
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

2013/14 MINISTER BRIEFING

Vote 14: Ministry Operations

Vote 15: Agricultural Land Commission

Statutory Appropriations

December 16, 2013

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Budget Highlights	1
Ministry Summary	2
Core Business Summary	3
Core Business Details:	
Agriculture Science and Policy	4/5
Strategic Industry Partnerships	6/7
BC Farm Industry Review Board	8
Executive and Support Services	9/10
Agricultural Land Commission	11
Production Insurance Special Account	12
Loans, Investments and Other Requirements	13
Group Account Classification Summary	14/15
Group Account Classification Summary - Graph	16
Three Year Budget by Core Program	17
2013/14 Budget by Core Program - Graph	18
Three Year Budget Changes from the March 2013 Plan	
Operating	19
Capital	20
Capital Overview	21
Standard Object of Expenditure (STOB) Breakdown:	
By Vote	22
By Core Business (Ministry Operations)	23
Revenue Summary	24/25
Three Year Budget by Core Program, with ESS details	26
Three Year STOB	
All Votes	27
Ministry Operations Vote	28
Agricultural Land Commission	29
STOB 77 Transfers - Grants	30
Historical STOB 77	31
Staffing by Classification	
Staffing by Location (Comparative)	32
Staffing by Function	33
Overtime Costs	34

Ministry of Agriculture BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

OPERATING BUDGET:

2012/13 Restated, \$68.143M, increased \$2.355M or 3.6% from 2012/13 Estimates:

- \$2.638M increase for the Meat Inspection program that was transferred from the Ministry of Health (HLTH).

offset by:

- (\$0.283M) decrease for the Range Policy program that was transferred to the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO).

s.13, s.17

CAPITAL BUDGET:

2012/13 Restated, \$0.290M, remains the same as 2012/13 Estimates:

- No change.

s.13, s.17

Staff & Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs):

- FTEs continue to be budgeted at a summary level for the Province.
- Historical number of staff as follows:
 - 2008/09, 889
 - 2009/10, 385
 - 2010/11, 385
 - 2011/12, 339
 - 2012/13, 321
- Current FTE burn as at May 31, 2013 is **299.55**, prior year burn was 311.1
- Current number of auxiliary employee is 34, breakdown as follows:
 - Innovation, Industry and Development, 4
 - Plant & Animal Health, 11
 - Business Risk Management, 6
 - Sustainable Agriculture Management, 8
 - Agricultural Land Commission, 5

Ministry of Agriculture

MINISTRY SUMMARY

(\$000s)

	2012/13 Estimates	2012/13 Restated	2013/14 Estimates	2014/15 Planned	2015/16 Planned
Voted Appropriations					
Vote 14 - Ministry Operations	52,314	54,669			
Vote 15 - Agricultural Land Commission	1,974	1,974			
Statutory Authority					
Production Insurance Special Account	18,500	18,500			
Less: Transfer from Ministry Operations Vote	(7,000)	(7,000)			
Ministry Total	65,788	68,143			
Ministry Capital	290	290		s.13, s.17	
Loans, Investments & Other Requirements	6	6			
<i>Operating Increases (Decreases):</i>		2,355			
<i>Percentage Change:</i>		3.6%			
<i>Capital Increases (Decreases):</i>		-			
<i>Percentage Change:</i>					

OPERATING BUDGET:

2012/13 Restated, \$68.143M, increased \$2.355M or 3.6% from 2012/13 Estimates:

- \$2.638M increase for the Meat Inspection Program that was transferred from the Ministry of Health (HLTH).
offset by:
- (\$0.283M) decrease for the Range Policy Program that was transferred to the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO).

s.13, s.17

LOANS, INVESTMENTS & OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

- The Agriculture Credit Act program provided long term, low interest loans for on-farm capital improvements. As outstanding loans issued are repaid, the amount of cash received decreases year over year. There are only a few outstanding loans remaining.

Ministry of Agriculture
CORE BUSINESS ANALYSIS
(\$000s)

	2012/13 Estimates	2012/13 Restated	2013/14 Estimates	2014/15 Planned	2015/16 Planned
OPERATING EXPENDITURES					
Voted Appropriations					
Agriculture Science and Policy	9,968	12,531			
Strategic Industry Partnerships	34,629	34,449			
BC Farm Industry Review Board	896	896			
Executive and Support Services	6,821	6,793			
Ministry Operations:	52,314	54,669			
 Agricultural Land Commission	 1,974	 1,974			
Production Insurance Special Account	18,500	18,500			
Production Insurance Elimination	(7,000)	(7,000)			
Ministry Total:	65,788	68,143			
 <i>Operating Increase/(Decrease):</i>		<i>2,355</i>			
<i>Percentage Changes:</i>		<i>3.6%</i>			
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES:					
Voted Appropriations					
Executive & Support Services	290	290			
Ministry Capital:	290	290			
 <i>Capital Increase/(Decrease):</i>	 -	 -			
<i>Percentage Changes:</i>	-	-			

s.13, s.17

See following pages for explanation of changes.

Ministry of Agriculture
CORE BUSINESS ANALYSIS
(\$000s)

AGRICULTURE SCIENCE AND POLICY	2012/13 Estimates	2012/13 Restated	2013/14 Estimates	2014/15 Planned	2015/16 Planned
Voted Appropriations					
Innovation and Industry Development	2,332	2,654			
Agrifood Policy and Legislation	3,404	5,227			
Plant and Animal Health	4,231	4,649			
Growing Forward	1	1			
Operating	9,968	12,531		s.13, s.17	
<i>Operating Increases/(Decreases):</i>		2,563			
<i>Percentage Changes:</i>		25.7%			

2012/13 Restated Estimates: \$12.531M (up \$2.563M, or 25.7% from 2012/13 Estimates):

- \$2.638M increase for the Meat Inspection Program that was transferred from HLTH.
- (\$0.075M) decrease due to the transfer of Range Policy to FLNRO in September 2012 re-organization.

s.13, s.17

Ministry of Agriculture
CORE BUSINESS ANALYSIS
(\$000s)

	2012/13	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
AGRICULTURE SCIENCE AND POLICY	Estimates	Restated	Estimates	Planned	Planned

(Continued on next page)

Ministry of Agriculture

CORE BUSINESS ANALYSIS

Agriculture Science and Policy - Branch Breakdown

AGRICULTURE SCIENCE AND POLICY (Cont.)

<i>Innovation and Industry Development</i>	<i>(\$000s)</i>
2012/13 Restated Estimates	2,654
Growing Forward 2	775
Carbon Tax	6,500
2013/14 Estimates	9,929
<i>Agrifood Policy and Legislation</i>	
2012/13 Restated Estimates	2,589
Meat Inspection Program	6,677
Management Savings target	(264)
2013/14 Estimates	9,002
<i>Plant and Animal Health</i>	
2012/13 Restated Estimates	4,649
Growing Forward 2	860
2013/14 Estimates	5,509

Ministry of Agriculture
CORE BUSINESS ANALYSIS
(\$000s)

STRATEGIC INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS	2012/13 Estimates	2012/13 Restated	2013/14 Estimates	2014/15 Planned	2015/16 Planned
Voted Appropriation					
Food Protection	1,220	1,220			
Sustainable Agriculture Management	4,481	4,301			
Business Risk Management	28,928	28,928			
Operating	34,629	34,449		s.13, s.17	
<i>Operating Increases/(Decreases):</i>		<i>(180)</i>			
<i>Percentage Changes:</i>		<i>(0.5%)</i>			

2012/13 Restated Estimates: \$34.449M (down \$0.180M or 0.5% from 2012/13 Estimates):

- (\$0.180M) decrease due to the transfer of Range Policy to FLNRO in September 2012 Cabinet re-organization.

s.13, s.17

Ministry of Agriculture
CORE BUSINESS ANALYSIS
Strategic Industry Partnerships - Branch Breakdown

STRATEGIC INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS (Cont.)

<i>Food Protection</i>		(\$000s)
2012/13 Restated Estimates		1,220
Growing Forward 2		900
2013/14 Estimates		2,120
<i>Sustainable Agriculture Management</i>		
2012/13 Restated Estimates		4,301
Growing Forward 2		865
2013/14 Estimates		5,166
<i>Business Risk Management</i>		
2012/13 Restated Estimates		28,928
Growing Forward 2		(1,600)
2013/14 Estimates		27,328

Ministry of Agriculture
CORE BUSINESS ANALYSIS
(\$000s)

	2012/13	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
BC FARM INDUSTRY REVIEW BOARD	Estimates	Restated	Estimates	Planned	Planned
Voted Appropriation					
BC Farm Industry Review Board	896	896			
				s.13, s.17	
Operating	<u>896</u>	<u>896</u>			
Operating Increases/(Decreases):		-	-	-	-
Percentage Changes:		-	-	-	-

2012/13 Restated Estimates - no change

s.13, s.17

Ministry of Agriculture
CORE BUSINESS ANALYSIS
(\$000s)

EXECUTIVE AND SUPPORT SERVICES	2012/13 Estimates	2012/13 Restated	2013/14 Estimates	2014/15 Planned	2015/16 Planned
Voted Appropriations					
Minister's Office	503	503			
Corporate Services	6,318	6,290			
Operating	6,821	6,793			
Capital	290	290			
				s.13, s.17	
<i>Operating Increase/(Decrease):</i>		(28)			
<i>Percentage Changes:</i>		(0.4%)			
<i>Capital Increase/(Decrease):</i>		-			
<i>Percentage Changes:</i>					

OPERATING BUDGETS:

2012/13 Restated Estimates: \$6.793M decreased (\$0.028M) or (0.4%) from 2012/13 Estimates:

- (\$0.003M) decrease due to the transfer of the Range Policy to FLNRO in the September 2012 re-organization.
- (\$0.025M) decrease due to the recent STOB realignment within the Ministry.

s.13, s.17

CAPITAL BUDGETS:

2012/13 Restated: no change

s.13, s.17

(Continued on next page)

EXECUTIVE AND SUPPORT SERVICES (Cont.)

EXECUTIVE AND SUPPORT SERVICES	2012/13	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Budget Allocation	Estimates	Restated	Estimates	Planned	Planned
Minister's Office	503	503			
Deputy Minister's Office	1,728	1,703			
CSNR	2,940	2,940			
Agriculture Overhead	1,650	1,647			
	6,821	6,793			

s.13, s.17

Capital Budget Allocation

Specialized Equipment	-	212
Office Furniture & Equipment	3	3
Vehicles	-	-
Information Systems	-	75
	3	290

s.13, s.17

Ministry of Agriculture
CORE BUSINESS ANALYSIS
(\$000s)

	2012/13	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
AGRICULTURAL LAND COMMISSION	Estimates	Restated	Estimates	Planned	Planned
Voted Appropriation					
Agricultural Land Commission	<u>1,974</u>	<u>1,974</u>			
<i>Increases/(Decreases):</i>		-		s.13, s.17	
<i>Percentage Changes:</i>		-			

2012/13 Estimates - no change

s.13, s.17

Ministry of Agriculture
CORE BUSINESS ANALYSIS
(\$000s)

	2012/13	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
PRODUCTION INSURANCE SPECIAL ACCOUNT	Estimates	Restated	Estimates	Planned	Planned
Statutory Appropriation					
Operating Budget	18,500	18,500			
Transfer from Ministry Operations Vote	(7,000)	(7,000)			
	11,500	11,500			

s.13, s.17

Increases/(Decreases):

Percentage Changes:

-

2012/13 Restated Estimates - no change

s.13, s.17

Program Description:

- This account was established as a special account effective April 1, 2005 by Section 9.2 of the *Special Accounts Appropriation and Control Act* and replaces the Crop Insurance Fund created by a regulation under the *Insurance for Crops Act*.
- Production Insurance is an insurance scheme that stabilizes farm income by minimizing the detrimental economic effects of crop losses due to uncontrollable natural perils. The account receives premiums from the federal government, the province, and producers, and indemnity payments through re-insurance.
- The funds transferred to the Special Account are estimated annual insurance premiums. BC's portion is approximately 33% of total premiums

s.13, s.17
Producers and the federal government pay

the remainder of the premium costs.
- The operating budget reflects the average annual expenditures for re-insurance premiums, claim adjusting costs and indemnity payments.

Ministry of Agriculture
LOANS, INVESTMENTS AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS BY CORE BUSINESS
(\$000s)

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
STRATEGIC INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS	Restated	Estimates	Planned	Planned
Receipts	6			
Disbursements	-			
Net Cash Source (Requirement)	6		s.13, s.17	
TOTAL LOANS, INVESTMENT AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS	6			

Program Description:

- *AGRICULTURE CREDIT ACT* — Receipts represent principal repayments on outstanding loans issued under the *Agriculture Credit Act* which was terminated on March 31, 1995. The *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendments Act*, 2003, provides the provisions for the loan repayments.

Ministry of Agriculture
MINISTRY GROUP ACCOUNT CLASSIFICATION SUMMARY
Includes Operating, ALC and PISA
(\$000s)

Group Account Classification	2012/13	% of Total	2013/14	% of Total	Change	
	Restated	Restated	Estimates	Estimates	\$	%
Salaries and Benefits	26,940	39.5%				
Operating Costs	11,040	16.2%				
Government Transfers	27,748	40.7%				
Other Expenses	23,339	34.3%				
Internal Recoveries	(9)	-				
External Recoveries	(20,915)	(30.7%)				
	68,143	100.0%				

s.13, s.17

s.13, s.17

(Continued on next page)

Ministry of Agriculture
MINISTRY GROUP ACCOUNT CLASSIFICATION SUMMARY
Includes Operating, ALC and PISA
(\$000s)

MINISTRY GROUP ACCOUNT CLASSIFICATION SUMMARY (Cont.)

s.13, s.17

Page 19 redacted for the following reason:

s.13, s.17

Ministry of Agriculture
3 YEAR BUDGET - CORE PROGRAM
2012/13 to 2015/16
(\$000s)

Division	2012/13 Estimates	Change	2012/13 Restated	Change	2013/14 Estimates	Change	2014/15 Planned	Change	2015/16 Planned
Agriculture Science and Policy	9,968	2,563	12,531						
Innovation and Industry Development ⁽¹⁾	2,332	322	2,654						
Agrifood Policy and Legislation ^{(2),(3)}	3,404	1,823	5,227						
Plant and Animal Health	4,231	418	4,649						
Growing Forward	1	-	1						
Strategic Industry Partnerships	34,629	(180)	34,449						
Food Protection	1,220	-	1,220						
Sustainable Agriculture Management	4,481	(180)	4,301						
Business Risk Management	28,928	-	28,928						
BC Farm Industry Review Board	896	-	896						
Executive & Support Services ⁽³⁾	6,821	(28)	6,793						
Ministry Operations	52,314	2,355	54,669						
Agricultural Land Commission	1,974	-	1,974						
Total Voted Appropriation	54,288	2,355	56,643						
Production Insurance Special Account	11,500	-	11,500						
MINISTRY TOTAL	65,788	2,355	68,143						

s.13, s.17

TOTAL Percent Change by year

3.6%

Notes:

s.13, s.17

Page 21 redacted for the following reason:

s.13, s.17

Ministry of Agriculture

THREE YEAR BUDGET CHANGES

OPERATING

	\$Millions			
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
	Restated	Estimates	Planned	Planned
February 2012 Plan				
Vote 14 - Ministry Operations	52.314			
Vote 15 - Agricultural Land Commission	1.974			
Special Account - Production Insurance	18.500			
<i>Less: PI Transfer from Ministry Operations Vote</i>	(7.000)			
Total February 2012 Plan	65.788			
Vote 14 - Budget Lifts and Reductions				
Range Policy Program to FLNRO	(0.283)			
Expenditure Management Savings Target				
PISA Contribution	-			
Meat Inspection Program from HLTH	2.638			
Greenhouse Carbon Tax Rebate Program	-			
Total Budget Lifts and Reductions	2.355			
Vote 15 - Budget Lifts and Reductions				
Agricultural Land Commission -Budget Lifts	-			
Total Budget Lifts and Reductions	-			
				s.13, s.17
PISA - Budget Lifts and Reductions				
Transfer from Ministry Operations Vote	-			
Total Budget Lifts and Reductions	-			
Operating Budget Targets, February 2013 Plan				
Vote 14 - Ministry Operations	54.669			
Vote 15 - Agricultural Land Commission	1.974			
Special Account - Production Insurance	18.500			
<i>Less: Transfer from Ministry Operations Vote</i>	(7.000)			
TOTAL BUDGET TARGETS	68.143			
 <i>Change from 2012/13 Service Plan:</i>	 2.355			
<i>Percentage Changes:</i>	3.6%			
 <i>Change in 2013/14 Service Plan:</i>				
<i>Percentage Changes:</i>				

Ministry of Agriculture

THREE YEAR BUDGET CHANGES

CAPITAL

	\$ Millions			
	2012/13 Restated	2013/14 Estimates	2014/15 Planned	2015/16 Planned
February 2012 Plan:				
Vote 14 - Ministry Operations	0.290			
Total February 2012 Plan	0.290			
Budget Lifts and Reductions				
Vehicles	-			
Information Systems	-			
Total Budget Lifts and Reductions	-			
Capital Budget Targets - February 2013 Plan:			s.13, s.17	
Vote 14 - Ministry Operations	0.290			
TOTAL BUDGET TARGETS	0.290			
<i>Change from 2012/13 Service Plan:</i>	-			
<i>Percentage Changes:</i>	-			
<i>Change in 2013/14 Service Plan:</i>				
<i>Percentage Changes:</i>				

s.13, s.17

Ministry of Agriculture
3 YEAR BUDGET - CAPITAL ALLOCATION
2012/13 to 2015/16

(\$000s)

Asset Category	2012/13 Estimates	Change	2012/13 Restated	Change	2013/14 Estimates	Change	2014/15 Planned	Change	2015/16 Planned
Specialized Equipment	212	-	212						
Office Furniture & Equipment	3	-	3						
Vehicles	-	-	-						
Information Systems	75	-	75						
							s.13, s.17		
MINISTRY TOTAL	290	-	290						
<i>TOTAL Percent Change by year</i>			<i>0%</i>						

Ministry of Agriculture
BUDGET BY VOTE and STANDARD OBJECT OF EXPENDITURES (STOB)
(\$000s)

OPERATIONAL BUDGETS		Vote 14				Vote 15				Special Accounts				Ministry Total			
		Ministry Operations				Agricultural Land Commission											
STANDARD OBJECTS of EXPENDITURES		2012/13	2013/14	Changes		2012/13	2013/14	Changes		2012/13	2013/14	Changes		2012/13	2013/14	Changes	
STOB		Restated	Estimates	\$	%	Restated	Estimates	\$	%	Restated	Estimates	\$	%	Restated	Estimates	\$	%
Base Salaries	50	20,535				1,245								21,780			
Supplementary Costs	51	51				-								51			
Employee Benefits	52	4,770				286								5,056			
Legislative Salaries and Allowances	54	53				-								53			
Boards, Commissions and Courts	55	177				191								368			
Public Servant Travel	57	877				42								919			
Centralized Mgmt. Support Services	59	291				-								291			
Professional Services - Oper and Reg	60	3,599				10				1,250				4,859			
Professional Services - Advisory	61	77				64								141			
Information Services	63	980				67								1,047			
Office and Business Expenses	65	1,238				40								1,278			
Information Advertising and Publications	67	-				-								-			
Statutory Notices, Annual Reports	68	-				9								9			
Utilities, Materials & Vehicle Costs	69	772			s.13, s.17	1			s.13, s.17				s.13, s.17	773			s.13, s.17
Operating Equipment and Vehicles	70	333				18								351			
Amortization	73	940				4								944			
Building Occupancy Charges	75	60												60			
Transfers - Grants	77	19,882												19,882			
Transfers - Entitlements	79	2,375												2,375			
Transfers - Agreements	80	5,491												5,491			
Transfers-Vote/Special Accounts	81	7,000								(7,000)				-			
Interest Costs - Non Public Debt	84	4												4			
Other Expenses	85	6,083				1				17,251				23,335			
Recoveries Within Government	88	(8)				(1)								(9)			
Recoveries Within Govt Rptng Entity	89	(9)				(1)								(10)			
Recoveries Ext to Govt Reptng Entity	90	(20,902)				(2)				(1)				(20,905)			
NET OPERATING EXPENDITURES		54,669				1,974				11,500				68,143			
CAPITAL AUTHORIZATION																	
Specialized Equipment	SpE	212												212			
Office Furniture and Equipment	FE	3												3			
Vehicles	Veh	-			s.13, s.17				s.13, s.17				s.13, s.17	-			s.13, s.17
Information Systems	Info	75												75			
NET CAPITAL AUTHORIZATION		290				-				-				290			

BUDGET BY CORE BUSINESS and STANDARD OBJECT OF EXPEDITURES (STOB) FOR MINISTRY OPERATIONS VOTE
(\$000)

OPERATIONAL BUDGETS		Agriculture Science & Policy				Strategic Industry Partnerships				BC Farm Industry Rev. Board				Executive & Support Services				TOTAL MINISTRY OPERATIONS			
		2012/13	2013/14	Changes		2012/13	2013/14	Changes		2012/13	2013/14	Changes		2012/13	2013/14	Changes		2012/13	2013/14	Changes	
STANDARD OBJECTS of EXPENDITURES	STOB	Restated	Estimates	\$	%	Restated	Estimates	\$	%	Restated	Estimates	\$	%	Restated	Estimates	\$	%	Restated	Estimates	\$	%
Base Salaries	50	9,123				9,792				453				1,167				20,535			
Supplementary Costs	51	21				30				-				-				51			
Employee Benefits	52	2,098				2,282				104				286				4,770			
Legislative Salaries and Allowances	54	-				-				-				53				53			
Boards, Commissions and Courts	55	-				-				177				-				177			
Public Servant Travel	57	395				333				30				119				877			
Centralized Mgmt. Support Services	59	-				-				-				291				291			
Professional Services & Advise	60-61	1,854				1,267				99				456				3,676			
Information Services	63	30				911				4				35				980			
Office and Business Expenses	65	446				192				30				570				1,238			
Statutory Notices, Annual Reports	68	-				-				-				-				-			
Utilities, Materials & Vehicle Costs	69	681				91				-				-				772			
Operating Equipment and Vehicles	70	121				212				-				-				333			
Amortization	73	220				260				1				459				940			
Building Occupancy Charges	75	-				-				-				60				60			
Grants	77	59				19,823				-				-				19,882			
Entitlements	79	2,375				-				-				-				2,375			
Transfers Under Agrmt Inc Shared Costs	80	5,491				-				-				-				5,491			
Transfers-Vote/Special Accounts	81	-				7,000				-				-				7,000			
Interest Costs	84	-				4				-				-				4			
Other Expenditures	85	274				2,507				1				3,301				6,083			
Recoveries Within Government	88	(3)				(3)				(1)				(1)				(8)			
Recoveries Within Govt Rptng Entity	89	(4)				(3)				(1)				(1)				(9)			
Recoveries Ext to Govt Reptng Entity	90	(10,650)				(10,249)				(1)				(2)				(20,902)			
NET OPERATING EXPENDITURES		12,531				34,449				896				6,793				54,669			
		s.13, s.17				s.13, s.17				s.13, s.17				s.13, s.17				s.13, s.17			
RECOVERIES (INCLUDED ABOVE)																					
Base Salaries	50	1,598				4,421												6,019			
Supplementary Costs	51																	-			
Employee Benefits	52	379				1,197												1,576			
Legislative Salaries and Allowances	54																	-			
Boards, Commissions and Courts	55																	-			
Public Servant Travel	57	210				195												405			
Centralized Mgmt. Support Services	59																	-			
Professional Services & Advise	60-61	1,586				930												2,516			
Information Services	63					847												847			
Office and Business Expenses	65	277				55												332			
Statutory Notices, Annual Reports	68																	-			
Utilities, Materials & Vehicle Costs	69	279																279			
Operating Equipment and Vehicles	70	11				46												57			
Amortization	73					57												57			
Building Occupancy Charges	75																	-			
Grants	77	59																59			
Transfers Under Agrmt Inc Shared Costs	80	5,987																5,987			
Transfers-Vote/Special Accounts	81																	-			
Interest Costs	84					-												-			
Other Expenditures	85	271				2,507												2,778			
Recoveries Within Government	88	(3)				(3)												(6)			
Recoveries Within Govt Rptng Entity	89	(4)				(3)												(7)			
Recoveries Ext to Govt Reptng Entity	90	(10,650)				(10,249)												(20,899)			
NET RECOVERIES		-				-				-				-				-			

Ministry of Agriculture
REVENUE FORECAST MONITORING REPORT
Fiscal 2012/13 - Fiscal 2017/18
(\$000)

Fiscal 2012/13 Q3 Forecast
Treasury Board Staff

			2012/13 Actual	2012/13		2013/14		2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
STOB	CLIENT	REVENUE SOURCE		Budget	Revised Forecast	Revised Forecast	Target	Revised Revenue Forecast			
Other Revenue											
Other Fees and Licences											
4303	130	Fishing Licences Revenue	214	220	215						
4494	130	Veterinary Laboratory Fees	192	180	180						
4495	130	Veterinary Drug Licences	1	8	5						
4496	130	Game Farming Licenses	2	7	7						
4499	130	Agricultural Land Commission Fees Note 2	94	120	120						
4500	130	Plant Diagnostic Fees	14	13	13						
4503	130	Dairy Industry Serv Licences	2	3	3						
4510	130	Slaughterhouse Licences	—	1	1						
4512	130	Livestock Dealers Licence	1	4	4						
4547	130	Public Yard Sale Licences	1	2	2						
4550	310	Producers Insurance Premiums Note 1	3,494	6,000	6,000						
4550	130	Producers Insurance Premiums Error		700				s.13, s.17			
4565	130	Producers Application Fees	—	—	—						
4575	130	Appeal Fees	2	4	4						
4581	130	Misc Fees Licences and Permits	—	—	—						
4583	130	Refunds	(4)	—	—						
4764	130	Dishonoured cheque servicing charge	—	1	1						
4585	130	Aquaculture Licences	—	—	—						
Other Fees and Licences(gross)			4,014	7,263	6,855						
4627	130	Less Commissions (Misc revenue)	—	(1)	(1)						
4661	130	Less provisions for doubtful accounts (fees)	—	—	—						
4662	130	Less provisions for doubtful accounts (fees)	—	(1)	(1)						
Other Fees and Licenses (net)			4,014	7,261	6,853						

Ministry of Agriculture
REVENUE FORECAST MONITORING REPORT
Fiscal 2012/13 - Fiscal 2017/18
(\$000)

Fiscal 2012/13 Q3 Forecast
Treasury Board Staff

			2012/13 Actual	2012/13		2013/14		2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
STOB	CLIENT	REVENUE SOURCE		Budget	Revised Forecast	Revised Forecast	Target	Revised Revenue Forecast			
Investment Earnings											
4676	310	Miscellaneous Interest	232	200	200						
			236	202	202						
Other Miscellaneous											
4776	130	Trust Fund Revenue	—	—	—						
4792	130	Concessionary allowance recovery		250	7						
4794	130	Recovery of prior years' expenditure	44	100	100						
			54	350	107						
Sub-total - Other Revenue			4,304	7,813	7,162						
Contributions From Federal Government											
4959	310	Production Insurance Special Account	—	10,000	11,100						
4959	130	Production Insurance Special Account	—	2,300	—						
TOTAL MINISTRY REVENUE - Gross			4,304	20,113	18,262						
TOTAL COMMISSIONS			—	(1)	(1)						
TOTAL DOUBTFUL ACCOUNTS			—	(1)	(1)						
TOTAL MINISTRY REVENUE - Net			4,304	20,111	18,260						

s.13, s.17

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS											
310		Production Insurance Special Account	11,337	16,200	17,308	s.13, s.17					
			11,337	16,200	17,308						

Ministry of Agriculture
3 YEAR BUDGET - CORE PROGRAM
2012/13 to 2015/16
(\$000s)

Division	2012/13 Estimates	Change	2012/13 Restated	Change	2013/14 Estimates	Change	2014/15 Planned	Change	2015/16 Planned
Agriculture Science and Policy	9,968	2,563	12,531						
Innovation and Industry Development ⁽¹⁾	2,332	322	2,654						
Agrifood Policy and Legislation ^{(2),(3)}	3,404	1,823	5,227						
Plant and Animal Health	4,231	418	4,649						
Growing Forward	1	-	1						
Strategic Industry Partnerships	34,629	(180)	34,449						
Food Protection	1,220	-	1,220						
Sustainable Agriculture Management	4,481	(180)	4,301						
Business Risk Management	28,928	-	28,928						
BC Farm Industry Review Board	896	-	896						
Executive & Support Services ⁽³⁾	6,821	(28)	6,793						
Ministry Operations	52,314	2,355	54,669						
Agricultural Land Commission	1,974	-	1,974						
Total Voted Appropriation	54,288	2,355	56,643						
Production Insurance Special Account	11,500	-	11,500						
MINISTRY TOTAL	65,788	2,355	68,143						
TOTAL Percent Change by year			3.6%						

s.13, s.17

s.13, s.17

Ministry of Agriculture - Three Year STOB
VOTES 14 & 15 (COMBINED)
(\$000s)

STOB Expenses		2012/13		2012/13		2013/14		2014/15		2015/16
		Estimates	Change	Restated	Change	Estimates	Change	Planned	Change	Planned
50	Base Salaries and Overtime	21,845	(65)	21,780						
51	Supplementary Salary Costs	52	(1)	51						
52	Employee Benefits	5,074	(18)	5,056						
54	Legislative Salaries - Indemnities	53	-	53						
Subtotal		27,024	(84)	26,940						
55	Boards, Commissions, Courts Fees	368	-	368						
57	Public Servant Travel Expenses	922	(3)	919						
59	Centralized Management Support Services	291	-	291						
60	Professional Services - Operational/Regulatory	3,538	71	3,609						
61	Professional Services - Advisory	141	-	141						
63	Information Systems - Operating	1,050	(3)	1,047						
65	Office and Business Expenses	1,279	(1)	1,278						
68	Statutory Advertising and Publications	9	-	9						
69	Utilities Materials and Supplies	773	-	773						
70	Operating Equip, Vehicles and Other Op Exp	351	-	351						
73	Amortization Expenses	944	-	944						
75	Building Occupancy Charges	60	-	60						
Subtotal		9,726	64	9,790						
77	Transfers - Grants	19,882	-	19,882			s.13, s.17			
79	Transfers-Entitlements Ind and Orgs	-	2,375	2,375						
80	Transfers Under Agreement	5,491	-	5,491						
Subtotal		25,373	2,375	27,748						
81	Trsf Pymt Between Votes, Special Accts & Funds	7,000	-	7,000						
84	Interest Costs - Non Public Debt	4	-	4						
85	Other Expenses	6,084	-	6,084						
Subtotal		13,088	-	13,088						
88	Recoveries - Internal	(9)	-	(9)						
89	Recoveries - Within Gov't Rptng Entity	(10)	-	(10)						
90	Recoveries - Ext to Gov't Rptng Entity	(20,904)	-	(20,904)						
Subtotal		(20,923)	-	(20,923)						
Total Voted Operating Expense		54,288	2,355	56,643						
Special Accounts		11,500	-	11,500						
TOTAL MINISTRY		65,788	2,355	68,143						

