



Canadian Food  
Inspection Agency

Agence canadienne  
d'inspection des aliments

President

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Ottawa, Ontario  
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Ottawa (Ontario)  
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PRC 024124

March 8, 2021

Mr. Corey Beck  
Chair  
Provincial Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Committee  
PO Bag 100  
Didsbury, AB, T0M 0W0

Dear Mr. Beck:

Thank you for sharing the seed royalty resolution (*Resolution 9-21: Protect Farmers Rights to Use Farm Saved Seed*), passed at your 2021 meeting of the Agricultural Service Board. I appreciate you taking the time to write to me about this important matter.

As you are aware, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency were asked by the Grains Value Chain Roundtable, a consultative body with representation from across the value chain, to launch public consultations on two proposed seed royalty models to stimulate greater investment and innovation in Canada's cereal sector. The first phase of the consultative process consisted of a series of face-to-face meetings across Canada in late 2018 and early 2019. These five sessions are viewed by government as an initial step in a multi-stage discussion process.

The Government of Canada understands that many farmers place considerable value on their ability to save seed and often choose specific crop kinds and varieties that allow for replanting of saved seed in subsequent years. At the same time, a large number of agriculture sector stakeholders have signaled a desire for Canada to consider some form of value-creation model that would allow increased investment in wheat variety development by both public and private breeding programs across the country. Many producers see increased investment in research as being key to ensuring the long-term profitability and competitiveness of Canada's cereals sector.

The government remains open to hearing all perspectives on this matter, and will consider the feedback heard to inform next steps in the process. Again, thank you for writing on what is a critical issue for the cereals sector, farmers, and Canadian agriculture.

Sincerely,

Siddika Mithani, Ph.D.  
President  
Canadian Food Inspection Agency