

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

Ref: 182709

Date: August 7, 2015

Issue: Statistics Canada's updated labour force estimates show 2014 BC agriculture employment at 24,300 - down 3,700 from the 28,000 estimated in 2013.

Background:

- The Canadian Labour Force Survey (LFS) is conducted by Statistics Canada and is the primary source of estimates of the number of people employed, unemployed or not in the labour force – for persons 15 years or older.
- The LFS:
 - Produces an estimate of the number of BC residents employed in agriculture.
 - Allocates a person's employment to their province of principal residence (not in which province they are working).
 - Allocates a person's employment to a single industry (for person's working in more than one industry all hours worked are counted in the sector in which they "usually work the most hours").
 - Excludes temporary foreign workers and out-of-province workers.
 - Excludes people living on First Nation reserves and Crown lands, residents of institutions and certain remote regions, as well as full-time members of the Canadian Forces.
 - Agriculture includes aquaculture.
 - An estimate of employment in a sector below 1,500 is suppressed (indicated as zero)

Discussion:

- The recent decline in the LFS estimate does not necessarily mean there has been a decline in the number of people working in BC agriculture nor a decline in the number of BC residents employed in agriculture.
- Statistics Canada cautions about sampling error in the LFS. For 2014, the actual number of BC residents employed in agriculture lies between 19,683 and 28,917 and in 2013 between 22,322 and 33,678. With these large ranges we cannot say with confidence that the actual number for 2014 is down from 2013.
- This year, aquaculture estimates fell below 1,500 and therefore were recorded to have zero employees, to which there were 1,500 in the 2013 LFS estimate.
- BC farmers employ workers from BC, other parts of Canada and from other countries. A more complete accounting of employment in BC agriculture comes from the Census of Agriculture where in 2010 the number of paid agriculture workers totaled 45,505. About 32,000 of these were seasonal or temporary workers that would not be included in the LFS when they worked more hours in another sector and/or had their principal residence outside BC. That same year the LFS estimated 29,700 BC residents were employed in agriculture.
- The number of Temporary Foreign Workers (including Seasonal Agriculture Workers) has risen from 696 in 2005 to 6,007 in 2014. BC farmers also secure unpaid farm help through the World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms and the Work Away Programs.
- JTST notes that the number of BC residents employed in agriculture has dropped (from 38,000 in 2005 to 24,300 by 2014) but no specific event(s) can be identified to explain the consistent employment decline.

Summary: The LFS provides estimates for one aspect of agriculture employment – the number of BC residents working in agriculture. The recent decline in the LFS estimate does not mean that there is a decline in the number of people working in BC agriculture.

Contact: Carmen Matthews, Manager, Corporate Governance, Policy & Legislation, 250 356-2521

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Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING
with Minister Norm Letnick; Jimmy Mitchell, VP of AdvantageBC and Zhang Dinglong, Hu
Xiaohui, Xu Jiandong, Wang Zhangwei, Wang Lubing of Agricultural Bank of China
on October 13, 2015

Ref: 183062

Date: October 1, 2015

Issue: Meeting with a delegation from AdvantageBC and the Agricultural Bank of China regarding the latter's future plans for Canada and BC.

Background:

- AdvantageBC is a non-profit organization with the mandate to promote international business in BC.
- The Agricultural Bank of China ('ABC', the 'Bank') established a representative office in Vancouver in 2012 at the instigation of AdvantageBC.
- In April 2015, the Bank submitted its Schedule III Charter application to operate as a foreign branch in Canada to the Office of Superintendent of Financial Institutions (OSFI) (not yet approved).
- Three members of the five-person visiting delegation are Non-Executive Directors of the Bank and they also work at Central Huijin Investment Ltd. (see Appendix A). China Central Huijin Investment Ltd. is an investment company of the Chinese central government. It is an organization by which the Chinese government acts as a shareholder for the big four state owned banks, thereby improving corporate governance and initiating reforms in the banking industry.
- ABC is the only one of the Chinese big four state owned bank to establish its Canadian head office in Vancouver, primarily due to the proximity to the agriculture industry in western Canada, especially in BC.
- s.13
- ABC has a long history of supporting the development of the agriculture sector in China. The Bank is now a full service commercial bank active in all industries, but the agriculture sector is their focus and the differentiating factor compared to its Chinese peers.
- Minister Wat has met with the Bank leadership team on multiple occasions.
- The Bank will meet separately with Ministers Wat and Coleman during this visit to discuss financial areas of interest.
- Deputy Minister Sturko will support Minister Letnick at this meeting; Ken Wu from MIT will also attend to take notes on action items.

Discussion:

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- s.12,s.13

Key Speaking Points:

- BC's agrifood and seafood industries include agriculture, aquaculture and commercial fisheries, and processing of food and beverages. Over 200 primary agriculture products and about 100 species of fish, shellfish and marine plants are produced in BC.
- BC has achieved record-setting agrifood and seafood exports to China in each of the last four years, and we're confident those numbers are only going to grow.
- Seafood and agrifood exports to China reached \$264 million in 2014, more than double the amount exported in 2010.

