

Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION

Ref: 180571

Date: October 31, 2014

Issue: BC Grain Producers Association (BCGPA) raised their priority issues with the Minister

Background:

Rail Access to Grain Shipment:

- Through 2013-2014 there were excellent grain yields in the Peace Region and across the Canadian prairies. BC grain producers had limited rail service to move grain to market. This resulted in Peace Region grain being stored sub-optimally and unable to be sold.
- On March 14, 2014, the Animal Nutrition Association Canada (ANAC) - BC, Fraser Valley poultry and livestock groups, and the BC Grain Producers Association (BCGPA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to provide a 'made in BC' proposal to move grain from northern BC to southern feed mills. The MOU was developed as a solution to grain abundance in Northern BC and grain need in Southern BC.
- AGRI's Grain and Oilseed Industry Specialist is working with the South Peace Grain Cleaning Co-op (SPG) on establishing rail siding access for future car loading capacity. SPG completed a feasibility study and received funding through the Peace River Agriculture Development fund for a business plan.
- AGRI continues to engage in Federal/Provincial/Territorial meetings on grain transportation issues and ensures BC's interests are fully represented in those discussions including the current *Canadian Transportation Act* (CTA) consultation process.

Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO)

- There has been minimal development around GMO/GM policy in Canada in 2014.

Business Risk Management (BRM)

- The Ministry is committed to continuing to adapt the design and delivery of programs leading into GF 3 discussions to meet the unique Business Risk Management (BRM) needs of BC producers.

Research Innovation in Cereals

- In an October 30, 2014, email to DM Sturko, Cam Dahl, President of Cereals Canada asked for AGRI's input into Dr. Morgan-Jones's white paper on grain research in Canada. The BCGPA is among the membership of Cereals Canada.
- The BCGPA actively participates in western Canada field crop variety testing and development through their field research unit. They partner with other western provinces, federal research programs, and a variety of private sector companies to develop and test crop varieties suitable for northern BC.

Discussion:

Rail Access

- The flow of grain throughout Western Canada has improved under Bill C-30 and regulations, resulting in reduced rail grain shipment back logs.
- The Peace Region of BC still has limited rail service for moving grain and continued interest in providing feed grain to the Fraser Valley livestock industry.
- There is significant interest by BCGPA members in moving grain in BC on the north-south rail line currently under license and in use by Canadian National Rail (CN).
- The BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (TRANS) and AGRI worked together to investigate options to increase movement of BC grain by rail, including looking into the CN license agreement requirements for the north-south rail line.

BRM

- The Ministry consults with industry leaders to identify emerging issues and industry needs, which helps shape BRM policy priorities and our Province's position in national negotiations around program design.

Research Innovation in Cereals

- AGRI Industry Specialist Julie Robinson responded directly to Cereals Canada indicating she would review the research paper.

Conclusion and Next Steps:

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Contact: TJ Schur, Industry Development Manager, Sector Development Branch, 250 387-7183

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Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING
with British Columbia Herdshare Association on October 28, 2014

Ref: 180634

Date: October 27, 2014

Issue: Meeting to introduce Herdshare and discuss unprocessed products.

Background:

- The August 26, 2014 letter to the Minister outlines a scheme to produce and distribute milk to consumers (called herdshare co-owners) outside the supply management (quota) system.
- This scheme has been attempted many times the past two decades in one form or another without success by different groups across Canada. The Ministry regularly receives inquiries and provides feedback about milk pasteurization (see CLIFF 176474 attached).
- Groups like Herdshare focus on the perceived health benefits of unpasteurized milk and milk products as being superior to pasteurized milk and milk products and that pasteurization destroys many nutrients in the milk. s.13
- Groups like Herdshare rarely mention risks to human health or disease transfer of unpasteurized milk and milk products.
- Recent studies in the United States, Australia and Ontario have linked the consumption of raw milk or raw milk products to many dozens and hundreds of cases of human illness.
- Surveillance data from Ontario found that in the period of January 1, 2005 to September 30, 2012, there were 256 confirmed cases of reportable, communicable enteric and zoonotic diseases as a result of consuming raw milk or raw milk products. More than half (53%) of these reported cases occurred in infants and children up to 14 years of age.
- High quality milk harvested from today's dairy cows can also become contaminated after it leaves the cow and can represent another source of bacteria that can cause serious illness (ie *E. Coli*).

Discussion:

- In British Columbia milk is a shared jurisdiction between both the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Health.
- The Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for the safe production of quality milk on all registered dairy farms in the province, while the Ministry of Health is responsible for the safe processing of quality milk at provincially registered plants.
- The Ministry of Health has a specific concern regarding any sale of raw milk or raw milk products produced without a scientifically valid control or pathogen kill to control the risk of disease spread.
- In the Health Hazards Regulation under the Public Health Act (Part 2, Division 1, Section 2) the following is prescribed as a health hazard: milk for human consumption that has not been pasteurized at a licensed dairy plant in accordance with the Milk Industry Act.
- Dairy farmers are exempt from being prohibited from personal consumption of unpasteurized (raw) milk that was produced on their farm.

Suggested Responses:

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Contact: Tom Droppo, Industry Specialist - Dairy & Pork; Sector Development Branch, 604 556-3144

DIR KN ADM GP DM DS

**Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION**

Ref: 180733

Date: October 24, 2014

Issue: Waste policies in the interior (i.e. Cariboo) Waste Disposal Composting

Background:

On the Minister's summer tour, a question was raised concerning policies that are being made to largely address waste (source/type not specified) issues in the Fraser Valley, but these policies may not be a good fit for producers in Interior locations.

Discussion:

All wastes, regardless of the sector of origin or discharge, are primarily governed by one provincial Act, the *Environmental Management Act (EMA)*. That Act and its associated Regulations and Codes provide direction on handling and discharge of wastes to the environment.

The primary regulation under *EMA* is the Waste Discharge Regulation which designates prescribed industries, trades, businesses, operations and activities into two broad groups. The first is the prescribed sector and the second is the prescribed activity. This breakdown leads to the more detailed outline of the kinds of activities or conditions a sector must follow in terms of managing or discharging wastes.

Regardless of the sector or region, the objectives of *EMA* is to use environmental management tools to protect human health and the quality of water, land and air in British Columbia. In many cases, the same tools are prescribed across the entire province as the objectives are the same for all British Columbians.

For the agriculture sector, the more detailed outline of how wastes must be handled is described by the Agricultural Waste Control Regulation (AWCR) and accompanying Code of Agricultural Practice for Waste Management (Code). This Regulation and Code provide flexibility or variations depending on where an operation is located in the province.

Composting is one of many treatment/handling practices identified for managing waste. The basics of the composting process are the same regardless of the region. The Code has two main provisions for the composting site. The first is a setback from watercourses and the second is the composting activity cannot cause pollution. Unmanaged discharge from any composting operation can have the same impacts on human health and the environment regardless of the region. The actual operational practices within a composting facility and the land application (use) of compost may vary by region. For example, composting sites are generally expected to be covered or have leachate management systems in wet areas of the province.

The AWCR is currently under review by the Ministry of Environment. The review has included a substantial consultation involving representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, BC Agriculture Council and the Ministry of Environment. Although the review is not yet complete and decisions on the final content and format of the new regulation have yet to be finalized, variability in terms of climate, region, and type of activity/operation have been discussed and are being considered for the new regulation.

In addition to the AWCR, there is a second regulation that covers non-farm or off-farm organic materials such as yard waste, food processing wastes, mass mortalities and sewage biosolids. This is the Organic Matter Recycling Regulation (OMRR). The regulation normally does not apply to agricultural operations unless non-farm wastes are being brought to the farm. The provisions of OMRR are more stringent than the AWCR due to the types of materials that are being composted, however, OMRR does allow for site specific and regional variability in the management of the composting operation.