Percent Change by year 3.6%

Ministry of Agriculture - Three Year STOB
MINISTRY OPERATIONS VOTE
(\$000s)

STOB Expenses		2012/13		2012/13		2013/14		2014/15		2015/16
		Estimates	Change	Restated	Change	Estimates	Change	Planned	Change	Planned
50	Base Salaries and Overtime	20,600	(65)	20,535						
51	Supplementary Salary Costs	52	(1)	51						
52	Employee Benefits	4,788	(18)	4,770						
54	Legislative Salaries - Indemnities	53	-	53						
Subtotal		25,493	(84)	25,409						
55	Boards, Commissions, Courts Fees	177	-	177						
57	Public Servant Travel Expenses	880	(3)	877						
59	Centralized Management Support Services	291	-	291						
60	Professional Services - Operational/Regulatory	3,528	71	3,599						
61	Professional Services - Advisory	77	-	77						
63	Information Systems - Operating	983	(3)	980						
65	Office and Business Expenses	1,239	(1)	1,238						
68	Statutory Advertising and Publications	-	-	-						
69	Utilities Materials and Supplies	772	-	772						
70	Operating Equip, Vehicles and Other Op Exp	333	-	333						
73	Amortization Expenses	940	-	940						
75	Building Occupancy Charges	60	-	60						
Subtotal		9,280	64	9,344				s.13, s.17		
77	Transfers - Grants	19,882	-	19,882						
79	Transfers - Entitlements Ind and Orgs	-	2,375	2,375						
80	Transfers Under Agreement	5,491	-	5,491						
Subtotal		25,373	2,375	27,748						
81	Trsf Pymt Between Votes, Special Accts & Funds	7,000	-	7,000						
84	Interest Costs - Non Public Debt	4	-	4						
85	Other Expenses	6,083	-	6,083						
Subtotal		13,087	-	13,087						
88	Recoveries - Internal	(8)	-	(8)						
89	Recoveries - Within Gov't Rptng Entity	(9)	-	(9)						
90	Recoveries - Ext to Gov't Rptng Entity	(20,902)	-	(20,902)						
Subtotal		(20,919)	-	(20,919)						
Total Voted Operating Expense		52,314	2,355	54,669						
Special Accounts		11,500	-	11,500						
TOTAL MINISTRY OPERATIONS		63,814	2,355	66,169						
Percent Change by year				3.7%						

Ministry of Agriculture - Three Year STOB
AGRICULTURAL LAND COMMISSION VOTE
(\$000s)

		2012/13		2012/13		2013/14	2014/15		2015/16
STOB Expenses		Estimates	Change	Restated	Change	Estimates	Planned	Change	Planned
50	Base Salaries and Overtime	1,245	-	1,245					
52	Employee Benefits	286	-	286					
Subtotal		1,531	-	1,531					
55	Boards, Commissions, Courts Fees	191	-	191					
57	Public Servant Travel Expenses	42	-	42					
60	Professional Services - Operational/Regulatory	10	-	10					
61	Professional Services - Advisory	64	-	64					
63	Information Systems - Operating	67	-	67					
65	Office and Business Expenses	40	-	40					
68	Statutory Advertising and Publications	9	-	9					
69	Utilities Materials and Supplies	1	-	1					
70	Operating Equip, Vehicles and Other Op Exp	18	-	18					
73	Amortization Expenses	4	-	4					
Subtotal		446	-	446				s.13, s.17	
85	Other Expenses	1	(1)	-					
88	Recoveries - Internal	(1)	-	(1)					
89	Recoveries - Within Gov't Rptng Entity	(1)	1	-					
90	Recoveries - Ext to Gov't Rptng Entity	(2)	-	(2)					
Subtotal		(4)	1	(3)					
Total Voted Operating Expense		1,974	-	1,974					
Special Accounts		-	-	-					
TOTAL MINISTRY		1,974	-	1,974					

Percent Change by year -

Ministry of Agriculture
2012/13 STOB 77 TRANSFERS - GRANTS
(\$000s)

	Approved	2012/13 Estimates	Actuals/ Forecast	(Over)/ Under	2013/14 Funded
Agriculture Science and Policy ⁽¹⁾	59	59	19	40	
Strategic Industry Partnerships ⁽²⁾	19,823	19,823	19,823	-	
	19,882	19,882	19,842	40	
Agriculture Science and Policy					
Growing Forward	59	59	19	40	s.13, s.17
Greenhouse Carbon Tax Rebate Program	-	-	-	-	
Meat Inspection Program ⁽¹⁾	-	-	-	-	
Strategic Industry Partnerships					
B.C. 4-H Provincial Council	87	87	87	-	
AgriStability Trust ⁽²⁾	19,736	19,736	19,736	-	
	19,882	19,882	19,842	40	

s.13, s.17

Ministry of Agriculture
HISTORICAL STOB 77 ESTIMATES TO ACTUALS
2009/10 to 2013/14
(\$000s)

Division	2009/10 Estimates	2009/10 Actuals	(Over)/ Under	2010/11 Estimates	2010/11 Actuals	(Over)/ Under	2011/12 Restated Estimates	2011/12 Actuals	2012/13 Restated Estimates	2012/13 Actuals	(Over)/ Under	2013/14 Estimates
Agriculture Science and Policy	95	4,438	(4,343)	87	392	(305)	59	53	59	19	40	
Strategic Industry Partnerships	13,378	21,486	(8,108)	19,736	20,011	(275)	19,823	19,821	19,823	19,823	-	
MINISTRY TOTAL	13,473	25,924	(12,451)	19,823	20,403	(580)	19,882	19,874	19,882	19,842	40	
Change							59		-			
% Change							0.3%		-			

s.13, s.17

Ministry of Agriculture
STAFF BY LOCATION (COMPARATIVE)

Location	Total Number of Staff in Location					2012/13
	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	Current
Abbotsford	112	115	117	112	118	106
Burnaby	19	23	22	20	24	23
Campbell River	3	3	3	1	1	1
Courtenay	34	34	32	33	8	9
Cranbrook	21	24	24	1	2	1
Creston	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dawson Creek	6	8	8	8	9	9
Duncan	2	2	2	2	2	2
Fort St. John	22	28	34	5	3	3
Golden	1	1	1			
Invermere	1	1	1			
Kamloops	76	75	77	6	8	6
Kelowna	35	38	52	53	66	60
Mackenzie			1			
Nanaimo	49	61	56	3		
Nelson	8	9	6			
Oliver	4	5	6	7	7	7
Penticton	1	1	1			
Prince George	52	48	44	4	2	1
Prince Rupert	1	1	1			
Saanichton	2	1				
Smithers	38	43	47			
Squamish			1			
Surrey	60	66	64	3		
Terrace			1			
Vancouver	1					
Vernon	9	8	10	8	7	7
Victoria	237	266	260	113	81	79
Williams Lake	27	27	32	5	6	6
Total	822	889	904	385	345	321

Ministry of Agriculture
STAFF BY FUNCTION (COMPARATIVE)

	Fiscal 2009/10	Fiscal 2010/11	Fiscal 2011/12	Fiscal 2012/13	Fiscal 2013/14
Total number of staff	385	385	339	321	321
Key Ministry staff as follows:					
Scientific/Tech Officer	54	53	56	54	54
Licensed Science Officer	90	79	78	72	72
Laboratory/Health Science Officer	20	20	22	19	19

Note:
Above numbers represent individual people regardless of hours worked.

Ministry of Agriculture
OVERTIME COSTS (STOB 5010)
Comparisons
(\$000s)

Program	Actuals 2010/11	Yr Over Yr \$	Yr Over Yr %	Actuals 2011/12	Yr Over Yr \$	Yr Over Yr %	Actuals 2012/13	Yr Over Yr \$	Yr Over Yr %	Salary Restated Budget 2012/13	OT as % of 12/13 Salary Restated Budget
Agriculture Science & Policy	27	(7)	(20.6%)	31	4	14.8%	39	35	112.9%	9,546	0.4%
Strategic Industry Partnerships	80	5	6.7%	79	(1)	(1.3%)	76	(3)	(3.8%)	9,440	0.8%
BC Farm Industry Review Board	4	3	352.0%	2	(2)	(50.0%)	3	1	50.0%	525	0.6%
Executive & Support Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,024	-
Agricultural Land Commission	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,411	-
Total	111	1	1.0%	112	1	0.9%	118	33	29.5%	21,946	0.5%

CHANGES FROM 2012/13

s.13, s.17

MINISTER’S OFFICE

s.13, s.17

SALARIES AND STAFFING

8. What is the impact of attrition and hiring freeze on the Ministry staff complement?
- All programs are expected to be affected to some extent by higher retirement rates and challenges in recruiting qualified staff
 - 4 people retired in 2012/13
 - s.13, s.17

Ministry of Agriculture
Budget 2013/14 – 2015/16
Questions and Answers

9. Which programs have staff reductions?

s.13

10. How many FTEs are there in the ministry and what is the change from last year (points from BCPSA, the first three are consistent with page 28 of the Budget and Fiscal Plan – June Update)?

- Full-time equivalents (FTEs) in the BC Public Service are projected to decrease as a result of employee attrition and hiring restrictions announced in September 2012.
- This reflects the expectation of government to continue to prioritize key services and programs while achieving savings and improved effectiveness in service delivery.
- The projected decrease is expected to be achieved through attrition – that is, through normal annual voluntary exits, including retirements.
- s.13, s.17
- Ministers have accountability to balance the budget to the bottom line dollar figure.
- The number of FTEs that can be accommodated within a ministry’s budget depends on many factors including the staff mix throughout the year.

For the Minister’s Information:

s.13, s.17

s.13, s.17

12. How many auxiliary employees does the ministry have?

As at May 31, 2013, the ministry has 34 auxiliary employees as follows:

- Innovation, Industry and Development, 4
- Plant & Animal Health, 11
- Business Risk Management, 6
- Sustainable Agriculture Management, 8
- Agricultural Land Commission, 5

13. How much has the ministry spent on employee recognition?

As at March 31, 2013, the ministry spent \$6,354 (\$20.42 per employee) on employee recognition including staff appreciation and in-kind merchandise.

Ministry of Agriculture

Budget 2013/14 – 2015/16

Questions and Answers

14. 3 Yr Service Plan changes:

	2013/14 Estimates	2014/15 Planned	2015/16 Planned
--	----------------------	--------------------	--------------------

Vote 14 - Ministry Operations

Vote 15 - Agricultural Land Commission

Vote 14 - Budget Lifts and Reductions

Range Policy Program to FLNRO

Expenditure Management Savings Target

PISA Contribution

Meat Inspection Program from HLTH

Greenhouse Carbon Tax Rebate Program

s.13, s.17

Vote 15 - Budget Lifts and Reductions

Agricultural Land Commission -Budget Lifts

Total Budget Lifts and Reductions

Total Budget Targets

Vote 14 - Ministry Operations

Vote 15 - Agricultural Land Commission

15. STOB Allocations – Key changes:

STOB Allocations - Key Changes from 2012/13 Restated to 2013/14 Estimates:

s.13, s.17

**Ministry of Agriculture
Budget 2013/14 – 2015/16
Questions and Answers**

16. Any changes to the Production Insurance Special Account (PISA)?

s.13, s.17

The funds transferred to the Special Account are estimated annual insurance premiums. BC's portion is approximately 33% of total premiums which range between \$24 - \$26M. This means the budgeted premium costs (transferred from the Ministry Operations Vote) are \$8.8M. Producers and the federal government pay the remainder of the premium costs.

The operating budget reflects the average annual expenditures for re-insurance premiums, claim adjusting costs and indemnity payments.

17. Have there been any audits done of the ministry?

As part of the year-end process, the Ministry is audited by the Office of the Auditor General. The Ministry is subject to regular payment audits by the Payment Review Office, Ministry of Finance. The Ministry's Growing Forward, Production Insurance, Wildlife and AgriStability programs are also subject to annual audits by the Federal Government.

18. Where is the promotions budget being held in the ministry?

The Market Development and Promotions Unit (Unit) within the Innovation and Industry Development Branch (Branch), Agriculture Science and Policy Division, is responsible for domestic and international marketing of agriculture and seafood products. The Ministry's statistics team is also included in the Unit as they lend support to marketing efforts through various statistical inquiries and publications.

The domestic and international activities listed here are all key commitments under the government's Agrifoods Strategy, a component of the B.C. Jobs Plan, to lead the Agrifoods sector growth into a \$14-billion-a-year industry by 2017.

Domestic Marketing:

In 2012, the Government of British Columbia invested \$2M to help B.C. producers and processors promote local foods. AGRI partnered with the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC to develop a \$1.5M cost-sharing program to support local businesses and organizations launch or expand their marketing campaigns, and create customized promotions. The Buy Local Program was launched on August 30, 2012 and has received over 20 applications. To date, government has contributed over \$0.645M in cost shared funding to projects valued at \$1.9M. The BC Agriculture Council received a further \$0.500M to promote the BC farm community and raise agriculture awareness among consumers.

Ministry of Agriculture
Budget 2013/14 – 2015/16
Questions and Answers

International Marketing:

The Unit provides international marketing support through three main activities: the Growing Forward Market Research Program, outgoing and incoming missions and participation in international trade shows. Funded through the federal-provincial Growing Forward agreement, the **Market Research Program** provides international trade reports to BC's agrifoods associations. In March 2013, the Unit delivered four reports highlighting opportunities for BC agrifoods in international markets. These reports included:

- Greenhouse Vegetables, Blueberries and Sweet Cherries: Opportunities in Japan and China
- Export Opportunities for BC's Food Processors in China and Hong Kong
- Export Opportunities for BC's Food Processors in Germany and the United Kingdom and
- Global Export Market Overview for British Columbia's Wine Industry

In this fiscal, the Unit has coordinated **incoming trade or media missions** from Mexico, India, and China. In September 2012 the Unit undertook the **outgoing mission**, the New West Partnership (NWP) mission to Hong Kong, China, Japan and S. Korea.

By March 31, 2013, Unit staff participated in the following **international trade shows**: the European Seafood Exposition, the China Fisheries and Seafood Expo and the International Boston Seafood Show. These shows were delivered in cooperation with the BC Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Agriculture and Agri-food Canada.

Statistics:

Unit staffs have produced marketing materials and documents to support the NWP trade mission to Asia, and BC participation at the international trade shows listed above. Some of the flagship statistical documents produced this fiscal include:

- BC Seafood Industry Year in Review 2011
- BC Agrifood Industry Year in Review 2011
- Census of Agriculture 2011 – British Columbia Highlights
- Agriculture, Seafood and Agrifood Fast Stats 2011
- British Columbia Agrifoods Export Highlights 2011 and Agrifoods, Agriculture & Seafood Sector Snapshots 2011

International Budget: s.13, s.17
s.13, s.17

- **Market Development:** Tradeshow, incoming & outgoing missions

s.13, s.17

- **Market Intelligence:** Export market analysis reports, export seminars

s.13, s.17

**ISSUE: Agricultural Land Commission –
Land Filling and Enforcement in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR)**

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **Government knows that for agriculture to be successful in British Columbia, producers need a sustainable land base. The BC government has committed to help the ALC become a stronger organization, and transition to a more self-supporting operating model.**
- **In February 2013, government announced an additional \$4 million over three years to support the operation of the ALC, a portion of which will enable increased enforcement, through the hiring of a new coordinator and additional enforcement officer.**
- **Increasing enforcement capacity of the ALC is consistent with the report from the 2010 ALC Chair's Review and supports the Auditor General's 2010 recommendation that the ALC has a sufficiently robust compliance and enforcement program.**
- **The Compliance & Enforcement Coordinator will commence the ALC's outreach regarding other collaborative compliance and enforcement opportunities with local and provincial government ministries and agencies.**
- **Hiring an additional C & E Officer will provide the ALC with greater ability to react to infractions and to conduct investigations in tandem with FLNRO's and other appointed officials.**
-

BACKGROUND:

- The ALC preserves agricultural land by protecting it from unlawful activities such as the significant instances of illegal land filling in the high population growth regions of the province.
- Partnerships with other government agencies and local governments will be key to the ALC's success in preventing illegal land filling.
- The ALC has, and continues to seek proactive alliances with other provincial ministries and agencies and has long been an advocate of collaborative compliance and enforcement.
- The ALC's CEO has appointed 38 provincial government employees from FLNRO as "officials" to aid in the ALC's compliance and enforcement activities. These appointments provide the ALC with enhanced compliance and enforcement capabilities in the South Coast, Interior, Okanagan and Kootenay Boundary regions. The ALC continues to pursue arrangements for additional appointments.
- Based on the government's 2013-14 Budget and the ALC Board's supported ALC staffing structure, the ALC will be enhancing its compliance and enforcement capacity by hiring a Compliance and Enforcement Coordinator and a Compliance and Enforcement Officer in the summer of 2013.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- Appointments of FLNRO personnel as ALC officials is consistent with and builds on the existing partnership approach under the Resource Management Coordination Project (RMCP) for shared compliance and enforcement.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- The cost of FLNRO personnel acting as ALC officials is borne by FLNRO.
- Administrative oversight costs are borne by the ALC and supported by additional funding for the ALC over the next three (3) years announced in February's 2013 Balanced Budget 2013.

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
Colin Fry, ALC Executive Director	Colin Fry	Brian Underhill, Executive Director
Date approved: June 25, 2013	ALC	ALC
Phone: 604 660-7006	Phone: 604 660-7006	Phone: 604 660-7028
Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17

•

ISSUE: Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) – Update 2010 Auditor General's Report**RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:**

- **British Columbians value local food, local farmers and local farms, and the Province has supported those values with actions taken in response to the recommendations contained in the reports of the Auditor General and the Chair of the ALC.**
- **Budget 2013 provides an additional \$4 million over three years to support the Agricultural Land Commission for increased oversight of the Agriculture Land Reserve.**
- **This budget increase enables the ALC to:**
 - **continue with boundary reviews;**
 - **increase compliance and enforcement activities throughout the province;**
 - **pursue proactive planning work with local governments;**
 - **work more closely with farmers, ranchers and agricultural organizations to preserve agricultural land and encourage farming; and**
 - **continue digital conversion and mapping projects started with transitional funding.**
- **The new funding in this year's budget is in addition to one-time funding of \$1.6 million the government provided in 2011, as a part of a package that strengthened the ALC by giving it greater ability to focus on preserving farmland, increasing enforcement and to evolve into a more sustainable organization.**
- **By improving the structure and sustainability of the ALC, the government is improving the lives of 20,000 farming families in British Columbia and the \$9.6-billion agri-food sector our province supports.**
- **The Ministry is working in partnership with ALC staff to fulfill the recommendations contained in the reports.**

BACKGROUND:

- In September 2010, the Auditor General of British Columbia produced a report that examined the ALC and made 9 recommendations.
- In August 2012 the ALC reported to the Auditor General on its progress in implementing the recommendations as follows:

Recommendation 1 – ensure that ALR boundaries are accurate and include land that is both capable of and suitable for agricultural use.

s.13, s.17

s.13, s.17

Recommendation 2 – seek government's support to make changes that will allow it to more effectively preserve agricultural land and encourage farming through the application process.

s.13, s.17

s.13, s.17

Recommendation 3 – engage in proactive long-term planning with local governments to encourage farming.

s.13, s.17

s.13, s.17

Recommendation 4 – work with Fraser-Fort George Regional District to address concerns it has with the District's processes.

s.13, s.17

s.13, s.17

Recommendation 5 – work with the Oil and Gas Commission to develop an action plan to implement the recommendations of a 2009 audit.

s.13, s.17

s.13, s.17

Recommendation 6 – ensure that it has a sufficiently robust compliance and enforcement program.

s.13, s.17

s.13, s.17

Recommendation 7 – prioritize the completion of the new database and finalize the conversion of the original paper ALR maps into digitalized format.

s.13, s.17

s.13, s.17

Recommendation 8 – evaluate the collective impacts of its decisions on applications and its broader policy decisions.

s.13, s.17

s.13, s.17

Recommendation 9 – report publicly on the cumulative impacts of its decisions.

s.13, s.17

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- BC's approach to agricultural land preservation is unique and is not comparable to other jurisdictions – domestically or internationally.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- The projects and initiatives undertaken to address the Auditor General's recommendations have been funded with \$1.6 million in transitional funding for 2011/12 and 2012/13 fiscal years.
- The ALC will continue with and build on these initiatives with the additional \$4 million over three years it received commencing in fiscal year 2013/14 for increased oversight of the Agricultural Land Reserve.

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
Colin Fry, ALC Executive Director	Colin Fry	Brian Underhill, Executive Director
Date approved: June 25, 2013	ALC	ALC
Phone: (604) 660-7006	Phone: (604) 660-7006	Phone: (604) 660-7028
Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17

ISSUE: Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) – ALC Initiatives Related to Staffing

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **With the assistance of \$1.6 million in transitional funding, since early 2012 the ALC has deployed five (5) auxiliary staff in addition to existing staff, to undertake several projects to enhance its capacity to be more proactive and work closer with local governments and increase its compliance and enforcement presence.**
- **Government's 2013 Budget outlines an additional \$4 million over the next three (3) years to continue the work begun in 2012.**
- **Government's commitment has allowed for the ALC to hire the necessary staff resources to deliver on the improvements it is making to become a proactive organization and sustain itself in the long term.**

BACKGROUND:

- In November 2011, government provided the ALC with \$1.6 million over 2 years in one-time transitional funding to support activities aimed at strengthening operations of the ALC and making it more proactive in its work to preserve agricultural land and encourage farming.
- In February 2013, government, in its Balanced Budget 2013, announced additional funding for the ALC of \$4 million over the next 3 years, re-emphasizing the commitment to help the ALC become a stronger organization and transition to a more self supporting model.
- Since early 2012, the ALC has hired auxiliary staff to carry out several projects related to digital mapping, data base capture and conversion and the development of website tools that will enhance its capability to carry out proactive land use planning, conduct ALR boundary reviews and increase compliance and enforcement activities.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- BC's approach to agricultural land preservation is unique and is not comparable to other jurisdictions – domestically or internationally.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- Since 2012, the ALC has utilized 5 auxiliary staff to oversee and undertake mapping and data capture and conversion projects, which will continue through 2013/14. This activity entails converting paper based maps and information to digital format consistent with government standards and capture (by scanning documents and data entry) of historical ALC decisions and related ALR application file information.
- Beginning in late 2012/13 the ALC has been working with the Public Serve Agency (PSA) to update job descriptions/profiles for ALC staff.

s.13, s.17

s.13, s.17

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
Brian Underhill, ALC Executive Director	Brian Underhill	Colin Fry, Executive Director
Date approved: June 25, 2013	ALC	ALC
Phone: (604) 660-7006	Phone: (604) 660-7028	Phone: (604) 660-7006
Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17

ISSUE: Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) – Site C Dam

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- The ALC is aware of the provincial significance of Site C and how this project can provide significant economic opportunities and benefits to British Columbians.
- The ALC is also aware that if it is left to make a decision regarding the use of ALR land for Site C that it's decision-making will be guided by the purposes of the ALC Act.
- The issues associated with this provincially significant project far exceed those relevant to the ALC's jurisdiction including environmental issues, wildlife habitat, water access, and First Nations.
- The potential loss of prime agricultural land appears to be significant as publicly reported in BC Hydro's documents and Environmental Impact Assessment documents. s.13

s.13

- Sections 39 – 45 inclusive of the ALC Act provide that if the Lieutenant Governor in Council considers it to be in the Provincial interest, the Lieutenant Governor in Council, by order, may consider and decide upon an application before the ALC.
- If the Lieutenant Governor in Council considers an application in the Provincial interest the ALC retains a referral and advisory role.

BACKGROUND:

- BC Hydro has proposed the construction of the Site C Clean Energy Project (Site C), a third dam and hydroelectric generating station on the Peace River in northeastern BC. If constructed, the proposed reservoir will flood land in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) that is currently or could be capable of producing agricultural products.
- Additional ALR lands will likely be identified for permanent or temporary use during the development of Site C for such purposes as power line and road rights of way, work camps, and quarries.
- One of the purposes of the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) contained in the Agricultural Land Commission Act (ALC Act) is to preserve agricultural land.
- The ALC Act establishes the ability for persons to apply to the ALC to exclude land from the ALR, to subdivide land in the ALR and for permission to conduct a non-farm use on ALR land.
- In the absence of any other process this provincially significant project involving land in the ALR will require the ALC's approval.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- BC's approach to agricultural land preservation is unique and is not comparable to other jurisdictions – domestically or internationally.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- Not applicable

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
Colin Fry, ALC Executive Director	Colin Fry	Brian Underhill, Executive Director
Date approved: June 25, 2013	ALC	ALC
Phone: (604) 660-7006	Phone: (604) 660-7006	Phone: (604) 660-7028
Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17

ISSUE: Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) – Targeted ALR Boundary Reviews

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- Targeted ALR boundary reviews to ensure land that is capable and suitable for agriculture is in the ALR is consistent with the recommendations of the 2010 ALC Chair Review and the 2010 Auditor General's Report.
- ALR boundary reviews are based on scientific and technical information and are conducted in an open and transparent manner by engaging local governments, agricultural organizations, other stakeholder groups and the general public.
- The first area of review in the East Kootenay is underway s.13

•

s.13, s.17

BACKGROUND:

- The ALC has commenced its first ALR boundary review in the Regional District of East Kootenay's Elk Valley. The purpose of the project is to ensure that the ALR boundaries are accurate and include land that is both capable and suitable for agricultural use.
- ALR boundary reviews are based on scientific and technical information and are conducted in an open and transparent manner by engaging local governments, agricultural organizations, other stakeholder groups and the general public.
-

s.13, s.17

•

•

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- BC's approach to agricultural land preservation is unique and is not comparable to other jurisdictions – domestically or internationally.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- The work undertaken to prepare for targeted ALR boundary reviews such as the conversion of agricultural capability maps to digital format, the retrieval of application files to verify digital mapping of properties, the entering of application data into the Online Application Tracking System (OATS) and to scan relevant file documents was funded with \$1.6 million in transitional funding for 2011/12 and 2012/13 fiscal years.
- The ALC will continue with targeted ALR boundary reviews over the next 3 years with resource allocation from the additional \$4 million over three years it received commencing in fiscal year 2013/14 for increased oversight of the ALR.

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
Colin Fry, ALC Executive Director	Colin Fry	Brian Underhill, ALC Executive Director
Date approved: June 25, 2013	ALC	ALC
Phone: (604) 660-7006	Phone: (604) 660-7006	Phone: (604) 660-7028
Cell s.17	Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17

ISSUE: Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) – BC Rail Expansion, Delta**RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:**

- **Section 6(c)(i) of the Agricultural Land Reserve Use, Subdivision and Procedure Regulation – BC Regulation 171/2002, requires an application be submitted to the ALC for the dedication of a right of way or construction of a new or existing railway.**
- **The 2007 application by BC Rail was specific to the dedication of a new railway right of way and did not include a request to construct within the right of way.**
- **The ALC approved BC Rail's application in March 2008.**
- **In 2012 BC Rail made a request to the ALC for permission to construct rail yards and associated roads within the railway right of way that was approved in 2008.**
- **The ALC granted approval in principle to the request for construction subject to BC Rail undertaking stakeholder consultations to explore opportunities within Delta to minimize or offset the impacts of railway construction on agricultural land.**
- **The ALC specifically identified the Corporation of Delta, the Delta Farmers Institute and the Tsawwassen First Nation Government as stakeholders for consultation.**
- **The ALC is also amenable to receiving additional input from other stakeholders BC Rail may wish to engage.**
-
-

s.13, s.17

BACKGROUND:

- In the mid-1960s the Provincial Government expropriated land near Roberts Bank in Delta for future industrial development related to port facilities.
- In the late 1990s, the Provincial Government decided to allow farmers to acquire expropriated lands no longer deemed to be required for provincial purposes. On three parcels where there was deemed to be a continuing provincial interest in enabling additional future railway operations associated with Deltaport expansion, lands were sold to farmers subject to a registered "option to purchase and right of first refusal" in favour of BC Rail and BCR Properties over a "200-foot strip", having an option expiry date of May 31, 2009.
- In August 2007 BC Rail and BCR Properties applied to ALC to acquire the right of way. On March 12, 2008 the ALC approved the application subject to the preparation of a plan to delineate the area to be dedicated as railway right of way, and retention of existing agricultural infrastructure and production by way of a beneficial lease(s) to allow the land to be farmed until such time as rail construction has been approved and construction is imminent.
- On September 19, 2012 the ALC reconsidered the application based on a request to allow construction of rail yards and associated roads within the ALR, and to legitimize existing railway operational buildings. The ALC granted approval in principle subject to mitigation of direct effects, indirect effects and residual impacts of the proposed development on agricultural land.
- As part of its decision the ALC directed BC Rail and BCR Properties to submit for its review and approval an agricultural plan which includes an assessment of the impacts to agriculture and of opportunities to improve the productivity of ALR lands in the area following input from stakeholders, including the Corporation of Delta, the Delta Farmers Institute, the Tsawwassen First Nation Government, and any other stakeholder(s) the applicant may choose to engage.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- BC's approach to agricultural land preservation is unique and is not comparable to other jurisdictions – domestically or internationally.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- Not applicable

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
Colin Fry, ALC Executive Director	Colin Fry	Brian Underhill, Executive Director
Date approved: June 25, 2013	ALC	ALC
Phone: (604) 660-7006	Phone: (604) 660-7006	Phone: (604) 660-7028
Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17

ISSUE: Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) – Delta Port Expansion

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **I confirm the advice provided by my colleague in April 2012 that anyone seeking to have lands removed from the ALR needs to go through the proper process with the local community and the ALC. Whether it's an individual, a company or another level of government, the established process needs to be followed to ensure the best interests of agriculture are taken into account.**
- **It is my understanding that at this point in time, the ALC is unaware of any details of an application to change the use of the Delta farmlands for port related or other non-farm purposes.**
- **When an application is made and details become available, I fully expect the ALC to be engaged.**

BACKGROUND:

- April 2012 media reported that an industrial consortium was optioning approximately 558 acres (226 hectares) of South Delta farmland for Port Metro Vancouver's Delta Port operations.
- In April 2012, former Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable Don McRae, released a statement in response to the media reports.
- Minister McRae pointed out that a developer does not have the ability to simply remove lands from the ALR for port purposes and that the ALC and the community of Delta must first approve use of this land for any purpose other than agriculture.
- Minister McRae made it clear that anyone seeking to have lands removed from the ALR must go through the proper process with the local community and the ALC.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- BC's approach to agricultural land preservation is unique and is not comparable to other jurisdictions – domestically or internationally.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- Not applicable

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
Colin Fry, ALC Executive Director	Colin Fry	Brian Underhill, Executive Director
Date approved: June 25, 2013	ALC	ALC
Phone: (604) 660-7006	Phone: (604) 660-7006	Phone: (604) 660-7028
Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17

ISSUE: Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) – Land Included to and Excluded from the ALR by Calendar Year

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **The ALC includes and excludes land from the ALR based on the ALC's legislative mandate and the process set out in legislation and regulation.**
- **The net change in area of the ALR since 1974 has been an increase of approximately 43,000 hectares.**
- **The net change in the ALR between 2002 and 2011 has been an increase of 38,500 hectares. This is a significant area of land that has been added to the reserve.**
- **The majority of the lands, both excluded from and included to the ALR since 2002, were mixed and secondary agriculture capability (Class 4, 5, 6).**
- **With the support of increased funding in budget 2013, a review is currently underway of ALR boundaries in targeted areas of the province to ensure lands in the reserve are appropriately designated.**

BACKGROUND:**CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:**

YEAR	INCLUSION (Hectares)	EXCLUSION (Hectares)	NET CHANGE (Hectares)
1974 - 2001	133,716	129,549	4,167
2002	41,792	1,516	40,276
2003	428	746	-318
2004	1,559	1,497	62
2005	1,670	2,207	-537
2006	977	548	429
2007	1,268	1,442	-174
2008	833	1,461	-628
2009	1,384	2,373	-989
2010	658	364	295
2011	682	632	50
Total 2002 - 2011	51,265	12,777	38,488
TOTAL	184,981	142,326	42,655

- BC's approach to agricultural land preservation is unique and is not comparable to other jurisdictions – domestically or internationally.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- Not applicable.

