that are level and ready to go and his lands are closer to the truck stop with easy access to the highway.

Terri Jo Lavallee, resident 62790 Flood Hope Road, opposed the proposal citing concerns regarding the conduct of operations during a previous TUP and disruptions to neighbouring properties.

Rod Dyck, site supervisor of the project, noted that works on the property would take place during regular working hours, with only drop-off, unwrapping and bracing of modular buildings taking place. He added that the site was chosen for its accessible location near the highway and that work would begin mid-June and be completed by the end of August, if no delays occur.

Council inquired as to whether a property is taxed on its best possible use, including when it is operating under a TUP. The Director of Community Development advised that BC Assessment would need to assess the property for the classification to change how they assess the property, and that an 8-month period would likely not be enough time for this to occur. Council inquired as to whether the potential operator of the subject property inquired about any other properties in the District to conduct their work. Mr. Dyck advised that he looked at three other properties, and that the subject property was the best suited for their needs.

Council inquired as to how often a property owner can apply for a TUP. The Director of Community Development advised that an owner could apply two times up to a maximum of three years. He added that should this second TUP be approved, that the owner would need to rezone the property if they wished to change its zoning in the future. Council noted that the applicant could still apply to rezone their property if the TUP is defeated, allowing them to continue working with Mr. Dyck.

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council approve an 8-month Temporary Use Permit to allow for the third-party storage of up to 48 modular building modules and the preparation of those modules at 62870 Flood Hope Road.

DEFEATED.

(c) **Report dated April 4, 2025 from the Planner II**
Re: Redesignate and Rezone – 19623 Silver Skagit Road

Council noted that they are happy to see the notification area expanded to include all properties along Silver Skagit Road. Council also noted that as Silver Skagit Road is becoming heavily trafficked with an increasing number of industrial properties, the District should consider installing street lighting for safety.

Moved / Seconded

THAT *District of Hope Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 1598, 2025* be given first and second readings to change the Official Community Plan land use designation from Country Residential to Light/Service Industry for the portion of the property west of Silver Skagit Road at 19623 Silver Skagit Road; and

FURTHER THAT the public be notified in accordance with the *District of Hope Application Procedures Bylaw No. 1595, 2025*; and -

FURTHER THAT Council approve and adopt the consultation strategy outlined in the Report to Council dated March 10, 2025, for *District of Hope Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 1598* which includes referral to the Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure, the District of Hope Director of Finance, and the District of Hope Director of Operations.

CARRIED.

Moved / Seconded

THAT *District of Hope Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 1599, 2025* be given first and second readings to change the zoning from Country Residential (CR-1) to Light/Service Industrial (I-2) for the portion of the property west of Silver Skagit Road at 19623 Silver Skagit Road; and

FURTHER THAT the public be notified in accordance with the *District of Hope Application Procedures Bylaw No. 1595, 2025*.

CARRIED.

9. FOR INFORMATION CORRESPONDENCE

(a) **For Information Correspondence**

Moved / Seconded

THAT the For Information Correspondence List dated April 14, 2025, be received.

CARRIED.

(b) **Accounts Payable Cheque Listing – March 2025**

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Accounts Payable Cheque Listing for the period of March 1-31, 2025, be received.

CARRIED.

10. OTHER PERTINENT BUSINESS

There was no other pertinent business.

11. QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions raised.

12. NOTICE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Monday, April 28, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

13. ADJOURN REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Regular Council Meeting adjourn at 7:52 p.m.

CARRIED.

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held April 14, 2025, in Council Chambers, District of Hope, British Columbia.

Mayor

Director of Corporate Services

DRAFT

DRAFT

REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

REPORT DATE: April 24, 2024

FILE: 1945-04

SUBMITTED BY: Mike Olson, CPA, CA

MEETING DATE: April 28, 2025

SUBJECT: 2025 Tax Rate Bylaw

PURPOSE:

To approve the resolution for *District of Hope 2025 Annual Tax Rate Bylaw No. 1601, 2025* as proposed.

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommended Resolution:

THAT *District of Hope 2025 Annual Tax Rate Bylaw No. 1601, 2025*, be read a first, second and third time this April 28, 2025.

ANALYSIS:

Proposed tax rate increase

The five-year financial plan was completed prior to the assessment rolls being completed. At that time, the District was proposing a tax rate increase of 3.64%. The assessment rolls have been completed, and the finalized proposed tax rate increase for the 2025 year is 2.81% for items that the District of Hope taxes directly.

Items excluded from analysis

Items that we act as a collector for have been excluded from this analysis:

- FVRD
- School Tax
- Regional Hospital District
- MFA
- BC Assessment

Residential property tax analysis

For comparative purposes, the average assessment for residential properties for 2025 was \$644,691, which is an increase of 2.84% from the previous years assessed value. At the time of the adoption of the five-year financial plan, the average assessed value was \$645,159.

