



July 18, 2022

File: 0280-30

Ref: 198257

Tristin Bouwman
Crop Manager, Heppells Potatoes
Email: tristin@heppells.ca

Dear Tristin Bouwman:

Thank you for your email dated June 17, 2022, regarding the federal lands currently being farmed by Heppells Potatoes in Campbell Heights in Surrey. Your email has been directed to me as the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food, I am pleased to respond.

As you've noted, this parcel of land is owned by the federal government, and it is a federal decision to declare it as surplus and dispose of it. The interests of First Nations will be an important consideration as they undertake this process. While there are many pressures on land use in the lower mainland, discontinuing agriculture use at this site would have a negative net impact on food security and food production in the province, given the historic use of the land and its current production of millions of vegetables for residents of British Columbia.

Thank you for sharing your concerns and to your commitment to agriculture and food security in our province.

Sincerely,

Peter Pokorny
Deputy Minister

cc: Wes Heppell (wes@heppells.ca)