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Conclusion:

Recommend the client contact ministry staff for more information on waste management or be directed to the appropriate industry specialist who can assist with specific questions.

Contact: Geoff Hughes-Games, Innovation and Adaptation Services Branch, 604-556-3102

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Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING
with BC Dairy Association October 27, 2014

Ref: 180857

Date: October 24, 2014

Issue: Information Sharing on Key Issues of Importance to the BC Dairy Industry

Background:

Animal Welfare. Undercover video footage was collected this past summer and aired nationally on W5 showing animal abuse on a large prominent Chilliwack dairy farm. Widespread media attention and negative public reaction to the story forced the BC dairy industry to respond on multiple fronts.

Water Sustainability Act (WSA). Discussions are taking place between Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture (AGRI), the agricultural sector and other agencies and sectors on draft proposed water fees and rentals for regulation under the new WSA.

'We heart Local' / 'Buy Local. Eat Natural.' branding program. This program was initiated in 2012 with partial funding supplied by the BC Government to the BC Agriculture Council (BCAC).

Tax Credits. The introduction and collection from BC producers of a Carbon Tax three years ago added a significant new expense that the dairy industry does not have an exemption from.

Canada-European Union Free Trade Agreement (CETA). The Canadian dairy industry did not benefit from the recent signing of CETA. Tariff reductions on a variety of specialty cheeses are predicted to compete with and displace similar Canadian produced cheeses on retail shelves.

Discussion:

Animal Welfare.

- The BC Milk Marketing Board amended its Consolidated Order making the on-farm requirements of the 'Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Dairy Cattle' (*the Dairy Code*) mandatory for all BC dairy producers effective October 1, 2014.
- Under 'ProAction', a Dairy Farmers of Canada initiative, BC will begin implementing the animal welfare component in late 2015 and 2016. This will entail an on-farm animal care assessment tool to be completed on each farm by a third party to demonstrate compliance to *Dairy Code* requirements.

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Water Sustainability Act (WSA).

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'We heart Local' / 'Buy Local. Eat Natural.' branding program.

- In 2012, the BC Government provided \$500,000 in funding to the BCAC to develop this branding program with videos, a 'We heart Local Awards' campaign, a dedicated website, social media outreach and a Buy Local Smartphone App launched on January 27, 2014.
- BCAC partnered with the BC Dairy Foundation, which has since become part of the BC Dairy Association (BCDA), to develop and implement the 'We heart Local' / 'Buy Local. Eat Natural.' program.

Tax Credits.

- When the Carbon Tax program was introduced in BC the greenhouse industry received recognition to qualify for a Carbon Tax credit (or exemption).

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Canada-European Union Free Trade Agreement (CETA)

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Suggested Response:

- Encourage frequent and continued open dialogue between BCDA and AGRI on all issues listed above as well as any emerging ones of importance to the sector.

Contact: Tom Droppo, Industry Specialist - Dairy & Pork, 604 556-3144

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Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING
with Mr. Steven P. Roberts on October 29, 2014.

Ref: Cliff 180858

Date: October 24, 2014

Issues:

District of Central Saanich - Containment of urban runoff onto farms is not effective. Local farmers are seeking financial support for drainage improvements.

Background:

The District of Central Saanich has conducted an Integrated Stormwater Management Plan and is in the implementation phase of the plan's recommendations. The proposed Maber Flats water detention facility has benefits for adjacent farms but the farm community is concerned the land purchase and facility development costs will hamper the municipality's ability to improve drainage situations on the valuable Martindale Valley vegetable production fields which are experiencing severe flooding from upland residential and highway developments. The main benefit of the Maber Flat water retention facility appears to be control of industrial land runoff and environmental objectives. New residential, commercial and industrial developments in Central Saanich are required to incorporate on-site retention of storm water runoff but some farms in the Martindale Valley (Island View Rd) area seem to be experiencing an increase of water runoff despite the urban development bylaw requirements.

The previous Agricultural Land Development Assistance (ALDA) program subsidized 15 year loans at 50% market loan rates for on-farm land development and drainage control expenditures between \$5000-\$70,000. The program was discontinued in the 1990s.

First Nations Considerations: N/A

Discussion:

Further discussion of the overall farm drainage issues in the District of Central Saanich's Agriculture is occurring at the District's Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) and Healthy Watersheds Committees which advise the District's Council. The Ministry of Agriculture has an ex-officio member on the AAC that can provide advice and guidance on Ministry programs and technical objectives.

The Environmental Farm Plan program provides limited assistance (specific regions of BC) for on-farm drainage improvements to control greenhouse gas emissions from flooded fields. Farm loans and loan guarantees are available from Canada Agriculture Loans Act (CALA) program and Farm Credit Canada (FCC). With commercial interest rates being at all time lows, the benefits of a low interest loan program similar to ALDA would be extremely limited.

Next Steps:

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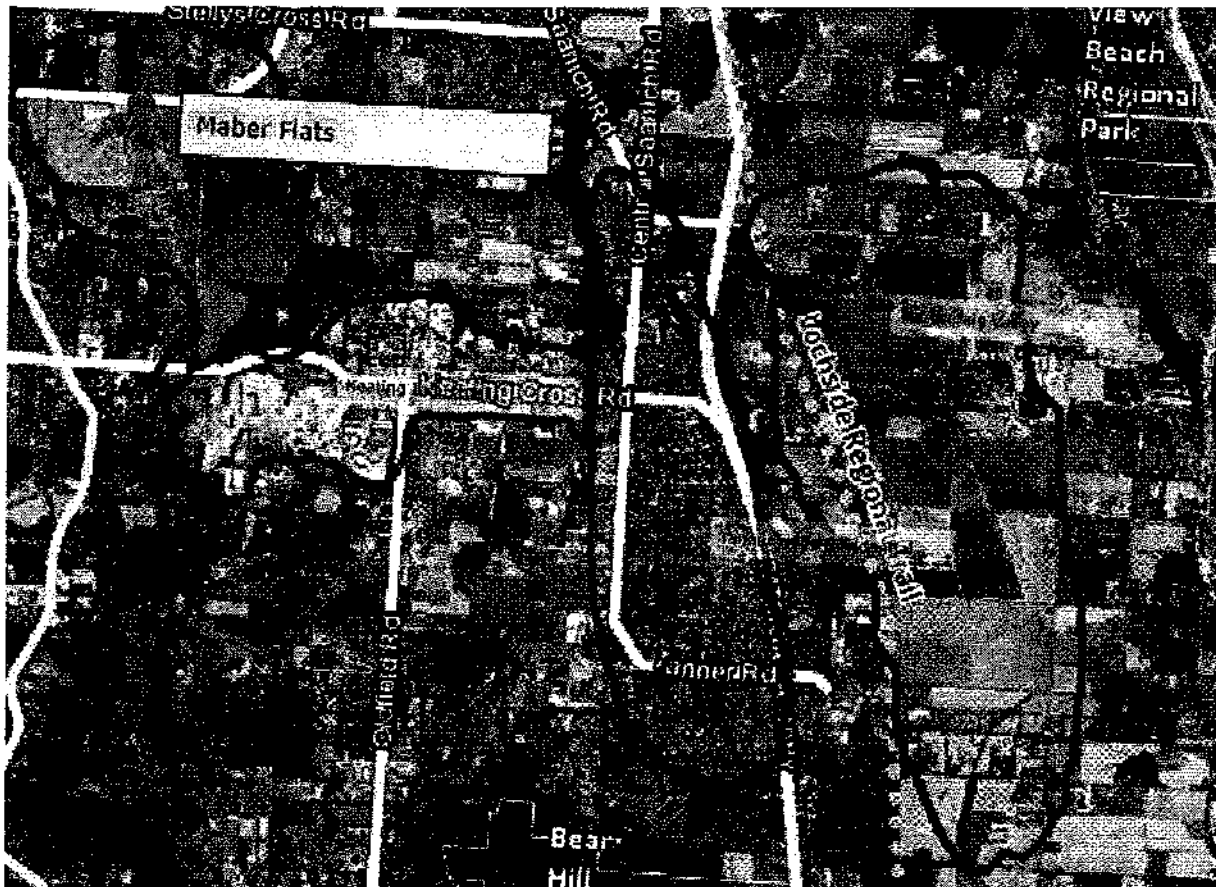
Contact: Rob Kline, Regional Agrologist. 250-356-5861

DIR KN ADM GP DM DS

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Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING
with Mr. Steven P. Roberts on October 29, 2014.