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
Colin Fry, ALC Executive Director	Colin Fry	Brian Underhill, Executive Director
Date approved: June 25, 2013	ALC	ALC
Phone: (604) 660-7006	Phone: (604) 660-7006	Phone: (604) 660-7028
Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17

ISSUE: Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) – ALC Initiatives Related to Staffing

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **Government's 2013 Budget outlines an additional \$4 million over the next three years to support the ALC's operations and continue work already started to enhance the ALC's staff resources.**
- **With the assistance of \$1.6 million in transitional funding, in November 2011, the ALC hired five auxiliary staff to work through 2011/12 and 2012/13 on projects to enhance its capacity, work more closely with local governments, and increase its compliance and enforcement presence.**
- **The projects include digital mapping, data base capture and conversion and the development of website tools that will enable stakeholders, ALC Commissioners and staff greater access to information.**

•

•

s.13, s.17

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
Brian Underhill, ALC Executive Director	Brian Underhill	Colin Fry, Executive Director
Date approved: June 25, 2013	ALC	ALC
Phone: (604) 660-7006	Phone: (604) 660-7028	Phone: (604) 660-7006
Cell: s.17	Cell s.17	Cell: s.17

Background:

- In November 2011, government provided the ALC with \$1.6 million over 2 years in one-time transitional funding to support activities aimed at strengthening operations of the ALC and making it more proactive in its work to preserve agricultural land and encourage farming.
- In February 2013, government, in its Balanced Budget 2013, announced additional funding for the ALC of \$4 million over the next 3 years, re-emphasizing the commitment to help the ALC become a stronger organization and transition to a more self supporting model.
- Since early 2012, the ALC has relied on hiring of auxiliary staff to carry out several projects related to digital mapping, data base capture and conversion and the development of website tools that will enhance its capability to carry out proactive land use planning, conduct ALR boundary reviews and increase compliance and enforcement activities.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- BC's approach to agricultural land preservation is unique and is not comparable to other jurisdictions – domestically or internationally.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- Since 2012, the ALC has utilized 5 auxiliary staff to oversee and undertake mapping and data capture and conversion projects that will continue through 2013/14. This activity entails converting paper based maps and information to digital format consistent with government standards and capturing (by scanning documents and data entry) historical ALC decisions and related ALR application file information.
- Beginning in late 2012/13 the ALC has been working with the Public Service Agency (PSA) to update job descriptions/profiles for ALC staff.

s.13, s.17

s.13, s.17

ISSUE: Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) – Targeted ALR Boundary Reviews

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **The undertaking of targeted ALR boundary reviews to ensure land that is capable and suitable for agriculture is in the ALR is consistent with the report from the 2010 ALC Chair Review.**
- **The undertaking of targeted ALR boundary reviews to ensure land that is capable and suitable for agriculture is in the ALR is consistent with the Auditor General's 2010 recommendation that the ALC ensure that the ALR boundaries include land that is both suitable and capable for agricultural use.**

BACKGROUND:

- The ALC has commenced its first ALR boundary review in the Regional District of East Kootenay's Elk Valley. The purpose of the project is to ensure that the ALR boundaries are accurate and include land that is both capable and suitable for agricultural use.
- ALR boundary reviews are based on scientific and technical information and are conducted in an open and transparent manner by engaging local governments, agricultural organizations, other stakeholder groups and the general public.
-

s.13, s.17

-
-

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- BC's approach to agricultural land preservation is unique and is not comparable to other jurisdictions – domestically or internationally.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- The work undertaken to prepare for targeted ALR boundary reviews such as the conversion of agricultural capability maps to digital format, the retrieval of application files to verify digital mapping of properties, the entering of application data into the Online Application Tracking System (OATS) and to scan relevant file documents was funded with \$1.6 million in transitional funding for 2011/12 and 2012/13 fiscal years.
- The ALC will continue with targeted ALR boundary reviews over the next 3 years with resource allocation from the additional \$4 million over three years it received commencing in fiscal year 2013/14 for increased oversight of the ALR.

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
Colin Fry, ALC Executive Director	Colin Fry	Brian Underhill, ALC Executive Director
Date approved: June 25, 2013	ALC	ALC
Phone: (604) 660-7006	Phone: (604) 660-7006	Phone: (604) 660-7028
Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17

ISSUE: Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) – Update 2010 Auditor General's Report

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **Work on these projects has advanced since the August 2012 update.**
- **Data entry and document scanning is continuing.**
-

s.13, s.17

- **ALC / OGC delegation agreement has been updated and executed by both agencies in early June 2013. The updated agreement provides greater flexibility for industry while at the same time building greater agricultural awareness into industry planning for oil and gas facilities and land reclamation.**

BACKGROUND:

- In September 2010, the Auditor General of British Columbia produced a report that examined the ALC and made 9 recommendations.
- In August 2012 the ALC reported to the Auditor General on its progress in implementing the recommendations as follows:

Recommendation 1 – ensure that ALR boundaries are accurate and include land that is both capable of and suitable for agricultural use.

s.13, s.17

s.13, s.17

Recommendation 2 – seek government's support to make changes that will allow it to more effectively preserve agricultural land and encourage farming through the application process.

s.13, s.17

s.13, s.17

Recommendation 3 – engage in proactive long-term planning with local governments to encourage farming.

s.13, s.17

s.13, s.17

Recommendation 4 – work with Fraser-Fort George Regional District to address concerns it has with the District's processes.

s.13, s.17

s.13, s.17

Recommendation 5 – work with the Oil and Gas Commission to develop an action plan to implement the recommendations of a 2009 audit.

s.13, s.17

s.13, s.17

Recommendation 6 – ensure that it has a sufficiently robust compliance and enforcement program.

s.13, s.17

s.13, s.17

Recommendation 7 – prioritize the completion of the new database and finalize the conversion of the original paper ALR maps into digitalized format.

s.13, s.17

s.13, s.17

Recommendation 8 – evaluate the collective impacts of its decisions on applications and its broader policy decisions.

s.13, s.17

s.13, s.17

Recommendation 9 – report publicly on the cumulative impacts of its decisions.

s.13, s.17

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- BC's approach to agricultural land preservation is unique and is not comparable to other jurisdictions – domestically or internationally.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- The projects and initiatives undertaken to address the Auditor General's recommendations have been funded with \$1.6 million in transitional funding for 2011/12 and 2012/13 fiscal years.
- The ALC will continue with and build on these initiatives with the additional \$4 million over three years it received commencing in fiscal year 2013/14 for increased oversight of the Agricultural Land Reserve.

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
Colin Fry, ALC Executive Director	Colin Fry	Brian Underhill, Executive Director
Date approved: June 25, 2013	ALC	ALC
Phone: (604) 660-7006	Phone: (604) 660-7006	Phone: (604) 660-7028
Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17

ISSUE: Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) – BC Rail Expansion, Delta

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **The ALC is awaiting the submission of the impact mitigation plan and the result of stakeholder consultation.**
- **A final decision regarding the proposal will follow the review of the plan and consultation input.**

BACKGROUND:

- In the mid-1960s the Provincial Government expropriated land near Roberts Bank in Delta for future industrial development related to port facilities.
- In the late 1990s, the Provincial Government decided to allow farmers to acquire expropriated lands no longer deemed to be required for provincial purposes. On three parcels where there was deemed to be a continuing provincial interest in enabling additional future railway operations associated with Deltaport expansion, lands were sold to farmers subject to a registered "option to purchase and right of first refusal" in favour of BC Rail and BCR Properties over a "200-foot strip", having an option expiry date of May 31, 2009.
- In August 2007 BC Rail and BCR Properties applied to ALC to acquire the right of way. On March 12, 2008 the ALC approved the application subject to the preparation of a plan to delineate the area to be dedicated as railway right of way, and retention of existing agricultural infrastructure and production by way of a beneficial lease(s) to allow the land to be farmed until such time as rail construction has been approved and construction is imminent.
- On September 19, 2012 the ALC reconsidered the application based on a request to allow construction of rail yards and associated roads within the ALR, and to legitimize existing railway operational buildings. The ALC granted approval in principle subject to mitigation of direct effects, indirect effects and residual impacts of the proposed development on agricultural land.
- As part of its decision the ALC directed BC Rail and BCR Properties to submit for its review and approval an agricultural plan which includes an assessment of the impacts to agriculture and of opportunities to improve the productivity of ALR lands in the area following input from stakeholders, including the Corporation of Delta, the Delta Farmers Institute, the Tsawwassen First Nation Government, and any other stakeholder(s) the applicant may choose to engage.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- BC's approach to agricultural land preservation is unique and is not comparable to other jurisdictions – domestically or internationally.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- Not applicable

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
Colin Fry, ALC Executive Director	Colin Fry	Brian Underhill, Executive Director
Date approved: June 25, 2013	ALC	ALC
Phone: (604) 660-7006	Phone: (604) 660-7006	Phone: (604) 660-7028
Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17

ISSUE: Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) – Delta Port Expansion

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **I confirm the advice provided by my colleague in April 2012 that anyone seeking to have lands removed from the ALR needs to go through the proper process with the local community and the ALC. Whether it's an individual, a company or another level of government, the established process needs to be followed to ensure the best interests of agriculture are taken into account.**
- **It is my understanding that at this point in time, the ALC is unaware of any details of an application to change the use of the Delta farmlands for port related or other non-farm purposes. When an application is made and details become available, I fully expect the ALC to be engaged.**

BACKGROUND:

- In April 2012 Delta South MLA Vicki Huntington revealed that an industrial consortium is behind the optioning of 558 acres (226 hectares) of South Delta farmland for port-related use.
- In April 2012 the former Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable Don McRae, released a statement related to reports that ALR land was being assembled which prompted speculation of a private developer's desire to see several parcels of Delta farm land used to support Port Metro Vancouver's Delta Port operations.
- Minister McRae pointed out that a developer does not have the ability to simply remove lands from the ALR for port purposes and that the ALC and the community of Delta must first approve use of this land for any purpose other than agriculture.
- Minister McRae made the provincial government's position abundantly clear in that anyone seeking to have lands removed from the ALR needs to go through the proper process with the local community and the ALC. Whether it's an individual, a company or another level of government, the established process needs to be followed to ensure the best interests of agriculture are taken into account.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- BC's approach to agricultural land preservation is unique and is not comparable to other jurisdictions – domestically or internationally.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- Not applicable

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
Colin Fry, ALC Executive Director	Colin Fry	Brian Underhill, Executive Director
Date approved: June 25, 2013	ALC	ALC
Phone: (604) 660-7006	Phone: (604) 660-7006	Phone: (604) 660-7028
Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17

**ISSUE: Agricultural Land Commission –
Land Filling and Enforcement in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR)**

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **In November 2011 government announced improvements to the ALC through increased enforcement capacity through shared resources.**
- **In February 2013, government announced an additional \$4 million over three years to support the operation of the ALC, a portion of which will enable increased enforcement, through the hiring of a new coordinator and additional enforcement officer.**
- **The Increased enforcement capacity of the ALC through shared resources is consistent with the report from the 2010 ALC Chair Review.**
- **The Increased enforcement capacity of the ALC through shared resources ALC supports the Auditor General's 2010 recommendation that the ALC ensure it has a sufficiently robust compliance and enforcement program.**

BACKGROUND:

- In preserving agricultural land the ALC's role is to protect land from unlawful activities such as the significant instances of land filling in the high population growth regions of the province.
- Partnerships with other government agencies and local governments will be key to the ALC's success.
- The ALC has, and continues to seek proactive alliances with other provincial ministries and agencies and has long been an advocate of collaborative compliance and enforcement.
- The ALC's CEO has appointed 38 provincial government employees FLNRO as "officials" to aid in the Commission's compliance and enforcement activities. Appointments now provide the ALC with enhanced compliance and enforcement capabilities in the South Coast, Interior, Okanagan and Kootenay Boundary regions. The ALC continues to pursue arrangements for additional appointments.
- Based on the government's 2013-14 Budget and the ALC Board's supported ALC staffing structure, the ALC will be enhancing its compliance and enforcement capacity by hiring a Compliance and Enforcement Coordinator and an additional C & E officer in the summer of 2013.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- Appointments of FLNRO personnel as ALC officials is consistent with and builds on the existing partnership approach under the Resource Management Coordination Project (RMCP) for shared compliance and enforcement.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- The cost of FLNRO personnel acting as ALC officials is borne by FLNRO.
- Administrative oversight costs are borne by the ALC and supported by additional funding for the ALC over the next three (3) years announced in February's 2013 Balanced Budget 2013.

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
Colin Fry, ALC Executive Director	Colin Fry	Brian Underhill, Executive Director
Date approved: June 25, 2013	ALC	ALC
Phone: 604 660-7006	Phone: 604 660-7006	Phone: 604 660-7028
Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17

**ISSUE: Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) – Land Included to and Excluded
from the ALR by Calendar Year**

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **Net Change in size of the ALR**
 - 1991 – 2001 Increase of 15,375 hectares**
 - 2002 – 2012 Increase of 38,562 hectares**

BACKGROUND:

YEAR	INCLUSION (Hectares)	EXCLUSION (Hectares)	NET CHANGE (Hectares)
1991	768	2,075	-1,307
1992	3	1,081	-1,078
1993	5,843	823	5,020
1994	2,877	1,642	1,235
1995	1,095	1,171	-76
1996	1,868	1,574	294
1997	869	5,252	-4,383
1998	678	2,947	-2,269
1999	1,961	1,864	97
2000	23,219	5,797	17,422
2001	973	553	420
TOTALS	40,154	24,779	15,375
2002	41,792	1,516	40,276
2003	428	746	-318
2004	1,559	1,497	62
2005	1,670	2,207	-537
2006	977	548	429
2007	1,268	1,442	-174
2008	833	1,461	-628
2009	1,398	2,364	-966
2010	658	364	294
2011	747	982	-235
2012	411	52	359
TOTALS	51,741	13,179	38,562

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- BC's approach to agricultural land preservation is unique and is not comparable to other jurisdictions – domestically or internationally.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- Not applicable.

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
Colin Fry, ALC Executive Director	Colin Fry	Brian Underhill, Executive Director
Date approved: June 25, 2013	ALC	ALC
Phone: (604) 660-7006	Phone: (604) 660-7006	Phone: (604) 660-7028
Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17	Cell s.17

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- If there are concerns about the impacts of oil and gas activity on farm land in the North, I am confident that there are strong measures in place to protect valuable farm land while still allowing responsible economic development opportunities.
- The oil and gas regulatory regime has completely changed with unconventional gas and the Oil and Gas Activities Act.
- The 2004 ALC/OGC agreement was in need of updating to reflect newer gas extraction technologies and requirements.
- For almost 40 years, the ALC has enabled oil and gas activities to occur while ensuring that the land is protected for farming in the long term. The ALC will continue its oversight of the agreement.

New Agreement

- No change in purpose- streamline and improve the review and approval of oil and gas activities on ALR lands while preserving agricultural land and encouraging farming on those lands
- The updated agreement has the same components and process as the previous agreement, so there shouldn't be a large learning curve for industry.
- All oil and gas activities are considered temporary non-farm uses in the ALR (are available for agriculture use after oil and gas development),
- The pre-development site assessment helps ensure soil conservation and effective reclamation potential
- Industry must plan the location of activities to have minimum impact on agricultural use of the land
- Oil and gas Activity applications streamed as Exempt from ALC Act decision or requiring an application & decision under ALC Act by the OGC.

Industry provides a reclamation report to confirm sites are reclaimed

ISSUE/PROGRAM – ALC Delegation Agreement with the Oil and Gas Commission**BACKGROUND:**

- Approximately one-third of British Columbia's Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) is located in northeast BC. Agricultural land in NE BC is comprised of highly capable soils suitable for forage and grain production as well as other forms of agricultural production. Farming is large scale and relies on large blocks of land to form functional and economic farm units.
- The region is also underlain by significant oil and gas deposits.
- While oil and gas extraction and development activities are not a farm use, the ALC recognizes that oil and gas activities in the ALR are generally temporary in nature and are vitally important to the economic well being of the provincial economy.
- Since 1976, the ALC has worked with industry to enable nonfarm use for oil and gas purposes to be carried out without the need for an application process involving the ALC. This approach is predicated on the requirement that disturbed lands be restored to their former agricultural standard once the oil and gas activity stops.
- Since 2004, the ALC has had an agreement with the Oil and Gas Commission (OGC) to enable continued oil and gas activities either through exemptions or decisions made by the OGC on behalf of the ALC.
- Since 2004 oil and gas developed has completely changed with unconventional gas and with 8 years of experience of what is working and not working so well – **in June 2013, the agreement was updated.**
-
-

s.13, s.17

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

The oil and gas delegation agreement is unique to British Columbia.

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
Brian Underhill, ED, ALC	Brian Underhill	Colin Fry, Executive Director
Date approved: July 10, 2013	ALC	ALC
Phone: 604 660-7028		Phone: 604 660-7006
Cell s.17		Cell: s.17

ISSUE: Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) – Site C Dam

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **The issues associated with this provincially significant project far exceed those relevant to the ALC's jurisdiction.**
- **Sections 39 – 45 inclusive of the ALC Act provide that if the Lieutenant Governor in Council considers it to be in the Provincial interest, the Lieutenant Governor in Council, by order, may consider and decide upon an application before the ALC.**
- **If the Lieutenant Governor in Council considers an application in the Provincial interest the ALC retains a referral and advisory role.**
- **The ALC is aware of the provincial significance of Site C and how this project can provide significant economic opportunities and benefits to British Columbians.**
- **The ALC is also aware that if it is left to make a decision regarding the use of ALR land for Site C that it's decision-making will be guided by the purposes of the ALC Act.**

BACKGROUND:

- BC Hydro has proposed the construction of the Site C Clean Energy Project (Site C) a third dam and hydroelectric generating station on the Peace River in northeastern BC. The proposed reservoir if constructed will flood land in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) that is currently or could be capable of producing agricultural products.
- Additional ALR lands will likely be identified for permanent or temporary use during the development of Site C for such purposes as power line and road rights of way, work camps, quarries, etc.
- One of the purposes of the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) contained in the Agricultural Land Commission Act (ALC Act) is to preserve agricultural land.
- The ALC Act establishes the ability for persons to apply to the ALC to exclude land from the ALR, to subdivide land in the ALR and for permission to conduct a non-farm use on ALR land.
- In the absence of any other process this provincially significant project involving land in the ALR will require the ALC's approval.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- BC's approach to agricultural land preservation is unique and is not comparable to other jurisdictions – domestically or internationally.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- Not applicable

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
Colin Fry, ALC Executive Director	Colin Fry	Brian Underhill, Executive Director
Date approved: June 25, 2013	ALC	ALC
Phone: (604) 660-7006	Phone: (604) 660-7006	Phone: (604) 660-7028
Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17

ISSUE: Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) – ALC Transitional Projects**RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:**

- The ALC must enhance its technical capacity to support decision making and ALR boundary reviews, broaden compliance and enforcement efforts and to work more closely with local governments regarding land use planning.

•

•

s.13, s.17

•

•

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
Brian Underhill, ALC Executive Director	Brian Underhill	Colin Fry, Executive Director
Date approved: June 25, 2013	ALC	ALC
Phone: (604) 660-7006	Phone: (604) 660-7028	Phone: (604) 660-7006
Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17

Background:

- In November 2011, government provided the ALC with \$1.6 million over 2 years in one-time transitional funding to support activities aimed at strengthening operations of the ALC and making it more proactive in its work to preserve agricultural land and encourage farming.
- In February 2013, government, in its Balanced Budget 2013, announced additional funding for the ALC of \$4 million over the next 3 years, re-emphasizing the commitment to help the ALC become a stronger organization and transition to a more self supporting model.
- Since early 2012, the ALC has been carrying out projects to enhance its capacity for: land use planning; boundary reviews; and compliance and enforcement activities. The projects include digital mapping, data base capture and conversion and the development of website tools that will enable stakeholders, ALC Commissioners and staff greater access to information.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- BC's approach to agricultural land preservation is unique and is not comparable to other jurisdictions – domestically or internationally.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):ALC Transitional Project Status.

-

-

s.13, s.17

ISSUE: Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) – ALC Transitional Projects

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

-

s.13

- **Since 2012 the ALC has been working on several projects to enhance its capacity to be more proactive and work closer with local governments and increase its compliance and enforcement presence.**
- **While some projects have been completed, the ALC will continue to work throughout this fiscal year on its data capture and mapping projects.**

-

s.13, s.17

BACKGROUND:

- In November 2011, government provided the ALC with \$1.6 million over 2 years in one-time transitional funding to support activities aimed at strengthening operations of the ALC and making it more proactive in its work to preserve agricultural land and encourage farming.
- In February 2013, government, in its Balanced Budget 2013, announced additional funding for the ALC of \$4 million over the next 3 years, re-emphasizing the commitment to help the ALC become a stronger organization and transition to a more self supporting model.
- Since early 2012, the ALC has been carrying out several projects related to enhancing its capability to carry out proactive land use planning, conduct ALR boundary reviews and increase compliance and enforcement activities. The projects include digital mapping, data base capture and conversion and the development of website tools that will enable stakeholders, ALC Commissioners and staff greater access to information.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- BC's approach to agricultural land preservation is unique and is not comparable to other jurisdictions – domestically or internationally.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):ALC Transitional Project Status.

-

-

s.13, s.17

-

-

•

s.13, s.17

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
Brian Underhill, ALC Executive Director	Brian Underhill	Colin Fry, Executive Director
Date approved: June 25, 2013	ALC	ALC
Phone: (604) 660-7006	Phone: (604) 660-7028	Phone: (604) 660-7006
Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17

2012/13 Annual Service Plan Report**RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:**

- **The BC agrifoods sector is an important economic driver, generating \$10.9 billion in sales and employing over 61,000 people on farms, in seafood production and harvesting, and processing in all regions of BC.**
- **The Ministry exceeded targets set for four of its six Performance Measures.**
 - **The ratio of administrative costs to premiums for Production Insurance was better than targeted.**
 - **More Beneficial Management Practices were funded than targeted (target 200; actual 242).**
 - **More carbon dioxide equivalent was reduced or averted as a result of actions supported by the Ministry (target 34,000 t; actual 90,788 t).**
 - **More agricultural area plans were completed (target 48; actual 52).**
- **The Ministry achieved the target of completing 85 per cent of routine diagnostic animal and plant samples within seven working days.**
- **The Ministry's Performance Measure for annual revenue growth in agriculture, seafood, and food and beverage sectors has four components. The Ministry:**
 - **exceeded target for crops with 5 per cent growth (target 1 per cent);**
 - **exceeded target for livestock with 4 per cent growth (target 2 per cent);**
 - **exceeded target for food and beverage with 5 per cent growth (target 3 per cent); and**
 - **did not achieve the target of no growth for seafood revenue, which declined 1 per cent due to lower harvest levels of salmon and tuna and reduced global market prices.**

2012/13 Annual Service Plan Report**BACKGROUND:**

- The Annual Service Plan Report highlights the Ministry's 2012/13 deliverables, based on commitments in the 2012/13-2014/15 Service Plan.
- The six performance measures (PMs) were achieved or exceeded, except for the seafood landed value component, which had a 1 per cent decline.
- The number of agricultural area plans completed exceeded expectations, 52 versus 48. "Completion" refers to the development of an agriculture plan and does not mean that the plan has been implemented. Timelines for implementation of plans are inconsistent due to the variability of costs and stakeholder availability. Despite the lack of uniform process, planning is critical to ensuring that agriculture is enshrined in official community plans, enabling production, processing, agri-tourism and other economic development.
- Other highlights of the 2012/13 Annual Service Plan Report include.
 - The five-year *Growing Forward 2* (GF2) Federal/Provincial/Territorial agreement, signed March 2013 will bring \$255 million of federal funding over five years. Matched 60:40 with provincial funding, GF2 will bring: \$186 million for Business Risk Management programs to help protect farmers against severe market volatility and disasters; and \$69 million for strategic innovation, competitiveness and market development, and adaptability and industry capacity.
 - In late 2012, responsibility for meat inspection in provincially-licensed slaughter establishments was transferred to the Ministry. This change will take effect starting January 1, 2014, when the Canadian Food Inspection Agency no longer provides this service. The new system will reinforce BC's reputation for safe and wholesome meat by continuing the current safeguards and inspection system in provincially licensed Class A and B abattoirs.
 - *B.C. Agrifoods: a strategy for growth* promotes BC agrifoods at home and abroad. A \$2 million fund helped farmers and food processors enhance campaigns to promote local food, supported by FoodsBC and BCSeafood on Facebook and Twitter. A September 2012 trade mission showcased BC foods across Asia, raised cherry and blueberry market access issues with foreign governments and promoted BC agrifoods products in Hong Kong, China, Japan, South Korea and Belgium.
 - BC amended the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* to enhance animal welfare so that certain animal seizure decisions made by the BC Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals can now be heard directly by the BC Farm Industry Review Board instead of having to take the matter to court. Changes were brought into force March 20, 2013.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- Funding for *Growing Forward 2* is based on a province's share of total Canadian agricultural sector sales, so is consistent across the country.

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
Melanie Stewart, ADM	Name: Daphne Sidaway-Wolf	Name:
Date approved by ADM: XXX	Branch: Agrifoods Policy & Leg	Branch:
Phone: 250 356-1821	Phone: 250 356-6586	Phone:
Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17	Cell:

Appendix: Report on Performance

Performance Results Summary Table

Goal 1: Agriculture and food sectors contribute positively to the economic diversity and well-being of the Province		2012/13 Target	2012/13 Actual
For greater detail see pages 16 to 19			
1.1 A sustainable agriculture and food sector			
Ratio of administration costs to premiums for Production Insurance		20:80	16:84 EXCEEDED
1.2 Strategic growth and development of the agriculture and food sector			
Annual revenue growth in agriculture, seafood, food and beverage sectors			
• Crops	1% growth	5% growth EXCEEDED	
• Livestock	2% growth	4% growth EXCEEDED	
• Seafood	maintain landed value	1% decline NOT ACHIEVED	
• Food and Beverage Manufacturing Shipments	3% growth	5% growth EXCEEDED	
Goal 2: World leading environmental stewardship practices in the agriculture and food sectors		2012/13 Target	2012/13 Actual
For greater detail see pages 19 to 22			
2.1 Effective management of environmental risks in agriculture and food sectors			
Number of Beneficial Management Practices projects funded by Growing Forward incentive program		200	242 EXCEEDED
2.2 Sustainable agriculture management practices that assist successful adaptation to climate change			
Cumulative tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions reduced or averted from actions supported by Ministry programs		34,000	90,788 EXCEEDED
Goal 3: Community and social well-being is enhanced by agriculture and food sector practices		2012/13 Target	2012/13 Actual
For greater detail see pages 22 to 24			
3.1 Promote a positive urban/agriculture relationship to facilitate sustainable growth for farms while enhancing the overall quality of life for British Columbians			
Number of agriculture area plans completed		48	52 EXCEEDED
3.2 Animal, plant and human health are safeguarded			
Percent of routine (diagnostic) animal and plant samples completed within seven working days		85%	85% ACHIEVED

Ministry of Agriculture Resources by Commodity Group**RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:**

- The BC Government will continue to support the industry as it plays its part in generating new jobs, stimulating investment and enabling growth across BC.
- The Ministry of Agriculture has an important role in working with farmers, producers and other ministries in creating a thriving, sustainable industry.
- We continue to work with the various commodity sectors to support their needs through various programs and services:
 - The greenhouse sector was provided \$7.6M in Carbon tax Temporary relief in 2012/13, followed by an ongoing relief program starting in 2013/14. Business Risk Management (BRM) programs also provided over \$7M in relief and support to the sector.
 - BC is a leader in the field of organics, and we are working closely with the BC organics sector to enable greater recognition of our organic brand.
 - Livestock was provided over \$21M over the past 5 years through a variety of programs such as AgriFlex (\$2M), School Milk Program (\$1M), and Buy Local (\$130,000).
 - Bees were provided \$1.42M through Genome BC.
 - Seafood & Aquaculture were provided \$174,000 through the Buy Local Program and supported in three international tradeshow.
 - Our award winning wine sector received over \$200,000 through Buy Local Funding and over \$1M in relief and support from Business Risk Management Programs.
 - Local markets are very important to our vegetable sector, which received over \$116,000 from the Buy Local Program. Both the vegetable and fruit sectors are integral to the success of the School fruit and vegetable program which we have invested \$26M into since 2005.
 - In addition to working to access new markets for BC's fruit sector, we have provided funding to foster innovation (\$2M AgriFlex), and promote planting high value tree fruit varieties (\$2M replant).
 - We are working to support the grains sector through the transition away from the wheat board and have provided more than \$15M in support and relief through business risk management programs.
- We will ensure BC voices are heard in Ottawa. In fact, the Government of British Columbia has worked tirelessly since 2001 to ensure our province's agricultural families receive the best possible deal in funding from the federal government through the growing forward program.

