



December 17, 2014

Dear Agricultural Advisory Committee/Local Government Representative,

The Ministry of Agriculture would like to invite your local government Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) members or representatives to the seventh biennial AAC Workshop on **Wednesday, February 18, 2015** from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. This year, there will be one province-wide event and it will be held at the [Newlands Golf and Country Club in Langley](#), British Columbia. Registration is required, but there is no fee and lunch and refreshments will be provided.

The workshop will bring AAC members together from across BC to meet each other and discuss agricultural issues of importance. There are approximately 43 AACs operating in BC and information about them and the status of their agricultural area plans can be found on the Strengthening Farming [website](#). Information about [previous AAC workshops](#) is also available online.

Please see attached for the draft agenda. We are confident that these topical sessions will likely be useful to all communities, even those who do not yet have an AAC and are only considering beginning an AAP process.

To assist with workshop arrangements, please complete the enclosed form and return it to Sonja Zupanec by email at Sonja.Zupanec@gov.bc.ca or fax at 604-556-3030 by **Friday, January 23rd, 2015**. Please note that elected officials and staff are also welcome to attend. Although we are unable to offer any financial assistance for out of town participants to travel to the event, we strongly encourage local governments to support the attendance of their representatives. If you have any questions you can call Sonja directly at 250.247.7686 or toll free 1.888.221.7141.

If you require overnight accommodation the before or the day of the workshop, we have arranged for a group rate discount at the [Travelodge Langley City Hotel](#) in Langley for the nights of February 17th and 18th. A limited number of standard rooms will be available at a 20% discount per night and include a continental breakfast. Please reserve your room [online](#) or call the hotel reservation desk at **1-800-578-7878** and request the special group rate code **LKFR** for the Agricultural Advisory Committee Workshop.

Previous workshops have invigorated AAC members, generated new ideas, and helped AACs continue to offer effective advice and support to their councils, boards and local trust committees. I look forward to seeing your representatives at the workshop.

Yours truly,

Bert van Dalzen
Manager, Strengthening Farming Program