



June 3, 2022

**Letter to federal Ministers of Health, Agriculture, Innovation, Pacific and Rural Economic Development**

Dear Ministers,

We hope you are well and looking forward to the summer ahead. Thank you again for your ongoing public service.

Further to the 2022 budget submission we delivered in February and previous correspondence regarding challenges being created by the federal government for BC's craft cannabis sector, we are pleased to present a series of constructive policy proposals approved by 400+ sector leaders that attended a three-day BC Cannabis Summit in Kelowna (April 20-22, 2022).

The inclusive process that led to these proposals started prior to April's BC Cannabis Summit with a survey of delegates regarding the challenges and opportunities facing our sector. Based on these results, a series of policies were presented for review and voting at the Summit.

Together, these BC cannabis leaders prioritized seven (7) resolutions:

[BC Cannabis Summit Delegates Prioritize Policy Solutions for Federal and Provincial Governments: Farm Gate and Consumption Consultation Launched - BC Craft Farmers Co-op \(bccraftfarmerscoop.com\)](https://www.bccraftfarmerscoop.com)

In addition to informing this year's *Cannabis Act* review, these recommendations address systemic barriers preventing BC's globally recognized sector from achieving its full potential. To achieve the original public interest goals of cannabis legalization in Canada, the policy resolutions propose:

- An all-party House of Commons Committee review the Cannabis Act in a timely fashion
- Simple changes to the Act's regulations in advance of the review related to micro-production caps, security pre-clearance, purchase limits and labelling
- Investment for a BC Craft Cannabis Economic Development and Job Creation partnership with Indigenous governments, Province of BC, sector associations, financial institutions, colleges and community organizations
- Economic development grants for Indigenous and local governments interested in facilitating the expansion of craft cannabis production, processing and destination tourism
- Official recognition across all federal programs that cannabis is a legitimate farm activity
- Allowing craft cannabis farmers and processors access to capital, grants and small business loans available to other agriculture sectors
- Allowing for a safe supply of medical cannabis to help people suffering from opiate addiction and other chronic diseases
- Establishment of a National Centre of Excellence for Cannabis Health Research in BC
- Legislation to expunge records for Canadians with a cannabis possession conviction



- The federal government work with digital communication platforms to allow for Canadian legal producers, retailers and authorized industry professionals to post content and discuss cannabis in an educational manner

If significant improvements are not made to the Act over the coming year and Health Canada continues to approve BC craft cannabis production licences at the current rate (20-25/year), Summit participants concluded that jurisdiction should be transferred to an agency mandated to support the industry and help it flourish

With this submission, you are in possession of a constructive set of ideas that represent a united voice from BC's craft cannabis farmers, processors and retailers. It will be hard to find a group with more direct and historic understanding of the cannabis market than these BC experts.

We expect Canada's cannabis policy will be more effective in the future if it is driven and informed by the BC craft farmers, processors and retailers responsible building our province's international reputation as a global cannabis leader over decades. We hope you agree and find these helpful.

Our volunteer policy team of members and supporters are available to meet with you and your officials over the coming weeks to answer any questions you may have. We also hope you will save April 20-22, 2023 on your calendar and join us for our 2023 BC Cannabis Summit to update your progress.

Yours truly,

Tara Kirkpatrick, President  
BC Craft Farmers Co-Op

Andrew Gordon, Vice-President  
BC Craft Farmers Co-Op

CC. British Columbia Members of Parliament