

---

# PRESS RELEASE

---

## BC NEW DEMOCRATS ANNOUNCE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

**ABBOTSFORD – July 18, 2017:** The B.C. New Democrat Party (BC NDP) has announced Lana Popham as the Province’s new Minister of Agriculture today during the swearing in ceremony in Victoria, B.C.

After being elected in 2009, Minister Popham has served as Opposition critic for agriculture for four years. She travelled the province extensively, meeting with farmers, agricultural associations and food advocacy groups. She has championed numerous agricultural initiatives, including the Buy BC program, improvements to meat regulations and increased institutional procurement of local food.

“We wish to offer our most sincere congratulations to Minister Popham who has been a tireless advocate for our sector, even preceding her time as opposition critic for agriculture,” says Stan Vander Waal, Chair, BC Agriculture Council. “The Minister’s knowledge and relationships with farmers, associations and food advocacy groups throughout the province will allow her to quickly and effectively step into this very important role.”

The BC Agriculture Council (BCAC) aims to strengthen the already established relationship with the Minister. In recent years, they worked together on one of the agricultural sector’s most key priorities; keeping a strong focus on preserving the Agricultural Land Reserve.

In regards to agriculture, the Party’s priorities include:

- Employment;
- The Grow BC, Feed BC, Buy BC initiative;
- Revitalizing the land reserve and the Agricultural Land Commission;
- Plan to bring back an enhanced Buy BC marketing program;
- Expanding markets for vintners, brewers and craft distillers; and
- Encouraging leadership and innovation.

“The BC Agriculture Council (BCAC) actively supports the Party’s priorities and looks forward to the opportunity to meet with the Minister in the near future to discuss how we might collaborate on these initiatives.” said Vander Waal.

-30-

**For more information:**

Danielle Synotte

Director, Communications & Engagement

T: (604) 854-4454

E: [dsynotte@bcac.bc.ca](mailto:dsynotte@bcac.bc.ca)