Ministry of Agriculture Resources by Commodity Group**BACKGROUND:**

- The Ministry of Agriculture works closely with industry stakeholders to provide support through expert services, development programs and relief.
- The Ministry has a team of specialists who work with specific commodity groups, Regional Agrologists who focus on area specific issues, and an extensive array of programs tailored to specific needs including food safety, plant and animal health, marketing, and innovation.
- Ministry staff work collaboratively with various industry associations and groups to address issues, identify key areas of support and opportunity and to ensure that government provides programs that best meet their needs.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- BC has a very diverse agriculture and seafood sector that spans over 200 commodities.
- The Ministry provides support to the sector in a similar fashion to other provinces, and ensures that we maintain a unique, diverse and sustainable agriculture sector.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

Commodity	Program \$	Program Name	Business Risk management Funds (2008 - 2012)
Greenhouse	Over \$12 million	Carbon Tax Rebates since 2012	Over \$7 million
Organics	\$100,000	Buy Local	Only accessible through commodities
Livestock	Over \$21 million	AgriFlex, Growing Forward 1, School Milk Program, Beef Day	Over \$7 million
Seafood	Over \$173,500	Buy Local	Not eligible
Vegetables	Over \$116,000 Over \$26 million	Buy Local School Fruit and Vegetable	Over \$13 million
Fruit	Over \$4 million Over \$26 million	AgriFlex, Replant and Buy Local School Fruit and Vegetable	Over \$41 million
Grains	\$0	Eligible: Growing Forward and Buy Local	Over \$15 million
Bees	Over \$1 million	Genome BC	Not available to this detail
Wine	Over \$200,000	Buy Local	Over \$1 million

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
Melanie Stewart	Name: Sunny White	Name: Fiona Cubitt
Date approved by ADM: XXX	Branch: ADMO, Agriculture Science and Policy	Branch: Innovation and Industry Development Branch
Phone: 250 356-1821	Phone: 250 356-1816	Phone: 250-387-7183
Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17

ATTACHMENT

MINISTRY RESOURCES BY SECTOR

Sector	FTEs	Notable Program Funds	Business Risk Management Funds
Beef	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 industry specialist (0.9 Beef and 0.1 Bison) Other supporting policy analysts; Agrologists; animal health staff 		
Dairy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.85 industry specialist 1 dairy farm inspector Other supporting Agrologists; veterinary and business risk management staff 		
Pork	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.15 industry specialist 0.10 agrologist 0.05 animal health 		
Poultry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 avian pathologist 1 poultry health/extension veterinarian Currently no poultry specialist 		
Bees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 apiculture specialist 0.6 apiculture assistant 0.4 apiary inspectors 		
Finfish Aquaculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.5 industry specialist, aquaculture and seafood 		
Shellfish Aquaculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.15 industry specialist 		

s.13

Sector	FTEs	Notable Program Funds	Business Risk Management Funds
Commercial Fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 senior manager, fisheries and seafood policy 1 manager, marine fisheries 1 fisheries management officer 		
Recreational Tide Fishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.1 policy analyst 		
Greenhouse Vegetables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.35 industry specialist Support from staff in plant health; environmental farm planning; Regional Agrologists; strengthening farming 		
Greenhouse Floriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.5 greenhouse specialist 		
Nursery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.35 industry specialist Support from program areas across AGRI such as plant health; food safety and BRM 		
Field Vegetables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.25 industry specialist 		
Tree Fruits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> .06 industry specialist 0.6 plant pathologist 0.6 entomologist 0.2 resource stewardship agrologist Additional program support for food safety; innovation 		

s.13

Sector	FTEs	Notable Program Funds	Business Risk Management Funds
Berries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 industry specialist 		
Mushroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.2 industry specialist Additional ministry support as required 		
Potato	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.25 industry specialist Additional ministry support including plant health and regional agrologists 		
Seed Potato	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.10 industry specialist Additional ministry support including plant health 		

s.13

Sector	FTEs	Notable Program Funds	Business Risk Management Funds
Grains Oilseeds & Pulse Crops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.5 grains and oilseeds industry specialist Additional agrologist and legislative support 		
Organics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.25 industry specialist Additional support through other sector specialists and policy analysis 		
Wine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry support including grape industry specialist; policy analysts; agrologists; production insurance; and AgriStability staff 	s.13	
Grapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.4 industry specialist Additional support from plant health and marketing staff 		

Issue: AntiFreeze Regulation

Recommended Response:

- Ethylene glycol-based antifreeze in engine coolant and windshield washer fluid is highly toxic resulting in severe and frequently deadly damage to the kidneys of pets, wildlife and young children who accidentally consume it.
- The sweet taste of ethylene glycol-based antifreeze increases the potential for accidental consumption of the small amounts (a few tablespoons) that can lead to the death of so many dogs and cats.
- In April 2009, Government announced a new Antifreeze Regulation mandating the addition of denatonium benzoate, a bittering agent, to ethylene glycol antifreeze sold at retail level in BC.
- BC was the first Canadian province to legally require the addition of this bittering agent and the new Regulation came into effect January 1, 2011.
- This new Regulation has been fully supported by the BCSPCA.
- Adding this bittering agent will not impair the performance of antifreeze, and does not affect the toxicity of the product; but it will potentially significantly reduce the number of accidental poisonings of both children and pets.

**MANDATE LETTER
BC Agrifoods Strategy**

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **Our role as government is to create an environment in British Columbia where agrifoods producers succeed.**
- **The Agrifoods Strategy expands on The BC Jobs Plan to support job growth and investment in BC's agrifoods industry and sets to grow our industry from \$10.5 billion when we started to \$14 billion by 2017.**
- **The priorities for the Strategy emphasize our commitment to ensure food production in BC will continue to grow and support valuable jobs and healthy communities.**
-

s.13

- **BC's agrifoods sector revenues for 2012 are at \$11.6 billion and we**

s.13

MANDATE LETTER BC Agrifoods Strategy

BACKGROUND:

- Agrifoods was one of the eight key sectors identified in Canada Starts Here: BC's Jobs Plan that showed the greatest potential for economic and job growth.
- The Ministry of Agriculture created a five-year strategic plan with a vision and goals to guide the development of the agrifoods sector and to support job growth and investment in the industry.
- BC Agrifoods: A Strategy for Growth (the Strategy) was launched in March 2012.
- The Strategy sets out 49 targeted actions supporting three priority areas:
 - Promoting BC's high-quality and high-value products.
 - Expanding both domestic and international markets.
 - Enhancing industry competitiveness
- The Strategy's Vision: An innovative, adaptive, globally competitive agrifoods sector valued by all British Columbians.
- The Strategy sets to grow BC's agrifoods sector revenues from \$10.5 billion when we started to \$14 billion by 2017.

HIGHLIGHTS

- BC's agrifoods sector revenues for 2012 are at \$11.7 billion - s.13
-

s.13

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- BC's agrifoods sector accounts for 2.2 per cent of provincial total gross domestic product (GDP). Nationally agrifoods accounts for 8.8 per cent of GDP.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

Significant funding 2012/13

- \$7.6M Greenhouse Carbon Tax Relief Grant program
- \$2M Tree Fruit replant program
- \$1.3M food safety program budget
- \$1.4M Buy Local program

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
Melanie Stewart	Name: Carmen Matthews	Name: T. Laugharne
Date approved by ADM: XXX	Branch: Innovation and Industry Development Branch	Branch: Innovation and Industry Development Branch
Phone: 250 356-1821	Phone: 250-356-5861	Phone: 250-356-1637
Cell: s.17	Cell: N/A	Cell: N/A

**MANDATE LETTER
BC Organic Brand**

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **Passion for fresh and local foods in British Columbia has never been stronger.**
- **British Columbians often choose organic foods that are grown and produced in our own communities.**
- **The organic industry is very important to our province – both for the economy and specifically for the agriculture sector.**
- **Most BC organic farms are family owned and operated.**
- **Supporting them not only provides local and nutritious foods, it enables strong and sustainable communities right across our province.**
- **The organic industry is an important element of the BC government's Agrifoods Strategy.**
- **BC's organic sector lead the way when organic standards were first developed. Now it is time to ensure that the organic sector reaches its highest potential.**
- **Ministry staff will work with the provincial organic farming community to determine the most effective approach to promote the BC organic brand.**

MANDATE LETTER BC Organic Brand

BACKGROUND:

- The Premier's June 10 mandate letter directs the Minister to work with the provincial organic farming sector to create a "BC Organic" brand to market BC organic foods.
- The BC Certified Organic Program was established in 1993 through the Organic Agricultural Products Certification Regulation under the *Agri-Food Choice and Quality Act*. A nonprofit society, the Certified Organic Associations of BC (COABC) was appointed administrator of the BC Certified Organic Program to provide a way for producers and processors to voluntarily certify as organic and use the "BC Certified Organic" term and logo.
- Certification to sell organic products within the province of production is voluntary except for Quebec, where use of 'organic' is provincially regulated.
- The Canada Organic Program was established in 1999 and requires organic certification for inter-provincial and international sale of organic products consistent with the federal Organic Products Regulations and Standards.
- BC producers and processors may be certified as organic by a federally recognized organic certifying body that may or may not be a member of the COABC.
- In 2006, 3,219 of all BC farms (16% of total) reported production of organic products; 86% of the BC farms reporting organic production reported producing organic but not certified organic products.
- The COABC is concerned that the "BC Certified Organic" term and logo in use since 1993 on a voluntary basis is being adversely affected by the Canada Organic Office practice that allows BC non-certified producers to use the term organic for sale of their products within the province, providing they have met the federal Organic Production Systems General Principles and Management Standards.

s.13

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- The Ministry of Agriculture has three to five staff spending portions of their time on organics as needed for a combined total of about one FTE.

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
ADM Name: Melanie Stewart	Name: Russ Horton	Name: Gavin Last
Date approved by ADM: XXX	Branch: Agrifoods Policy & Legis	Branch: Agrifoods Policy & Legis
Phone: 250 356-1821	Phone: 250 356-1671	Phone: 250 356-7640
Cell: s.17	Cell:	Cell: s.17

MANDATE LETTER
Buy Local Program

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **The BC government is committed to promoting local food within the Province and the passion for local foods in BC has never been stronger.**
- **Over the last year, we've worked with BC's very diverse agrifoods sector to create a Buy Local program that reflects that diversity, and offers the industry the flexibility and freedom to promote their products as they see best.**
- **The Buy Local Program was leveraged by a \$5.1 million investment by industry. This is an example of government and the agrifoods sector working together, to promote local foods, and generate economic benefits for BC's food producers and communities.**
-

s.13, s.17

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE: WHEN ASKED A QUESTION SPECIFIC TO RENEWING BUY BC:

- **Industry members know their individual marketing needs best. Representatives of BC's farmers markets, agriculture, seafood, wine, food processing, restaurant, and retail sector all support this program.**
-

s.13

MANDATE LETTER Buy Local Program

BACKGROUND:

- The Premier's June 10 mandate letter asks that the Minister ensure the implementation of the additional Buy Local program funding.
- The current Buy Local program (\$1.5 million) administered by the Investment Agriculture Foundation (IAF), has been well received and is now fully subscribed.
-

s.13, s.17

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- The current program, announced in August 2012, is \$2 million; \$1.5 million administered by the Investment Agriculture Foundation and \$500,000 administered by the British Columbia Agriculture Council.
- The \$1.5 million Buy Local program was announced August 30, 2012 and 41 applications were approved over nine months. The \$1.5 million program leveraged \$5.1 million from industry for a total expenditure of over \$6 million to promote BC agrifoods products within the province.
-

s.13, s.17

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
Melanie Stewart, ADM	Name: Brenda Lennox	Name: Donna Anaka
Date approved by ADM:	Branch: Innovation and Industry Development	Branch: Innovation and Industry Development
Phone: 250 356-1821	Phone: 250 356-2945	Phone: 604 660-2945
Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17	Cell: N/A

MANDATE LETTER
Continuation of Carbon Tax Relief

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **The Province supports British Columbia's diverse agriculture sectors in different ways. Though BC's vegetable greenhouse growers are international leaders in yield production and innovation, the competition in the greenhouse sector is fierce.**
- **The Carbon Tax Reliefs provide support to our greenhouse and floriculture growers, who are at a competitive disadvantage because they compete with U.S. and Mexican greenhouse operators which are not subject to a carbon tax. The continuation of the rebate allows the BC industry to keep their competitive edge.**
- **Budget 2013 provides \$20 million over three years for a carbon tax relief grant to help offset carbon tax costs for commercial greenhouse growers.**
- **The new funding in budget 2013 follows the temporary funding of \$7.6 million the province provided in 2012 to assist the greenhouse sector.**
- **Providing the sector with carbon tax relief is one of 49 actions in the BC Agrifoods Strategy that will help lead our agrifoods sector to becoming a \$14-billion-a-year industry by 2017.**

MANDATE LETTER

Continuation of Carbon Tax Relief

BACKGROUND:

- The Premier's June 10, 2013 mandate letter directed the Minister work with the Minister of Finance to ensure that the carbon tax relief commitment to the agriculture sector is delivered.
- In 2012, \$7.6 million in temporary carbon tax relief was provided to both the vegetable and floriculture greenhouse growers.
- On April 9, 2013, the Minister announced that the BC government will be providing the greenhouse sector with permanent carbon tax relief.
- Budget 2013 provided for an 80 per cent relief grant on the carbon tax paid on specific fuels and the program was expanded (from the previous year) to cover the commercial greenhouse sectors, including vegetable growers, floriculture, wholesale nurseries, and forest seedling nurseries.
- The application deadline for floriculture and vegetable producers is June 28, 2013; the application deadline for wholesale production and forest seedling nurseries is July 12, 2013.

s.13

- The BC Government intends to introduce legislation to provide a carbon tax exemption for farmers - for the same coloured motor fuels and uses they are currently able to purchase exempt from motor fuel tax.
- The carbon tax exemption will not extend to natural gas/propane used in the greenhouse sector.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- Budget 2013 provided for an 80 per cent relief grant on the carbon tax paid on specific fuels and the program was expanded.
- Announcement indicated the program would be indefinite; well beyond the three year budget cycle.
- These measures will provide a combined benefit of about \$11 million annually.

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
Melanie Stewart, ADM	Name: Pam Shatzko	Name: Alana Rosseker
Date approved by ADM: XXX	Branch: Innovation and Industry Development Branch	Branch: Innovation and Industry Development Branch
Phone: 250 356-1821	Phone: 250-356-6660	Phone: 250-356-7057
Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17

MANDATE LETTER

Certified BC Beef

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **Whether we are talking about Okanagan wine, coastal seafood, dairy or beef , the Ministry of Agriculture works to promote and develop the sector to succeed.**
- **One of the many industry promotions government was able to support through the Buy Local Program was the BC Association of Cattle Feeders' "Certified B.C. Beef" brand initiative.**
- **Last year, the Cattle Feeders received over \$10,000 to promote the "Certified B.C. Beef" brand in-store, and through their website and social media campaigns.**
- **Later this month on July 24th, government will again partner with industry to promote the beef brand initiative at the upcoming fourth annual BC Beef Day.**

I would like to take this opportunity to invite all of my government colleagues to note the July 24th date and join us on the back lawn for another successful Beef Day barbeque.

MANDATE LETTER Certified BC Beef

BACKGROUND:

The July 10 Mandate letter asked the Minister to work with the BC Association of Cattle Feeders to develop and promote their "Certified BC Beef" brand.

Certified Beef Brand: BC Association of Cattle Feeders (BCACF)

- Developed over the previous two years and is trademarked to BCACF. Processors or producers must sign a licensing agreement to use the brand; currently eight producers and abattoirs are licensed.
- BCACF received \$10,250 in funding under the Buy Local program to promote the brand in-store, through their website and social media campaigns.
-

s.13

BC Beef Day:

- The Ranching Task Force (RTF) undertook the first BC Beef day in 2010.
- Held in May each year since, BC Beef Day was a joint industry/ministry initiative aimed at increasing awareness of the industry to government in general. The 2012 event was paid 50 per cent by the Ministry of Agriculture and 50 per cent by the BC Cattlemen's Association (BCCA).
- Beef Day has been confirmed for July 24th, 2013. The BCCA has agreed to work with BCACF and the Ministry on this event to actively promote the "Certified BC Beef" brand.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- The estimated cost of Beef Day is \$8,000, of which 50 per cent of the costs are paid by the BCCA. The Ministry has allocated \$4,000 for the event out of base budget.

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
Melanie Stewart, ADM	Name: Brenda Lennox	Name: Donna Anaka
Date approved by ADM:	Branch: Innovation and Industry Development Branch	Branch: Innovation and Industry Development Branch
Phone: 250 356-1821	Phone: 250 356-2945	Phone: 604 660-2945
Cell: s.17	Cell s.17	Cell: N/A

Management of the Animal Health Laboratory**RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:**

- **The Animal Health Centre in Abbotsford, under the leadership of the Chief Veterinary Officer, provides world class veterinary diagnostic services that protect the health of all animals in our province to support disease prevention, control and eradication.**
- **This Centre is one of only three laboratories in Canada accredited as a full service Veterinary Diagnostic laboratory by the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians.**
- **The professional and administrative staff who work there work hard to protect human health with timely and accurate diagnosis of zoonotic diseases that transmit from animals to humans, in both the public health (Influenza) and the food safety sectors (Salmonella).**
- **As the senior plant and animal health officer for the Province, the Chief Veterinary Officer is integral in providing strategic direction and leadership in diagnosing, preventing, monitoring and managing disease in not only the livestock; poultry and aquaculture industries, but also in the plant industry.**
- **The recent retirement of the Chief Veterinarian is a personnel matter.**
- **The recruitment process to fill the position of Director, Plant and Animal Health Branch and Chief Veterinary Officer permanently is underway.**
- **The Animal Health Laboratory's accreditation with the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnostics Inc. (AAVLD) remains in place.**
- **Public health has always been the laboratory's paramount concern and it always will be.**

Management of the Animal Health Laboratory**BACKGROUND:**

- The Chief Veterinarian for the Province of British Columbia retired earlier this year.
- The services of the Plant and Animal Health Branch in Abbotsford continue as usual with public health being the laboratory's paramount concern.
- The recruitment process for a new Chief Veterinarian is underway.
- The Laboratory's second-in-command, Dr Jane Pritchard has assumed all responsibilities and has been appointed BC's interim Chief Veterinary Officer.
- The Animal Health Laboratory employs a team of ten veterinarians, each of them experts in the area of diagnosis and preventing the spread of disease.

Approved by:	Prepared by: <i>(The person who wrote the note)</i>	Alternate Contact:
Melanie Stewart, ADM	Name: Sandra Roe	Name:
Date approved by ADM: XXX	Branch: Deputy Minister's Office	Branch:
Phone: 250 356-1821	Phone: 250 356-5126	Phone:
Cell: s.17	Cell:	Cell:

CLIMATE CHANGE AND BC AGRICULTURE**RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:**

- **Agriculture is a key driver for families, communities, and the BC economy.**
- **BC agriculture is highly vulnerable to climate change and extreme weather. Successful adaption to climate change will be necessary for the agriculture industry to remain competitive and to grow.**
- **Climate change has serious implications for BC farmers. The government is committed to supporting adaptation by farmers.**
- **The ministry is working closely with the agriculture industry to support the adaptation of farm producers to climate change.**
- **The ministry has provided funding for regional agricultural adaptation strategies that have been completed for the Cowichan, Delta, and Peace regions. Strategies will be developed for other regions in the next five years.**
- **The ministry has also funded a series of reports on selected farming practices that have the potential to reduce producer risk and increase producer resilience in a changing climate. Those key practices are water storage, conservation tillage, shelterbelts, nutrient management, drainage, and management intensive grazing.**
-

s.13

CLIMATE CHANGE AND BC AGRICULTURE**Background:**

- Climate change is already happening in BC, with average temperatures having warmed by between 0.5 - 1.7 degrees Celsius in the last century.
- Climate models project a further temperature rise of 1 - 2 degrees in BC by 2050 in addition to the following:
 - summers would be drier, and winters wetter with less snow;
 - there would be an increase in extreme events, such as drought and flooding;
 - the sea level will rise 1.2 metres on the south coast, by 2100.
- Climate change will result in increased management complexity, business costs, and uncertainty. BC farmers will have to deal with impacts such as rising water tables, soil salinity, limited water supplies, lower productivity and quality of crops and livestock, drought, excess moisture, flood risk, and increases in pests and diseases.
- There will also be an increase in growing days and opportunities for new crops.
- Adaptation to climate change is a priority for the ministry and the industry. Through the federal-provincial Growing Forward program, the ministry was a funding partner for regional agricultural adaptation strategies in the Cowichan, Delta, and Peace areas. The ministry also funded studies on six key adaptive on-farm practices.

s.13, s.17

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- BC is a climate action leader. The regional adaptation strategies and the research on farm adaptation practices are the most advanced work of this type in Canada.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

s.13, s.17

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
Grant Thompson, A/ ADM	Name: Ian McLachlan	Name:
Date approved by ADM: July 11, 2013	Branch: Innovation and Industry Development	Branch:
Phone: 250 356-8299	Phone: (250) 356-1852	Phone:
Cell:	Cell:	Cell:

MANDATE LETTER**Cohen Commission Recommendations Pertaining to British Columbia****RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:**

- The federal Commission of Inquiry into the Decline of Sockeye Salmon in the Fraser River released its final report on October 31, 2012.
- 179 witnesses testified at 138 days of hearings. Government staff from across the province contributed in many ways to the process.
- The report includes 75 recommendations regarding the policies, practices and procedures of the Federal government's Fisheries and Oceans Canada, eight of which directly or indirectly reference the Province of British Columbia.
- The BC government accepted the intent of each of the 8 Cohen Commission recommendations that directly reference the Province on March 22, 2013.
- In addition, the Province has indicated it will not issue new tenures or amend tenure boundaries for the purposes of increased production in the Discovery Island Area.
- These responses support the BC government's commitment to the ecologically-responsible management of BC fisheries, including a sustainable aquaculture industry.
-

s.13, s.17

- Salmon, wild and farmed, are important to British Columbia and I look forward to working in cooperation with my colleagues to ensure the Province fulfills its commitment.

MANDATE LETTER**Cohen Commission Recommendations Pertaining to British Columbia****BACKGROUND:**

- The Premier's June 10 mandate letter asked that the Minister implement Cohen Commission recommendations pertaining to British Columbia.
- On October 31, 2012, the final report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Decline of Sockeye Salmon in the Fraser River was submitted to the Federal government. The report includes 75 recommendations regarding the policies, practices and procedures of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, eight of which directly or indirectly reference the Province of British Columbia.
- No single cause for Fraser River sockeye decline was identified, although climate change and the cumulative impacts of human activities were found to be significant.
- No criticisms of resource management were directed at the Province
- On March 22, 2013, the Provincial government accepted the intent of recommendations regarding: riparian area management and, compliance and enforcement; the *Water Act*; marine habitat spill response; agriculture and forestry pesticide record-keeping; and including consideration of sockeye salmon in monitoring of industrial and wastewater management.
- Despite finding no evidence of any significant impact on Fraser River sockeye from aquaculture, the Commissioner recommended that Fisheries and Oceans Canada not issue any new licences for salmon farms or allow increases in existing farm production in the Discovery Islands until 2020, unless sufficient evidence can be assembled to verify that the disease risk to Fraser River sockeye is minimal
- The Provincial government's response indicates no intention of issuing any new tenure agreements for net-pen salmon farms in the Discovery Islands until September 30, 2020, but will consider applications to amend tenure boundaries for reasons other than increasing production.
- The Provincial government will work with our federal counterparts and aquaculture operators to monitor for all possible diseases and is prepared to implement a prompt, coordinated, and science-based response, if required.
- Results of thousands of tests for Infectious Salmon Anemia Virus done by the Ministry of Agriculture have all been negative (no virus). Similarly, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency has implemented a survey of wild salmon in BC and all results to date for Infectious Salmon Anemia Virus have been negative.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- The Federal government has not responded to the report.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

Approved by:	Prepared by: <i>(The person who wrote the note)</i>	Alternate Contact:
Melanie Stewart, ADM	Name: Barron Carswell	Name:
Date approved by ADM: XXX	Branch: Agrifoods Policy & Legislation Branch	Branch:
Phone: 250 356-1821	Phone: 250 356-5042	Phone:
Cell: s.17	Cell:	Cell:

MANDATE LETTER

Mandate Commitments Supported by the Ministry of Agriculture

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- In my June 10 mandate letter from the Premier, I was requested to:

•

s.13, s.17

- These initiatives will benefit the agrifoods industry and we are committed to providing our expert advice and input.

MANDATE LETTER**Mandate Commitments Supported by the Ministry of Agriculture****BACKGROUND:**

- The Premier's June 10 mandate letter to the Minister of Agriculture identified three commitments where the Ministry of Agriculture is to work with other ministries responsible for implementation:

s.13, s.17

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

Approved by:	Prepared by: <i>(The person who wrote the note)</i>	Alternate Contact:
Melanie Stewart, ADM	Name: Sandra Roe	Name:
Date approved by ADM: XXX	Branch: Deputy Minister's Office	Branch:
Phone: 250 356-1821	Phone: 250 356-5126	Phone:
Cell: s.17	Cell:	Cell:

Local Foods Served in Public Institutions**RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:**

- **The Province recognizes that eating locally delivers important economic, health and environmental benefit to British Columbians. Buying local has become a mainstream concept for consumers and companies.**
- **Now it is time to take the next step and move the concept of buying locally from consumers to BC institutions.**
- **I encourage the agrifoods industry to actively contact their purchasing departments of public institutions to promote their products.**
- **Alternatively and where it is economically feasible, I encourage all public institutions to consider purchasing local foods and offer the same wonderful variety of BC agrifoods available to consumers to your clients.**

Local Foods Served in Public Institutions

BACKGROUND:

- There is increased interest amongst hospitals and other public institutions to support food procurement policies that favour BC products.
- There is currently no set provincial policy that requires public institutions to purchase locally grown and/or processed food products. However, many hospitals, health authorities and other institutions do purchase local produce, as seasonal supply and prices allow.
- Many public institutions in BC contract out their food services to third party, private sector food service companies, who may or may not have their own policies on the purchase of locally grown and/or processed food products.
- BC is subject to a number of free trade agreements (FTA's) that restrict the ability of the Province to require public institutions to purchase local food. The key restriction is that these FTA's require signatory parties to provide each other with open and non-discriminatory access to procurement contracts above certain value thresholds (e.g. New West Partnership Agreement with Alberta and Saskatchewan requires open tendering for contracts for goods over \$75,000).
- Typical exceptions to these restrictions include goods purchased for resale to the public (e.g. food sold in a hospital cafeteria), and certain technical requirements (e.g. related to freshness), which may permit institutions to favour local food purchases in some cases.
- Ontario recently introduced a *Local Food Act* that, if passed, will set targets for public institutions' procurement of local food. These targets are aspirational rather than mandatory, thereby avoiding most FTA-related issues.

s.13

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
Melanie Stewart, ADM	Name: David Coney	Name: Gavin Last
Date approved by ADM: XXX	Branch: Agrifoods Policy & Legis	Branch: Agrifoods Policy & Legis
Phone: 250 356-1821	Phone: 250 387-3232	Phone: 250 356 7640
Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17

Fulfillment of Sled Dog Task Force Commitments**RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:**

- **Animal welfare is important to British Columbians and to this government, and we have made significant strides in this area through the June 2011 changes to the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* and the establishment of a Sled Dog Regulation under that Act.**
- **The specific changes made as a result of implementing the Sled Dog Task Force recommendations have greatly enhanced animal protection in British Columbia, not only for sled dogs but for all domesticated animals.**
- **The Ministry delayed the one-year review of the Sled Dog Code of Practice and Sled Dog Standards of Care Regulation from spring 2013 to fall 2013 in response to stakeholders' input that more time was needed to fully assess the effects of the Regulation.**
- **Some provisions of the Regulation did not come into full effect until October 2012 and therefore, reviewing the Code and Regulation in early 2013 would not have allowed enough time to determine their effectiveness.**
- **Stakeholders (including the BC SPCA) have expressed a high level of satisfaction with both the Code of Practice and the Regulation.**

Fulfillment of Sled Dog Task Force Commitments**BACKGROUND:**

- In February 2011, as a result of the April 2010 sled dog incident in which a large number of dogs were inhumanly euthanized, the Province formed a Sled Dog Task Force with representatives from sled dog adventure operations, the BC Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (BC SPCA), veterinarians, and the Province to review the sled dog industry. In April 2011, the Task Force released its report and Premier Christy Clark announced the Province's support and action on all 10 of the Task Force's recommendations.
- In June 2011, the Province amended legislation to give BC the toughest animal cruelty penalties in Canada, including:
 - Fines up to \$75,000 and jail terms of up to two years;
 - Extended limitation period for owners under the Act from six months to three years;
 - Greater accountability for owners and others responsible for animals to protect their animals from distress.
- In February 2012, the Province, sled dog industry, veterinarians, and BC SPCA jointly created Canada's first Sled Dog Code of Practice, which was then used to develop a new provincial Sled Dog Standards of Care Regulation under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* (PCAA) to enhance the health and welfare of all sled dogs in BC.
- At the time of introduction in early 2012, various announcements and press releases from AGRI stated that the Code and Regulation would be reviewed "in 12 months" (i.e. early 2013); however, as some provisions of the Regulation did not come into effect until October 2012, government and stakeholders have agreed that a review of the Code and Regulation should be postponed until October 2013.

s.13

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

The October 2013 review of the Sled Dog Code and Regulation will be managed within existing staff resources.