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Ministry of Agriculture
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on October 13, 2015

- BC is the preferred gateway for Asian trade to and from North America. Port Metro Vancouver and the Prince Rupert Port Authority are closer to Asia than other North American ports.
- BC has implemented the Pacific Gateway Transportation Strategy 2012 - 2020, a public/private partnership, investing billions of dollars to increase major road and rail capacity, and bulk and container terminal capacity at ports in BC.
- The BC Government is hopeful that the Bank is successful in its Schedule III application.

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

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

APPENDIX A

MEETING ATTENDEES

- Mr. Jimmy Mitchell, Vice-President of Business Development, AdvantageBC
- Mr. ZHANG Dinglong, Non-executive Director, Agricultural Bank of China
- Mr. HU Xiaohui, Non-executive Director, Agricultural Bank of China
- Mr. XU, Jiandong, Non-executive Director, Agricultural Bank of China
- Mr. WANG Zhangwei, Senior Vice President Banking Institutions Department 1, Central Huijin Investment Ltd.
- Mr. WANG Lubing, Deputy Director of Investor Relationship Division, Board Office, Agricultural Bank of China
- Mr. SHI Hao, Chief Representative in Canada, Agricultural Bank of China (Canada)
- Ms. WANG Shuiyun, Head of Branch Preparatory Team in Canada, Agricultural Bank of China (Canada)
- Mr. JIANG Jianping (Joseph), Deputy Chief Representative in Canada, Agricultural Bank of China (Canada)

ATTENDEE BIOGRAPHIES (As Available)

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

APPENDIX B

BC Agrifood Exports to China (value in Millions)

Rank	2012	2013	2014	12-13 Growth	13-14 Growth	Top Agrifood Products in 2014
3 rd largest market for BC Agrifood	\$49.1	\$70.6	\$84.7	43.8%	20.0%	Food Preparations for Manufacturing, Pork Products, Cherries, Wine, Potatoes, Blueberries, Water

BC Seafood Exports to China (value in Millions)

Rank	2012	2013	2014	12-13 Growth	13-14 Growth	Top Seafood Products in 2014
2 nd largest market for BC Seafood	\$120.9	\$157.6	\$179.0	30.4%	13.6%	Crab, Geoduck Clams, Hake, Shrimp & Prawns, Herring, Flounder, Pink Salmon, Sea Cucumbers, Tuna, Pollock, Sockeye Salmon

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

Ref: 183153

Date: October 19, 2015

Issue: Market Access for Fresh Blueberries in China and Korea

Background:

- British Columbia (BC) produced approximately 65,500 tonnes of highbush blueberries in 2014, generating more than \$110 million in farm cash receipts.
- BC exported nearly 52,000 tonnes of highbush blueberries in 2014, generating \$168.7 million in export sales. BC's top export markets for fresh and frozen blueberries included the United States (\$152.6 million), Japan (\$8.9 million), China (\$3.7 million), Australia (\$1.8 million) and Chile (\$0.6 million).
- The BC Blueberry Council (BCBC) has identified China and South Korea as priority growth markets for BC blueberry exports and has been working with the federal and provincial government to achieve access for fresh blueberries in both markets.

First Nations Considerations: N/A

Discussion:

China

- In June 2015, the federal government announced market access for fresh Canadian blueberries to China pending a final agreement on import protocols. As part of the protocol process, Chinese inspectors travelled to BC in August to inspect and pre-authorize shipments.
- The *Protocol of Phytosanitary Requirements for Export of Canadian British Columbia Fresh Blueberries to China*, which was initialed in June, was formally signed by the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) in China and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) in Ottawa on September 9, 2015.
- CFIA established a plant health protocol that must be followed when exporting blueberries to China, which includes a requirement for all blueberry exporters to be registered with CFIA.
- As part of this protocol, blueberry exporters must use one of five CFIA-approved packers: South Alder Farms, Driediger Farms, Berry Haven Farms, Golden Eagle or Silver Valley Farms. Any grower interested in accessing the Chinese market will either have to ship through one of these packers or alternatively set up their own packing operation, sign up for the program with CFIA, follow the protocol for growing and packing, and pass the audit and inspections. The packers ensure the berries are clean, sorted and free of disease/pests.
- A total of 6,040 boxes of packed blueberries from five registered fields were inspected during seven separate inspections at four registered packing houses. Two-thousand-one-hundred and ninety-six boxes (~3,500 kg) of blueberries were successfully exported to China in 2015.
- s.16
- China has the potential to grow into a \$65 million market for BC blueberries annually.

Korea

- Two officials from Korea's Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency (QIA) visited the Vancouver area from July 6-9, 2015 in support of market access for fresh BC blueberries. CFIA organized a comprehensive tour, which included visits to blueberry fields, packing houses, a nursery, a freight forwarder and the Ministry of Agriculture's Plant Health Laboratory. The delegation also met with Ministry staff and BCBC representatives.
- s.16

- After completing a public consultation period in Korea in August, QIA finalized the *Import Requirements for Canadian Fresh Blueberries* and posted them on their website on September 21, 2015. The requirements came into effect immediately and BC blueberries are now eligible for export to Korea.
- CFIA expects the first shipments will take place in 2016. Normalized trade will require two more consecutive years of audits with no non-compliant shipments. This is consistent with what Korea requires for other markets, such as the United States and Chile.
- s.13,s.16

Conclusion:

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Contact: Mat Patterson, Manager, Market Development and Promotions Unit. 250-356-0191

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Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER LETNICK, FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING
With the Delta Farmers' Institute on November 26, 2015
AND FOR MLA SCOTT HAMILTON (DELTA-NORTH), ATTENDING ON BEHALF
OF MINISTER LETNICK on November 27, 2015

Ref: 183367

Date: November 17, 2015

Issue: Meeting with the Delta Farmers' Institute regarding the Right to Farm Review and Fraser River Modelling and Monitoring Salinity project.