CENTRAL SAANICH



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Ministry of Agriculture

BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR MEETING WITH MINISTER POLAK

Ref: 180912

Date: October 23, 2014

Issue: Land within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) is being used for the purpose of planting trees and generating carbon offsets.

Background: Carbon trading markets are growing in size and significance around the world. In most of these markets, tree planting is recognized as a viable method of generating tradable carbon offsets because trees can sequester carbon in soil and their own biomass.

In 2009, agricultural producers and Ministry of Agriculture staff in Northern BC reported that a British company, Reckitt Benckiser Group PLC (RB), bought just under 5,000 acres of land in the Vanderhoof and Peace River Regions for the purpose of planting trees and selling carbon offsets. Just over 4,000 acres of this is in the ALR and is mostly Class 5, 6 or 7 land (i.e. predominantly forage production land). RB hired a Toronto-based company named Borealis Carbon Offsets (BCO) to plant trees on the land they purchased, 1,460 acres of which is now believed to have been planted, with another 1,200 acres scheduled for planting soon.

Although no information has been found on other land *purchases* within the ALR for the purpose of generating carbon offsets from tree planting, there is a case in which BCO signed a tree planting *contract* with an ALR landowner in the Vanderhoof region at McPhee Creek. This landowner then placed a covenant on their land under BC *Land Title Act* Section 2.19. BCO planted trees on 70 hectares of that land. BCO intends to plant more trees in this region of BC, but does not yet have contracts in place.

Of BC's total land mass of 950,000 square kilometers, approximately 45% is mountainous, 50% is forested, and a little less than 5% is suitable for agricultural production and is protected for this use within the ALR. Section 2 (2)(f) of the Agricultural Land Reserve Use, Subdivision and Procedure Regulation defines *timber production, harvesting, silviculture and forest protection* as a permitted use for land within the ALR, and some ranchers practice limited logging on their properties as a form of secondary income. Dedicating ALR land for the purposes of environmental conservation is also allowed without an application to the ALC.

Discussion: To date, these investments are largely unrelated to BC climate policies. These carbon credits, or offsets, are being purchased largely by German industries for voluntary markets.

The amount of tree planting that has occurred within the ALR for the purpose of generating carbon offsets is not significant. A contact at BCO asserts that RB is done buying land in BC for this purpose and thinks it is unlikely that other companies will do so because signing contracts with landowners is easier and less costly than purchasing land. This indicates that as carbon trading markets potentially gain prominence, more ALR land may be *contracted* for tree planting.

In order to provide an assurance to the lessee that the trees planted under such a contract will mature to the point that they sequester the quantity of carbon required to generate the desired offset revenues, the lessor is typically required to place a covenant on their land stating that the trees planted under the contract will be left standing for at least 100 years.

Given the scarcity of productive farmland in BC relative to the abundance of forestland, and given the long time-frame under which offsets are generated, the potential for expanded contracting of farmland for tree production is a concern. This concern was raised by stakeholders in Prince George, Bulkley-Nechako and Fort St John during consultations on the A.I.R regulations in Summer 2010, and again in Summer 2014.

Section 22(2) of the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* (Act) provides that *a covenant that restricts or prohibits the use of agricultural land for farm purposes has no effect until approved by the [Agricultural Land] Commission.*

Next Steps:

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Contact: David Concy, Agrifoods Policy and Legislation, 250 387 3232

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Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING
with Minister Polak and Township of Langley October 28, 2014

Ref: 180913

Date: October 23, 2014

Issue: Regulated Communities

Background:

Some forty years ago, the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) was established to address the rapid urbanization of farmland in British Columbia. About twenty years later, the Right-to-Farm legislation was passed to address farmers concerns that local governments were impeding their ability to farm in the ALR. This legislation provided local governments the tools necessary to restrict or prohibit farming in the ALR, but these restrictions required the approval of the Minister of Agriculture. This system secured the provincial interest in preserving farmland and a farmer's ability to farm in the ALR, while providing local governments the tools necessary to regulate farming.

The Township of Langley is one of four regulated communities (Abbotsford, Delta and Kelowna being the others) and is one of the top three agricultural municipalities in BC in terms of farm gate receipts. Between 2006 and 2011, farm gate receipts increased by 21 percent translating into over a \$100 million increase in the contribution by primary agriculture to the Township's economy.

First Nations Considerations: None.

Discussion:

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Suggested Response:

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Contact: Bert van Dalfsen, Manager, Strengthening Farming Program, 604-556-3109

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Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION

Ref: 180916

Date: October 21, 2014

Issue: BC farm connection to swine delta coronavirus

Swine delta coronavirus (SDCv), a virus related to porcine epidemic diarrhea virus (PEDv) was found at a pig handling facility in Alberta. A truck from a BC farm, located in the Peace Region, delivered swine to that facility on October 16 or 17, 2014. No pigs were seen to be sick at the BC facility; the positive sample was an environmental swab.

Background: Swine delta coronavirus is a new virus of pigs. It was first identified in North America in February 2014 in the USA and confirmed in Ontario in March 2014. It is closely related to the viruses that cause porcine epidemic diarrhea (PED) and transmissible gastroenteritis (TGE). It causes diarrhea and vomiting in pigs of all ages, and may cause death in piglets.

There is no risk to food safety or to human health.

First Nations Considerations: None.

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Contact: Dr. Nancy deWith, Veterinary Epidemiologist, Plant and Animal Health Branch, 604-556-3018

DIR Dr. Jane Prichard ADM James Mack DM Derek Sturko

**Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR DECISION**

Ref: 180848

Date: October 21, 2014

Issue: The City of Abbotsford has submitted for Minister's approval, Amendment Bylaw No. 2341-2014 which amends Abbotsford Zoning Bylaw, 2014 to add a restaurant use for a specific property where this use has been approved by the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC).

Background: In April 2006, the ALC approved a non-farm use consisting of a restaurant of no more than 30 seats for the property described as Lot 6, Except Part Subdivided by Plan BCP18008, Section 35, Township 13, New Westminster, Plan 40525 (29985 Downes Road, Abbotsford). The property is 8.1 ha (20 acres) in size and the owners operate Tanglebank Gardens Nursery on the site. The restaurant use has been in operation since receiving ALC approval in 2006. A recent application by the owners for a Food Primary Liquor Licence from the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch (LCLB) revealed that the owners had never applied for rezoning from the City of Abbotsford following the ALC approval. As a result, the restaurant is currently operating in non-compliance with the City of Abbotsford Zoning Bylaw. The owners applied for rezoning which was given third reading by Abbotsford City Council on September 15, 2014. The City of Abbotsford has now submitted Bylaw 2341-2014 to the Minister for approval.

