



110090

ALBERTA
ENVIRONMENT AND PARKS

*Office of the Minister
Government House Leader
MLA, Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre*

MAR 19 2021

Corey Beck, Chair
c/o Jane Fulton, Secretary
Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee
PO Bag 100
Didsbury AB T0M 0W0
asbprovcommittee@gmail.com

Dear Corey Beck:

Thank you for your letter regarding resolutions passed in January 2021 at the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee's annual provincial conference. I welcome the opportunity to provide the following information.

On May 1, 2019, the Government of Alberta repealed the *Climate Leadership Implementation Act*, ending the collection of the provincial carbon levy in Alberta. No such taxes are currently collected by the government, and no exemptions are awarded or managed.

The Government of Canada's *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act* (GGPPA) is not a provincial policy. Applicable starting in January 2020, consumers – including farmers – are obliged to pay a fuel charge (carbon tax), barring some specific farming exemptions. The Government of Alberta does not agree the federal government has the right to impose the GGPPA on the provinces. That is why the Alberta government has taken the federal government to court and is awaiting the decision from the Supreme Court of Canada on whether the federal government has the right to implement the GGPPA.

The Alberta government acknowledges the scope of exemptions offered under the GGPPA is too narrow to capture the breadth of farming activities, and we will raise these concerns in our discussions with the federal government. Furthermore, we encourage the Agricultural Service Board to contact federal representatives through engagement on the newly released federal climate plan, "A Healthy Environment and a Healthy Economy" (found at www.canada.ca).

I also encourage you to contact Judy Meltzer, Director General Corporate Secretariat, Environment and Climate Change Canada, at judy.meltzer@canada.ca. You could also contact Matt Parry, Director General for Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, at matt.parry@canada.ca.

Municipalities and agricultural retailers have been an integral component and important supporter of pesticide container collection since collection began in 1980. In 1989, the program was transferred to CropLife Canada, and then CleanFARMS, a stewardship offshoot of CropLife Canada formed in 2010. Since that time, there has been no provincial funding or Alberta government role in administering a pesticide container program.

1/2

As set out in the *Municipal Government Act*, municipalities are responsible for waste management. Environment and Parks regulatory assurance and compliance staff are responsible for ensuring regulatory requirements for pesticides container management are met, such as:

- the Pesticide Sales Handling Use and Application Regulation requires that no person shall dispose of a non-refillable plastic or metal container that held a pesticide listed in Schedule 1 or 2 except at a container collection site, and
- the Waste Control Regulation (all regulations are available at www.gp.alberta.ca) requires the following to be properly disposed of, unless otherwise authorized by the director:
 - contaminated paper, glass, cardboard material or a bag that contained pesticides listed in Schedule 1 or 2,
 - empty containers with pesticides listed in Schedule 3 or 4, and
 - empty containers with grains/seeds treated with pesticides.

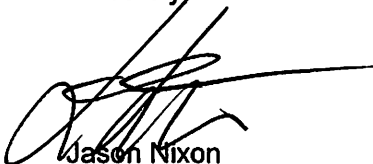
Through Alberta's Natural Gas Vision and Strategy designed to transition toward a circular economy for plastics, Alberta aims to establish the western North American centre of excellence for plastics diversion and recycling by 2030. For more information, please visit www.alberta.ca and search for "natural gas vision and strategy."

Environment and Parks is engaging with stakeholders to develop and implement a new extended producer responsibility (EPR) policy framework. The aim is to shift responsibility for waste management and recycling from municipalities and taxpayers to product producers and consumers. Under this framework, the department is also considering new recycling programs for packaging and printed paper, and household hazardous wastes. This could also allow for recycling of additional plastic items and waste into the future.

For more information, please contact Mr. Nasir Shaikh, Pesticide Policy Specialist, in Edmonton, at 780-718-3490 (dial 310-0000 for a toll-free connection), or at nasir.shaikh@gov.ab.ca.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,



Jason Nixon
Minister

cc: Honourable Sonya Savage
Minister of Energy

Honourable Devin Dreeshen
Minister of Agriculture and Forestry

Nasir Shaikh
Environment and Parks