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Sent: August 19, 2020 9:01 AM

To: Margo Wagner <mwagner@cariboord.ca>; CRD Mailbox <Mailbox@cariboord.ca>

Subject: Ministry of Agriculture Announcement

File No. 400-20

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Referred To CAO/Chair
Board CC

Dear Margo Wagner,

I am contacting you in advance of an announcement by Ministry of Agriculture planned for later today regarding changes to the administration of rural slaughter in British Columbia.

Effective December 1 2020, all licensed slaughter activity in BC will be administered by the Ministry of Agriculture. This includes Class A, B, D and E slaughter establishments. Currently, health authorities have responsibility for Class D and E licences under delegated authority from the Ministry of Agriculture. That delegation is to be rescinded effective December 1, 2020.

This change was made in response to recent consultations, including the Select Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fish and Food's report on local meat production and inspection. Thank you for any submissions you made to help the Committee in developing its recommendations, and for any input to ministry staff in developing options to improve the meat inspection program.

Following the announcement today, Ministry of Agriculture will be working with health authorities to ensure an effective transition. We will review and build on current practices so that on December 1, 2020, the Ministry of Agriculture can assume administration and inspection of Class D and E slaughter facilities across the province with minimal disruption.

During the transition, health authorities will continue to oversee Class D and E licences, and any applications already in process should not be impacted.

Following the transition, health authorities will continue to administer permitting of food premises on farms with Class D and E slaughter licences where further processing such as cut-and-wrap activity and retail sales to the public occur.

For more information on the change, please refer to the news release and attached backgrounder, or contact the Food Safety and Inspection Branch's BC Meat Inspection Program at bcmeatinspection@gov.bc.ca.

Sincerely,
Gavin Last