First Nations Considerations: None.

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Approved / Not Approved



Norm Letnick, Minister

Nov 19, 2014

Date Signed

Contact: Bert van Dalssen, Innovation and Adaptation Services Branch, 604 556-3109

DIR GT

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Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING
with BC Food Processors Association October 27, 2014

Ref: 180891

Date: October 20, 2014

Issue: Meeting to discuss BC Food Processors Association issues including funding for the Association.

Background:

Food production is one of the largest components of manufacturing in the province and manufacturing shipments for food and beverage account for \$8.2 billion annually. This is approximately 70 percent of the total for the Agrifoods sector in British Columbia.

The BC Food Processors Association (BCFPA) is a key representative for the BC food and natural health product processing industry with 140 processor members and 105 associate members. There are over 1,400 businesses in the sector. Over 90 percent of the members of BCFPA are categorized as either small or microprocessors. Processed foods produced by BCFPA members include functional include functional foods and natural health products. The BCFPA hosts numerous educational events each year and provides extensive resources for food and natural health product manufacturers, start-up businesses, government organizations and the public.

The Agrifoods producers and processors, as well as industry associations/organizations, may apply to the Growing Forward 2 (GF2) Innovation, Competitiveness and Market Development, and Adaptability and Industry Capacity Building programs. To date the BCFPA and its members have made use of a number of GF2 programs:

- BCFPA has applied for and been funded for 3 projects under the Canada-BC Agri-Innovation Program, totaling \$136,605. An additional 13 post- farm gate organizations (individual companies and associations) have also been funded under the program.
- Under GF2 Provincially Significant Projects Program, the BCFPA has been awarded \$150,000 to continue their Path to Commercialization program until March 2015. An RFP will identify an administrator for a similar project until March 2018, and BCFPA will be eligible to apply.
- Under GF2 Food Safety Programing, BCFPA was the successful proponent on the RFP to deliver the Off Farm Food Safety Program. The Program will be delivered from July 2014 until the end of February 2015 for \$1,696,938.
- The Ministry contracted BCFPA to do a seminar last fall and provided \$50k through the Ministry of International Trade to add an international component to their annual convention FoodPro West.

Director Nickel had an introductory meeting with new BCFPA CEO, James Donaldson, on September 11. ADM Mack attended a BCFPA Board of Directors meeting on September 29. Topics included the importance of the sector to the Ministry's mandate, economic development, engagement of the BCFPA in the Minister's Agricultural Advisory Committee, and the proposed hiring of an Agrifoods Processing Specialist by the Ministry.

Discussion:

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Contact: TJ Schur, Manager, Industry Development; Sector Development Branch, 250 387-7183

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Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING
with Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resources, October 20, 2014

Ref: 180856

Date: October 17, 2014

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Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING
with Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resources, October 20, 2014

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Contact: Barron Carswell, Corporate Governance, Policy and Legislation Branch, 250 356-5042

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Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER - DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

Ref: 180535
X.Ref: 180491

Date: October 3, 2014

Issue: Use of remaining funds from Mobile Abattoir Project.

Background: On February 22, 2013 Honourable Norm Letnick, Minister of Agriculture announced the implementation of a new meat inspection system for provincially licensed Class A and B abattoirs effective January 1, 2014. In addition, a red meat mobile abattoir unit was placed in 100 Mile House as a pilot project to address unique slaughter needs in the community and was allocated \$750,000 of remaining Meat Transition Assistance Program (MTAP) funding.

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Honourable Norm Letnick, Minister

Date Signed

Contact: Heather Langton, Manager Food Safety Initiatives, Food Safety and Inspection Branch
(250) 356-1833

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180535 –Appendix 1 Slaughter Capacity Requests

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Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING
With Minister Wat and Jiangsu Vice Governor XU Ming on October 8, 2014

Ref: 180766

Date: October 2, 2014

Issue: Minister Norm Letnick and Minister Teresa Wat will meet with the Vice Governor XU Ming of Jiangsu Province in China in Victoria on Wednesday, October 8, 2014.

Background:

- The Vice Governor of Jiangsu Province is leading a delegation to BC to meet with the Ministry of Agriculture (AGRI) and the Ministry of International Trade (MIT) to discuss strengthening of bilateral ties between the two provinces.
- A Letter of Intent recognizing the desire to strengthen bilateral ties between BC and Jiangsu will be signed by Deputy Minister Baskerville and Deputy Director Zhou at a signing ceremony following this meeting. Please see Attachment 3 for the draft Letter of Intent.
- The members of the Jiangsu delegation include:
 - Mr. XU Ming, Vice Governor of the Jiangsu Province: Please refer to Attachment 2 for his biography.
 - Mr. LI Yaping, Director General, Jiangsu Department of Water Resources
 - Mr. XU Huizhong, Deputy Director General, Jiangsu Agriculture Committee
 - Mr. ZHOU Wei, Deputy Director General, Jiangsu Provincial Foreign Affairs Office
 - Mr. XIAO Yanchuan, Director - Division of Agricultural Economy, Jiangsu Provincial Agriculture Committee
- BC Government attendees include: Minister Norm Letnick, Minister Teresa Wat, DM Shannon Baskerville, Ministry of International Trade, ADM Clark Roberts, Ministry of International Trade as well as staff from AGRI, MIT and IGRS.
- The Province of Jiangsu, located on China's east coast, has the highest provincial GDP per capita and second-highest total GDP, after Guangdong Province. Please refer to Attachment 1 for an economic overview of Jiangsu Province.
- The Jiangsu government is seeking to establish formalized bilateral ties with BC for mutual economic benefit.
- The Jiangsu government has provided support to the BC Trade and Investment Office (BCTIO) in Shanghai through joint trade promotion activities.
- The broadening of bilateral ties between BC and Jiangsu is beneficial due to Jiangsu's strategic importance as an industrial and economic leader in China.
- In November 2013, Premier Clark and Minister Wat travelled to Nantong and toured the Jiangsu Rudong liquefied natural gas terminal during the Premier's trade mission.
- Forestry Minister Steve Thomson will be on a trade mission to Jiangsu this October and he will visit the capital Nanjing October 12-13, 2014.
- Prior to visiting BC, Vice Governor XU and the delegation is visiting Jiangsu's sister province of Ontario.

First Nations Considerations: N/A

Discussion:

- Jiangsu was ranked No. 2 in terms of provincial GDP in 2013 and its economy is highly oriented to international trade activities, which could provide BC substantial export opportunities for goods and services, including agrifoods.

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Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING
With Minister Wat and Jiangsu Vice Governor XU Ming on October 8, 2014

- There are currently no known BC agrifoods exports to Jiangsu Province. BCTIO Shanghai suggested potential opportunities may exist for seafood, bottled water and blueberries/cherries once access is finalized for these latter two products.
- With support from the Jiangsu government, additional trade and investment promotion programs, including for agrifoods, can be developed by BCTIO Shanghai to advance BC interests in the region.
- This initial meeting, and the Letter of Intent, provides a framework for engaging with the Jiangsu Government to develop new campaigns to benefit BC industry.

