



October 14, 2020

File: 0280-30

Ref: 192761

Brad Sperling, Chair
Peace River Regional District
Email: brad.sperling@prrd.bc.ca

Dear Brad Sperling:

Thank you for your letter dated August 14, 2020 in which you inquired on the status of the Farmer Information Service contract. I apologize for the delay in my response.

The Request for Proposal (RFP) was posted February 2020 and remained open for approximately 2 months which included extending the closing date on two occasions. During that time, only one proposal was received. The members of the Farmer Information Service management committee evaluated and provided feedback on the RFP. The Ministry of Agriculture is currently negotiating the contract with the successful proponent. The announcement of a provincial election and the current interregnum period means the successful candidate will not be announced until post election.

Due to COVID-19 impact on the B.C.'s agriculture sectors, numerous Ministry of Agriculture staff saw increased workloads, and priorities were altered to focus on the immediate and imminent needs of the agriculture sectors across the province. Unfortunately, this resulted in the delay of issuing this contract.

The Ministry of Agriculture values the services that the Farmers Information Service will provide to landowners and agriculture operators in the Peace River Regional District and look forward to working with the Regional District in the delivery of this program.

Sincerely,

Tom Ethier
Deputy Minister

cc: Fazil Mihlar, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources



PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

August 14, 2020

Tom Ethier
Deputy Minister of Agriculture
PO BOX 9120, STN PROV GOVT
VICTORIA BC V8W9B4

Sent Via Email: tom.ethier@gov.bc.ca

Dear Deputy Minister Ethier;

RE: Farmers' Information Services

The Ministry of Agriculture issued a public RFP on February 28, 2020 for a contractor to manage and maintain the Farmers' Information Service (FIS). The RFP closed on April 23, 2020. Since that time, the Ministry has not yet awarded the contract.

The Farmers' Information Service (FIS) works to ensure rural landowners throughout the Peace River Regional District (PRRD) are provided access to relevant information to manage their land and agricultural assets in order to mitigate business risk and maximize future economic opportunity, as it relates to interaction with the oil and gas industry.

The decision on awarding the contract to the applicant whose application was vetted through the management committee is long overdue. Several of our producers in the region have been left hanging when the previous contract was finished in June 2019.

On behalf of the Regional District Board, I would like to request that the Ministry award the contract for the Farmers Information Services or repost it.

Yours Truly

Brad Sperling
Chair

- c. Fazil Mihlar, Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources.
Fazil.Mihlar@gov.bc.ca

diverse. vast. abundant.

PLEASE REPLY TO:

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