Background: The Delta Farmers' Institute (Institute) has invited the Minister by letter to speak during their Fall Membership Meeting on Friday November 27 between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon. The letter highlights two topics: the Ministry of Agriculture's (Ministry) review of the Right to Farm suite of legislation and the Ministry's Fraser River Modelling and Monitoring Salinity project. In the past, the Institute has stated that farmers should be consulted prior to any community being deregulated under the Right to Farm Regulation. Minister Letnick is unavailable to attend; MLA Scott Hamilton (Delta North) will speak for 5-10 minutes on the Minister's behalf.

First Nations Considerations: N/A

Discussion:

The Right to Farm Review

- The Right to Farm Review (Review) was conducted to examine government's suite of legislation, policies and tools. The Review focused on the following objectives:
 - Review the original objectives of the Acts;
 - Review the authorities, scope and processes used, including the regulatory and policy frameworks;
 - Review the value to and use of strengthening farming tools and services by local governments; and
 - Consider options for positive recognition or incentives for positive actions of local governments towards agriculture.
 - The Review was conducted between June and August 2015. Fifteen local governments from across the province were invited to participate in the Review including the Corporation of Delta. The group of 15 encompassed:
 - Nine communities within Zone 1 and six communities within Zone 2 of the Agricultural Land Reserve.
 - The four local governments (including Delta) regulated under the Right to Farm regulation of the *Local Government Act*.
 - In addition to local governments, the Ministry met with representatives from 14 agriculture councils or organizations which collectively represented most major commodity groups and service organizations. The Delta Farmers' Institute was not part of the consultation.
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- The interviews included a series of questions focused on agriculture awareness; the Right to Farm suite of legislation, and the Strengthening Farming Program tools and services.
 - The Ministry is committed to providing a high-level summary of the consultation to inform the participating local governments and the larger agriculture community.

Fraser River Salinity Modelling & Monitoring Project

- The Fraser agricultural water supply is vulnerable to contamination from the salt wedge, which is likely to move further upstream on the Fraser River due to sea-level rise and lower river flows during summer months.
- This project is about modelling the salt wedge under conditions of climate change. The model will help inform decision makers about developing additional intake locations that can supply future irrigation water to Delta and Richmond, including areas that are currently not irrigated.
- The project will also provide the Institute with background information that can be used to assess how future dredging proposals may affect existing and future irrigation intakes.
- Project partners include the Institute, the Corporation of Delta, the City of Richmond, the Richmond Farmers' Institute, Port Metro Vancouver, the Fraser Basin Council and the Ministries of Agriculture and Transportation and Infrastructure.
- s.13
- This project is linked to and supports the outcomes of the Delta Climate Action Initiative Regional Adaptation Strategy.
 - Through Growing Forward 2, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative, the Ministry is providing funding for the Climate Action Initiative to develop Regional Adaptation Strategies in Cowichan, Delta, the Peace, the Cariboo, the Fraser Valley, and the Okanagan.
 - Strategy development is a collaborative multi-partner process that is industry-led and involves local governments, producers, local agricultural organizations, and technical experts from the Ministry and other government agencies.
 - Up to \$300,000 is also provided in each region for projects to address priority action areas identified in the strategies.
 - The Delta Regional Adaptation Strategy identified the need to address climate change impacts on water supply and salinity levels.
 - The Corporation of Delta has used almost all of the funding available for projects to implement its regional strategy.

Suggested Response:

Right to Farm:

- The Ministry met twice with the Corporation of Delta under the Right to Farm review.
- The Ministry is committed to posting a summary of the consultation onto our website in the near future.

Fraser River Salinity Modelling & Monitoring Project

- The Ministry supports the Fraser River Salinity Modelling and Monitoring Project.
- Climate change is a high priority for the government. A Climate Leadership Plan for BC is under development and a draft document is expected to be released for public comment in December 2015.

Contact: Brenda Lennox, Senior Manager, Strengthening Farming Unit 250 356-2956
Geoff Hughes-Games, Manager, Resource Management Unit 604 556-3102

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

Ref: 183411

Date: November 20, 2015

Issue: Update on the stakeholder consultation process for the Agricultural Mitigation and Compensation Plan for the Site C Clean Energy Project (Site C).

Background:

The Consultation Steering Committee (comprised of staff from BC Hydro, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Ministry of Energy and Mines) are leading the consultation process, and will develop the Agricultural Mitigation and Compensation Plan for the Site C Clean Energy Project. The Plan will include a \$20 million Agricultural Compensation Fund, construction management practices, individual farm mitigation plans, and an approach to management of surplus agricultural land following construction. The Hon. Mike Bernier (MLA Peace River South) and Pat Pimm (MLA Peace River North) are participating as regional advisors to the Consultation Steering Committee.