Approved by:	Prepared by: <i>(The person who wrote the note)</i>	Alternate Contact:
ADM Name Melanie Stewart	Name: Gavin Last	Name: David Coney
Date approved by ADM: XXX	Branch: Agrifoods Policy & Leg	Branch: Agrifoods Policy & Leg
Phone:	Phone: 250 356-7640	Phone: 250 387-3232
Cell:	Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17

ISSUE: Addressing Concerns about Light Emissions from Greenhouses in Delta**RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:**

- **BC greenhouse growers have invested heavily in technology and jobs in BC. Our greenhouse sector is the second largest in Canada with 2011 sales of \$511 million and we want to support and sustain that growth.**
- **To stay competitive and meet the demand for year-round production of greenhouse vegetable crops, growers have made considerable investments in supplemental lighting systems.**
- **The sector has a responsibility to manage light emissions to limit their impact.**
- **Industry responded to public concerns by adopting lighting guidelines in 2005 and this year, they strengthened their guidelines. Growers in Delta either abate roof light emissions to 5,000 lux or have a 6-hour dark period during the evening. They also require new greenhouses to install light-abatement screens.**
- **The only other country to have lighting standards is the Netherlands. BC's industry guidelines now are comparable to the standards as they were introduced in the Netherlands.**
- **Since their introduction of lighting standards, the Netherlands have made increases to their requirements.**
- **The differences between the light abatement standards in the two countries are reasonable given the higher density of lighted greenhouses and their closer proximity to urban areas in the Netherlands relative to BC.**
- **The ministry is committed to foster a more positive urban/agriculture relationship and the revised lighting guidelines support this goal.**

ISSUE: Addressing Concerns about Light Emissions from Greenhouses in Delta**BACKGROUND:**

- The first high-intensity grow lights were installed at three greenhouse vegetable operations in 2004.
- The industry invested in lighting to enable production during the winter months to meet their client's demands for year-round supply.
- Public opposition to light emissions from two greenhouses in Delta began shortly after the lights were turned on.
- In 2005, the industry adopted lighting guidelines that recommended measures to abate light emissions through the sidewalls and roof and complaints subsided.
- Since 2008, Delta South MLA Vicki Huntington has asked the Ministry of Agriculture (AGRI) to do more to reduce greenhouse light emissions.
- In response, AGRI initiated an internal review of greenhouse lighting in 2012 and the findings were presented to the Minister and the MLA last fall.
- At that time, the MLA expressed a desire to have light abatement requirements in BC aligned with those in the Netherlands, in particular:
 1. a required six-hour dark period in the evening, and
 2. abatement screens in new greenhouses with high intensity lights.
- AGRI encouraged the BC Greenhouse Growers' Association (BCGGA) to revise the guidelines to incorporate this request.
- BCGGA added the following to the guidelines:
 1. a requirement for a six-hour dark period for operations in Delta; and
 2. at least 85 per cent abatement for new greenhouses.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- The Netherlands is the only country that regulates light emissions from greenhouses.
- The Netherlands introduced light abatement legislation in 2005. The legislation initially required 85 per cent abatement.
- The level was increased to 95 per cent in 2008 and 98 per cent in 2011.
- The Netherlands has a much higher density of lighted greenhouses in close proximity to dense urban areas relative to BC.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE): N/A

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
Melanie Stewart, ADM	Name: Dave Woodske	Name: Fiona Cubitt
Date approved by ADM: XXX	Branch: Innovation and Industry Development	Branch: Innovation and Industry Development
Phone: 250 356-1821	Phone: 604-556-3044	Phone: 250-387-7183
Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17

Growing Forward 2 Federal-Provincial-Territorial Cost-Shared Agreement**RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:**

- The new Growing Forward 2 agreement will deliver programs from 2013-2018 and like the one before it, provide both risk management and business development programs to producers and processors across our agrifoods sector.
- We worked closely with our own industry stakeholders as well as our provincial and federal partners throughout GF2 negotiations. In fact we brought proposals to the table that reflected the wishes of B.C. producers, while respecting the fiscal realities of the federal government. The final GF2 agreement reflects my ministry's hard work.
- Funding support for strategic initiatives will increase in GF2, with the goal to increase overall prosperity for agriculture industries.

s.13, s.17

s.13, s.17

Growing Forward 2 Federal-Provincial-Territorial Cost-Shared Agreement**BACKGROUND:**

Growing Forward 2 (GF2) is a five-year federal-provincial-territorial agreement that will deliver an estimated \$491 million in agricultural programs to B.C. food producers between 2013-2018. GF2 follows the original \$553 million Growing Forward Agreement which expired on March 31, 2013. The GF2 agreement is funded on a 60-40 federal-provincial basis and provides funding for two categories of programs:

- (a) Business Risk Management (BRM): provides financial support to farmers who suffer weather or market related losses through a variety of programs.
- (b) Designated Programs: funds projects that encourage innovation, competitiveness, adaptability and increased capacity, through multiple programs. Designated Programs are divided into three Priority Area categories:
 - Innovation;
 - Competitiveness and Market Development; and,
 - Adaptability and Industry Capacity.

Growing Forward is a national agriculture framework that co-ordinates federal and provincial agriculture policy. The budgeted amount for Designated Programs will increase from a five-year total of \$79 million under the first Growing Forward agreement to \$115 million under GF2, while the budgeted amount for Business Risk Management programs will decrease from \$387 million to \$312 million. The decrease in the BRM programs was directed by the federal government, which had reduced amounts of funding available for GF2.

s.13, s.17

s.13, s.17

As a result of the reduced amounts in the BRM budget, new formulas were developed for two of the BRM programs, the main one being AgriStability. Under the new agreement, producers will be eligible to receive payment when their income drops more than 30 per cent below five year average, rather than the 15 percent trigger point in the original Growing Forward agreement.

s.13, s.16

s.13, s.16

As a result of B.C.'s extensive consultation with producers, and subsequent B.C.-led negotiations with the federal government and other provinces, the model accepted in GF2 has qualified support from B.C. producers.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- n/a

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

Table 1 - variance between GF and GF2 funding allocations

	GF			GF2			Variance (GF vs. GF2)
	Federal	BC	Total	Federal	BC	Total	
BRM ⁽¹⁾	228.2	158.6	386.8	185.7	126.2	311.9	-74.9
Designated Programs	47.2	31.5	78.7	69.0	46.0	115.0	36.3
	275.4	190.1	465.5	254.7	172.2	426.9	-38.6

(1) BRM programs are demand-driven and have defined coverage rather than fixed federal/provincial contribution figures. These figures represent projected costs and will continue to fluctuate as new, updated information becomes available.

s.13, s.17

Approved by:	Prepared by: <i>(The person who wrote the note)</i>	Alternate Contact:
Grant Thompson, A/ADM	Name: Mike Renaud	Name:
Date approved by ADM: July 12, 2013	Branch: Program Performance & Evaluation Unit	Branch:
Phone: 250 356-8299	Phone: 250 387-3195	Phone:
Cell:	Cell: s.17	Cell:

Bee Importation from United States**RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:**

- **Honeybees play a major role in agriculture as pollinators of crops, contributing an estimated \$275M to the economy in British Columbia, and over \$2B in Canada.**
- **There are six designated regions in BC with assigned inspectors. This service has been offered by the Ministry at no cost to beekeepers for over 50 years.**
- **We are also proud to have on staff one of Canada's foremost apiary specialists, Paul van Westendorp.**
- **Ministry staff are working with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and the provincial and Canadian bee organizations as they determine the risks involved in possibly lifting the 26 year old ban on importing bee packages from mainland United States.**
- **The decision to remove the ban will be dependent on:**

s.13

-
- **Looking at this change was partially driven by the finding of overwintering Small Hive Beetle in parts of Canada. Small Hive Beetle has not been found in BC.**
- **BC is supporting the development of a collaborative national disease control program for Small Hive Beetle.**
- **The value of BC crops dependent on bee pollination exceeds \$200M per year.**
- **The BC government has a regulated commitment through the Bee Program to protecting the Bee Industry.**

Bee Importation from United States**BACKGROUND:**

- There are 2,323 registered beekeepers in BC, with 41,282 colonies registered in the province this year. The majority of beekeepers are hobbyists that operate less than 10 colonies
- Honey bee colonies are managed in all agricultural areas of the province with the highest concentrations in the Fraser Valley, Okanagan and Vancouver Island.
- Honey bees are critically important to meet the crop pollination requirements of most fruit crops in the province.
- A small group of commercial beekeepers from BC and the Prairie provinces are lobbying provincial and federal governments to support the cancellation of the 26 year import ban of packaged bees from mainland United States.
- The ban was put in place in 1987 to protect Canadian honey bee colonies from Varroa mite and other exotic bee pathogens
- Varroa mite has subsequently spread into Canada, however the Amitraz-resistant strain has not.
- Canada is not self sufficient in replacement bees and many provinces have suffered heavy over-wintering losses in recent years.
- Commercial bee keepers would see strong economic benefits if mainland US imports were allowed. These benefits would come with increased disease risks.
- The majority of small bee-keepers is opposed to opening the border and sees a threat for BC with Small Hive Beetle, Amitraz-resistant Varroa mite and Africanized honey bee introduction if this is allowed.
-

s.13

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- This past winter BC was fortunate to not see heavy over-wintering losses. (2008 – 36%, 2013 – 18%; prior to 1990 – 10-12%)

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

Approved by:	Prepared by: <i>(The person who wrote the note)</i>	Alternate Contact:
Melanie Stewart, ADM	Name: Jane Pritchard	Name: Paul van Westendorp
Date approved by ADM: XXX	Branch: PAHB	Branch: PAHB
Phone: 250 356-1821	Phone: 604-556-3886	Phone: 604-556-3129
Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17

LINK BETWEEN HONEY BEE DEATHS AND NEONICOTINOID INSECTICIDES

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **The evaluation and registration of agricultural chemicals falls under federal jurisdiction - Health Canada.**
- **Health Canada announced a reassessment of the registration of three of the most commonly-used neonicotinoid formulations in June 2012 with an emphasis on their impact on bees and pollinators.**
- **In 2013, Health Canada also announced a national initiative to have beekeepers submit samples in cases of suspected bee poisonings due to neonicotinoid exposure, and to have those samples analysed.**
- **Numerous studies by independent researchers have so far failed to establish any link between bee and wild pollinator declines and the use of neonicotinoids.**
-

s.13

LINK BETWEEN HONEY BEE DEATHS AND NEONICOTINOID INSECTICIDES**Background:**

- Neonicotinoids, first introduced in the 1990s, belong to a class of insecticidal nerve toxins that mimic the action of nicotine.
- Their mode of action causes neonicotinoids to be highly hazardous to insects while only being moderately toxic to mammals.
- Neonicotinoid insecticides can be absorbed systemically into all of the plant tissue. They can persist in the environment and may cause exposure to non-target insect populations including bees.
- Since 2000, European beekeepers reported catastrophic bee declines in areas where neonicotinoids had been used.
- In 2006, United States beekeepers began reporting high colony losses, called Colony Collapse Disorder. Canadian beekeepers also began reporting high losses in 2007 onward.
- Numerous studies have failed to establish any link to neonicotinoid exposure or any other specific cause.
- Since 2011, Ontario beekeepers experienced high losses near potato and corn plantings but these crops are not significant bee forage sources.

Cross Jurisdictional Comparison:

- Neonicotinoid use in BC is mostly limited to Okanagan orchards and Fraser Valley berry and corn crops and this use is without any recognized link to bee colony losses.
- BC experienced colony losses as high as 38% in 2008 but losses declined in recent years, down to 18% in the spring of 2013.
- Virtually no neonicotinoids have ever been used on Vancouver Island but Island beekeepers reported losses as high as 60% in 2008, indicating that causes other than neonicotinoids were involved.

Approved by:	Prepared by: <i>(The person who wrote the note)</i>	Alternate Contact:
Grant Thompson, A/ADM	Name: Paul van Westendorp	Name:
Date approved by ADM: July 12, 2013	Branch: Plant and Animal Health	Branch:
Phone: 250 356-8299	Phone: (604) 556-3129	Phone:
Cell:	Cell:	Cell:

MANDATE LETTER
New Provincial Meat Inspection System

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **Consumer safety is paramount.**
- **British Columbians can be confident that the new provincial meat inspection system will continue to support the highest standards of food safety, and support consumer and retain confidence in BC meat.**
- **We have taken the time to consult with industry and will ensure that our system is not only safe, but also surpasses the service provided by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and helps grow the BC meat industry.**
-

s.13, s.17

MANDATE LETTER
New Provincial Meat Inspection System

BACKGROUND:

- The responsibility for slaughter inspection in provincially-licensed Class A and B abattoirs was transferred from Ministry of Health to Ministry of Agriculture in Fall 2012. Ministry of Health retains provincial responsibility for meat processing in cut and wraps, butcher shops and Class A abattoirs (past the first drip cooler where the carcass is hanging and cooling).
- There are 59 provincially-licensed Class A and/or B abattoirs in BC. Class A abattoirs may also operate a meat processing facility under the Regional Health Authorities.
- Based on a Memorandum of Understanding between Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and the Province, the CFIA is currently contracted to perform inspection services in Class A and B abattoirs in BC. (they also perform this service in Saskatchewan and Manitoba); however, they will be transitioning away from this role on December 31, 2013. CFIA will continue to provide services in federally-registered facilities.
- The Province conducted extensive two-year consultations with communities, producers, processors, and health agencies. Four resultant decisions were made:
 - 1) Maintaining third party government inspection is the best choice. An enhanced traditional meat inspection system will be developed and implemented to protect public health, respond to industry needs, support local producers, ensure retail and consumer confidence, and promote jobs.

s.13, s.17

- 3) A mobile abattoir will be stationed in 100 Mile House. The consultations identified that the South Cariboo has unique challenges that were not being accommodated through existing programs.
 - The mobile will be delivered and ready for the Fall slaughter season.
 - Once operational, this project will be assessed before any other communities that feel they have a similar acute need will be considered.
- 4) The Regional District of the North Okanagan (RDNO) requested increased access to Class E on-farm slaughter licences. These licences allow a restricted volume of on-farm slaughter to farmers whose service needs cannot be met by Class A or B abattoirs located within two hours travel time.
 - A pilot project offering residents of the RDNO up to five new Class E licenses within two hours of Class A or B abattoirs will support increased access to local meat in the region.

- Applications for the five new class E licences will be available at the end of August in time for the slaughter season.
- Based on industry feedback, these new licenses will require the adoption of a new on farm food safety code of practice, and training in humane slaughter best practices to enhance existing licensing requirements.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- CFIA is also withdrawing services for provincially-licensed abattoirs in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. All other provinces have provincial meat inspection programs.
- A Western Meat Inspection Network has been formed with BC, Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba to collaborate on developing traditional meat inspection programs including standardized meat inspection training based on current evidence and best practices.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- CFIA provided inspection services based on a cost-share arrangement where the Province historically paid approximately 25% to 30% of the costs for meat inspection services.

•

s.13, s.17

- The Province now has 59 provincially-licensed Class A and B abattoirs. The estimated annual operating costs are \$5.6 million.

s.13

s.13

Approved by:	Prepared by: <i>(The person who wrote the note)</i>	Alternate Contact:
Melanie Stewart, ADM	Name: Lorie Hryciuk	Name: Dave Travia
Date approved by ADM:	Branch: Meat Inspection	Branch: Meat Inspection
Phone: 250-356-1821	Phone: 250-356-1678	Phone: 250 356-7219
Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17	Cell:

Pages 133 through 134 redacted for the following reasons:

s.12

**PESTICIDES: COSMETIC USE ON NON-AGRICULTURAL LAND
IMPACTS AGRICULTURE**

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **Restricting pesticide use in urban landscapes can impact agriculture. Pests can spread to agriculture crops affecting yields, quality, trade, and local food production. Once pests infest agricultural crops more pesticides will need to be used in agriculture.**
- **BC is unique. It is the most urbanized province in Canada with urban, rural and agricultural producers living in close proximity to each other. Rural and urban dwellers must have access to tools to manage pests that threaten agriculture.**
- **Regulations that impact urban and rural areas will also impact agriculture.**
- **AGRI relies on and has confidence in the expertise within Health Canada regarding health and safety assessments and/or toxicological concerns for pesticides approved for use in Canada.**
- **AGRI responded to the MOE consultation on this issue in 2009-2010, submitted comments to the Special Committee on Cosmetic Pesticides in 2011 and responded to committee questions in writing and in camera in 2012.**
- **AGRI is committed to working with other ministries (particularly the Ministry of Environment) to ensure that pesticides are managed responsibly within BC.**

**PESTICIDES: COSMETIC USE ON NON-AGRICULTURAL LAND
IMPACTS AGRICULTURE****BACKGROUND:**

- British Columbia is considering regulating the use of pesticides for cosmetic purposes. The action results from a resolution from the Union of BC Municipalities and public concern regarding the use of pesticides.
- Ministry of Environment (MOE) conducted a public consultation about cosmetic use of pesticides 2010. A summary report was published April 2010.
- The Legislative Assembly appointed a Special Committee on Cosmetic Pesticides (SCCP) October 2011 to examine, inquire into and make recommendations with respect to the elimination of the unnecessary use of pesticides in BC and to conduct consultation on this issue. A report is anticipated March 2012.
- BC's agri-food industry is an important contributor to the provincial economy, generating close to \$9.6 billion in total revenues annually and providing more than 61,000 jobs. Pests such as insects, fungi, bacteria, viruses and weeds (invasive plants) threaten agriculture production systems, food quality/safety, competitiveness and trade.
- Pests in urban landscape settings can spread to and damage agricultural crops. BC's agriculture, urban and rural environments are closely entwined. Approximately 80% of residents in the Agriculture Land Reserve are non-farmers. Pests that threaten agriculture need to be controlled in these three environments.
- "Cosmetic" use of pesticides is not clearly defined.
- The Ministry of Agriculture's (AGRI) role regarding pesticide management and use in British Columbia (BC) encompasses intergovernmental coordination of programs, policies and legislation; facilitating access to reduced risk pesticides; addressing issues; and outreach on pesticide management.
- The recent BC report on the use of cosmetic pesticides suggested "banning the sale of Commercial Class pesticides as soon as possible, except for use by certified applicators. Begin immediate consultations with the agricultural industry on how best to prohibit the sale of Commercial-class pesticides to anyone but a certified applicator." – We support this concept, encouraging the responsible use of pesticides is a high priority for the Plant Health Unit in PAHB.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- Six provinces have regulations regarding the use of pesticides for "cosmetic" purposes. The regulations vary. For example, Alberta only prohibits the sale of pesticide-fertilizer mixes while Quebec also prohibits the sale of 20 active ingredients. The majority of the regulations apply to lawns.
- BC Ministry of Environment regulates the sale and use of pesticides within BC including Domestic pesticides or those which are used by home gardeners.
- BC does not have regulations specific to the cosmetic use of pesticides.
- Approximately 40 BC municipalities/cities have pesticide by-laws.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- AGRI has two full-time equivalents dedicated to pesticide management. Salaries total \$142,367. Other staff also contribute to the Ministry's pesticide initiatives.
- Travel costs associated with this issue were approximately \$600 (2012- 2013).

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
Grant Thompson, A/ ADM	Name: Madeline Waring	Name: Gayle Jespersen
Date approved by ADM: July 12, 2013	Branch: Plant & Animal Health	Branch: Plant & Animal Health
Phone: 250 356-8299	Phone: (604) 556-3027	Phone: 250 861-7228
Cell:	Cell:	Cell:

**Response to Reports by Auditor General of British Columbia (AGBC)
and Chair of the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC).**

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **British Columbians value local food, local farmers and local farms, and the Province has supported those values with actions taken in response to the recommendations contained in the reports of the Auditor General and the Chair of the ALC.**
- **Budget 2013 provides an additional \$4 million over three years to support the Agricultural Land Commission for increased oversight of the Agriculture Land Reserve.**
- **This budget increase enables the ALC to:**
 - **continue with boundary reviews;**
 - **increase compliance and enforcement activities throughout the province;**
 - **pursue proactive planning work with local governments;**
 - **work more closely with farmers, ranchers and agricultural organizations to preserve agricultural land and encourage farming; and**
 - **continue digital conversion and mapping projects started with transitional funding.**
- **The new funding in this year's budget is in addition to one-time funding of \$1.6 million the government provided in 2011, as a part of a package that strengthened the ALC by giving it greater ability to focus on preserving farmland, increasing enforcement and to evolve into a more sustainable organization.**
- **By improving the structure and sustainability of the ALC, the government is improving the lives of 20,000 farming families in British Columbia and the \$9.6 billion agri-food sector our province supports.**
- **The Ministry is working in partnership with ALC staff to fulfill the recommendations contained in the reports.**

Response to Reports by Auditor General of British Columbia (AGBC) and Chair of the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC).**BACKGROUND:**

- In September 2010, the AGBC published a report that made nine recommendations to strengthen the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), and enhance the ALC's ability to encourage agriculture, including engaging in proactive long-term planning with local governments to encourage farming and prioritizing completion of business process and information management improvements.
- Based on the AGBC's and ALC Chair's reports, legislative amendments were made that came into effect on November 24, 2011. These changes enabled the ALC to:
 - increase enforcement within the ALR by involving qualified officials from other government agencies and levels of government in enforcement activities;
 - place a five-year moratorium on repeat applications to the ALC and focus resources on core functions like preserving farmland and encouraging farming;
 - ensure greater consistency and consideration of the ALC's core values in regional panel decision-making by increasing the oversight of the Chair of the ALC; and
 - begin the transition to a more self-supporting operating model and prepare to augment provincial funding by charging certain fees. Note that approval of funding options and fee increases was deferred pending Treasury Board's recommendations.
- On November 14, 2011, the Ministry announced approval of up to \$0.625 million in 2011/12, and \$0.975 million in 2012/13 of contingency funding for the ALC to transition to a new self-sustaining model of operations. The funding was specifically for: panel operations; training and professional development of panel members; and data entry/digital map conversion to update the ALC's Online Application Tracking System (OATS).
- Following a submission on budget and new fees in December 2012, Budget 2013 provided an additional \$4 million over three years to support the ALC to address its entire mandate, improve its administration and deal proactively with emerging issues. The budget increase further enables the ALC to:
 - continue with boundary reviews beginning in the East Kootenays;
 - increase compliance and enforcement activities throughout the province and build partnerships with local governments and provincial ministries;
 - pursue proactive planning work with local governments;
 - work more closely with farmers, ranchers and agricultural organizations to preserve agricultural land and encourage farming; and
 - continue digital conversion and mapping projects started with transitional funding, improving ability to evaluate the collective impacts of decisions on applications.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- Three provinces in Canada have developed agriculture "districts" where agriculture is recognized as the priority use: BC in 1973; Quebec in 1979; and most recently Ontario in 2005.
- The Ontario Greenbelt Plan is less similar in principle to BC's Agriculture Land Reserve than Quebec's Commission de Protection du Territoire Agricole. Ontario's scheme is broader in providing protection for agricultural and environmental values and a wide range of recreational and tourism uses.

- Quebec's system, like BC's is based on the exercise of administrative discretion. Unlike BC, Quebec's Commission is guided by criteria in legislation that critics argue does not allow for sufficient flexibility in decision making to accommodate socio-economic considerations and benefits that are given weight under BC's approach.
- Quebec's agriculture zone encompasses 6.3 million hectares BC's approximately 4.7 million hectares. The 2012-13 budget for the Commission was \$9.096 million.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- The ALC's 2013-14 budget is \$2.905 million.
-

s.13, s.17

Approved by:	Prepared by: <i>(The person who wrote the note)</i>	Alternate Contact:
Melanie Stewart	Name: Gavin Last	Name: David Coney
Date approved by ADM: XXX	Branch: Agrifoods Policy & Leg	Branch: Agrifoods Policy & Leg
Phone: 250 356-1821	Phone: 250 356-7640	Phone: 250 387-3232
Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17

Salmon Viruses and Diseases in the News**RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:**

- **The BC government is committed to the socially and ecologically responsible management of an environmentally and economically sustainable aquaculture industry for the benefit of all British Columbians.**
- **The DFO has primary responsibility for the health of fish on fish farms and CFIA is responsible for federally notifiable and reportable diseases.**
- **BC works with these agencies and the industry to be prepared for possible disease outbreaks and to ensure the prompt and coordinated implementation of the science-based response that the federal government and salmon farmers have developed.**
- **The Animal Health Centre in Abbotsford provides a high level of diagnostic support for fish diseases delivered through our highly qualified fish pathologist, Dr. Gary Marty. The mission for the Animal Health Laboratory with fish is the same for all species; to provide timely and accurate veterinary diagnostic services in support of a rapid response for the control of disease.**
- **Advances in vaccines and veterinary medical care have resulted in, overall, very good health in farmed Atlantic salmon.**
- **BC has never had a confirmed identification of Infectious Salmon Anemia virus from either wild Pacific Salmon or farmed Atlantic salmon. There have been false positives, these were investigated and were unfounded, no virus.**
- **Whenever a disease has been documented to impact the wild Pacific salmon population, such as sea lice, we have responded with regulations that were applied, management that was changed, and the impact was minimized.**

Salmon Viruses and Diseases in the News

BACKGROUND:

- Several viruses can infect salmon; some of them cause disease. Salmon viral infections and diseases have drawn attention in the media. No salmon viruses threaten human health.
- The viruses of note are:

Name	In wild Pacific salmon	In farmed Atlantic salmon	In BC
Infectious Salmon Anemia - ISA	NO	YES – Europe, Chile, EASTERN Canada	NO
Piscine Reovirus - PRV Heart and skeletal muscle inflammation disease	Virus yes, disease no	Virus yes, disease reported in Europe	Virus yes but no disease
Salmon Alpha Virus - SAV	NO	Yes - Europe	NO
Infectious Hematopoietic Necrosis Virus - IHNV	Only juvenile sockeye salmon in fresh water	Severe disease in farmed Atlantic salmon	2003 and 2012,;all fish destroyed both times

- The federal Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has primary responsibility for the health of salmon on fish farms. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is responsible for the management of federally reportable and notifiable diseases on these farms.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- In BC we have farmed Atlantic salmon alongside wild Pacific salmon. Eastern Canada and Europe have farmed Atlantic salmon alongside wild Atlantic salmon.
- BC has been held to accounts through public scrutiny and through the Cohen Commission

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- Approximately 14% of the Animal Health Laboratory (AHL) caseload is fish. This work generates approximately 35% of revenue.
- The AHL maintains American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) accreditation and

s.13, s.17

s.13, s.17

-

s.22

Approved by:	Prepared by: (Alternate Contact:
Melanie Stewart, ADM	Name: Jane Pritchard	Name: Gary Marty
Date approved by ADM: XXX	Branch: PAHB	Branch: PAHB
Phone: 250 356-1821	Phone: 604-556-3013	Phone:604-556-3123
Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17	Cell:

**MANDATE LETTER
Tree Fruit Replant****RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:**

- The iconic image of our orchards filled with fresh fruit is a symbol of the Okanagan and of BC.
- British Columbia's tree fruit industry is a vital part of our food system.
- BC's tree fruit orchards generated annual revenues of \$75M in 2011, and are a substantial economic driver in the Okanagan.
- Our objective is to work with the tree fruit sector to promote the growth and production of high-value, high-quality BC fruit, and to develop a stronger, more sustainable tree fruit sector.
- Over the last dozen years, BC tree fruit growers received more than \$120M from the provincial and federal governments in response to weather-related losses and income stability programs, and more than \$30M in industry development funding.
- In May 2012, we announced a \$2M replant program which began in January 2013. This program will finish in March 2016.
- Other industry development funding includes the \$5M Federal-Provincial Tree Fruit Marketing and Infrastructure Innovation Initiative. Deliverables from that program include investment of more than \$2.7M for the modernization of the BC Tree Fruits Cooperative.
- The BC government is committed to working with industry to investigate the creation of a long-term sustainable, replant program.
-

s.13

•

MANDATE LETTER

Tree Fruit Replant

BACKGROUND:

- The Premier's June 10 Mandate letter asks the Minister for the Creation of a long-term and sustainable tree fruit replanting program upon the expiry of the current program on March 31, 2016
- The existing program is a 3-year replant program which was announced in May 2012 and began in January 2013. The budget is \$2M allocated over the three years – ending in 15/16.
- The program objective is to promote the growth and production of high-value, high-quality BC fruit, and to develop a stronger, more sustainable tree fruit sector that results in growers earning more dollars.
- In January 2013, the scope of the \$2M replant program was expanded to allow growers to replant with different types of fruit trees. The expanded scope offers further help to BC tree fruit growers to increase competitiveness and profitability.
- Over the last dozen years, BC tree fruit growers received more than \$120M from the provincial and federal governments in response to weather-related losses and income stability programs, and more than \$34M in other funding.
- The replant program is in addition to the \$5M federal-provincial Tree Fruit Marketing and Infrastructure Innovation Initiative. Deliverables from that program include the \$2.7M modernization of the Okanagan Tree Fruit Cooperative packinghouse.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- The budget for a long-term, sustainable replant program is unknown at this time.
-

s.13

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
Melanie Stewart, ADM	Name: Fiona Cubitt	Name: Alana Rosseker
Date approved by ADM: XXX	Branch: Innovation and Industry Development Branch	Branch: Innovation and Industry Development Branch
Phone: 250 356-1821	Phone: 250-387-7183	Phone: 250-356-7057
Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17

Status of the Canada-United States Pacific Albacore Tuna Treaty

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **Loss of access to US waters in 2012 resulted in reduction in income of approximately \$26 million for BC Albacore tuna fishers. This was a very unfortunate situation and one that the Province worked hard to prevent.**
- **This is a federal issue in Canada and the United States and the fishing arrangements for tuna are governed by an international treaty.**
- **Ministry, other provincial and federal staff continued working in order to reach an agreement for 2013 and were successful in reaching a one-year deal.**

-

s.13, s.17

- **Albacore tuna are an important component of British Columbia's troll fishing fleet and the Ministry of Agriculture will remain engaged with industry and Fisheries and Oceans to seek the best possible outcomes for BC fishermen now and for future years.**

Status of the Canada-United States Pacific Albacore Tuna Treaty**BACKGROUND:**

- The Canada-United States Albacore Tuna Treaty (the Treaty) was signed in 1981, after changes in ocean temperatures caused the majority of Pacific albacore tuna stocks to shift northward into Canadian waters. In recent years, the majority of the albacore stocks have remained in US waters. The Treaty provided for reciprocal access to ports for albacore landings and vessel supplies and to each nation's Pacific Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) for albacore fishing. This access was suspended by the United States (US) for the 2012 season. As a consequence, the landed volume of albacore tuna caught by BC vessels was reduced from 5,415 metric tonnes, valued at \$48.2 million in 2011, to approximately 2,536 metric tonnes and \$22.6 million in 2012.
- In 2013, an agreement with the United States was reached which renewed the fishing regime for one-year and reduced the number of Canadian vessels eligible to access to United States waters from 110 to 45.
- Claiming disparate benefits of the treaty, the US State Department has signaled that ultimately, it intends to terminate Canadian access to US waters in three stages by reducing the number of eligible Canadian vessels by a third annually.
-

s.13, s.16

- A reduction or loss of access will reduce the value of this fishery to BC, threaten the Marine Stewardship Certification of BC albacore and increase the fishing effort on other BC fish stocks as albacore fishermen attempt to replace lost revenue.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- The reciprocal access provisions of the Canada-United States Pacific Albacore Tuna treaty are unique in Canada-US fishing agreements.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- The Ministry allocates approximately 0.1 FTE to the albacore tuna file. Ministry staff participate annually in international negotiations and in meetings with industry stakeholders to plan negotiation strategy and to explore options to increase Canada's domestic catch.

