

Email response from Minister Dreeshen re:
[July 26 letter to Alberta's Minister of Agriculture & Forestry Devin Dreeshen](#)

Ms. Karla Bergstrom
Manager, Government and Industry Affairs, Alberta Canola

Dear Ms. Bergstrom:

Thank you for your July 26, 2021, email asking for my support of your request that Alberta Education establish an agriculture and natural resources education advisory group. I appreciate you taking the time to write, and I have also shared your correspondence with my colleague, Honourable Adriana LaGrange, Minister of Education, for response.

I commend the work you have done bringing together the crop sector and education groups, such as Agriculture for Life and Inside Education. This type of collaboration is effective in building strong agriculture education programming. Because curriculum is under the purview of Alberta Education, Minister Adriana LaGrange would be responsible for the decision to establish an agriculture and natural resources education advisory group. As Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, I am in favour of bringing together industry and educators to increase agriculture in the curriculum itself, and to ensure that teachers and students have programs, resources, and opportunities to learn about agriculture.

Ensuring that future generations understand where their food comes from is essential for industry growth, which is why Agriculture and Forestry developed the Canadian Agricultural Partnership Youth Agriculture Education Grant. It is available to commodity groups, agriculture education organizations, and school districts. The grant provides funding to develop agriculture education programs that are curricular-linked and help build public trust in agriculture. Organizations can apply for up to \$200,000 per fiscal year at a 50 per cent cost-share, to support agriculture education programs. You may contact Sharon Stollery, Manager of Farm Safety, at Sharon.Stollery@gov.ab.ca for further information on the grant.

I was interested in your outline regarding all of the different resources the crop sector has available for integrating agriculture into the curriculum. These resources, and your collaboration with groups like Agriculture for Life and Inside Education, will be valuable efforts to help raise awareness of Alberta's robust agriculture industry.

I wish you, the other members of the crop sector, Agriculture for Life, and Inside Education continued success in the important work you are doing.

Sincerely,

Honourable Devin Dreeshen
Minister, Agriculture and Forestry