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January 15, 2018

Dear Agricultural Advisory Committee Chair:

The Ministry of Agriculture (AGRI) would like to invite your Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) members to the eighth biennial AAC Workshop. This year there will be two regional workshops; one on the South Coast and one in the Interior. The first will be held in Langley and the second in Kelowna. Please choose the workshop that is most convenient. Registration is required; however there is no fee and lunch will be provided.

The workshops will bring AAC members together to meet and discuss agricultural issues of importance. There are now 41 AACs operating in B.C.; 25 on the South Coast and 16 in the Interior. Information about AACs and previous AAC workshops can be found on AGRI's Strengthening Farming website at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/agricultural-land-and-environment/strengthening-farming/agricultural-advisory-committees>.

Based on feedback received from AAC members, we've chosen 'AAC roles and responsibilities - from the ground up!' as the theme for 2018. The agenda will include presentations, panel discussions, and facilitated conversations that explore the roles AACs play in different communities and their potential to encourage and support agriculture. Attendees will learn more about Committee member roles and responsibilities, techniques to function more effectively, and the experiences of AACs across the province. The objective is to provide each attendee with valuable information and techniques they can use to strengthen farming in their community through their AAC. **Please review with your members what successes and challenges your AAC has recently experienced and what topics your attendees intend to discuss prior to the workshop.**

To assist with workshop arrangements, please have your AAC complete the enclosed form and return it to Gregory Bartle, AGRI Land Use Planner by email at Gregory.Bartle@gov.bc.ca or fax at (250) 356-0358 by **Friday, February 9th, 2018**. Please note that supporting elected officials and staff are also welcome to attend.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joan Easton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J" and "E".

Joan Easton
Executive Director