Based on the proposed tax increase, the overall tax rate increase for the average valued residential property will be 2.99%, and an increase of \$54.51 compared to the 2024 taxes paid.

Assessment Info	Tax Rate	Municipal Property Taxes
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Based on Average Single Family value 2024 to 2025 - Revised Assessment Roll				
2024	\$ 626,869	2.91059	1,824.56	
2025	644,691	2.91468	1,879.07	
Change	2.84%	\$	54.51	2.99%

Commercial property tax analysis

For comparative purposes, the average assessment for commercial properties for 2025 was \$1,102,102 which is an increase of 4.80% from the previous year's assessed value. At the time of the adoption of the five-year financial plan, the average assessed value was \$1,094,307.

Based on the proposed tax increase, the overall tax rate increase for the average valued business property will be 6.20%, and an increase of \$323.48 compared to the 2024 taxes paid.

Assessment Info	Tax Rate	Municipal Property Taxes
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Based on Average Class 6 business value 2024 to 2025 - Revised Assessment Roll				
2024	\$ 1,051,620	4.96084	5,216.92	
2025	1,102,102	5.02712	5,540.40	
Change	4.80%	\$	323.48	6.20%

Prepared by:

Original Signed by Mike Olson

Mike Olson
Director of Finance

Approved for submission to Council:

Original Signed by John Fortoloczky

John Fortoloczky
Chief Administrative Officer

**DISTRICT OF HOPE
BYLAW NO. 1601, 2025**

A bylaw to impose rates on all taxable land and improvements for the year 2025

Whereas Section 197 of the *Community Charter* requires that Council must adopt a bylaw to impose rates on all taxable land and improvements for the current year;

Now therefore, the Municipal Council of the District of Hope, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

Title:

1. This bylaw may be cited for all purposes as the **“District of Hope 2025 Annual Tax Rate Bylaw No. 1601, 2025”**

Enactment:

2. The following rates are hereby imposed and levied for the year 2025:
 - (a) For all lawful GENERAL PURPOSES of the municipality on the value of land and improvements taxable for general municipal purposes, rates appearing in line A – General Municipal of Schedule “A”, attached hereto and forming part of this bylaw.
 - (b) For all lawful RCMP Policing of the municipality on the value of land and improvements taxable for general municipal purposes, rates appearing in line B – RCMP Policing of Schedule “A”, attached hereto and forming part of this bylaw.
 - (c) For purposes of FRASER VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT services on the value of land and improvements taxable for Regional Hospital District purposes, rates appearing in line C – Regional District Services of Schedule “A”, attached hereto and forming part of this bylaw.
 - (d) For HOSPITAL PURPOSES on the value of land and improvements taxable for Regional Hospital District purposes, rates appearing in line D – Regional Hospital of Schedule “A”, attached hereto and forming part of this bylaw.
3. The minimum amount of taxation upon a parcel of real property shall be one dollar (\$1.00).
4. Penalties on unpaid current taxes shall be in accordance with the “District of Hope Tax Penalty Bylaw No. 1486, 2020”.

Read a first, second and third time this XX day of XXXXX, 2025

Adopted this XX day of XXXXX, 2025

Mayor

Director of Corporate Services

Schedule "A"
District of Hope "Annual Tax Rate Bylaw No. 1601, 2025"

	Class 01	Class 02	Class 03	Class 04	Class 05	Class 06	Class 7	Class 08	Class 09
	Residential	Utilities	Supportive Housing	Major Industry	Light Industry	Business	Managed Forest Land	Recreation/ Non-profit	Farm
A - General Municipal	2.10259	28.85518	2.10259	4.72686	4.72686	3.62646	6.30776	3.45438	10.75774 G
B - RCMP Policing	0.81209	11.14482	0.81209	1.82567	1.82567	1.40066	2.43627	1.3342	4.15499 G
C - Regional District Services	0.73723	2.58031	0.73723	2.50658	2.50658	1.80621	2.21169	0.73723	0.73723 H
D - FV Regional Hospital	0.10119	0.35417	0.10119	0.34407	0.34407	0.24793	0.30357	0.10119	0.10119 H