Development of the Agricultural Mitigation and Compensation Plan (Plan)

The EAC condition specifies timelines around the development of a detailed Agriculture Mitigation and Compensation Plan, as well as consultation requirements. The requirements and timelines can be summarized as:

- *Agriculture Mitigation and Compensation Plan Framework* - must be developed by July 2016 (one year after the start of construction) and must be submitted to the Peace River Regional District and the District of Hudson's Hope for review.
- *Draft Agriculture Mitigation and Compensation Plan* - must be completed by January 2017 (18 months after the start of construction) and must be provided to affected landowners, tenure holders, Peace River Regional District, District of Hudson's Hope, Ministry of Agriculture, and Ministry of Forest, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations for review.
- *Final Agriculture Mitigation and Compensation Plan* – must be submitted by July 2017 (within two years after construction start) to the BC Environmental Assessment Office, Peace River Regional District, the District of Hudson's Hope, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations.

Discussion: As a first step in developing the Plan, the Consultation Steering Committee is hosting agricultural stakeholder consultation on the development of a Plan Framework from November 23, 2015 to January 29, 2016. Consultation input will be considered in the development of the Plan Framework in 2016, and as the Plan is drafted and then finalized by July 2017.

Agricultural stakeholders, including agricultural associations and affected agricultural land owners and tenure holders, local and regional governments, and Aboriginal groups have been invited to participate. (See attached invitation and invite list). Agricultural stakeholders can participate in the following ways:

- Attend a stakeholder meeting in the Peace region in December or January.
- Review the discussion guide and complete a feedback form. (See attached)
- Provide a submission to sitec@bchydro.com.

Consultation Timeline

Activity	Date
Invitation sent to agricultural stakeholders	November 9, 2015
Draft Discussion Guide and Feedback Form provided to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regional Advisors (Minister Bernier and MLA Pimm)• Minister Bennett and Minister Letnick	November 16 – 20, 2015

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Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION

Consultation Timeline – Continued	
Consultation Discussion Guide and Feedback Form posted at sitecproject.com and notification sent to invitee list.	November 23, 2015
Regional Agricultural Stakeholder meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hudson's Hope – Wednesday, December 2, 2015 • Fort St. John – TBC* (January, 2016) • Dawson Creek – Tuesday, January 12, 2016 • Chetwynd – Wednesday, January 13, 2016 Small group meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separate meetings will be offered to local and regional government, education and research organizations, as appropriate. 	December 2015 - January 2016
Consultation Summary report prepared by Consultation Steering Committee (BC Hydro, Ministry of Energy and Mines, and Ministry of Agriculture)	February–March, 2016
Agricultural Consultation period closes	January 29, 2016
Briefing on Consultation Summary Report and Draft Framework for Minister Bernier, MLA Pimm and Minister Bennett, Minister Letnick	April, 2016

Next Steps:

Reporting and Consideration of Feedback

- A Consultation Summary Report and Consideration Memo will be produced by the Consultation Steering Committee, with review by Regional Advisors, documenting input received from agricultural stakeholders during the consultation period and how it was considered.
- The Consultation Summary Report and draft Framework will be reviewed with Regional Advisors and Ministers prior to submission to the Peace River Regional District and District of Hudson's Hope by July 2016, and in subsequent preparation of the Draft and Final Agricultural Mitigation and Compensation Plan.

Attachments:

Documents referenced within this note are attached:

- Agricultural Stakeholder Consultation Invitation
- Agricultural Association Invitee List
- Draft Agricultural Stakeholder Discussion Guide and Feedback Form

Contact: Leslie MacDonald, Sector Development Branch, 604-556-3074

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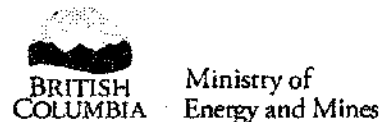
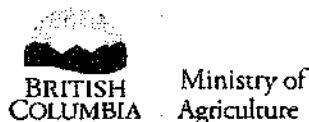
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Agricultural Stakeholder Invite List

Group	Contact name	Role
Agriculture Agrifood Canada - Beaverlodge Station	Francois Eudes	Director
BC Agriculture Council	Stan Vander Waal	Chair
BC Bison Association	Bill Bouffieux	President
BC Forage Seed Producers	Talon Gauthier	
BC Grain Industry Development Council	Barry Follensbee	Chair / President
BC Grain Industry Development Council	Lee Bowd	
Peace River Grain Industry Development Council	Catherine Henry	Incoming coordinator
BC Grain Producers Association	Robert Vanderlinden	
BC Grain Producers Association	Rick Kantz	President
BC Honey Producers Association	Kerry Clark	Member at large
Dawson Creek Farmers Market	Michael Nimitz	President
Farmers Market Association	Jon Bell	President
Fort St John Farmers Market	Dennis Hetman	
North Peace Cattlemen's Association	Renee Ardill	President
North Peace Economic Development Commission	Jennifer Moore	Officer
North Pine Farmer Institute	Brian Johnston	
North Pine Farmers Institute	Wade Cusack	President
Northern Lights College	Warren Stokes	Registrar
Northern Lights College	Dr. Bryn Kulmatycki	President & CEO
Organic Association	Ken Siemens	
Organic Producers (Director Pacific AG certification Society)	Charlie Lasser	Member at Large
Peace Agricultural Advisory Committee	Leonard Hiebert	Chair
Peace Apiaries Association	Kerry Clark	
Peace Forage Association	Dennis Gelling	
Peace River Forage Association	Darwin Linford	President
Peace Region Forage Seed Association	Reuben Loewen	President
Peace Region Forage Seed Association	Talon Gauthier	General Manager
Peace River District Women's Institute	Ruth Veiner	Member at Large
Peace River District Women's Institute	Jill Copes	Member at Large
Peace River Regional Cattlemen	Mike McConnell	President
Peace River Regional District	Brad Sperling	Director for Electoral Area 'C'
Peace River Regional District	Karen Gooding	Director for Electoral Area 'B'
Peace River Regional District	Lori Ackerman	PRRD Chair
Peace River Regional District	Leonard Hiebert	Director for Electoral Area

