

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Andrew Renaux](#)
To: [EconomicFuture Committee](#)
Subject: Late submission
Date: Friday, January 20, 2017 1:52:52 PM

Hello Jody,

My name is Andrew Renaux and I'm a partner owner operator of a Calgary based food-plant business called Leaf Ninjas. www.leafninjas.ca

RE: "Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future undertake a study of how to grow and diversify the agri-food and agribusiness sectors in the province"

I'm sorry my written submission is late.

Leaf Ninjas is currently in the process of expanding our native and edible plant nursery in Inverlake AB, taking over a portion of the old Greenview Nursery space. Our goal is to propagate native and edible plants for installation in the Calgary region. In addition to this we are looking to harvest excess fruit from these plants during their maturation to be processed into shelf stable value added products. We also have greenhouse space which we are writing business plans for growing fruits and vegetables to harvest and process as well. Some products may include smoked hot pepper sauce, infused salts, vinegars, and potentially fresh strawberries in the off seasons.

I just received a call today from the farm fuel application reception with the news that the value added price of products can be used towards the \$10,000.00 minimum revenue for this program if our company is performing the processing. Earlier this month they had told me that only the value of the produce was applicable not the value of the processed items.

Also they had disclosed that the farming volumes we are setup to produce were, according to their standards, too low to meet the requirements based on our square footage allocated to our production. We have been denied a farm fuel benefit even though we have signed purchase orders for 2017 for \$34,000 of live plant material and in 2018 for \$17,000 for plug plants. We will be saving our sales invoices to gain this benefit next year but we feel like more leeway should be given for these programs.

We have been exploring opportunities for grant funding through the Growing Forward II program but many of the applicable programs are already closed. We had primary interest in the energy management grants to improve our utility monitoring but these funding options had closed very quickly. We hope that these programs will be renewed and that more funding is available to allow more farms to monitor and manage their inputs in increasingly sustainable ways.

Cannabis production is buzzing everywhere these days with anticipation of new legislation for the legalization of this plant. We have no interest in producing an end cannabis product but we are waiting and anticipating new legislation surrounding this new market and the auxiliary opportunities that it could create. These could be waste stream utilization as bio-fuels and materials, supply of liner plants to large producers, processing of cannabis into value added products such as edibles. We are hoping that as new legislation comes out there will be clear guidelines in place for these auxiliary business opportunities.

Guidance and support for international export of processed products is something that we are interested in.

Thanks for taking these points into consideration. We were very pleased to hear their focus and conversations happening for this sector and we excited to participate.

Best wishes!

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Cheers,
Andrew Renaux
Leaf Ninjas Inc.



www.leafninjas.ca