Approved by:	Prepared by: <i>(The person who wrote the note)</i>	Alternate Contact:
Melanie Stewart, ADM	Name: Barron Carswell	Name:
Date approved by ADM: XXX	Branch: Agrifoods Policy & Legislation	Branch:
Phone: 250 356-1821	Phone: 250 356-5042	Phone:
Cell: s.17	Cell:	Cell:

Use of GE technology in agri-foods production in BC**RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:**

- **This government recognizes that the use of GE technology in agri-foods production is an issue on which many British Columbians hold strong views, both in favour of developing GE crops and livestock in BC, and in opposition to such production.**
- **The potential benefits and potential risks of GE crop and livestock production are complex and multifaceted, and this is an issue that merits careful and thoughtful consideration.**
- **The Federal government has jurisdiction over the approval of GE crops and livestock in Canada.**
- **Four federally-approved GE crop species are currently produced in BC (canola, corn, soy, beets). The Arctic Apple is not currently approved by the Federal government for unrestricted release (open field production).**
- **The Province considers that the Federal government must ensure the transparent, science-based and effective environmental and socio-economic review of genetically-engineered products. The data and decisions must be made available to the public.**
- **Given the complexity of the issue and the strong views that it invokes, any steps this government may take in the future to either support or constrain the production of federally-approved GE agri-food products in BC will be made in a balanced fashion, after full consultation with stakeholders and the public.**

Use of GE technology in agri-foods production in BC**BACKGROUND:**

- The use of Genetic Engineering (GE) technology (gene addition, deletion or manipulation) in agri-foods production and processing is increasing.
- Four federally-approved GE crop species (canola, corn, soy and sugar beets) are currently grown in BC. Other GE crop species have been approved by the Federal government, but are not currently grown in BC. GE feed and pharmaceuticals are currently used in some BC livestock production, but no GE livestock have been approved.
- The Arctic Apple, a GE apple, is currently waiting federal approval for unrestricted release (open field production).

Jurisdictional considerations:

- Federal
 - Canada exercises authority over labelling, import, export and interprovincial trade of agricultural products (including GE products) through: the *Canada Agricultural Products Act*, which regulates the preparation and advertisement of agricultural products; and the *Food and Drug Act*, which protects public health by ensuring agricultural products meet specific standards for marketing or sale.
- Provincial
 - Provinces do not have jurisdiction to approve GE agri-foods products for unrestricted release – this is within the sole purview of the Federal government; however, the Province may legislate to restrict the production of federally-approved GE agri-foods products within BC, or may dedicate resources to encourage the development, production or sale of federally-approved products.
 - Ministry of Agriculture's current policy position is to refer to the Federal government: "the province considers that the Federal Government must ensure the transparent, science-based and effective environmental and socio-economic review of genetically engineered products. The data and decisions must be made available to the public."
- Municipal
 - Despite their lack of authority to regulate or restrict agri-foods products, 12 local governments have adopted resolutions to restrict or prohibit the use of GE-based agri-foods within their jurisdictions (e.g. Richmond, Powell River).

Issues:

- The issue for BC is whether it wishes to maintain the status quo and refer enquiries on GE agri-foods production to the Federal government, or whether it wishes to take a provincial position and act to either restrict or promote GE in BC.
- This is a contentious issue.

s.13

s.13

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- As in BC, the other provinces and territories defer to the Federal government on this issue. Prince Edward Island, Ontario and Quebec have begun to explore options to develop a provincial policy position.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- No resources are currently dedicated specifically to GE.

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
Melanie Stewart	Name: David Coney	Name: Russ Horton
Date approved by ADM:	Branch: Agrifoods Policy and Legislation	Branch: Agrifoods Policy and Legislation
Phone: 250 356-1821	Phone: 250 387-3232	Phone: 250 356-1671
Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17	Cell: N/A

FARM PRACTICES COMPLAINTS**RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:**

- Many complaints result from pressure on a limited land-base that places the farming and non-farming communities in close proximity. Others result from the changing nature of farms as crops change and as farm operations become larger and more complex or take on different activities such as on-farm processing and agri-tourism.
- Effective, proactive land-use planning and public education can forestall tensions.
- The purpose of the *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act* is to protect the business of farming. However, farms are not automatically protected by following industry standards. Complaints are both fact and site-specific and what is a normal farm practice in one situation may not be in another.
- BCFIRB's mandate under the *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act* is where possible to find a balance between the needs of farm operations and the needs of their neighbours. BCFIRB decisions, which reflect that mandate, are issued after full and transparent hearings of complaint issues.
- BCFIRB complaint decisions can be enforced by a party to the complaint by filing the decision with the Supreme Court.
- BCFIRB is accountable. Its complaint decisions are appealable to the Supreme Court on a question of law or jurisdiction. BCFIRB practices and procedures are subject to review by the Ombudsperson.
- Whenever appropriate and possible, BCFIRB uses mediation and other alternative dispute resolution processes to settle complaints.

BACKGROUND:

- Of 37 complaints administered by BCFIRB in 2012/13, 20 were resolved in the FY.
- Roughly 1/2 of the complaints in fiscal 2012/13 related to flies, odour and dust.
- **Summary of Complaint Type and Location:**

Non-Propane Cannon Noise	1	Victoria
Propane Cannon Noise	4	Courtenay, Kelowna
Cattle at Large	1	Duncan
Flies, Manure Management, Odour	19	Aldergrove, Black Creek, Kelowna
Dust	2	Westwold, Delta
Drainage, Odour	7	Langley, Kelowna, Central Saanich
Jurisdiction	2	Duncan, Kelowna
Wind Machine	1	Osoyoos

- **Summary of Complaints Administered since Fiscal Year 2001/02 – 2013**

Complaints by Fiscal Year	10/11	11/12	12/13
Carried over from previous Fiscal Year	7	8	16
New Complaints Filed	10	36	21
Active Complaints	17	44	37
Resolved by Settlement	4	4	1
Heard/Decided (incl. summary dismissals)	5	24	19
Complaints Resolved in Fiscal Year	9	28	20
Complaints in Process (Carried Forward)	8	16	17

Active Complaints:	Status at March 31, 2013
s.22	Decision pending
	Decision pending
	Settlement process
	In process
	Scheduled for hearing
	Scheduled for hearing
	In process
	In process
	Heard/Decision pending
	Heard/Decision pending
	In process
	In process
	Scheduled for hearing
	In process
	Heard/Decision pending
	Scheduled for hearing

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- Most provinces have a "farm practices board" or equivalent body.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- Within budgeted resources. Ministry staff support as "knowledgeable persons".

ESTIMATE NOTE- FISCAL 2012/13

Ministry of Agriculture

Confidential Advice to Minister

Approved By:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
Name: Jim Collins, Executive Director	Name: Gloria Chojnacki	Name: Shane Ford
25 June 2013	Branch: BCFIRB	Branch: BCFIRB
Phone: 250-357-3915	Phone: 250-356-1817	Phone: 250-356-2465
Cell s.17	Cell:	Cell: s.17

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL AGREEMENTS - BCFIRB SIGNATORY ROLE

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **Supply managed industries (poultry and dairy) make a significant contribution to BC's agri-food sector.**
- **Supply Management is a system of interlocking federal and provincial legislation guided by federal-provincial agreements.**
- **Issues and activities at the National level could have a significant impact on these industries in BC.**
- **BCFIRB is actively engaged with its federal and provincial counterparts in responding to ongoing supervisory issues in the national Supply Management sectors.**
- **The Ministry and the BC Farm Industry Review Board continue to work together, as appropriate, to help ensure BC's overall regulated agri-food sector and public interests are met within the governing national framework.**

BACKGROUND:

- BC's supply managed sectors contribute 43% of BC's farm gate receipts, with corresponding economic activity in their processing, marketing and allied trades.
- Supply Management (poultry, dairy) is a national level regulatory system.
- Supply Management is achieved through interlocking federal and provincial laws that in general restrict imports, limit production, and set prices.
- The system is intended to provide both a fair return to producers and ensure an adequate supply of safe products for consumers.
- Dairy and poultry operate under policy frameworks set out in federal-provincial agreements (FPA's). Poultry FPAs are endorsed by the Minister of Agriculture and the BC Farm Industry Review Board (BCFIRB), while BCFIRB and Ministerial prior approval is required for the BC Milk Marketing Board to enter into or change an FPA.
- The Regulated Marketing Economic Policy (2004) includes proactive government support of supply managed boards in national and regional negotiations to secure agreements that provide opportunities for primary and secondary growth and sufficient allocations for development of specialty markets in BC.
- Both their signatory roles and policy require the Ministry and BCFIRB to be aware of, understand and act on Supply Management issues.
- Several national-level issues that may impact BC's supply-managed sectors include:
 - Changes in levies and pricing in relation to eggs used for processing, potentially increasing consumer price.
 - Increased chicken production allocations sought by other provinces, which may decrease the volume of production allocated to BC per growing cycle (differential growth).
 - National negotiations which have a number of implications for the BC dairy industry.
 - Clarification and implementation of pricing and allocation principles including comparative advantage and transparency in cost of production.
 - Trade negotiations continue to be an important background consideration.
- Government is responsible for setting overarching policy direction in regards to supply management and maintaining the legislative framework. BCFIRB is responsible for the general supervision of the commodity boards and sound marketing (operating) policy under the *Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act*.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- Supply Management and federal-provincial agreements are found in every province and one territory in Canada.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- None

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
Jim Collins, Executive Director	Name: Wanda Gorsuch	Name: Shane Ford
24 June 2013	Branch: BCFIRB	Branch: BCFIRB
Phone: 250-387-3915	Phone: 250-356-7819	Phone: 250-356-2465
Cell: s.17	Cell:	Cell: s.17

GOVERNANCE – BC REGULATED MARKETING SECTOR**RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:**

- **BCFIRB is established under the NPMA with the statutory responsibility for the supervision of commodity boards in BC.**
- **BC's regulated commodity boards and commissions are created by regulations of Cabinet under the *NPMA*.**
- **Citizens must have confidence that these regulatory boards are exercising their powers fairly. That is why BCFIRB was established under the *NPMA* as an independent administrative tribunal.**
- **Expectations of the boards reinforce the need for good governance and consideration of the public interest.**
- **BCFIRB is working with the commodity boards to establish a principles (outcomes)-based approach to regulation.**
- **Principles-based regulation helps provide a consistent, harmonized approach to governance that reconciles social license and administrative fairness principles with the business needs of the regulated industries.**
- **It also includes performance expectations that support the public interest and the interests of all stakeholders.**
- **A well governed regulatory system that facilitates and encourages stakeholders in making long-term plans and business decisions furthers the interests of these important BC agri-food industries, now and in the future.**

BACKGROUND:

- The BC Farm Industry Review Board (BCFIRB) is established under the *Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act (NPMA)*. BCFIRB has the statutory responsibility in BC for the general supervision of the commodity boards. This includes ensuring that board practice sound marketing policy and carry out their statutory mandates in a legal, accountable, strategic and transparent manner.
- BC's commodity boards and commissions (commodity boards) are created by Cabinet through regulation (Schemes) under the *NPMA*.
- Commodity boards are given their regulatory powers through their Schemes.
- While commodity boards ensure producers receive a fair price for their product; they must also consider the whole value chain (e.g. processors, retailers, and consumer) and operate in the public interest.
- Government objectives for commodity boards include contributing to economic activity in the Province, achieving efficiencies throughout their sectors, enhancing value in the marketplace, and building consumer preference for BC product by encouraging high quality, safe food.
- To effectively meet these responsibilities and objectives requires good governance.
- BCFIRB continues improvements in commodity board governance through the implementation of principles (outcomes)-based regulation (year 2 of a 3 year plan).
- Principles-based regulation is guided by an Accountability Framework and 6 High Level Principles (Strategic, Accountable, Fair, Effective, Transparent, Inclusive, – SAFETI), developed by BCFIRB with input from commodity boards.
- This approach is already showing improved decision-making and increasingly accountable governance. It focuses commodity board actions on strategic outcomes and allows greater flexibility in achieving responsibilities and objectives.
- Principles-based regulation provides a consistent approach to governance that reconciles social license and administrative fairness with industry's business needs.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- The same governance considerations apply in all provinces and are the subject of a National Association of Agri-food Supervisory Agencies principles document.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- NA. (Increased supervisory effectiveness, greater flexibility for regulated industry.)

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
Jim Collins, Executive Director	Name: Wanda Gorsuch	Name: Shane Ford
24 June 2013	Branch: BCFIRB	Branch: BCFIRB
Phone: 250-387-3915	Phone: 250-356-7819	Phone: 250-356-2465
Cell: s.17	Cell:	Cell: s.17

MOUNTAIN MORNING FARMS (MYLES MATERI) AND THE BC EGG MARKETING BOARD**RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:**

- s.22
- Under the *Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act (NPMA)*, the BC Farm Industry Review Board (BCFIRB) is statutorily responsible for the general supervision of the commodity boards and commissions, including the Egg Board.
- BCFIRB as the supervisory agency continues to work with all commodity boards on ensuring regulatory system governance is fair, accountable and transparent.
- BCFIRB reviewed Mr. Materi's issues on a number of occasions.

s.22

- The Egg Board is accountable to BCFIRB and BCFIRB is subject to review by the courts and the Office of the Ombudsperson. The

s.22

- Early in 2013, following enforcement proceedings against Mr. Materi for illegal egg production and grading, the Egg Board and Mr. Materi settled with Mr. Materi agreeing to cease the illegal operations in return for a small lot permit of 399 birds.

s.13

s.13

- There is an outstanding review by the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner regarding the release of information related to a court case in Ontario and allegations about egg graders in that province that also have operations in British Columbia.
- BCFIRB ensured that these grading and food safety concerns were brought to the attention of the appropriate federal and provincial authorities. (CFIA and BC Ministry of Agriculture.)

BACKGROUND:

- From 2004 to 2013, Myles Materi, as the producer/grader owner of Mountain Morning Farms in Salmon Arm, was involved in numerous appeals, supervisory reviews and other applications concerning the operation of the BC Egg Marketing Board and the BC Farm Industry Review Board (BCFIRB).
- s.22
- The Mountain Morning grading station is no longer licensed by the Egg Board, and Mr. Materi's egg production quota was revoked by the Egg Board in 2010 due to non-compliance. The Egg Board's decision was upheld on appeal to BCFIRB.
- s.22
- In 2012, the Egg Board commenced new enforcement proceedings against Mr. Materi for illegal egg production and grading. This was settled when Mr. Materi agreed to cease the illegal operations in return for a small lot permit of 399 birds.
- The issues specific to Mr. Materi have been thoroughly examined by the Egg Board in the first instance and by BCFIRB s.22
- The Egg Board is subject to the regulatory oversight of BCFIRB at all times. As well, BCFIRB continues to work with the Egg Board and other commodity boards to ensure that regulated system governance is fair, accountable and transparent.
- s.13
- BCFIRB is on record as to its more general concerns regarding regulatory system governance. BCFIRB also ensured that grading and food safety issues raised by Mr. Materi were brought to the attention of the appropriate federal (Canadian Food Inspection Agency - CFIA) and provincial (Ministry of Agriculture) authorities.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- None.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

None.

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
Jim Collins, Executive Director	Name: Wanda Gorsuch	Name: Shane Ford
25 June 2013	Branch: BCFIRB	Branch: BCFIRB
Phone: 250-387-3915	Phone: 250-356-7819	Phone: 250-356-2465
Cell: s.17	Cell:	Cell: s.17

BCFIRB – NEW MANDATE UNDER THE *PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS ACT***RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:**

- **As of March 2013, BCFIRB can now hear appeals of certain seizure-related animal welfare decisions of the BCSPCA under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act*.**
- **Previously, all disagreements with BCSPCA decisions were heard by the courts. Tribunals allow for a more flexible and timely approach to fair dispute resolution.**
- **This is in keeping with the Government's justice transformation initiative.**
- **BCFIRB is one of BC's most senior and experienced tribunals and already has a variety of mandates. In keeping with the intent of the PCAA, a BCFIRB priority under this mandate is the welfare of animals.**
- **Since time can be critical factor in animal welfare cases, BCFIRB has developed a timely and procedurally fair process for hearing these appeals. Since March BCFIRB has issued decisions on two appeals.**
- **BCFIRB cannot waive the filing fee as it is required under Regulation. Filing fees are a standard tribunal practice and are paid to general revenue, not to BCFIRB.**
- **BCFIRB is accountable to the courts for its decisions and to the Ombudsperson for its practices and procedures.**

BACKGROUND:

- On March 20, 2013 amendments to the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (PCAA)* were deposited, bringing into force the BC Farm Industry Review Board's (BCFIRB) new mandate to hear appeals of specific seizure-related animal welfare decisions made the by BC Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (BCSPCA).
- BCFIRB is one of BC's most senior and experienced tribunals. A top priority for BCFIRB under this additional mandate in keeping with the *PCAA*, is the welfare of animals.
- Previously, all disagreements with BCSPCA decisions were heard by the courts.
- Generally, tribunals:
 - provide an expeditious and fair method for settling disputes with less formality than court; and
 - have contentious issues decided by expert persons.
- Based on amendments to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulation, a \$100 fee must be paid when an appeal is filed. BCFIRB cannot waive this fee, but can award costs following a hearing. Filing fees are a standard tribunal practice.
- Except for appeals about animal custody costs, an appeal cannot be filed with BCFIRB until the BCSPCA has been asked to review their original seizure decision.
- Appeals may be filed on one of more of the following BCSPCA decisions:
 - Review decision that the animal(s) will be euthanized or sold/adopted.
 - Original seizure decision if the BCSPCA does not provide a review decision within 28 days after a request for review is made.
 - Payment of animal care costs.
- Time can be critical when making decisions about animal welfare. BCFIRB has developed a procedurally fair and timely appeals process. The process is fully outlined on the BCFIRB web site and in supporting fact sheets.
- Given the individuality of each case, the process and time required to render a decision can vary.
- BCFIRB decisions are subject to judicial review by the BC Supreme Court and its practices and procedures can be investigated by the Ombudsperson.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- There are other provincial tribunals that deal with animal welfare appeals.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- An expanded BCFIRB mandate requires additional budget to support that mandate.

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
Jim Collins, Executive Director	Name: Wanda Gorsuch	Name: Shane Ford
24 June 2013	Branch: BCFIRB	Branch: BCFIRB
Phone: 250-387-3915	Phone: 250-356-7819	Phone: 250-356-2465
Cell: s.17	Cell:	Cell: s.17

PROPANE CANNONS – FARM PRACTICES COMPLAINTS AND STUDIES**RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:**

- Propane cannons are used by farmers to protect their crops and feedstock from wildlife predation.
- “Normal farm practice” is protected under the *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act [FPPA]*.
- This *Act* also provides members of the public an avenue to be heard if they are disturbed by a farm practice.
- Both local governments and the Ministry have roles in managing farm practices in regards to disturbance complaints.
- BCFIRB, under the *FPPA*, hears complaints from people aggrieved by a site-specific disturbance arising from a farm practice, as well studying and reporting on any matter related to farm practices.
- BCFIRB’s complaints role has been defined by the courts as balancing the interests of the farming and non-farming communities.
- Often other, non-farm issues underlie complaints to BCFIRB regarding farm practices.
- This can make dispute resolution difficult. It is important for all persons involved to work on resolving those issues as being in the best long term interests of the neighbourhood.
- It would be inappropriate for the Minister or ministry to comment on specific complaints that are before BCFIRB.

BACKGROUND:

- Propane cannons are audible scare devices used by BC farmers to protect crops and feed supplies from bird and other wildlife predation.
- High population density in and around farmland is often an underlying factor in disturbance-based conflicts between farmers and neighbours.
- Conflict is locality/site specific and can arise for many reasons not necessarily directly related to a farm practice (e.g. misunderstandings, contrasting lifestyles).
- Although various measures to reduce and manage conflict arising from propane cannon use are in place, there is continuing pressure on governments to eliminate the use of propane cannons.
- Options for managing farm practices in light of nuisance complaints are available at both the local and provincial government levels.
- The *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act (FPPA)* provides the provincial government with the authority to establish standards for normal farm practices, and the *Local Government Act (LGA)* provides the Minister of Agriculture with authority to establish guidelines for local governments for zoning and other farm area bylaws.

s.13

- The *LGA* authorizes local governments, with the approval of the Minister, to regulate and even prohibit farm practices through farm bylaws. The Minister may also delegate responsibility for farm bylaws to local governments. For example, Langley recently established a bird scare device farm bylaw based on Ministry Guidelines.
- BCFIRB will continue to determine "normal farm practice" on a case-by-case basis for propane cannons. "Normal farm practice" is determined on the merits of each complaint, with geographical and neighbourhood context taken into account.
- BCFIRB may also study and report on any matters related to farm practices (*FPPA*), as was done in 1999, 2009 and 2011 on propane cannons.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- Most other provinces have right to farm legislation of some form.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

-

s.13

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
Jim Collins, Executive Director	Name: Wanda Gorsuch	Name: Shane Ford
24 June 2013	Branch: BCFIRB	Branch: BCFIRB
Phone: 250-387-3915	Phone: 250-356-7819	Phone: 250-356-2465
Cell s.17	Cell:	Cell: s.17

QUOTA VALUES FOR SUPPLY MANAGED COMMODITIES**RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:**

- **Supply management is an orderly marketing system established in federal and provincial legislation. A primary aim is to ensure producers earn a fair return while providing consumers a continuous and adequate supply of high quality products.**
- **Quota is the property of marketing boards, which by BC regulation must attach no value to it.**
- **Value emerges when quota is exchanged among famers in the market. High quota values is evidence that supply managed sectors are inherently profitable.**
- **In BC, high quota values can constrain entry of new producers as well as restrict business expansion.**
- **Federal and provincial governments are responsible for the policy decisions and legislation that govern the supply management system.**
- **In its supervisory capacity, BCFIRB is working with the provincial supply managed boards on transparency and accountability regarding pricing and quota allotment - the underpinnings of quota value.**
- **Under BCFIRB supervision, SM boards are implementing New Entrant, Small Lot Producer and other programs to help lower barriers to entry.**

BACKGROUND:

- Supply Managed (SM) industries (dairy and poultry) are managed under a national regulatory framework that brings together federal and provincial laws to control imports, limit domestic production and set prices.
- Together, these three pillars are intended to ensure a fair return to producers while providing consumers a continuous and adequate supply of high quality products.
- Supply is managed through a system of quotas and allocations set at the national level and distributed to individual producers in each province by provincial marketing boards. Quota remains the property of supply-managed boards and by regulation in BC, has no value.
- Quota does acquire value in the marketplace when producers make decisions to grow, change, transfer, exit industry or otherwise change their production levels. Lending institutions may use quota as a collateral asset, further affirming its value in the marketplace.
- In recent years, quota values have increased steadily and significantly. Rising quota values reflect improved profitability and are the result of many factors including, availability, productivity and efficiency gains, production levels and market demand.
- Increasing public and media attention on supply management, such as through escalating food prices; barriers to new entrants; windfall gains to producers from quota allotted free in the first instance; other nations wanting access to protected Canadian markets; and recently, advocates seeking removal of supply management to gain Canada's entry into the emerging Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement have drawn attention to quota value.
- In BC, high quota values may constrain opportunities for new entrants and business expansion.
- Policy and legislation governing supply management is the responsibility of the federal and provincial governments.
- As the supervisory board, BCFIRB is seeking greater transparency in cost-of-production calculations, how prices are set, and how quotas are set and allotted (underpinnings of quota value).
- Under BCFIRB supervision, SM boards are implementing New Entrant, Small Lot Producer and other programs to help lower barriers to entry.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- Rising quota values are evident in all provinces. National quota value is estimated to be in the range of \$44 billion, with BC quota valued at roughly \$5.4 billion, which increased by approximately 28% in 2012.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- NA.

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
Jim Collins, Executive Director	Name: Wanda Gorsuch	Name: Shane Ford
24 June 2013	Branch: BCFIRB	Branch: BCFIRB
Phone: 250-387-3915	Phone: 250-356-7819	Phone: 250-356-2465
Cell: s.17	Cell:	Cell: s.17

Huh?REGULATED MARKETING APPEALS**RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:**

- **The *Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act* provides persons with a broad right of appeal from decisions of marketing boards and commissions. It is one of BCFIRB's major statutory responsibilities to ensure accountability in the regulated marketing sector. BCFIRB – as a tribunal – recognizes and works diligently to fulfill this mandate.**
- **As appeals are within the independent, exclusive jurisdiction of BCFIRB it is inappropriate the Minister to intervene.**
- **As a tribunal, BCFIRB is obliged to adhere to the principles of natural justice and administrative law and follow due process in its proceedings.**
- **BCFIRB is accountable – its decisions are subject to Judicial Review and its practices and procedures are subject to review by the Ombudsperson.**
- **Marketing boards and commissions have extraordinary powers. Appeals are a means by which people aggrieved by or dissatisfied with decisions of a marketing board can have their concerns heard by an independent, quasi-judicial body. BCFIRB makes decisions following a full and transparent hearing of the issues.**
- **BCFIRB was one of the first tribunals in BC to use alternate dispute resolution and continues to use such methods whenever appropriate.**

BACKGROUND:

- Of 12 appeals administered in 2012/13 BCFIRB resolved 4 in the FY.

Appeals by Fiscal Year	10/11	11/12	12/13
Carried over from previous Fiscal Year	20	3	3
New Appeals Filed	16	9	9
Active Appeals	36	12	12
Resolved by Settlement	24	3	
Heard and Decided	9	6	4
Appeals Resolved in Fiscal Year	33	9	4
Appeals in Process (Carried Forward)	3	3	8

Appeals by Board/Commission	10/11	11/12	12/13
Broiler Hatching Egg Commission	1		
Chicken Marketing Board	8	6	3
Egg Marketing Board	1	1	2
Hog Marketing Commission	3		
Milk Marketing Board	3	4	2
Turkey Marketing Board		1	1
Vegetable Marketing Commission			4
Cranberry Marketing Commission			
Total:	16	12	12

Issues Appealed in FY:	Description:
(2) Licensing/Permits	Denial of AOS lease, Denial of 499 Permit
(4) Marketing of Product	Designation of Agency
(1) Funding	Funding of BCCGA
(4) Quota	Quota requests, AOS
(1) Freight/Transport	Ferry freight assistance.
Active Appeals:	Status at March 31, 2013:
Lilydale Inc. v BCTMB	Scheduled for hearing
Wedgwood Holsteins Ltd. v BCMMB	Scheduled for hearing
IVCA v BCVMC	Dismissed/Withdrawn
Whitta Farms Ltd. / VICGA v BCCMB	Heard/Decision pending
Rainbow Poultry v BCCMB	Heard/Decision Pending
V.I.P. Produce Ltd. v BCVMC	Decision pending
V.I.P. Produce Ltd.	Decision pending
NHGF v BCVMC	Summary Dismissal Decision pending

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- There are 13 federal and provincial regulated marketing supervisory bodies in Canada. Eight of the 13 have the same dual supervisory/appellate role as BCFIRB, three of the remaining five share staff with their separate appeals board.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- Within BCFIRB's budget and member/staff/legal resources.