Group	Contact name	Role
		'D'
Peace River Regional District	Dan Rose	Director for Electoral Area 'E'
Peace Valley Landowner Association	Ken Boon	President
Peace Valley Landowner Association	Ruth Ann Darnall	Contact
Poultry Processing Facility	Dave Hoffer	Peace View Hutterite Boss
Red Meat Processing Facility	Ben Tschetter	South Peace Hutterite Boss
Red Meat Processing Facility	Dan Strasky	Lawrence General Manger
Sheep Producers (Peace View Hutterite)	Andy Tschetter	
South and North Peace Economic Development Commissions	Martina Bancroft	North Peace Coordinator
South Economic Development Commission	Sue Kenney	Officer
South Peace Cattlemen's Association	Brian Stratuliak	
South Peace Cattlemen's Association	Mike McConnell	
South Peace Grain Cleaning Coop (processor)	Shaun Grant	General Manager
South Peace Stockmen	Bill Bentley	President
South Peace Stockmen	Judy Madden	Secretary
UBC - Faculty of Land and Food Systems	Rickey Yada	Dean
UBC - Faculty of Land and Food Systems	Jennifer Honeybourn	Director, Communications
University of Northern BC	Daniel Weeks	
Upper Cache Cattlemen	Ross Musgrove	President

In addition to the invitation list above, invitations were sent directly to agricultural land owners and tenure holders affected by the Site C Project.



We Want to Hear From You

Invitation to Participate in Stakeholder Consultation: Framework for an Agricultural Mitigation and Compensation Plan for the Site C Clean Energy Project

From November 23, 2015 to January 29, 2016, BC Hydro, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Energy and Mines are seeking input from Peace Region agricultural stakeholders across various sectors regarding the development of a framework for an Agricultural Mitigation and Compensation Plan for the Site C Clean Energy Project.

STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS – UP TO THREE MEMBERS FROM EACH ASSOCIATION

You are invited to attend one of the following stakeholder meetings taking place in December 2015 and January 2016:

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Wednesday, December 2, 2015	1:00-3:00 p.m.	Hudson's Hope
Thursday, December 3, 2015	1:00-3:00 p.m.	Fort St. John
Tuesday, January 12, 2016	1:00-3:00 p.m.	Dawson Creek
Wednesday, January 13, 2016	1:00-3:00 p.m.	Chetwynd

To register for a meeting, please email sitec@bchydro.com with your name, organization and contact information. As space is limited, please RSVP at least one week prior to the meeting that you would like to attend. Agricultural associations are invited to register up to three members. If you would like to register additional members, please contact us.

ADDITIONAL WAYS TO PARTICIPATE – ALL MEMBERS

If you are unable to attend a meeting, you can provide feedback and learn more by:

- ✓ Reviewing the discussion guide and completing a feedback form (available at sitecproject.com on November 23, 2015)
- ✓ Logging on to sitecproject.com to complete a feedback form in a user-friendly web format (available November 23, 2015)
- ✓ Sending an email to sitec@bchydro.com or a letter to PO Box 2218, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 3W2

Please provide your feedback by January 29, 2016.

BACKGROUND

The Site C Clean Energy Project (Site C) will be a third dam and hydroelectric generating station on the Peace River in northeast B.C. Site C will be a source of clean, reliable and affordable electricity for more than 100 years.

BC Hydro, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Energy and Mines are seeking input from agricultural stakeholders regarding the development of a Framework for an Agricultural Mitigation and Compensation Plan for the Site C Clean Energy Project. The Framework for the Plan will include:

- A. Implementation of appropriate construction management practices, as they pertain to agriculture
- B. Approach to development of individual farm mitigation plans
- C. Approach to management of surplus agricultural land
- D. Establishment of a \$20 million Agricultural Compensation Fund