Key Messages:

- BC places a high level of importance on developing strong relations with Jiangsu Province.
- BC looks forward to advancing cooperation as detailed in the Letter of Intent, and to further expanding two-way trade and investment between the provinces.
- BC has a wide variety of high-quality food and beverage products to offer, from seafood, blueberries, cherries and pork, to fruit juice, bottled water, spirits and wine.
- With our growing array of products and our international reputation for high food safety standards, food importers from around the world are exploring what British Columbia has to offer. Our modern agriculture and transportation infrastructure ensure that customers receive exceptionally fresh and nutritious products quickly and efficiently.
- China is one of BC's fastest growing agrifoods export markets, driven in large part by increased demand for seafood, pork and wine. Over \$234 million worth of BC agri-food and seafood products were exported to China in 2013, up 36 percent from 2012.
- China is a priority market for the Province of British Columbia and our government looks forward to engaging with Jiangsu Province to explore opportunities for our agrifoods sector.
- There is potential for new partnerships between Jiangsu and BC's agricultural and seafood sectors. We look forward to finding new opportunities to help meet the needs of Jiangsu consumers and partner with the Chinese agri-food industry to support our mutual success.

Attachments:

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Contact: Brenda Lennox, Senior Manager, Market Development & Promotions, 250-356-0358

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Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING
With Minister Wat and Jiangsu Vice Governor XU Ming on October 8, 2014

Attachment 1 – Economic Overview of the Jiangsu Province

Capital: Nanjing



- Jiangsu is a top 5 provincial economy in China: provincial GDP 2012 - USD \$860 Billion, 10.4% of China's total.
- Population 79 million - Jiangsu also accounts for 6% of China's total population.
- Jiangsu has the highest GDP per capita in China, which was \$10,990 USD in 2012.
- Although 50% of all companies in China are state-owned, Jiangsu has a very strong private sector. By 2012, there were approximately 1.2 million private enterprises in the province, the largest number of private enterprises in any Chinese province.
- Jiangsu is highly exposed to the external trade – the province accounted for around 15% of China's total external trade in 2011.
- The major cities: Nanjing (Jiangsu's capital), Suzhou, Wuxi, Changzhou, and Zhenjiang, form the economic hub of Jiangsu.

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Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING
With Minister Wat and Jiangsu Vice Governor XU Ming on October 8, 2014

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Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING
With Minister Wat and Jiangsu Vice Governor XU Ming on October 8, 2014

Attachment 2 – Biography of Vice Governor Xu Ming

s.16;s.22

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Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING
With Minister Wat and Jiangsu Vice Governor XU Ming on October 8, 2014

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Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING
With Minister Wat and Jiangsu Vice Governor XU Ming on October 8, 2014

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ADVICE TO MINISTER

Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION

Ref: 180730

Date: September 29, 2014

Issue: Small and medium sized businesses enterprises (SMEs) are seeking information on the role and services of consolidators for agrifood exports.

Background:

Before an export market is established, BC exporters are often requested to send small, introductory shipments of their products to international clients. Shipping products on a less than container basis is costly for many BC firms. BC exporters will engage with a consolidator (also called a freight forwarder) whose role is to combine shipments with others bound for the same destination thereby reducing the shipping cost to any one company in the combined shipment. The shipment may be entirely consigned to one buyer or to multiple buyers. A consolidator may also be an export management or a trading company that frequently exports to a country and has space available to sell.

Consolidators provide the following main services:

- Best Routing: recommend the best (economical/timely/safe) routing and book space with a carrier.
- Warehousing and Distribution: arrange storage, either after customs clearance or while still in bond.
- Customs Clearance: provide a basic knowledge of local and foreign customs clearance procedures including paperwork and offer advice on foreign import regulations.
- Consolidation: consolidate smaller shipments into a full carload/trailer load/container load thus providing savings to the exporter.

The Ministry of Agriculture (AGRI) uses consolidators when shipping exhibitors' products when AGRI is participating in an international trade show. The important role of consolidators has been included in past exporter seminars that AGRI has undertaken.

Discussion:

Consolidation is a commercial service. Most international freight forwarders in Canada are members of the Canadian International Freight Forwarders Association. There are between 50 to 100 logistics firms in BC offering consolidation, transportation and shipping services. Most consolidators are located in the Lower Mainland as it is the main shipping hub with several ports and the Vancouver International Airport. BC exporters outside of the Lower Mainland will generally truck goods using a common carrier to the consolidator's warehouse in the Lower Mainland.

AGRI will continue to raise the awareness on the role of consolidators through export seminars and other industry activities as appropriate. AGRI will reach out to the Ministry of International Trade and Agriculture and Agrifood Canada so that they will also include discussion on the role of consolidators in any industry outreach they may undertake.

Conclusion:

There are several consolidators in BC offering specialized and customized services to assist agrifoods suppliers to export product to international markets. Government can play an informational role by including details on the importance of consolidators at upcoming seminars. Further, consolidators will be invited to participate in upcoming seminars where appropriate.

Contact: Brenda Lennox, Senior Manager 250-356-2945.

DIR GT ADM GP DM DS

Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION

Ref: 180628

Date: September 26, 2014

Issue: Participation of Minister of Agriculture at Legislative Agriculture Chairs (LAC) Summit; January 2-4, 2015 in Clearwater, Florida.

Background:

- The LAC Summit is a non-partisan annual forum for agriculture and rural development legislators (leaders and critics) from United States and Canadian provinces and territories (P/Ts), and industry representatives.
- LAC seeks to foster cooperative educational, policy and leadership opportunities among elected legislators with agricultural and rural development responsibilities.
- The 2015 LAC Summit (14th) is in Clearwater, Florida from January 2 to 4, 2015 with representation from most, if not all, United States and Canadian P/Ts.
- State Agricultural and Rural Leaders (SARL), organizes LAC.
- Expenses are covered for elected legislators who attend by invitation.
- Other public officials and SARL industry members attend at their own expense.
- Funding for LAC comes from United States and Canadian public and industry agencies.
- Proposed 2015 LAC agenda topics include: sustainability measurement – importance to legislators; water quality initiatives; rural development; legality of drones; veterinary legal issues; drought and water conservation; beginning farmers; rural roads; agriculture and culture; rural economies and energy; farmland preservation; animal care standards; and local food systems.

s.13;s.16

Contact: Barron Carswell, Corporate Governance, Policy and Legislation Branch, 250 356-5042

A/DIR GL ADM JM DM DS

Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING
with Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resources Operations Staff on September 29, 2014

Ref: 180699

Date: September 26, 2014

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Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING
with Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resources Operations Staff on September 29, 2014

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Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING
with Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resources Operations Staff on September 29, 2014

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s.12;s.13

Contact: Barron Carswell, Corporate Governance, Policy and Legislation Branch, 250 356-5042

ADIR GL ADM JM DM DS

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ADVICE TO MINISTER

**Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION**

Ref: 180715

Date: September 22, 2014

Issue: Agreement on Interprovincial Allocation of Chicken - Update

Background:

- National supply and provincial allocations of chicken production are determined by the Chicken Farmers of Canada (CFC) and approved by Farm Products Council of Canada (FPCC) pursuant to the 2001 Federal-Provincial Agreement for Chicken (FPAC) and federal legislation.
- Historically chicken production has been allocated to provinces based on historical shares. This process now takes into account bottom-up requests from processors for allocation increases, within provincial and regional caps, as set out in the FPAC Operating Agreement.

s.13;s.16

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Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION

s.13;s.16

Contact: Heather Anderson, Corporate Governance, Policy and Legislation, 250 356-1687
Reviewed/edited by Wanda Gorsuch, BCFIRB

DIR AS ADM JM DM DS

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Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION

Ref: 180732

Date: September 22, 2014

Issue: Lac La Hache Irrigation Pumping Rates.

Background:

- On the Minister's summer tour a question was asked regarding high irrigation pumping rates (electrical costs) for irrigation.

