

Minister  
of Agriculture and  
Agri-Food  
and Minister for the  
Canadian Wheat Board



Ministre  
de l'Agriculture et de  
l'Agroalimentaire  
et ministre de la  
Commission canadienne du blé

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0C5

JUL 08 2008

Quote: 120372

Mr. Jim Wright  
President  
Garden City Lands Coalition Society  
8300 Osgoode Drive  
Richmond, British Columbia V7A 4P1

Dear Mr. Wright:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Garden City Lands Coalition's basic petition to restore the ownership of the lands for program needs within the Agricultural Land Reserve. The concerns of the public are important in developing public policy, and I appreciate being made aware of the views of the many signatories of the petition you enclosed.

Prime Minister Harper and the Government of Canada are developing Canada's next generation of agricultural programming, Growing Forward. Under this new policy framework, we will develop programming focused on science and innovation, the environment, and competitiveness for producers and the agri-food sector.

The federal government is supportive of efforts in British Columbia, and elsewhere in Canada, to protect agricultural land for the future. We are following with interest the initiatives of communities, community organizations, universities, and colleges to promote urban agriculture.

While Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada does not currently have a program requirement that could accommodate the Garden City lands, should these lands be available in the future for agricultural uses, the Department would consider that option.

Again, thank you for writing to me on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gerry Ritz".

Gerry Ritz, PC, MP

c.c.: Mr. John Cummins, MP

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