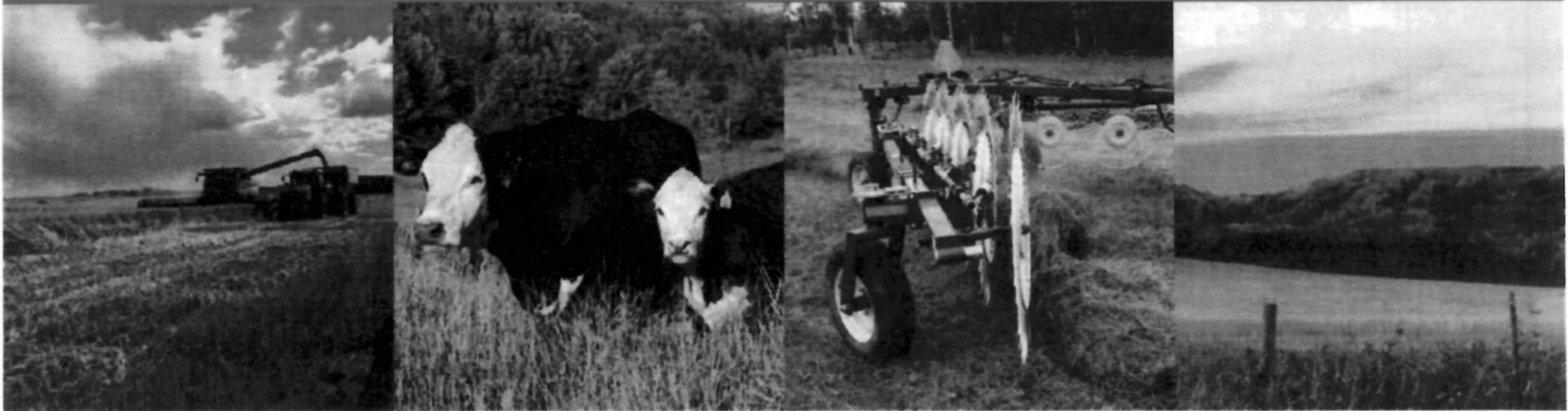
HOW YOUR INPUT WILL BE USED

Your input will be considered, along with technical and financial information, as BC Hydro, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Energy and Mines develop a Framework for the Agricultural Mitigation and Compensation Plan by July 2016, a draft Agricultural Mitigation and Compensation Plan by January 2017, and a final Plan by July 2017.

Site C Clean Energy Project

Framework for an Agricultural Mitigation and Compensation Plan Stakeholder Consultation Discussion Guide and Feedback Form

November 2015 – January 2016



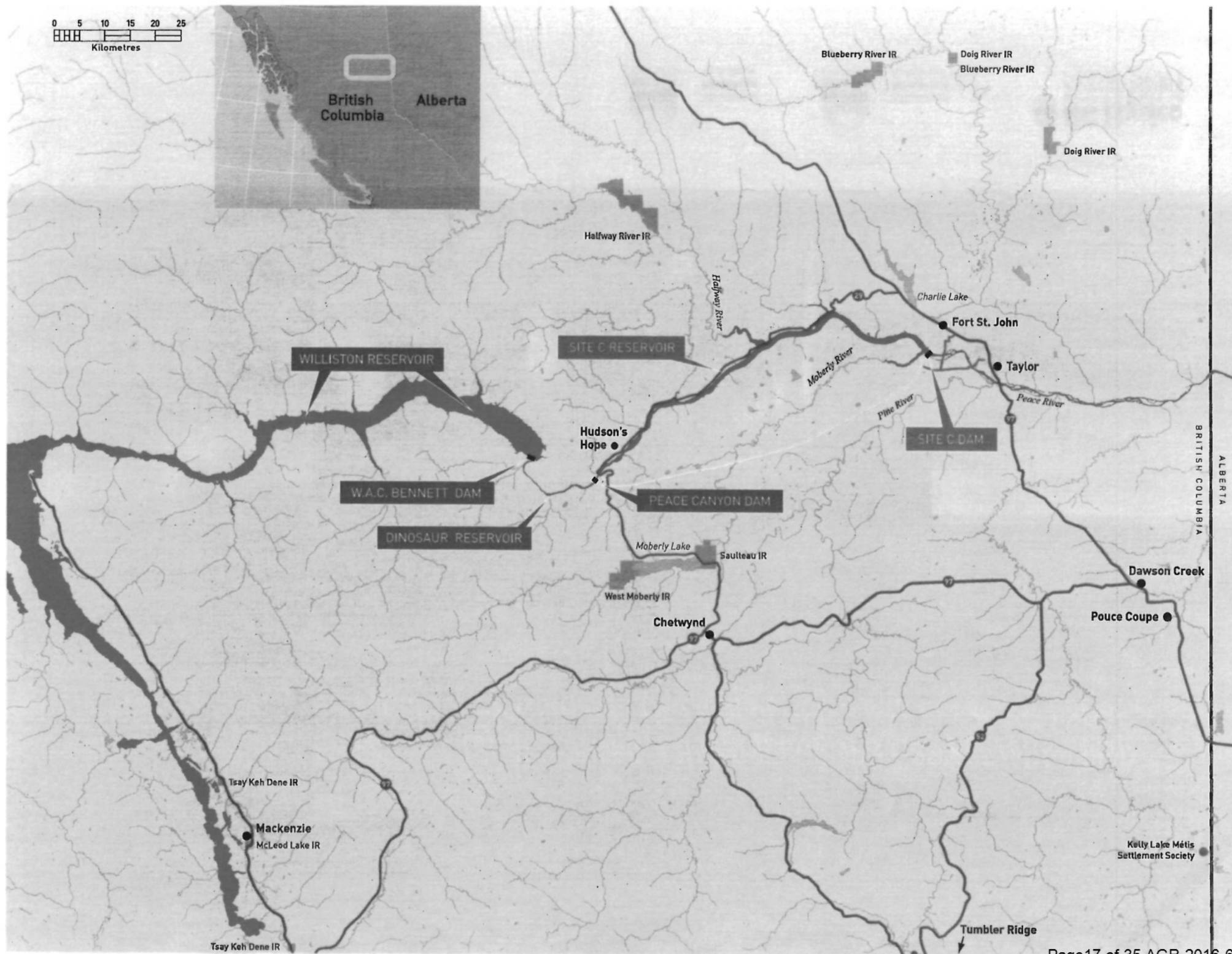
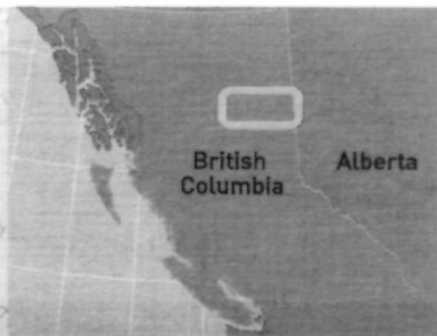
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Framework for an Agricultural Mitigation and Compensation Plan – Stakeholder Consultation