Discussion:

- BC Hydro has a subsidized rate for electrical costs for irrigation pumping.
- Irrigation pumping rates have risen from 3.93 c/kWh in 2010 to 4.87 c/kWh in 2014.
 - See appended 2014 BC Hydro irrigation rates schedule and conditions.
- Complaints about excessive irrigation pumping costs have been determined to be issues surrounding system design and operation. For example:
 - Oversized pumps that are run at higher pressure than required;
 - Used pumps initially designed and installed for older irrigation system being used for new systems;
 - Improperly maintained irrigation systems causing increased flow rates which lead to higher electricity requirements. Examples include damaged and leaking piping and/or worn nozzles.

Suggested Response:

- Client can contact Andrew Petersen, Regional Resource Specialist for more information on irrigations system design, operation and maintenance; 250 828-4514; Andrew.Petersen@gov.bc.ca.
- Clients must confirm with BC Hydro that the electricity is being used for irrigation pumping to ensure proper rates are being charged.

Contact:

Geoff Hughes-Games, Innovation and Adaptation Services Branch, 604-556-3102
Andrew Petersen, Innovation and Adaptation Services Branch, 250-828-4514

DIR GT ADM GP DM DS

SCHEDULE 1401 - IRRIGATION

<u>Availability</u>	For motor loads of 746 watts or more used for irrigation and outdoor sprinkling where electricity will be used principally during the Irrigation Season as defined below. Supply is 60 hertz, single or three phase at the secondary or primary potential available. BC Hydro reserves the right to determine the potential of the service connection.
<u>Applicable in</u>	Rate Zone I and Rate Zone IB
<u>Rate</u>	<u>During the Irrigation Season</u> 4.87 ¢ per kWh. <u>During the Non-Irrigation Season</u> First 150 kWh @ 4.87 ¢ per kWh. All additional kWh @ 38.64 ¢ per kWh.
<u>Minimum Charge</u>	<u>During the Irrigation Season</u> \$4.87 per kilowatt of connected load per month for a period of eight months commencing in March in any year whether consumption is registered or not. <u>During the Non-Irrigation Season</u> (i) Where the consumption is 500 kWh or less: Nil. (ii) Where the consumption is more than 500 kWh: \$38.98 per kilowatt of connected load.
<u>Discount for Ownership of Transformers</u>	A discount of 25¢ per month per kW of connected load shall be applied to the above rate if a Customer supplies the transformation from a primary potential to a secondary potential. The Billing Code for Schedule 1401 Customers eligible for the Discount for Ownership of Transformers shall be Schedule 1402.
<u>Irrigation Season</u>	In respect of each service - the period commencing with a meter reading on or about 1 March in any year, with a mid-season meter reading on or about 31 July, and ending with a meter reading on or about 31 October in that same year. BC Hydro may, in its discretion extend the aforesaid period by postponing the termination date to any date not later than 30 November, for the sole purpose of permitting a Customer to fill reservoirs necessary for the operation of the irrigation or sprinkling system.

ACCEPTED: [Signature]
ORDER NO.

[Signature]
COMMISSION SECRETARY

Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING
with John Les, Chair, BC Farm Industry Review Board, September 9, 2014 at noon.

Ref: 180673
s.12;s.13

Date: September 8, 2014

CONFIDENTIAL
ADVICE TO MINISTER

Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING
with John Les, Chair, BC Farm Industry Review Board, September 9, 2014 at noon.

s.12;s.13

CONFIDENTIAL
ADVICE TO MINISTER

Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING
with John Les, Chair, BC Farm Industry Review Board, September 9, 2014 at noon.

s.13

Contact: Heather Anderson, Corporate Governance, Policy and Legislation, 250 356-1687

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ADVICE TO MINISTER

Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING
Joint Ministers' Meeting w/Michael Daley, BC Tree Fruits Cooperative

Ref: 180498

Date: September 5, 2014

Issue: Ministers' Meeting on BC Tree Fruits Cooperative

Background: The BC Tree Fruits Cooperative (the Cooperative) applied for a Land Based Winery (LBW) license for an apple cidery. The Liquor Distribution Branch (LDB) of the Ministry of Justice has indicated that the request of the Cooperative was recently denied because it is outside of their current policy. Currently, that policy is as follows:

In order for a winery to be classified as an LBW, the applicant must meet the following criteria (**bold emphasis added**):

- All of your Products are made from grapes, fruit, or honey - 100 % of which is grown/produced in British Columbia;
- At your Licensed Winery Site, you have two acres of grapevines if you produce grape wine; and/or two acres of fruit orchards if you produce fruit wine. **You farm and use this acreage for the manufacture of your Product.**
- If you produce honey wine, you have a minimum of 50 bee colonies; the honey from which must be extracted and fermented at the winery site.
- A minimum of 25% of the grapes or fruit or honey used in your Licensed Winery's production is from acreage and bee colonies owned or leased by you.
- Your wine must be produced utilizing traditional wine making techniques.
- You may use wine, juice or honey acquired from other Land Based Wineries in the manufacturing of your product, but may not use wine, juice or honey acquired from a Licensed Winery classified by the LDB as a Commercial Winery.
- You do not share common ownership or management with a Licensed Winery classified by the LDB as a Commercial Winery.

Licensed wineries that do not meet the above criteria for a LBW will be classified as a Commercial Winery and subject to the terms and conditions of the LDB's agreement with Commercial Wineries.

s.13

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ADVICE TO MINISTER

Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING
Joint Ministers' Meeting w/Michael Daley, BC Tree Fruits Cooperative

s.13

Contact: Timothy Prisiak, Senior Policy Analyst, 250-356-1704

A/DIR GL ADM JM DM DS

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ADVICE TO MINISTER

s.22

Thank you for your email addressed to the Honourable Norm Letnick, Minister of Agriculture regarding the BC Liquor Distribution Branch's (LDB) Land-Based Winery classification system (LBW). I am responding on his behalf.

The Government of British Columbia has adopted a comprehensive, multi-faceted approach to supporting the BC economy. The LBW classification represents an example of the support provided to the agriculture, small business and tourism business sectors.

First introduced in the 1970s, this classification system was intended to provide support for a fledgling BC wine industry. At that time, wineries growing a minimum 20 acres of agricultural product on-site and using 50 percent of their product to produce 100 percent BC wine would receive mark-up benefits. While the LBW classification system has evolved, the current model continues to uphold the original intent of this program.

In order for the LDB to continue providing for the people of British Columbia, the LBW criteria cannot be removed or significantly changed. This allows the LBW designation to continue providing support to small businesses and BC agriculture, while attracting tourists to winery locations where they can view the orchards and vineyards that form the basis of the product they purchase; while also ensuring that the people of British Columbia continue to be able to access the vital public services that they currently do from the Province.

I recognize that this is a delicate balancing act, but I am pleased to note the LBW designation system has achieved success beyond what any of my predecessors could have contemplated with 249 designated LBW to date. The Government of BC continues to support this industry sector and has no plans to remove or significantly change the LBW classification criteria.

Yours very truly,

Suzanne Anton QC
Attorney General
Minister of Justice

pc: Parliamentary Secretary John Yap

The Honourable Norm Letnick
The Honourable Naomi Yamamoto
The Honourable Shirley Bond
Ms. Linda Larson, MLA
Mr. Dan Ashton, MLA
Premier Christy Clark

Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING
with Gary Sands, Canadian Federation of Independent Grocers, November 5, 2014

Ref: 180354

Date: October 22, 2014

Meeting Topic: Canadian Federation of Independent Grocers (CFIG) would like to discuss concerns about recent consolidation of grocery retail in Canada and the impact on its members and suppliers. CFIG would also like to discuss opportunities for BC producers and processors to increase their presence in independent grocery stores.

Background: Over many years, there has been a steady decline in the percentage of total Canadian groceries sold through independent grocery stores. In 2000, independent sales accounted for 43% and in 2010 (latest available stats) they dropped to 40%.