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
Jim Collins, Executive Director	Name: Gloria Chojnacki	Name: Shane Ford
25 June 2013	Branch: BCFIRB	Branch: BCFIRB
Phone:250-387-3915	Phone:250-356-1817	Phone: 250-356-2465
Cell s.17	Cell:	Cell: s.17

**SPECIALTY, REGIONAL & OTHER ISSUES RE: REGULATED MARKETING
ECONOMIC POLICY IMPLEMENTATION****RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:**

- **BC's regulated marketing sectors account for 55% of BC's farm gate receipts, making these industries a significant part of BC's agri-food economy, including jobs.**
 - **Growing BC agri-food markets, both domestically and internationally, requires innovation and new entrants.**
 - **Shaped by the Regulated Marketing Economic Policy framework, and the BC Farm Industry Review Board's 2005 Specialty Market Review directions, BC's supply managed boards are taking significant steps towards meeting market demands for products such as organic, heritage and local.**
 - **Bringing new producers into supply management encourages innovation, regional priorities and diversity, new ideas and voices. Supply managed boards continue to operate and fine-tune policies and programs that provide fair and inclusive opportunities to those people wishing to obtain quota.**
 - **For example, in 2011 the Egg Marketing Board, through a lottery, brought in 6 new organic producers, with priority also given to regional production. Future lotteries will be held.**
 - **Other examples include the Chicken Board Small Lot Program that creates opportunity for production under permit by small producers and self-marketers. A similar opportunity exists for eggs.**
 - **The RMEP does not provide specific policy direction to commodity boards concerning First Nation (FN) participation. BCFIRB will ensure that existing programs provide equal opportunity for all BC citizens to become producers in the regulated commodities.** s.13
- s.13
- **Persons aggrieved by or dissatisfied with the process or outcome of any commodity board policy or program have the right to appeal to BCFIRB.**

BACKGROUND:

- The Ministry of Agriculture *Regulated Marketing Economic Policy* (RMEP, 2004) provides a high-level policy framework for BC commodity boards/commissions (boards) in regards to specialty, niche and regional marketing, and new entrants.
- In 2005, after extensive consultation, the BC Farm Industry Review Board (BCFIRB) provided detailed direction on specialty production and new entrants to BC's supply managed boards.
- BCFIRB and the commodity boards are not legally bound by government policy but can take it into consideration in decisions and actions carried out under the *Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act*.
- Supply managed boards are progressively addressing specialty, niche and regional production, including new entrant opportunities, through quota allocation policies and small-lot programs (permit, rather than quota).
- As examples, the Egg Board, holding lotteries to allocate quota to new entrants, with priority given to organic and regional production; the Milk Board meeting organic milk demands and supporting entry of new products; the Chicken Board actively seeking a distinct national specialty quota allocation to protect and grow specialty production; the Vegetable Commission establishing an organic agency.
- The RMEP does not provide specific policy direction to marketing boards on First Nations participation in supply management, although First Nations participation in agriculture generally is part of the BC Agriculture Plan.
-

s.13

- BCFIRB continues to work with commodity boards on specialty, niche, regional and new entrant opportunities and other initiatives relating to strategic planning, governance and performance assessment.
- These activities should ultimately strengthen BC's supply managed sector by facilitating innovation, flexibility and development of opportunities within the supply managed system while maintaining the successful mainstream industries.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- Specialty, niche and regional production and marketing, along with new entrant programs, are issues in all provinces with supply managed sectors. BC has established itself as a leader in Canada in addressing the demand for specialty products and in program opportunities for new entrants.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE): NONE

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
Jim Collins, Executive Director	Name: Wanda Gorsuch	Name: Shane Ford
24 June 2013	Branch: BCFIRB	Branch: BCFIRB
Phone: 250-387-3915	Phone: 250-356-7819	Phone: 250-356-2465
Cell: s.17	Cell:	Cell: s.17

**BCFIRB - RESPONSIBILITIES, PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES AS AN
ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL**

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **Tribunals are commonly used in BC to provide decision-making alternatives to the court system.**
- **Tribunal powers are granted by statute and are defined and limited by statute.**
- **Tribunals must observe the principles of natural justice and administrative law and have expertise in their jurisdictions.**
- **BCFIRB is one of BC's most senior tribunals and has a variety of mandates.**
- **BCFIRB decisions are made independent of government but BCFIRB is accountable to the courts for its decisions and to the Ombudsperson for its practices and procedures.**
- **BCFIRB members are appointed by Cabinet following a merit-based process that ensures the board has the variety of skill sets, expertise and background needed.**
- **BCFIRB was one of the first tribunals in BC to use alternate dispute resolution and other case management processes to improve its dispute resolution capacity. It continues to explore new ways of doing so in consultation with the Ministry of the Attorney General and other tribunals.**

BACKGROUND:

- There are over 20 BC tribunals that provide an alternative to the courts and:
 - provide an expeditious and fair method for settling some types of disputes with less formality, and with an emphasis on mediation;
 - have complex issues decided by expert persons; and
 - provide speedy, informed resolution of complex/regulatory matters.
- Tribunal powers are granted, defined and limited by statute.
- Tribunals must act within their jurisdiction and have expertise in their subject area(s).
- Tribunals must observe the principles of natural justice and administrative law.
- The *Administrative Tribunals Act*, other governing legislation, court decisions and common law provide the legal framework within which BC tribunals operate, including parties' right of judicial review and to investigation by the Ombudsperson.
- Decision-making by the BC Farm Industry Review Board (BCFIRB) is independent of government. BCFIRB is one of BC's senior tribunals, first established in 1934. BCFIRB's mandates are set out in four statutes: the *Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act* (supervising BC marketing boards and hearing related appeals); the *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act* (hearing complaints from persons disturbed by farm practices and studying/reporting on farm practices); the *Agricultural Produce Grading Act* (hearing appeals of Ministerial decisions re: grading licenses); and the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* (hearing appeals concerning certain BCSPCA animal custody decisions and/or disputes over costs).
- BCFIRB members are appointed by Lieutenant Governor in Council through a merit-based process and represent the variety of skill sets, expertise and background needed to operate within BCFIRB's range of statutory mandates.
- Tribunals need not follow court-like procedures. Instead they can adopt practices and procedures – which must be fair – that enable them to resolve disputes within their jurisdiction in ways that are appropriate to that sector.
- BCFIRB was one of the first tribunals in BC to use alternate dispute resolution and continues to investigate new and improved ways to resolve disputes.
- Given the individuality of each case, the time to render a decision will vary.
- BCFIRB decisions can be appealed to the BC Supreme Court on point of law or jurisdiction (farm practices) or are subject to Judicial Review (regulated marketing, grading and animal seizures). Complaints as to BCFIRB practices and procedures can be investigated by the Ombudsperson.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- Canada and every province has administrative tribunals that deal with a wide range of subjects, including those related to agriculture.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE): NA

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
Jim Collins, Executive Director	Name: Wanda Gorsuch	Name: Shane Ford
24 June 2013	Branch: BCFIRB	Branch: BCFIRB
Phone: 250-387-3915	Phone: 250-356-7819	Phone: 250-356-2465
Cell: s.17	Cell:	Cell: s.17

VANCOUVER ISLAND CHICKEN PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING**RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:**

- **The Ministry's July 2004 Regulated Marketing Economic Policy frames the need for marketing boards to consider appropriate mechanisms to sustain regional industries.**
- **Growing chicken on Vancouver Island continues to be a challenge due to high feed, chick and other operating costs. This puts pressure on the existing commercial industry, as well as creating a barrier to entry. Many growers are also entering retirement.**
- **Both the BC Chicken Marketing Board (Chicken Board) and the BC Farm Industry Review Board (BCFIRB) have worked cooperatively with Island Farmhouse Poultry to ensure its Island grown chicken supply needs are met.**
- **The Chicken Board continues to take measures to help support regional processors, both on Vancouver Island and throughout BC.**
- **These measures include incentive quota specifically tied to Vancouver Island.**
- **As a result of these measures, Island Farmhouse Poultry requested, and was approved, to be removed from the Assurance of Supply program which while assuring supply, was limiting how much chicken it was allowed to process.**
- **While both the Chicken Board and BCFIRB have authorities that enable to them to support regional and niche processing, processors are encouraged to continue to pursue business relationships with BC growers to secure supply.**

BACKGROUND:

- Island Farmhouse Poultry (IFP), although small by industry standards, is the largest chicken processing plant remaining on Vancouver Island. IFP is located in Cowichan Bay and processes about 260,000 kgs of chicken (about 130,000 birds) per 8 week cycle.
- While IFP's supply needs are currently met by existing Island growers, the amount of large-scale commercial chicken production on the Island has been gradually declining.
- Growers are exiting the industry for a variety of reasons, including retirement. The cost of growing chicken on the Island also remains significant due to higher feed, chick and other operational costs, which can be a barrier to entry.
- The majority of production from the four large-scale farms still remaining is shipped off the Island for processing.
- The Ministry of Agriculture's *Regulated Marketing Economic Policy (2004)* frames the need for marketing boards to consider "the need for appropriate mechanisms to sustain regional industries".
- While encouraging IFP to pursue business options to acquire supply through Island grower contracts, both the BC Chicken Marketing Board (Chicken Board) and the BC Farm Industry Review Board (BCFIRB) remain committed to supporting small, regional and niche processors.
- The Chicken Board continues to support Vancouver Island processing. Recent actions include:
 - Incentive quota for new entrant growers on the Island, tied to Vancouver Island.
 - Incentive quota for existing large and small-scale island growers, tied to Vancouver Island and/or IFP.
- The Chicken Board's actions have secured supply to IFP for the foreseeable future. As a result, IFP requested, and was approved, to be removed from the Assurance of Supply program which while guaranteeing a supply of chicken, also limited how much IFP is allowed to process.
-

s.13

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- None.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- None

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
Jim Collins, Executive Director	Name: Wanda Gorsuch	Name: Shane Ford
24 June 2013	Branch: BCFIRB	Branch: BCFIRB
Phone: 250-387-3915	Phone: 250-356-7819	Phone: 250-356-2465
Cell: s.17	Cell:	Cell: s.17

VANCOUVER ISLAND VEGETABLE AGENCIES REVIEW**RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:**

- **Growing and marketing regulated vegetables is an on-going challenge for Vancouver Island farmers due to factors such as grocery store consolidation, arrival of big box stores, high input costs, and a limited land base.**
 - **Designated agencies under the BC Vegetable Marketing Commission are granted certain powers to benefit the marketing and sale of regulated vegetables.**
 - **Designated agencies must be approved by BCFIRB.**
 - **V.I.P. Produce Ltd. (VIP) and Vancouver Island Farm Products Inc. (VIFP) are both seeking permanent agency status.**
 - **An initial BCFIRB-led facilitation was not successful. BCFIRB subsequently conducted a Supervisory Review.**
 - **The Supervisory Review decision sets out clear expectations of the Commission, VIP and VIFP**
- s.13
- **BCFIRB is not restricted to approving either or both VIP and VIFP as agencies.**
 - **Given a BCFIRB decision process is underway, it is not appropriate for the Minister to comment on possible outcomes.**
 - **The Review provides an opportunity for the Vancouver Island regulated vegetable industry to build a new vision and strategic direction. Success requires cooperation and coordination - combined with effective, accountable governance and management.**

BACKGROUND:

- Growing and marketing regulated vegetables is an on-going challenge for Vancouver Island farmers due to grocery store consolidation, arrival of box stores (e.g. Costco), high input costs, a limited land base and other factors.
- Designated agencies under the BC Vegetable Marketing Commission (Commission) are delegated certain *Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act* powers to support marketing and sales of regulated vegetables. The Commission is responsible for supervising these agencies.
- Under the *NPMA* Regulations the BC Farm Industry Review Board (BCFIRB) must approve all designation of agencies. BCFIRB also has appeal and supervisory responsibilities in relation to the Commission under the *NPMA*.
- The Commission forwarded its agency recommendations for V.I.P. Produce Ltd. (VIP), an existing central Vancouver Island agency, and Vancouver Island Farm Products Inc. (VIFP), a new organization seeking agency status, to BCFIRB.
- Both VIP and VIFP appealed the Commission decision to BCFIRB.
- BCFIRB recognized the impact of both appeal and agency designation decision(s) on the Vancouver Island regulated vegetable sector.
- With the agreement of all parties BCFIRB led a facilitation to allow opportunity for the Commission, VIP and VIFP to develop solutions to their regulatory issues, and to make subsequent recommendations to the Commission and BCFIRB.
- When a solution could not be reached, BCFIRB, with the agreement of the parties, put the appeals in abeyance and conducted a supervisory review.
- The January 7, 2013 Supervisory Review decision with reasons sets out temporary agency designation for VIP & VIFP, and the process and timelines to be followed by the Commission, VIP and VIFP to support a final BCFIRB decision.

s.13

s.13

- BCFIRB is not restricted to designating either or both VIP and VIFP as agencies.
- On April 9, 2013, a BCFIRB appeal panel dismissed, with reasons, related appeals.
- As BCFIRB has not yet made a final agency designation decision it is not appropriate for the Minister to comment on the outcome as the process is underway.
- The purpose of the Review is to provide an opportunity for the regulated VI industry to build a new vision and strategic direction. Success requires cooperation and coordination - combined with effective, accountable governance and management.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- None.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE): NONE

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
Jim Collins, Executive Director	Name: Wanda Gorsuch	Name: Shane Ford
24 June 2013	Branch: BCFIRB	Branch: BCFIRB
Phone: 250-387-3915	Phone: 250-356-7819	Phone: 250-356-2465
Cell: s.17	Cell:	Cell: s.17

**CLOSURE OF THE AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA RESEARCH
STATION (GRASSLAND APPLIED TECHNOLOGY CENTRE) IN KAMLOOPS**

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **The agriculture sector is rapidly changing in response to market, environmental and social pressures.**
- **Best practices, in other jurisdictions, new techniques and original research all may add important knowledge to allow British Columbia farmers to remain competitive in the domestic and international markets.**
- **The Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Research Station in Kamloops has provided a wealth of British Columbia-based research information of great benefit to our rangelands and our beef sector in their pursuit of competitiveness.**
- **The management of British Columbia's natural resources including rangelands, water, and grazing opportunities continues to be a priority for the province. The information generated by the research station will serve us well as we all look for new ways to generate innovative and practical approaches to their management in future years..**

BACKGROUND:

- The Federal Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) research station in Kamloops has been in existence since 1935 and has been a leader of innovation and range practice improvements in BC.
- In 2011, the research station was changed to become the Grassland Applied Technology Centre focusing on applied rather than primary agricultural research.
- The station and its staff have conducted research, independently and via partnerships, generating information vital to the well-being of BC's rangelands and beef sector.
- The Federal Government is now in the process of closing the station completely as part of its national deficit reduction strategy. No provincial staff are directly impacted.
- The station and its staff have conducted research, independently and via partnerships, generating information vital to the well being of BC's rangelands and beef sector.
- The closure will impact several collaborative projects that are based at, or are being done in conjunction with, the AAFC station.

s.13

s.13

- Thompson Rivers University and industry representatives interested in continuing operations at the station were told it would cost at least \$750K annually to operate the facility at a base level.
- The BC Cattlemen's Association has asked the Province to partner in keeping the centre open – the Province has not identified any available funding to do so.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- BC will no longer have a range or natural resource-focused research station and will be more reliant on information generated outside of BC.
- Federal deficit reduction actions are occurring across Canada and the AAFC consolidation of agriculture research programs means all provinces are expected to rely on research conducted in other parts of the country.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- There are no direct AGRI expenditure issues related to the closure of the centre.

Approved by:	Prepared by: <i>(The person who wrote the note)</i>	Alternate Contact:
ADM Grant Parnell	Name: Greg Tegart	Name: Ken Nickel
Date approved by ADM: June 25, 2013	Branch: SAMB	Branch: SAMB
Phone: 250 356-1802	Phone: 250 260-4627	Phone: 604 556-3103
Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17

COLLEGE OF VETERINARIANS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA (CVBC)**RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:**

- The Veterinarians of British Columbia provide an important medical service to both the farming sector and many private citizens in British Columbia.
- The Province revamped the *Veterinarians Act* in 2010 and continues to work with the College to ensure that the public interest is served by a professional self-regulating body overseeing veterinary services in British Columbia.
- The College of Veterinarians of British Columbia was facing some financial uncertainty due to extended legal challenges but the College is now financially stable.
- The new *Veterinarian's Act* of 2010, a revamped college, and a modern and transparent administrative framework have all worked together to create the tools and environment for effective leadership and constructive and knowledgeable self-regulation of this profession.
- The positive changes and with the current financial stability, the
s.13
s.13 and this is good news for British Columbia's veterinarian community.
- The Ministry looks forward to continue working cooperatively with the College and its newly-appointed Registrar, Mr. Larry Odegard.

ADDITIONAL RESPONSE – SPECIFICALLY TO WHAT FINANCIAL SUPPORT AGRI HAS SUPPLIED TO THE COLLEGE.

- The Ministry of Agriculture paid for a handful of conference calls with registrants of the College during fiscal 2012-13. The purpose of the calls was to reach out to registrants to discuss the issues facing the College and to seek support for changes. The costs of the calls would have been about \$1000 in aggregate.

s.13

s.13

BACKGROUND:

- The BC Veterinary Medical Association (BCVMA), known as the CVBC since September 2010, has been involved in litigation and a Human Rights Tribunal (HRT) complaint by a group of Indo-Canadian veterinarians who accused the CVBC of discriminatory practices. The HRT complaint started in 2005. Submission to the HRT concluded in June 2012. A decision has not been rendered and may not be available until December 2013 or later.
- Government supported the veterinarians' interest in maintaining effective self-regulation by enacting a new BC *Veterinarian's Act* that established the CVBC in 2010 and provided a modern and transparent administrative framework to govern the profession.
- Through the Act, the CVBC regulates the veterinary profession, receiving complaints from the public, inspecting private practices and disciplining veterinarians.
- In June 2012, a financial audit raised concern about CVBC's financial situation.
- The CVBC's financial challenges are a result of the costs of legal actions and College administration of complaints.
- The ongoing threat of legal actions has also undermined the ability of the College to obtain indemnification insurance coverage from the private sector.
- Given the risk to the Province of potentially having to assume administration of the veterinary profession, AGRI sought and confirmed Ministry of Finance support for extending the term of the indemnity to the CVBC's Insurance Company. This provides flexibility for CVBC to extend the timeframe needed to capitalize their own captive insurance fund through registrant levies.
- In June 2013, CVBC indicated to AGRI that the College is now financially stable.
- AGRI continues to maintain a close working relationship with CVBC and provides support as and when appropriate.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- As a result of costs for legal defense regarding litigation and the HRT hearing, vets in BC face the highest registration fees in Canada and are subject to a series of levies to pay for legal costs and to capitalize their captive insurance to assist in managing their insurance needs in the future.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- CVBC member count as of May 30, 2013: 1,341
- Since 2006, the Province, under all related indemnity agreements for the CVBC and BCVMA, has expensed approximately \$128,000.
-

s.13

Approved by:	Prepared by: <i>(The person who wrote the note)</i>	Alternate Contact:
ADM Name Grant Parnell	Name: Gavin Last	Name:
Date approved by ADM: June 25, 2013	Branch: Agrifoods Policy and Legislation	Branch:
Phone: 250 356-1802	Phone: 250 356-7640	Phone:
Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17	Cell:

**PROVINCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE FARMERS ADVOCACY OFFICE
IN DAWSON CREEK**

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **The northeast part of the province is an important agricultural zone, producing abundant grain and crops, and supporting livestock production, as well as an important area for production of natural gas, creating jobs and wide-spread economic benefits for our citizens and future generations.**
- **These resources originate on the same land base, and the integration of infrastructure and access is often a complex matter requiring specialized knowledge and advice for farmers.**
- **The Ministry of Agriculture recognizes the important and proactive steps the Farmers Advocacy Office takes regarding industrial and agricultural activities, enabling landowners and industrial land users to work together to resolve issues or conflicts.**
- **The Ministry of Agriculture has recommended continued support of the Farmer's Advocacy Office.**
- **The provincial contribution to the Farmer's Advocacy Office does not come from the Ministry of Agriculture budget. Questions related to this expenditure should be redirected to the Ministry of Natural Gas Development.**

BACKGROUND:

- In October 2010, the Farmers' Advocacy Office (FAO) opened an office in Dawson Creek as a pilot project, jointly funded by the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Natural Gas (EMNG) and the Peace River Regional District (PRRD).
- The FAO is an arm's length entity from government facilitating relationships between rural landowners and oil and gas companies and supporting rural landowners' interests with respect to oil and gas developments on private property.
- The FAO concept was established in response to the BC Energy Plan. Policy action #54 targets improved working relationships among industry, local communities and landowners by clarifying and simplifying processes, enhancing dispute resolutions methods, and offering more support and information.
- AGRI, EMNG and the Peace River Regional District (PRRD) developed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to establish the FAO. A steering committee comprised of representatives from AGRI, EMNG, PRRD and local landowners administered the office.
- At the completion of the contract for service in February 2013, a call for proposals was issued.
- After two processes, a successful applicant has been identified.

s.13

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

N/A

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

•

s.13

- Ministry of Agriculture does not contribute funding directly to the project. AGRI staff sit on the FAO Management Committee.

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
ADM Grant Parnell	Name: Kerry Clark	Name: Ken Nickel
Date approved by ADM: June 26, 2013	Branch: SAMB	Branch: SAMB
Phone: 250 356-1802	Phone: 250 784 2559	Phone: 604 356-3103
Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17

COMMERCIAL HARVESTING OF BEACH-CAST SEAWEED

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **New resource development opportunities are one of the underpinnings of this Government's plan to focus on jobs and the economy.**
- **This resource, while small in harvest volumes, is a very valuable product internationally and creates jobs and diversifies the economy in smaller communities on Vancouver Island.**
- **The Ministry is taking a cautious, adaptive management approach to this potential new opportunity including:**
 - **funding UVic to conduct research on the harvest;**
 - **consulting with First Nations; and,**
 - **seeking input on the harvest from DFO.**
- **No licences have yet been issued for harvest in 2013 to allow more time for the studies and consultation to occur.**
- **Staff continue to review applications, consult with stakeholders and will consider licence issuance later in 2013.**

BACKGROUND:

- The Ministry licenses marine plant harvest under the Fisheries Act Regulations. In a typical year, the Ministry issues over 40 licenses that result in the harvest of approximately 300 tonnes of product with a wholesale value of approximately \$4.5M.
- In 2006, large quantities of *Mazzaella japonica*, 'Maz-ah-ELLA" (a marine plant of Japanese origins inadvertently introduced to BC coastal waters in the 1930's) were found on beaches (beach-cast) near Deep Bay, BC on Vancouver Island. This marine plant is high in carrageenan, a natural chemical used in the food and cosmetics industries world-wide and is a valuable global commodity.
- Prior to licensing, the Ministry engaged with Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Provincial Ministry of Environment to solicit their advice on how the harvest could be conducted without impacting fish and wildlife resources. The Ministry also consulted with 17 First Nations on the harvest.

s.13

s.13

- The demand for harvesting licences has been sporadic since 2007. The 2012 harvest resulted in a number of concerns being raised from the public, environmental groups and First Nations regarding impacts to the local marine environment and ecology.
- The Ministry has engaged the University of Victoria to help it better understand the biology of the species and the potential impacts of the harvest.
- The Ministry is currently reviewing a number of applications for harvest in 2013.

s.13

s.13

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- Canada's east coast (particularly PEI) has historically supported harvesting of beach-cast seaweed ('Irish Moss') for carrageenan extraction. As their supplies dwindle and global demands increase, BC may be well placed as a new entrant in the global market.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- Approximately 1.5 FTE with a cost to the Ministry of \$120K are directed at marine plant harvest management.
- Revenues collected for harvesting beach-cast *Mazzaella* are based on \$50 per wet tonne (see table on next page).

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
ADM Grant Parnell	Name: Gary Caine	Name: Jim Russell
Date approved by ADM: June 25, 2013	Branch: Food Protection	Branch: Food Protection
Phone: (250) 356-1802	Phone: (250) 897-7545	Phone: (250) 897-7561
Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17

YEAR	METRIC TONNES HARVESTED	REVENUE COLLECTED
2007	31	\$1550
2008	0	0
2009	0	0
2010	0	0
2011	18	\$900
2012	258	\$12,900

PROPANE CANNONS

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **Thousands of farmers in BC provide jobs and stable, sustainable economic activity in rural communities across the province.**
- **The crops they grow can attract pests, including birds, which can severely damage the value of crops.**
- **I know that blueberry farmers are aware of the impacts of propane cannons on their neighbours and have made a sincere effort to minimize propane cannon use.**
- **The Ministry has accepted all of the recommendations of the British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board 2009 report and will continue to support responsible use of propane cannons within the context of an integrated bird management plan.**
-

s.13

- **Local governments may use the farm bylaw provisions of the *Local Government Act*, which require Ministerial approval, to further regulate this issue.**
- **People aggrieved by a noise or other disturbance resulting from a farm practice may also file a formal complaint with the BC Farm Industry Review Board**

ESTIMATE NOTE- FISCAL 2013/14

Ministry of Agriculture

Confidential Advice to Minister

BACKGROUND:

- Farmers use audible bird scare devices to control bird damage to crops, mainly blueberries, cherries and grapes.
- Complaints about the use of propane cannons have been an issue since the early 1990's.
- This issue has been studied extensively by the Farm Industry Review Board (BCFIRB) and information is posted on the Ministry website.
- The British Columbia Blueberry Council continues to be a first responder to propane cannon complaints regarding blueberry production in Metro Vancouver and Fraser Valley regions.
- In September 2012, both the City of Abbotsford and the Township of Langley decided to study the issue and eventually developed farm bylaws to address propane cannon use.
- The Minister has approved the Township of Langley farm bylaw, which is largely consistent with Minister's Bylaw Standards and the Township may implement it for this year's blueberry season.
- The City of Abbotsford has passed second reading of their farm bylaw s.13

s.13

s.13

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- The Ministry guidelines for propane cannon use in South Coastal BC are much more restrictive than the BC Interior, Ontario or other important blueberry production areas.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- Ministry staff have supported the BCFIRB as knowledgeable persons and expert witnesses in BCFIRB hearings and liaised with the British Columbia Blueberry Council and local governments on the issue. Total staff time is less than 0.3 of an FTE.
- In 2013, the industry received \$30,000 of Growing Forward 2 funding to support investigating alternative bird control methods and to educate growers about bird control and new local government bylaws.

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
ADM Name Grant Parnell	Name: Bert van Dalssen	Name: Mark Sweeney
Date approved by ADM: June 24, 2013	Branch: SAM	Branch: Innovation & Industry
Phone: 250 356-1122	Phone: 604 556-3109	Phone: 604 556-3056
Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17

REGIONAL STAFF DEPLOYMENT**RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:**

- There are over 19,759 farms (2011) farms in British Columbia that produce a farm-gate value of \$2.6B in agriculture products on 2.6M hectares of farmland in British Columbia (2011).
- The Agrifood sector contributes important economic diversity and supports urban and rural communities across British Columbia.
- The Regional Agrologist network consists of 15 professional Agrologists strategically located in British Columbia's agricultural regions.
- Farming today is complex, and Regional Agrologists are equipped with a wide range of skills and experience.
- Regional Agrologists are directly involved in key initiatives that support the economic, environmental and social objectives of the Ministry of Agriculture.
- Through pro-active regional planning, guidance on available agriculture programs/information, and stick-handling of issues, regional staff fuel the exploration of economic opportunities for agriculture around British Columbia.

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
ADM Grant Parnell	Name: Leslie MacDonald	Name: Ken Nickel
Date approved by ADM: June 25, 2013	Branch: Sustainable Agri Mgmt	Branch: Sustainable Agri Mgmt
Phone: 250 356-1802	Phone: 604-556-3074	Phone: 604 556-3103
Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17

BACKGROUND:

- Regional Agrologists are directly involved in key initiatives that support the economic, environmental and social objectives of the Ministry of Agriculture.
- The Regional Agrologist network consists of 15 professional Agrologists strategically located in BC's agricultural regions.
- They are government's front-line, face-to-face contact with the 19,759 farms (2011) that produce a farm-gate value of \$2.6B in agriculture products on 2.6M hectares of farmland in BC (2011).
- Farming today is complex, and Regional Agrologists are equipped with a wide range of knowledge, skills and experience to interpret regulations, advise on best practices and identify opportunities for improving farm practices and business outcomes.
- Approximately 15 years ago, the Ministry provided one-on-one advisory service for farmers about how to produce crops and livestock (varieties to grow, fertilization, where to locate crops etc.).
- Our focus now is about working with local industry, local governments, and communities to leverage regional attributes and encourage innovation, adaptation, value chain development, and local market development in support of agri-food sectors.
- Other key areas include:
 - strengthening farming in the regions through agriculture planning, agriculture awareness and support for local government agriculture committees.
 - providing emergency management support for flooding, fires, disease outbreaks, etc.
 - providing links to Ministry programs for the local community and agriculture sector.
 - handling farm concerns and complaints.
 - supporting the Agriculture Land Commission.
 - Supporting drought planning, and handling water/environmental issues

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- Other provincial and state jurisdictions also recognize the need for regionally-located staff as a means to provide linkages with the client base and a social currency framework for the sector.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- There are currently 15 Regional Agrologists and 2.5 administration staff located in the main agricultural areas of BC. Staff contribute approximately 15.4 FTEs to regional programs, although this includes the Strengthening Farming components that support local government agriculture planning.

REGULATED COMMUNITIES**RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:**

- **Farming in British Columbia provides stable jobs and diversity to rural and urban communities across British Columbia.**
- **Farming accounts for 31,800 jobs, contributes \$2.4B to the BC economy, and provides access to fresh, nutritious, local food for British Columbians.**
- **The protection of farming in and around our communities is an important element of maintaining the economic and social benefits we all enjoy from our farms in British Columbia.**
- **Regulation under the *Local Government Act* provides local governments with additional tools to regulate farming.**
- **These additional tools available to local governments have been effectively used to better control farm practices at the local government level.**

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
ADM Grant Parnell	Name: Bert van Dalfsen	Name: Alison Fox
Date approved by ADM: June 24, 2013	Branch: Sustainable Ag Mgmt	Branch: Sustainable Ag Mgmt
Phone: 250 356-1802	Phone: 604 556-3109	Phone: 250 356-6267
Cell: s.17	Cell: s.17	Cell:

BACKGROUND:

- The Right to Farm Bill passed in 1996 included amendments to the *Local Government Act* (LGA) to address planning for agriculture in the ALR.
- Under Section 918 of the LGA, the Lieutenant Governor in Council may declare by regulation that the "Right to Farm" provisions of the LGA apply to a local government.
- This provision provides:
 - new tools to regulate agriculture (farm bylaws);
 - requires the bylaws affecting agriculture to be approved by the Minister; and,
 - requires that regulated local governments review their bylaws for consistency with Minister's bylaw standards.
- There are four local governments regulated under s.918 of the LGA. The Township of Langley, Corporation of Delta, City of Abbotsford and City of Kelowna.
- The Township of Langley was regulated in July 1997 against the views of the municipality due to several restrictive bylaws.
- The City of Abbotsford was regulated in July 1999 upon their request. Abbotsford has recently completed an Agricultural Strategy and is now considering implementing it.
- The Corporation of Delta was regulated in June 2001 by the Province.
- The City of Kelowna was regulated in August 2001 upon their request.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- The land use planning provisions for farming in the LGA are unique in Canada and are designed to ensure farmers can continue to farm in the ALR.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- Regulated communities are part of the work of the Strengthening Farming Program.
- The Strengthening Farming Program has 11.6 FTEs and a budget of \$905,000 for salaries and benefits.

