

## Provincial Government commits \$6.2 million to support replacement of livestock fencing and Crown range infrastructure destroyed by wildfires.

*“B.C. ranchers are known for being stewards of the land and an economic driver in many of our communities, and the B.C. government is going to be there to help them recover and return to their operations,”* said Agriculture Minister Lana Popham. *“This funding will help repair key cattle-related infrastructure on the range and rebuild valuable fencing along transportation routes that will help keep cattle and commuters safe.”* August 1, 2017

The British Columbia government has committed \$6.2 million to support the replacement of livestock fencing and Crown range infrastructure that has been destroyed in the wildfires.

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has reached an agreement in partnership with the

BC Cattlemen’s Association to support the rebuilding of livestock fencing adjacent to provincial highways.

The ministry will provide \$2.2 million in funding for the repair and replacement of livestock fences adjacent to provincial highways destroyed by the

wildfires. This is in addition to \$2 million for the existing 2017-18 Provincial Livestock Fencing Program.

The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development will contribute \$4 million toward the repair and replacement of Crown range infrastructure. This includes fences that are not along highways, cattle-handling facilities, watering facilities, cabins and other range infrastructure damaged or destroyed due to fire.

“During this terrible wildfire season, farmers and ranchers have been impacted significantly, through the loss of livestock fences,” said Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Claire Trevena. “We recognized this, and we are therefore acting quickly to remedy it, by supporting the rebuilding of livestock fencing in areas that have been impacted by the fires.”

“Ranching is an important economic contributor in the areas that have been adversely affected by wildfires,” said Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development Minister Doug Donaldson. [read entire news release here>](#)

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## **BC Cattlemen`s Association speaks out about the impact of this summers wildfires on the B.C. cattle industry.**

Business In Vancouver Agriculture Article by Patrick Biennerhassett August 8, 2017

BC Cattlemen`s Association General Manager Kevin Boon has estimated that between 25,000 to 30,000 cattle have been affected by evacuation orders and the fires themselves in an article published by Business In Vancouver on August 8, 2017.

The B.C. cattle industry has approximately 4,086 ranches, making up 5% of the national cow herd. Ranches across B.C. occupy more than five million acres of private land and have tenure for an additional 21.5 million acres of Crown range land, mostly within the Peace River Regional District, the Cariboo Regional District and the Thompson Nicola Regional District. In total, the provincial cattle industry is made up of approximately 545,000 head of cattle.

Boon also stated that the burnt grass should be back by next season. However a lot of infrastructure, including fences and corral, across the province might be irreplaceable. [Read the entire article here>](#)

# RO

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