Canadian grocery retailing is dominated by Loblaw's, Sobeys and Quebec-based Metro. Both Loblaw's and Sobeys have recently acquired additional retail outlets (Loblaw's: Shoppers Drug Mart; Sobeys: Safeway). In addition, US retail giants Walmart, Costco and Target have and continue to expand operations in Canada, resulting in a 3% growth in grocery floor space in Canada over the last year – while overall market growth has been around 1%.

The consolidation and growth of the Canadian grocery retail sector have resulted in declining profit margins and increasing pressure on suppliers by the dominant grocery chains. These results have been particularly hard on smaller independent grocers.

CFIG opposes consolidation of the industry and made a submission to the federal Competition Bureau on the (then) proposed sale of Canada Safeway to Sobeys. The submission cited a threat to the continued viability of independent grocers. CFIG stated that small and medium-scale producers and processors would also be impacted by the sale.

CFIG's submission also noted that:

- Sobeys parent, Empire Co., purchased BC-owned Thrifty Foods in 2007. The subsequent purchase of Safeway further consolidates both BC's food retail industry and the food value chain.
- This consolidation not only affects competing grocery stores, but could also result in a crowding out of small and medium-sized producers and processors from the food retail market.
- Independent grocery stores in the province may lose viability because their purchasing costs are higher. Many purchase goods from manufacturers or distributors owned by competing chains, and may be required to pay surcharges to fund their competitors' businesses.
- BC producers and processors may lose market access previously provided by manufacturers, distributors and grocers who cannot stay viable in a highly consolidated market.
- The vertical integration of dominant food retail chains, and the exclusive arrangements they have with their suppliers, present barriers to entry for new producers, processors and grocers. Continued concentration intensifies this situation.

CFIG and its member stores often differentiate themselves from the larger national grocery chains by carrying and promoting local agri-food products that the larger chains do not carry. Individual CFIG members have previously been strong supporters of BC buy local programs. However, larger, national grocery chains are also becoming increasingly active in local procurement, diluting the extent to which independent grocers are able to differentiate themselves based on their promotion of local agri-food products.

Discussion: The sale of Safeway stores to Sobeys was approved at the federal level with a requirement that Sobeys sell some of its stores. Impacts on independent grocers as a result of acquisitions within the grocery

sector do not necessarily mean there is a lack of competition in the marketplace. The Competition Bureau has asked suppliers to provide information to them that would indicate anti-competitive behavior on the part of the dominant players in the sector.

s.13

Food retailers of all sizes have been investing to take advantage of the developing market for locally-sourced foods. Independent grocers may be particularly well-positioned to profit from this market; for instance, because their procurement arrangements can be more flexible than those of large chains.

The Buy Local Program, launched on August 30, 2012 involved a commitment of \$2 million to help businesses in BC's agri-foods sector market local foods. The cost-shared program was delivered on behalf of government by the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC. Over 38 applications were funded. Many Buy Local initiatives strengthen value chain linkages to help get BC products to market with high visibility. The Minister of Agriculture's mandate letter includes direction to continue with a new Buy Local Program. Discussions are ongoing with respect to the funding and delivery of this program.

s.13

Suggested Response:

s.13

Contact: James Marshall, Corporate Governance, Policy and Legislation Branch, 250-387-9565.

DIR GL ADM JM DM DS

Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING
With His Worship Mayor Bruce Banman, City of Abbotsford on September 16, 2014, 9am

Ref: 179945

Date: September 2, 2014

Issue: His Worship Mayor Banman and City Manager, George Murray would like to discuss:

1. Medical Marihuana Grow Regulations; and
2. Audible Bird Scare Devices.

Background: The City of Abbotsford requested application of the Right to Farm Regulation under the *Local Government Act* in 1999 to access farm bylaw powers to regulate on-farm composting on mushroom farms. As a result, their bylaws affecting farming in the Agriculture Land Reserve (ALR) require Minister's approval.

1. The City would like to prohibit the production of medical marihuana throughout the City, including ALR land. The City has been notified that the Ministry's position is that medical marihuana should not be prohibited in the ALR by local government bylaw and that the Minister would not approve their bylaw to prohibit.
2. The City Council is divided on the use of propane cannons. Initially, they sent a bylaw to the Minister for consideration that was restrictive to the point of prohibition. The Minister did not approve the bylaw. Subsequently, Council defeated a bylaw that was consistent with Minister's Bylaw Standards by a single vote.

s.13;s.16

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ADVICE TO MINISTER

Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING
With His Worship Mayor Bruce Banman, City of Abbotsford on September 16, 2014, 9am
s.13;s.16

Contact: Bert van Dalssen, Manager, Strengthening Farming, 604 556-3109

DIR GT ADM GP DM DS

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ADVICE TO MINISTER

Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR DEPUTY MINISTER FOR MEETING
with the Guangdong Administration of Oceans and Fisheries, 2:00-3:30 pm September 9, 2014

Ref: 180540

Date: September 2, 2014

Issue: Officials from the Guangdong Administration of Oceans and Fisheries would like to meet with BC Ministry of Agriculture to share information on the two provinces' seafood industries.

Background:

- Guangdong (GD) is BC's sister-province in China. In the fall of 2011, the Ministry of Agriculture (AGRI) finalized an MOU with the Guangdong Agriculture Department (GDA) and Guangdong Administration of Oceans and Fisheries (GAOF), as part of enhancing cooperation in agricultural trade, two-way investment, and the exchange of technical and regulatory knowledge.
- Fisheries is one of the most important industries in GD. Total fisheries output in 2012 was \$35 billion with exports of \$3.2 billion.
- GAOF has a broad mandate (similar to the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans) including:
 - Implementation of national and provincial work on marine and fisheries policies, laws and regulations and organizing the research for marine strategies;
 - Integrated management, coordination and guidance for marine development;
 - Marine environmental protection and restoration; and
 - Responsibility for coastal development and protection, among others.

s.16

- The Minister also met separately with the GDA along with officials from Alberta, Saskatchewan and the local office of the Canadian Consul General.
- The September GD delegation will be led by Mr. Chen Liangyao, Vice Director General, Administration of Ocean and Fisheries of Guangdong Province. Mr. Chen (Deputy Minister equivalent) will be joined by four senior officials from GAOF as per the attached list. Messrs. Chen, Li and Sun met the Minister in June in Guangzhou, the capital city of GD. An interpreter will accompany the GD delegation.
- DM Derek Sturko will be joined by ADM Grant Parnell, Brenda Lennox, Barron Carswell, Myron Roth, and Dennis Chalmers (optional) to meet the GAOF on September 9. AGRI will extend an invitation to Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat should someone from the Protocol Office wish to attend. It is important to have similar numbers from both delegations so staff numbers will be adjusted accordingly.
- December 2014 will see the second year of a BC seafood promotion in Guangzhou organized by the local BC Office. \$16,000 in funding will be provided from the Market Development chapter of Growing Forward 2. GAOF also supports this promotion through the GD Fisheries Association.

Discussion:

s.13;s.16

Suggested Response:

- Meet with the GAOF delegation to discuss the meeting topics they have provided.