(November 2015-January 2016)

Purpose

BC Hydro, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Energy and Mines are seeking your input regarding the development of a Framework for an Agricultural Mitigation and Compensation Plan for the Site C Clean Energy Project.

This consultation process seeks your input regarding the four parts of the framework:

- A. Implementation of appropriate construction management practices, as they pertain to agriculture
- B. Approach to development of individual farm mitigation plans
- C. Approach to management of surplus agricultural land
- D. Establishment of a \$20 million Agricultural Compensation Fund

How Input Will be Used

Your input will be considered, along with technical and financial information, as BC Hydro, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Energy and Mines develop a Framework for the Agricultural Mitigation and Compensation Plan by July 2016, a draft Agricultural Mitigation and Compensation Plan by January 2017, and a final Plan by July 2017.

We Want to Hear From You

This consultation period runs from November 23, 2015 to January 29, 2016, so that Peace River agricultural stakeholders across various sectors will have an opportunity to review and provide their input.

As part of the consultation period, regional stakeholder meetings will be held in December 2015 and January 2016. If you are an agricultural stakeholder interested in attending a meeting and haven't received an invitation, please email us at sitec@bchydro.com.

Learn more and provide your feedback by:

- Coming to a stakeholder meeting
- Filling out the feedback form found in this discussion guide at sitecproject.com. Alternatively, you can send your hardcopy feedback form to PO Box 2218, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 3W2.
- Sending us an email to sitec@bchydro.com or letter to PO Box 2218, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 3W2

Please provide your feedback by January 29, 2016.

1. Background

About the Site C Clean Energy Project

The Site C Clean Energy Project (Site C) will be a third dam and hydroelectric generating station on the Peace River in northeast B.C. Approved by the Province of B.C. on December 16, 2014, construction of the project began in the summer of 2015. Site C will provide 1,100 megawatts (MW) of capacity, and produce about 5,100 gigawatt hours (GWh) of electricity each year — enough energy to power the equivalent of about 450,000 homes per year in B.C.

Site C received environmental approvals from the federal and provincial governments in October 2014, and received approval from the Province of B.C. in December 2014. Site C will be a source of clean, reliable and affordable electricity for more than 100 years.

More information about Site C can be found at sitecproject.com.

Provincial Environmental Assessment Certificate – Conditions Regarding Agriculture

The Provincial Environmental Assessment Certificate for the Site C Clean Energy Project includes two conditions specific to agriculture, summarized below:

Condition No.30: BC Hydro will develop an Agricultural Mitigation and Compensation Plan addressing the following requirements: establishing a \$20 million Agricultural Compensation Fund; implementing appropriate construction management practices; developing individual farm mitigation plans; and managing surplus agricultural land.

Condition No.31: BC Hydro will implement an agriculture monitoring and follow-up program for a 10 year period: 5 years prior to operations and 5 years during operations. Condition 31 requires the development of a draft Agriculture Monitoring and Follow-Up Program which has been submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Peace River Regional District, and the District of Hudson's Hope for review. A final Program will be submitted in December 2015, and the monitoring program will begin in January 2016, within 180 days of the start of construction.

Monitoring programs to determine if creation of the Site C reservoir may result in site-specific changes that may affect agricultural operations include the following:

- Reservoir induced effects on crop drying;
- Effects on crop production due to changes in groundwater elevations;
- Effects on agriculture due to changes in wildlife habitat utilization; and
- Climate parameters to estimate irrigation water requirements near the reservoir.

2. Framework for an Agricultural Mitigation and Compensation Plan

The Agricultural Mitigation and Compensation Plan will include four components, which are the subject of this consultation process:

- A. Implementation of appropriate construction management practices, as they pertain to agriculture
- B. Approach to development of individual farm mitigation plans
- C. Approach to management of surplus agricultural land
- D. Establishment of a \$20 million Agricultural Compensation Fund

BC Hydro, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Energy and Mines have established a Consultation Steering Committee to guide consultation with agricultural stakeholders regarding a framework for the Agricultural Mitigation and Compensation Plan. The Consultation Steering Committee is seeking and receiving advice from regional advisors: Hon. Mike Bernier, MLA for Peace River South, and Pat Pimm, MLA for Peace River North.

The Consultation Steering Committee has considered previous input related to agriculture received from consultation regarding the Site C Clean Energy Project and applied it in the development of this discussion guide and mitigation programs.

Process and Timeframe for Developing an Agricultural Mitigation and Compensation Plan

BC Hydro is working with the Ministry of Energy and Mines and Ministry of Agriculture to develop the Agricultural Mitigation and Compensation Plan.