FOR INFORMATION CORRESPONDENCE

April 28, 2025 Regular Council Meeting

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1. News Release dated April 10, 2025 from the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness re: Funding will strengthen emergency support for evacuees.
 2. News Release dated April 10, 2025 from the Office of the Premier re: Premier directs government to cancel American contracts wherever viable.
 3. News Release dated April 12, 2025 from the Ministry of Forests re: Hundreds of firefighters gather to train, learn ahead of 2025 wildfire season.
 4. Information Bulletin dated April 14, 2025 from the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills re: B.C. nominee program focused on meeting workforce priorities.
 5. News Release dated April 15, 2025 from the Ministry of Environment and Parks re: New, adaptive mountain-biking trail opens in Alice Lake Park.
 6. News Release dated April 15, 2025 from the Ministry of Health and Genome BC re: Genomics research will advance treatment for B.C. patients.
 7. News Release dated April 15, 2025 from the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Health re: Sick note restriction will leave more time for patient care.
 8. Information Bulletin dated April 16, 2025 from the Ministry of Attorney General re: Community projects countering racism receive \$300,000.
 9. News Release dated April 16, 2025 from the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness, the Ministry of Forests, and the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship re: People in British Columbia encouraged to prepare for seasonal hazards.
 10. News Release dated April 16, 2025 from the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General re: Graduated licensing changes improve accessibility, safety.
 11. News Release dated April 22, 2025 from the Ministry of Infrastructure re: More playgrounds coming for B.C. students, families.
 12. Information Bulletin dated April 23, 2025 from the Ministry of Attorney General re: Changes to lobbying rules will make compliance more manageable.
 13. News Release dated April 23, 2025 from the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation and the Ministry of Forests re: B.C. supports advanced manufacturing of forestry products.
 14. News Release dated April 23, 2025 from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Transportation and Transit re: Province is on the right track toward safer roads in B.C.
 15. Letter dated April 15, 2025 from the City of Pitt Meadows re: Resolution to call on the Government of British Columbia to increase funding for agriculture in the province.



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.

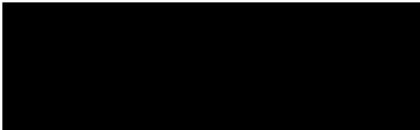
- 2 -

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,



Nicole MacDonald
Mayor

cc: Pitt Meadows City Council

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

[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

BACKGROUNDER

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):

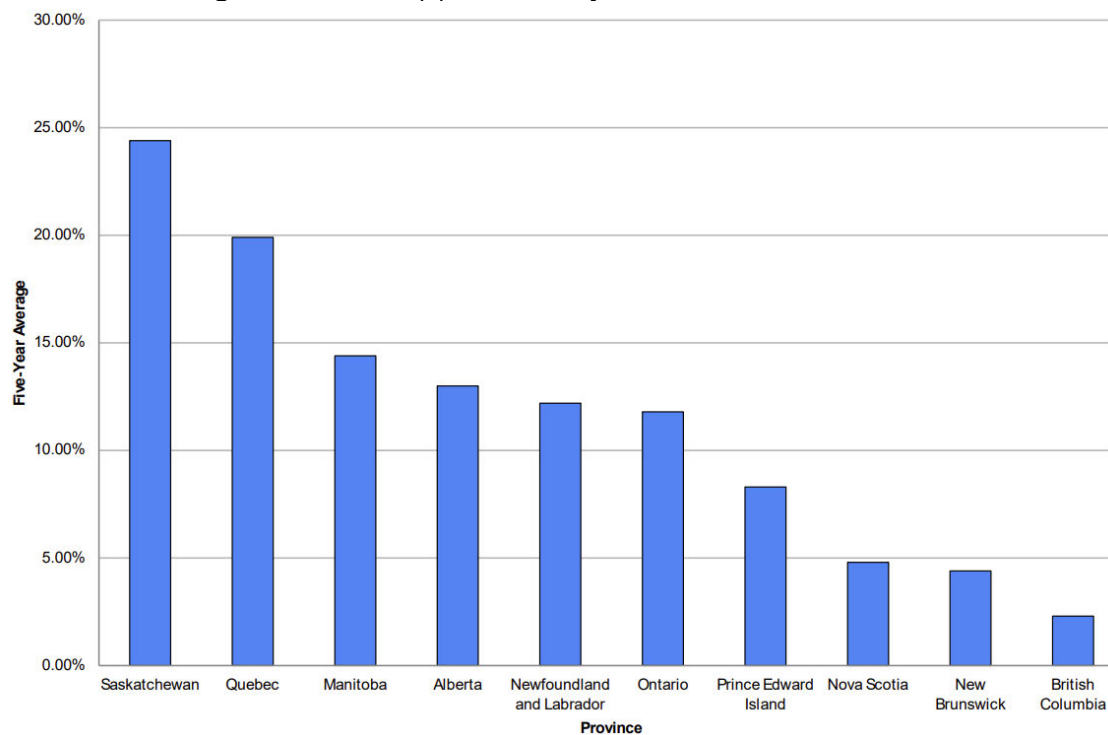


Table 1 – Five-Year Average of Public Spending on Agriculture by Province

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.