APPENDIX 1 – GAOF Delegation; Biography for Mr. Chen

APPENDIX 2 – Speaking Points

Contact: Brenda Lennox, Innovation and Adaptation Services, 250 356-2945
Myron Roth, Sector Development, 250 356-1831

DIR GT ADM GP

APPENDIX 1

LIST OF GUANGDONG ADMINISTRATION OF OCEAN AND FISHERIES DELEGATION September 9, 2014 visit to British Columbia

- Mr. Chen Liangyao, Vice Director General, Administration of Ocean and Fisheries of Guangdong Province
- Mr. Gao Feng, Division Director, Administration of Ocean and Fisheries of Guangdong Province
- Mr. Zhang Heng, Vice Division Director, General Office, the People's Government of Guangdong Province
- Mr. Li Qing, Vice Director, Division of Science, Technology and External Cooperation, Administration of Ocean and Fisheries of Guangdong Province
- Mr. Sun Qiyong, Vice Director, Division of Fisheries and Pelagic Catching, Administration of Ocean and Fisheries of Guangdong Province

BIOGRAPHY FOR MR. CHEN:

s.16;s.22

APPENDIX 2

Speaking Points for DM Sturko

- Welcome to British Columbia. I understand many of you had the opportunity to meet with Minister Norm Letnick during his recent visit to China. The Minister told me of your meeting and wishes to extend his welcome and sends his regrets that he could not attend today's meeting.

(pause for translation)

- The Province of British Columbia is proud of having one of the most diverse agricultural, seafood and food processing industries in Canada. Our farmers and producers grow high-quality food for millions of people around the world.

(pause for translation)

- British Columbia is committed to agri-food excellence. Our industries have earned an international reputation for their commitment to sustainable practices, which ensure the integrity of natural resources, the highest standards in animal care, and stringent health and food safety standards that meet the expectations of discerning consumers.

(pause for translation)

- We want to thank the Chinese government and China's agriculture and seafood industry for the confidence they have demonstrated in our seafood industry.

(pause for translation)

- We are honoured that you value our commitment to excellence and our agricultural and seafood diversity with continued trade partnerships. We hope that through cooperation and collaboration our governments and industries will achieve great mutual benefits and help build lasting relationships.

(pause for translation)

- Thank you again for coming here to meet with us today. I understand you have specific topics you wish to discuss. With your agreement, I will now discuss your first question regarding aquaculture experimental culture. Please feel free to ask any questions that you may have.

(pause for translation)

Open Discussion about Question 1: Technology cooperation with Canadian counterparts regarding Aquaculture experimental culture.

- Most experimental culture of current and new species of fish and shellfish is carried out by research facilities. There are several such facilities in BC. These include, for example:
 - The Pacific Biological Station and the Center for Aquaculture & Environmental Research (Department of Fisheries and Oceans);
 - The International Centre for Sturgeon Studies (Vancouver Island University);
 - Centre for Shellfish Research and the Deep Bay Field Station (Vancouver Island University); and
 - Initiative for the Study of the Environment and its Aquatic Systems (“InSeas”) (University of British Columbia).

(pause for translation)

- There are also collaborations with working farms; however, these tend to be pilot projects to assess commercial feasibility. Examples include:
 - the Namgis First Nation land-based closed containment Atlantic salmon pilot project (Port McNeill);
 - the Taste of BC Land-Based Model Trout Farm (Nanaimo); and
 - AgriMarine's proprietary tank technology, the AgriMarine System (West Coast Fish Culture/Lois Lake).

(pause for translation)

- The Ministry works closely with the key industry trade associations representing the various aquaculture commodity groups and interests. The Ministry suggests following up with these groups. These include:
 - BC Salmon Farmers Association (www.salmonfarmers.org);
 - BC Shellfish Growers Association (www.bcsга.ca);
 - The Aboriginal Aquaculture Association (www.aboriginalaquaculture.com); and
 - The Freshwater Aquaculture Association of BC.

(pause for translation)

- Before we go onto the next topic, I'd like to hear about your experiences with technological cooperation for the culture of new species.

Open Discussion about Question 2: Operation of large fishing vessels in Canada.

- I understand Guangdong is making efforts to move to larger fishing vessels. Within Canada fishing vessels and licensing is the jurisdiction of the Canadian Federal Government.

(pause for translation)

- The only expansion in fishing fleet size that we have seen in several decades in BC is in the Groundfish industry and specifically for vessels fishing Hake, Pollock and Arrow Tooth flounder. There are currently four trawl vessels that range from 133-185 feet in length and are designed to head, gut and freeze their catch onboard.

(pause for translation)

- There are also large Joint Venture Processing vessels, which are foreign processing vessels that process the fish that are caught by Canadian licensed vessels. These joint venture mother ships are restricted to processing Hake only.

(pause for translation)

- These large vessels have an advantage over the smaller trawl vessels that have to deliver their catch to shore based processing companies because they can catch small amounts of fish and immediately process them onboard without any loss of quality. Hake, Arrowtooth flounder and Pollock are

species of fish that must be frozen quickly because the flesh becomes very soft in a short period of time.

- How is the process for upgrading for Guangdong? Is the upgrades of vessels done in cooperation with industry?

(pause for translation)

Open Discussion about seafood quality control and traceability system in Canada:

- Traceability is one of the most important aspects of BC's agri-food system, as it ensures that we can consistently provide safe, high-quality food products to consumers.

(pause for translation)

- Federal, provincial and territorial governments are currently working towards the development of a national agriculture and food traceability system that will allow for information collection and sharing in an organized framework.

(pause for translation)

- This national traceability system supports the production of safe, high-quality products, such as beef, by enabling industry and government to efficiently and effectively identify and respond to any food safety or quality issues. This system involves cooperation between all stakeholders.

(pause for translation)

- Seafood quality control and traceability system is under the jurisdiction of The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) (<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/aquatic-animals/exports/eng/1299156521180/1320599162614>).

(pause for translation)

- CFIA, which is similar to China's Administration for Quality Standards, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ), is responsible for certifying exports of aquatic animals in order to:
 - maintain access for existing aquatic animals and seafood markets where there are requirements for aquatic animal health and/or food safety; and
 - secure entry to new markets by negotiating practical, cost-effective and science-based export conditions.

(pause for translation)

- The CFIA certifies exports for animal health and food safety purposes, which can include fish and seafood export program requirements.

(pause for translation)

- The CFIA's National Animal Health Export Program facilitates Canadian export activities related to aquatic animal health. It will do this through its inspection and certification programs that are designed to meet the requirements of other countries, using science-based principles and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) standards.

(pause for translation)

- As of 2011, seven species in twelve fisheries have been certified sustainable by the Marine Stewardship Council's international certification program. Species include: halibut, hake, tuna, sablefish, pink and sockeye salmon and dogfish.

(pause for translation)

- The Marine Stewardship Council eco-label program is fully consistent with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization guidelines for eco-labeling and is considered the global standard for fisheries sustainability.

(pause for translation)

- The Province of BC supports seafood traceability initiatives, both federally and provincially. At the provincial level, the province believes traceability initiatives should be industry driven. Such programs should, ideally, meet international standards in support of food safety (product recall) and sustainability (source/stock of origin). (A review of current

traceability systems used in BC can be found here for more information:

<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/omfd/reports/traceability/index.html>).

(pause for translation)

- An example of a voluntary system used Canada-wide that integrates fishers, processors and retailers in “This Fish”. (More information on this program can be found here: www.thisfish.info.)

Open Discussion about Question 4: BC seafood promotion in Guangdong province:

- Thank you for the support of the BC seafood promotion. We are pleased that the Ministry could provide funding to the BC Office in Guangzhou to support a BC Seafood Promotion and Reception in the Deluxe Restaurant in Guangzhou in November 2013. Thank you for your continued support of this promotion.

(pause for translation)

- The BC Guangzhou office is planning to coordinate another BC seafood promotion in Guangzhou in December, again with support from BC. Perhaps in the future our Minister will have the opportunity to return to Guangzhou and participate in the promotion with officials from your Administration.

(pause for translation)

- Again, thank you for visiting us today and I will relay our discussion back to Minister Letnick.