Table of Contents

Minister's Speaking Notes	RED
• Names & Titles of Attendees in Committee Room (for introductions)	
Ministry Budget	ORANGE
Budget Q & As & Key Messages (Ministry specific)	BLUE
Budget Q & As & Key Messages (Provided by Ministry of Finance)	
Meeting the Mandate Letter Commitments	BROWN
1 Agricultural Land Commission (includes key messages)	1
• Response to Auditor General and ALC Chair's Reports (AGRI)	
• Auditor General Report Update (ALC)	
• ALC Transitional Project Update (ALC)	
• ALC Recruitment Update (ALC)	
2 Agrifoods Strategy Delivery (includes key messages)	2
3 Buy Local (includes key messages)	3
4 Tree Fruit Replant	4
5 Implementation of Meat Inspection (includes key messages)	5
6 Certified BC Beef	6
7 BC Organic Brand	7
8 Cohen Commission	8
9 Carbon Tax Relief (includes key messages)	9
10 Working with other Ministers	10
• Finance s.13, s.17	
• IGRS / Interprovincial trade barriers and new markets for wine	
• Advanced Education / Centre of Excellence for Agriculture at UFV	
• International Trade / Asian trade export growth	
Status of Service Plan Commitments	PURPLE
Growing Forward 2 (includes key messages)	GREEN
Resources by Commodity Group	TURQUOISE
MINISTRY ISSUE / TOPICS	YELLOW
AAFC Applied Research Facility in Kamloops - Closure	11
Animal Health	12
• Key Messages: Reports on Animal Cruelty (SPCA enforces Legislation)	
• Animal Health Lab Management	
• Animal Welfare Legislation	
• Sled Dogs - Recommendations	
Beef	13
• Key Messages: Support for the Ranching Sector	
• Beef Factsheet	
Bees	14
• Bee Importation	
• Link btwn Honey Bee Deaths and Neonicotinoid Insecticides	
• Bees Factsheet	
Berry Industry	15
• Propane Cannons (includes key messages)	
• Propane Cannon Management (FIRB NOTE)	
• Berries Factsheet	
Climate Change and BC Agriculture	35
College of Veterinarians of BC	16
Dairy Factsheet	17
Fish	18
• Fish Disease	
• Tuna Treaty	
• Key Messages: Aquaculture	
• Key Messages: Closed Containment	
• Commercial Fisheries Factsheet	
• Finfish Factsheet	
• Recreational Tidal Fishing Factsheet	
• Shellfish Aquaculture Factsheet	
Genetically Engineered technology in agrifoods production in BC	19
Grains, Oilseeds & Pulse Crops Factsheet	20
Greenhouse Industry	21
• Light Emissions from Greenhouses in Delta	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greenhouse Floriculture Factsheet Greenhouse Vegetables Factsheet 	
Key Messages (miscellaneous): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> My Vision for Agriculture Biggest challenges for Agriculture BC Growers Fitting into World Stage Provincial Role in Agriculture Innovation – Examples the Ministry has supported Key AGRI Legislation 	22
Local food in hospitals/institutions	23
Nursery Factsheet	24
Organics Factsheet	25
Pesticides: Cosmetic Use on Non-Agricultural Land Impacts Agriculture	36
Pork Factsheet	26
Poultry Factsheet	27
Regional Operations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agrologist / Extension services (includes key messages) Dawson Creek – Farmers Advocacy Office 	28
Risk Management Programs – Key Messages	29
Seaweed Harvest (Mazzella japonica and Salicornia)	30
Regulated Communities	31
Tree fruit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key Messages Tree Fruit Factsheet 	32
Vegetable Crops <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field Vegetables Factsheet Mushrooms Factsheet Potatoes Factsheet Seed Potatoes Factsheet 	33
Wine/Grapes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grapes Factsheet Wine Factsheet 	34
ALC ISSUES / TOPICS	GREY
BC Rail Expansion - Delta	37
Boundary Reviews	38
Delta Port Expansion	39
Filling in the ALR	40
Land included to and Excluded from ALR	41
Site C	42
FIRB ISSUES / TOPICS	PINK
BCFIRB – New Mandate Under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act	43
BCFIRB - Responsibilities, Practices & Procedures as an Administrative Tribunal	44
Farm Practices Complaints	45
Federal Provincial Agreements - BCFIRB Signatory Role	46
Governance – BC Regulated Marketing Sector (commodity boards)	47
Mountain Morning Farms vs. Egg Marketing Board	48
Quota Values for Supply Managed Commodities	49
Regulated Marketing Appeals	50
Regulated Marketing Economic Policy Implementation	51
Vancouver Island Chicken Production & Processing	52
Vancouver Island Vegetable Agencies Review	53
RESOURCE / BACKGROUND MATERIAL (Separate Binder) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13/14 – 15/16 Ministry Service Plan - Revised 12/13 Annual Service Plan Report FastStats 2011 Agrifood Industry Year in Review 2011 BC Seafood Industry Year in Review 2011 Agrifoods Strategy Tree Fruit Industry Working Group Final Report Review of the Agricultural Land Commission Auditor General Report - ALC Greenhouse Industry Report Org Charts 	54

Key Messaging - My vision for AGRI

- I see an agriculture sector in British Columbia that builds on our diversity and strengths.
- One of our biggest strengths is the range of the trusted, high-quality food products B.C. offers consumers, locally and around the world.
- People want to feed their families healthy, nutritious foods, and B.C. is Canada's most diverse farming province, with more than 200 commodities produced on the land and about 100 species of fish, shellfish and plants harvested from the sea. There are opportunities for growth for each of them.
- Whether we are talking about Okanagan wine, coastal seafood, dairy or beef, grains from the Peace, blueberries from the valley or apples or tree fruit from Kelowna, my job as agriculture minister is to work with growers, ministry staff, my colleagues and other levels of government to create an operating environment in which they can succeed.
- B.C.'s food producers and processors form a sophisticated and high-tech industry that now generates \$10.9-billion in revenue a year and employs 61,000 British Columbians, and they deserve our support.
- I will work with industry to increase our focus on innovation and technology, and work with them to expand both their product line and their markets.
- The province recently finalized an agreement (Growing Forward 2) with the federal government resulting in about \$110 million of funding for B.C. farmers and food producers over five years. (2013-2018)
- The funding will support innovation programs that stimulate improved growing techniques and yields and emphasize projects that result in sector-wide benefits – to increase competitiveness, new markets, or production capacity across the sector.
- These programs offer each producer opportunities to enhance their operations and earn new dollars.
- Over 20,000 family farms provide healthy local food to B.C. families. The Agrifoods sector provides stable jobs and revenue, and supports strong and diversified communities.
- We need to support B.C. producers, not only for the fresh and healthy foods they provide us, but because the agrifoods industry is a job-creator and an integral part of B.C.'s economy.
- The B.C. government is focused on building on the \$10.9 billion in revenue B.C. producers and processors generate a year, and the \$2.5 billion worth of agri-food products we export to more than 135 countries.

Key Messaging – Carbon Tax

Carbon Tax:

- Budget 2013 provides \$20 million over three years for a carbon tax relief grant to help offset carbon tax costs for commercial greenhouse vegetable and flower growers.
- The new funding in budget 2013 follows the temporary funding of \$7.6 million the province provided in 2012 to assist the greenhouse sector.
- The grant announced in Budget 2013 is available for the 2013 and future years, and will be set at 80 per cent of the carbon tax paid on specified fuels.
- The Province supports British Columbia's diverse agriculture sectors in different ways. This action provides relief to our greenhouse and floriculture growers, who employ about 5,500 British Columbians.
- For example we've provided \$212 million to the cattle and ranching sector since 2001, and more than \$130 million to support tree fruit growers since 2000.
- B.C. vegetable greenhouse growers have invested heavily in technology and jobs in B.C. Their sales reached a record \$290 million in 2011, and we want to support and sustain that growth.
- Though B.C.'s vegetable greenhouse growers are international leaders in yield production and innovation, the competition in the greenhouse sector is fierce.
- B.C. growers have been at a competitive disadvantage because they compete with U.S. and Mexican greenhouse operators which are not subject to a carbon tax. The continuation of the rebate allows the B.C. industry to keep their competitive edge.
- Providing the sector with carbon tax relief is one of 49 actions in the BC Agrifoods Strategy that will help lead our agrifoods sector to becoming a \$14-billion-a-year industry by 2017.

In addition:

- Government intends to introduce legislation this fall to provide a carbon tax exemption for farmers for the same coloured motor fuels, and uses, they are currently able to purchase exempt from motor fuel tax.
- This means that farmers will be exempt from carbon tax on the purchase of coloured motor fuel for use in on-farm equipment such as tractors and fuel used on-highway in eligible farm vehicles.
- This is something producers raised, we listened, and we acted.
- These measures will provide a combined benefit of about \$11 million annually.

Key Messaging – Agricultural Land Commission Budget –

- Budget 2013 also includes an additional \$930,000 to further strengthen the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC). This year the Province will provide the ALC with almost \$3 million in annual operating funding.
- The budget increase will enable the ALC to:
 - continue with East Kootenay boundary review and undertake other targeted reviews s.13
 - increase compliance and enforcement activities throughout the province and to build partnerships with local governments and provincial ministries;
 - pursue more proactive planning work with local governments;
 - work more closely with farmers, ranchers and agricultural organizations to preserve agricultural land and encourage farming; and
 - continue digital conversion and mapping projects started with transitional funding, improving ability to evaluate the collective impacts of decisions on applications.
- The new funding in this year's budget is in addition to one-time funding of \$1.6 million the province provided in 2011, as a part of a package that increased enforcement
- In order for agriculture to continue to succeed in British Columbia, producers will need a sustainable landbase. The B.C. government has committed to help the ALC become a stronger organization, and transition to a more self-supporting operating model.

Key Messaging – Agricultural Land Commission General –

- We are working with local governments, producers and associations so neighbours understand and value the benefits farming brings to their communities, and to be aware of the farming lifestyle and activities before they move into an agricultural area.
- One of the main commitments in our Agrifoods Strategy is to provide a sustainable land base for production.
- In November 2011, the Province strengthened the ALC with new legislation and \$1.6 million in additional funding. The changes strengthened the ALC by giving it greater ability to focus on preserving farmland, increasing enforcement and to evolve into a sustainable organization.

- In addition to the funding, the Province also increased the number of provincial government officials authorized to investigate and respond to ALR violations to approximately 30 through coordinated multi-ministry enforcement and further expands enforcement by allowing qualified officials of other agencies and local government bylaw officers to conduct enforcement activities.
- Other areas in which the ALC was strengthened include:
 - Preserving farmland by permitting the ALC to dismiss unchanged repeat applications that have been denied within a five year period;
 - Sustainable operations through \$1.6 million in additional funding and provisions for increased revenue generation by the ALC;
 - Strategic governance provisions give the Chair additional oversight over regional panels and more time to focus on Commission matters by hiring a CEO to look after administrative issues;
 - Encouraging farming by working more proactively with local governments rather than simply reacting to applications.

Key Messaging – Agricultural Land Commission / Fill Dumping

- The Agriculture Land Commission (ALC) has an application and permitting process for any fill to be placed on land that is within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR). They also have clear regulations on what material is accepted and what is not.
- The ALC is an administrative tribunal – arm's length from government - and government does not interfere in their independent decision-making process.
- In November 2011, the Province strengthened the ALC with new legislation and \$1.6 million in additional funding. The changes strengthened the ALC by giving it greater ability to focus on preserving farmland, increasing enforcement and to evolve into a sustainable organization.
- In addition to the funding, the Province also increased the number of provincial government officials authorized to investigate and respond to ALR violations to approximately 30. We further expanded enforcement by allowing qualified officials of other agencies and local government bylaw officers to conduct enforcement activities.

Key Messaging – Buy Local Campaign -

- The B.C. government is committed to promoting local foods.
- We have worked with producers and communities over the last 10 years to ensure British Columbians recognize the economic, environmental and health benefits of buying local and we've succeeded.
- Buying local is now mainstream thinking.
- The passion for local foods has never been stronger.
- More and more, across the province, new entrepreneurs are starting their food businesses.
- 20 years ago, the Okanagan was not an area renowned for wines internationally. Today, people come here for the scenery, the warmth in summer, the ski hills in winter, and to see and enjoy the wines produced here.
- We are a world leader in growing blueberries and cranberries – two products that for growing health benefits, people only want to consume more of.
- We have more people investing in artisan products than ever before. From award-winning cheese makers, to soy-based meat substitutes that make appearances on Oprah Winfrey (Gardein foods), as well as all the Asian, Mexican, European specialties produced in the lower mainland. The passion for new agrifoods businesses in B.C. is at an all time high.
- To build on that momentum, the B.C. government announced \$2 million in funding to provide businesses and organizations to launch or expand their own marketing campaigns.
- About a dozen projects have been announced so far, supporting B.C.'s shellfish, apple, wine, poultry, potato and organic sectors.
- The funding promotes B.C.'s diverse agrifoods industry, and allows each applicant the freedom and expertise to market their product as they best.
- This is an example of government and the agrifoods industry working together, to promote local foods, and generate economic benefits for B.C.'s food producers and communities.
- People come to B.C. with ideas because it is a place an idea can become a business.
- Food producers are attracted by the climate, and the quality ingredients produced here.

Key Messaging – Meat Inspection System –

- In March 2013, the Province announced its new meat inspection system.
- Consumer safety is paramount. British Columbians can be confident that their provincial meat inspection system will continue to support the highest standards of food safety, and support consumer and retail confidence in BC meat.
- The Province consulted with communities, producers, health agencies and ranchers extensively and recognized a continuation of the traditional system maintaining third party government inspection is the best choice.
- B.C.'s Provincial Health Officer, the B.C. Cattlemen's Association, the BC Abattoirs Association, the BC Food Processors Association all endorse the system. We took the time to do it right.
- The system protects public health, supports local farmers, and promotes jobs.
- Since the 1980s, the province has contracted with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to provide meat inspection services at provincially licensed slaughter plants.
- However, between now and the end of 2013 the CFIA will transition out of this role in the three provinces that used CFIA to deliver provincial meat inspection services – B.C., Saskatchewan and Manitoba.
- All other provinces across Canada already deliver their own provincial meat inspection systems.
- In B.C., a provincial steering committee worked with industry and stakeholders, and public health and meat inspection system experts for over a year on the review of provincial meat inspection services, so that the Province is well prepared to take over this role.

Key Messaging – Class E Pilot Project

- During our ongoing consultation with communities and residents in the North Okanagan, it became clear they felt their needs were not being met by the existing graduated licensing system and that all parties were committed to working together to explore options.
- A pilot project offering residents of the Regional District of North Okanagan up to five new Class E Licenses will support increased access to local meat in the region.
- These pilot licences will be available to operators within a two hour travel distance of a provincially licensed abattoir.
- Applications for the five new class E licences will require the adoption of a new Code of Practice, training in humane slaughter best practices and participating in an evaluation.
- The development of the code of practice and expanded training is underway with the intent of having the pilot project licenses issued in time for the fall.

Key Messaging – Mobile Abattoir –

- Through our extensive consultation process we recognized the South Cariboo has unique challenges that have not been accommodated through the existing programs and that all parties were committed to working together to explore options.
- As a result, a mobile abattoir will be stationed in 100 Mile House for the fall slaughter season.
- Once the mobile abattoir is fully implemented in 100 Mile House, the Ministry will consider if there are other communities that meet the same criteria, and for which a mobile abattoir would be an appropriate response.
- Ministry staff will work with 100 Mile House (and if appropriate, other interested communities) throughout the process.
- Communities will be responsible for documenting the need and financial viability of a mobile abattoir's operation in their area, to fund a docking station that meets provincial licensing requirements and to commit to meeting and maintaining provincial standards.

Key Messaging - Agrifoods Strategy

- The B.C. Agrifoods: A Strategy for Growth is part of the BC Jobs Plan and was launched in March 2012.
- It is posted at <http://www.gov.bc.ca/agri/agrifoodsstrategy.html>
- The strategy builds on the growing trading relationship B.C. has established with existing partners as well as expanding those with emerging markets, and sets to grow the industry in B.C. from \$10.5 billion when we started to \$14 billion-a-year by 2017.
- The Strategy emphasizes our commitment to:
 - Expand the opportunities for B.C.'s agriculture and seafood producers in new markets in Canada and overseas.
 - Invest so B.C. continues to have, and be internationally recognized for our safe and secure food supply.
 - Secure a strong future for farming, and provide a sustainable base for food production in B.C.
 - So the farmers and families who grow our food will continue to share their passion and knowledge with the next generation.
- Our role as government is to create an environment in British Columbia where agrifoods producers succeed.

Key Messaging - BC growers fitting into world stage

- B.C. exported \$2.5 billion of food to more than 135 countries a year, with over \$1.5 billion typically exported to the U.S.A.
- As Canada's Pacific Gateway, B.C. is the closest connection Asian markets have to North America, and our ports deliver hundreds of millions of dollars worth of B.C. food products each year to customers in China and Japan. The opportunities for growth are huge.
- Government's efforts to build exports to China are working. The Province has led several trade missions to China promoting B.C. agriculture and seafood products as well as operating trade offices there
- The missions and office have helped achieve record setting exports to China in both 2010 (\$118 million) and 2011 (\$148 million) overall, and of seafood (\$109) million in 2011, and wine (\$4.6 million).
- About half of all B.C. livestock and poultry product exports are to Asia, with 40% exported to the U.S.A.
- Japan is the biggest of 23 export markets for B.C. pork, and the Philippines is the biggest importer of B.C. chicken.
- B.C. wine exports have skyrocketed since 2008, from \$1.4 to \$5.5 million, due to rapidly increasing demand for high quality wine in Asia.
- Other niche markets for B.C. food include Egypt, Iran, Madagascar, Peru, Russia, Singapore and the UAE – where we export everything from seafood products, to baking ingredients, to fruits and grains.
- The scope of B.C. food producers marketplace is truly remarkable. French Polynesia, for example was B.C.'s fifth largest export market for fruit and vegetable juice recently (2010) with sales of \$300,000.
- To put that in perspective, the largest market was the U.S.A. with sales of \$43.5 million, but it still speaks to opportunities and building new markets for B.C. products.

Messaging - Key AGRI legislation

- Government is always looking at ways to support farmers in B.C.
- In June 2012 for example, the B.C. government
 1. Increased the tax exemption limit on farm outbuilding improvements,
 2. extended farmer's dwelling and home site farm classification to retired farmers in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) for farms that stay in production,
 3. reduced the administrative paperwork for farmers by changing the farm income reporting period to be consistent with each farmer's Canada Revenue Agency income tax reporting period
 4. Provided more flexibility in meeting the requirements to maintain farm status by expanding the list of qualifying agricultural products to include
 - Broad leaf maple and birch sap or syrup.
 - Breeding products (i.e., livestock semen, ova and embryos produced as part of livestock raising).
 - Horse stud services provided as part of horse rearing.
- In addition to the legislation governing the Agricultural Land Reserve, the province also has the Farm Practices Protection Act also known as the Right to Farm Act (April 1996)
- The act essentially gives farmers the right to farm in the Agricultural Land Reserve and on land zoned for farm use, or in areas licensed for aquaculture.
- When farmers operate under normal farm practices, the act protects them from nuisance actions, court injunctions or specific nuisance bylaws related to the operation of the farm.
- The Farm Practices Board, now called the Farm Industry Review Board, was also established under this act.
- The board hears complaints from individuals aggrieved by odour, noise, dust or other disturbances resulting from farm operations.
- The Ministry of Agriculture may also work with persons about a farm practice in an attempt to resolve the concern before the complaint reaches the board.

Key Messaging - Province's role in Agriculture

- All levels of government work together to support British Columbia farmers.
- The BC Government will continue to support the industry as it plays its part in generating new jobs, stimulating investment and inciting growth across the province.
- The B.C. Ministry of Agriculture has an important role in working with farmers, producers and other ministries in promoting the consumption of local food, and in creating a business environment for B.C. farmers to succeed.
- The ministry has a number of staff with a wide range of experience specific to B.C. crops including berries, grapes and seafood.
- There are sector (berry, beef, dairy, greenhouse etc) specialists, agrologists who are experts on producing food in a specific region of the province, a seafood division that works to promote our sustainable fisheries and aquaculture producers, and many more who offer different services and support to B.C.s agriculture sector.
- We will ensure B.C. voices are heard in Ottawa. In fact, the Government of British Columbia has worked tirelessly since 2001 to ensure our province's agricultural families receive the best possible deal in funding from the federal government through the growing forward program.

Key Messaging - Growing Forward 2

- The Government of British Columbia has worked tirelessly since 2001 to ensure the voices of B.C. producers are heard in Ottawa, and that B.C.'s agricultural families receive the best possible deal from the federal government.
- Budget 2013 builds on our successful partnership with the federal government, with whom the provinces and territories reached a multi-lateral agreement on a second Growing Forward agreement.
- This new agreement will deliver programs from 2013-2018 and like the one before it, provide both risk management and business development programs to producers and processors across our agrifoods sector.
- We worked closely with our own industry stakeholders as well as our provincial and federal partners throughout GF2 negotiations. In fact we brought proposals to the table that reflected the wishes of B.C. producers, while respecting the fiscal realities of the federal government. The final GF2 agreement reflects my ministry's hard work.
- Funding support for strategic initiatives will increase in GF2, with the goal to increase overall prosperity for agriculture industries. There is a strategic shift to emphasize our support for programs that can result in sector-wide benefits – to increase their competitiveness, develop new markets, or expand production capacity.
- One of the key points in the B.C. Jobs Plan's Agrifoods Strategy is how innovation, and improved competitiveness will lead the sector to becoming a \$14 billion a year industry, and create new opportunities for more British Columbians to join the 61,300 it currently employs.

Messaging - Other examples of Innovation the ministry has supported

- The Ministry of Agriculture in partnership with the Investment Agriculture Foundation and Agriculture and Agrifood Canada will contribute up to \$1.5 million toward 29 new projects to help the BC agri-food industry seize opportunities and explore innovative ideas.
- We are committed to investing in projects that will contribute to the long-term growth and sustainability of the sector as a whole. A few examples that demonstrate the diversity of projects we fund and the ideas we believe will carry B.C.'s agriculture industry forward are:

○

s.13

- Summerhill Estate Winery (\$81,069; complete Mar 30, 2013): Controlled atmosphere in wine processing to reduce use of sulphur dioxide and increase quality and shelf-life.
- SemioBIO Technologies (\$140,000; complete Dec 31, 2012): New application technology for mating disruption of pests in BC orchards.
- Vitalus Nutrition (\$25,000; complete Mar 30, 2012): Develop technology to produce low lactose milk protein concentrate to replace standard dairy ingredients in a wide variety of foods – something the lactose intolerant community would appreciate.
- Kwantlen College (\$165,000; complete Feb 16, 2013): Develop molecular tools and production technologies to provide alternatives to pesticides and contribute to environmental sustainability.
- With partial funding provided through our innovative Clean Energy Fund, Sun Select Produce Inc. developed a proprietary carbon capture system that is used in their Delta greenhouses to reduce energy costs. The Ministry of Agriculture is also working with stakeholders to promote further innovation in greenhouse heating technology and leading an export analysis study to identify new markets for B.C. greenhouse products.
- The B.C. Cranberry Marketing Commission is conducting research to select the most promising new cranberry varieties for B.C. conditions. Much of this research will be conducted at the newly established Cranberry Research Centre in Delta.
- The Province is working hard to provide B.C. farmers with the resources they need to be successful and competitive in today's global marketplace. This spring, we launched www.agrifoodBC.ca to allow producers access to industry-specific information and business risk management tools.

- We recently announced a new \$213,000 job training program that will prepare 120 British Columbians for a career in food processing, and the opportunity to join the more than 61,000 British Columbians already working in B.C.'s agrifoods sector.

Key Messaging - Supply Management

- The B.C. government has worked with federal and provincial counterparts to expand market opportunities and jointly reiterate our support for liberalized trade arrangements.
- We see the opportunities new trading blocs and agreements present to farming and food producing families but recognize all negotiations should clearly maintain our support for Canada's supply management system

Messaging - Biggest challenges for Agriculture

- Export based food producers such as seafood processors are affected by world economies and experience stronger sales when their market countries are doing well.
- That's why the B.C. government has worked so hard to expand our export markets, for food and all products. B.C.'s agrifoods industry will be more viable if it has multiple key markets.
- In addition to the traditional trading partners of the USA, Japan and the UK, the B.C. government has established growing trade relationships with China, Russia, India and countries around the world.
- Most of the fertile land in BC is in the same area where most of us live – the Lower Mainland and Okanagan.
- We are working with local governments, producers and associations so neighbours understand and value the benefits farming brings to their communities, and to be aware of the farming lifestyle and activities before they move into an agricultural area.

Key Messaging - Support for Tree Fruit Sector

- The B.C. government is committed to working with industry to develop a regular, annual, sustainable, bankable, reliable, replant program.
- In January, Minister Letnick announced the B.C. government is expanding the scope of our \$2-million replant to allow growers to replant with different types of fruit trees. The expanded scope offers further help to B.C. tree fruit growers to increase competitiveness and profitability.
- The objective is still the same – to promote the growth and production of high-value, high-quality B.C. fruit, and to develop a stronger, more sustainable tree fruit sector that results in growers earning more dollars.
- The replant program is in addition to the \$5 million federal-provincial Tree Fruit Marketing and Infrastructure Innovation Initiative. Deliverables from that program include the \$2.7-million modernization of the Okanagan Tree Fruit Cooperative packinghouse.
- Over the last dozen years B.C. tree fruit growers received more than \$120 million from the provincial and federal governments in response to weather-related losses and income stability programs, and more than \$30 million in other funding.

Key Messaging - Support for the Ranching Sector

- The Ministry of Agriculture has provided \$212 million to cattle ranchers between 2001 and 2011 (\$115 million since 06) through Provincial and Federal programs, including \$180 million (\$95 million since 06) through the Business Risk Management Branch and \$32 million (\$20 million since 06) in programs that develop market opportunities, and invest in research and management practices. Some programs include:
 - \$5 million (2010/2012) Fed-Prov (60-40) Canada British Columbia Ranching Task Force Funding Initiative for programs supporting access to emerging markets; producer education to meet consumer demands; product development and branding; and education to increase domestic demand, including the Behind the Beef campaign.
 - \$7.3 million (2006/2008) for the Meat Transition Assistance Program to help upgrade or build abattoirs to comply with new meat inspection regulations.
 - \$3 million (2008) Age Verification Program that enabled industry to reach markets with imposed age limits. (Many countries only allow imports of beef under thirty months as a precaution to BSE/ mad cow disease).
 - \$5 million (2005) Livestock Tissue Initiative to help industry manage abattoir waste
- The Ministry of Transportation has invested \$19 million to construct almost 1,300 km of fencing to guard provincial highways and railways from straying cattle. The program is administered by the B.C. Cattlemen's Association. This includes:
 - \$10 million to construct 700 km of fencing between 2011 and 2015, with about 100 kilometres of fencing constructed in 2011.
 - \$9 million to construct 588 km of fencing between 2004 and 2007.

Key Messaging - Aquaculture General

- The B.C. Government is committed to the socially and ecologically responsible management of B.C. fisheries, including an environmentally and economically sustainable aquaculture industry for the benefit of all British Columbians.
- B.C. seafood is respected and desired worldwide as great tasting and sustainably harvested. It is served in more than two billion meals worldwide every year.
- 6,000 British Columbians work in aquaculture, earning more than \$224 million a year.
- Over half the British Columbians working in aquaculture are women and/or First Nations.
- Aquaculture is constantly evolving in British Columbia, with pilot projects developing new species like sablefish and white sturgeon, and renewable energy at shellfish operations.
- B.C. works with the federal government and industry to be prepared for possible disease outbreaks, and to ensure the prompt and coordinated implementation of the science-based response that the federal government and salmon farmers have developed.

Closed Containment:

- There are a number of BC success stories with closed containment systems that include sturgeon (to produce meat and caviar), tilapia (fresh fish market), sablefish (fingerlings) and commercial salmon hatcheries that support marine net-pens. While this technology is becoming more popular in BC, economic viability remains a real challenge for many applications.
- The B.C. government encourages innovation across agriculture and seafood, and that includes trying and evaluating new technology.
- Given the recent surge of interest in closed-containment and advancement in the technology used, it is critical to for government and industry to work together to capitalise on the benefits the new technology can provide.
- Government supports the evaluation and use of new technologies like closed containment to explore new markets and build on B.C.'s reputation as a provider great-tasting, sustainable seafood.

Key Messaging - Use of Propane Cannons

- The ministry continues to assist local governments in regulating the use of propane cannons in their communities.
 - The Ministry has a model noise bylaw which local governments can easily incorporate into their by-laws.
 - Ministry staff are also available to address individual complaints.
 - People aggrieved by a noise or other disturbance resulting from a farm practice may also file a formal complaint with the BC Farm Industry Relations Board.
- I know that blueberry farmers are aware of the problems caused by propane cannons and have made a sincere effort to make changes to their practices and be good neighbours.
- The BC Blueberry Council has also been very effective in responding to noise complaints from propane cannons.
- In addressing these issues, there needs to be a balance between farming and non-farming interests while recognizing that the ALR is an area where the priority use is farming and non-farming activities are controlled. Key to this balance is neighbours respecting their neighbours.

Key Messaging - GMO crops – Arctic Apple

- The Okanagan tree fruit industry is a vital part of our food system and a part of B.C.'s heritage that all British Columbians are proud of, and something this government has supported by investing millions of dollars to improve competitiveness and profitability.
- Approval for plants with novel traits rests under federal jurisdiction, and I have shared the concerns of the tree fruit industry with the federal minister's office.
- I will continue to focus my energy on programs that B.C. has control of and help growers take advantage of the market demand for high-value products. Our \$2 million replant program supports the production of premium B.C. fruits, and our partnership with the federal government has led to \$5 million in modernization of packaging houses and other innovation projects that help fruit growers earn more dollars.

Key Messaging - Reports of Animal Cruelty (SCPA enforces legislation)

- The Government expects all British Columbians to treat animals with respect and due care.
- The B.C. Government amended the Prevention to Cruelty against Animals Act (PCA) to have the toughest penalties in Canada. (The Government issued a news release when the amendments were introduced in May 2011, and when they became law in June 2011)
- The maximum penalties that can be levied against a person who is convicted of causing distress to an animal is \$75,000 and up to 24 months imprisonment.
- Judges have these options available in determining sentences.
- Since June 2011, B.C.'s Crown Counsel have been building on the expertise within the Ministry of Justice to successfully prosecute cases of animal abuse.

Key Messaging - Lack of Agrologists

- The provision of extension services is always evolving.
The ministry has employees that provide strategic services and specialized information to local producers, agriculture associations and stakeholders, and local governments across the province, including 23 regional agrologists in offices throughout B.C.
- In addition to the agrologists the Ministry of Agriculture employs industry specialists, food safety specialists, environmental engineers, and strengthening farming program specialists.
- The ministry has offices located across B.C. including Victoria, Courtenay, Duncan, Abbotsford, Cranbrook, Kelowna, Vernon, Kamloops, Williams Lake, Prince George, Dawson Creek, and Fort St. John.
- The B.C. government does much more to support and generate economic growth in our agrifoods industry than the direct services provided through the ministry's budget.
- The best support government can provide to businesses is to create an economic climate that encourages success.
- I make no apologies for our government's priority to focus dollars on creating a competitive environment for agrifood producers to succeed.
- The B.C. government has done that - with among the lowest income tax rates in Canada and strategic investments in innovation and infrastructure that facilitates trade and grows the industry.

Key Messaging - Extension Services Background

- About 15 years ago, the Ministry provided one-on-one advisory service for farmers about how to produce crops and livestock (varieties to grow, fertilization, where to locate crops etc.).
- Our focus now is about encouraging competitiveness and productivity by working with industry associations, local governments, educational institutions and other key stakeholders.