The Agricultural Mitigation and Compensation Plan will be developed within the following timelines:

- **Framework (by July 2016):** An Agricultural Mitigation and Compensation Plan Framework will be developed in consultation with affected agricultural land owners and tenure holders, and the Ministry of Agriculture and provided to the Peace River Regional District and the District of Hudson's Hope for review by July 2016.
- **Draft Plan (by January 2017):** A Draft Agricultural Mitigation and Compensation Plan will be provided for review and comment by affected agricultural land owners and tenure holders, the Peace River Regional District, District of Hudson's Hope, Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations by January 2017.
- **Final Plan (by July 2017):** The Agricultural Mitigation and Compensation Plan will be filed with the BC Environmental Assessment Office, Peace River Regional District, District of Hudson's Hope, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations by July 2017.

A. Implementation of Standard Construction Mitigation Measures

Standard construction mitigation measures are included in the Site C Project's Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). The CEMP outlines the requirements for Environmental Protection Plans, which must be developed by contractors prior to the commencement of construction activities.

These plans include standard mitigation measures for all aspects of construction, including those that may affect agricultural land and operations. Plans related to agricultural land include:

- **Soil Management, Site Restoration and Re-vegetation Plan** – restoration of temporarily affected agricultural land during construction;
- **Borrow and Quarry Site Reclamation Plan** – restoration of temporarily affected agricultural land within quarries and pits developed during construction;
- **Vegetation and Invasive Plant Management Plan** – mitigation of potential effects to agricultural land through protection of vegetation and limiting the spread of invasive plants; and
- **Traffic Management Plans** – mitigation of potential construction effects on individual farm operations as a result of increased traffic and road closures.

Provide Your Feedback

1. Please provide any comments regarding the implementation of standard construction mitigation measures:

(In consideration of privacy, do not identify yourself or other specific individuals in your written comments. Any comments including self-identification or identification of third parties will be discarded.)

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B. Approach to the Development of Individual Farm Mitigation Plans

In accordance with Condition 30, BC Hydro “must evaluate effects on agricultural land owners and tenure holders, and develop mitigation and compensation measures consistent with industry compensation standards, to mitigate effects or compensate for losses.” Also, BC Hydro’s plan must include “funding for mitigation actions for disruptions to agricultural land owners and tenure holders.”

BC Hydro evaluated effects on agricultural land owners and tenure holders as part of the agricultural assessment during the environmental assessment phase. As part of this assessment, interviews were held with potentially-affected farm operators and/or owners in 2011 and 2012. There are 34 farm operations where a portion of the operation is within the Site C project activity zone. Of the 34, 22 owners or operators agreed to participate, and provided information about current and potential future agricultural activities. The results of the interviews were used, along with other information, such as from Statistics Canada and direct observations about farm operations, to inform the agricultural assessment.

Now that Site C has moved into construction, BC Hydro's properties team will discuss with agricultural land owners and tenure holders potential effects of the project on their land and operations, including potential mitigation actions related to disruption of their continuing agricultural operations. Where agricultural land is required for the Project it will be acquired at fair market value, and associated financial losses, including funding of mitigation actions and compensation for those effects which cannot be mitigated, if any, will be reimbursed as described in Section 11.3 of the Site C Environmental Impact Statement (Land Status, Tenure and Project Requirements).

The identification of specific mitigation actions that may require funding related to disruption of each agricultural operation will be identified by BC Hydro in private discussions with agricultural land owners and tenure holders whose land or rights may be affected by the Project. For example, potential mitigation actions may include changes to driveways to address changes to farm access, consideration of changes to unauthorised public

access, relocation of farm infrastructure such as buildings, wells or fencing, or other disruptions to current agricultural operations. Where such effects cannot be avoided, individual farm mitigation plans will be developed to determine compensation for financial losses due to disruptions to agricultural land use, consistent with industry compensation standards. Funding for individual farm mitigation or compensation will be in addition to the \$20 million Agricultural Compensation Fund.

Provide Your Feedback

2. Please provide any comments regarding the approach to the development of individual farm mitigation plans:

(In consideration of privacy, do not identify yourself or other specific individuals in your written comments. Any comments including self-identification or identification of third parties will be discarded.)

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C. Approach to Management of Surplus Agricultural Lands

In accordance with Condition 30, BC Hydro's Agricultural Mitigation and Compensation Plan must include *"inclusion of suitable land in the Agricultural Land Reserve in consultation with the Agricultural Land Commission", and "when residual parcels are to be sold, consolidate and / or connect residual agricultural parcels with adjacent agricultural land holdings, where practical and when owner(s) and BC Hydro agree."*

These conditions reflect the fact that, through the process of land acquisition for Site C, BC Hydro will end up with surplus land holdings that may be suitable for future agricultural land use.

BC Hydro will be in a position to begin the process of identifying lands that are surplus, or not directly required for the project, approximately five years after the completion of construction. This timeline allows for the results of reservoir shoreline monitoring to inform this process, as well as the establishment of long-term mitigation measures that may include establishment of areas such as wildlife habitat compensation lands or recreation sites. Until that time, BC Hydro-owned lands will continue to be managed in a responsible manner that supports, as appropriate, agricultural land use and wildlife habitat, and continues to ensure responsible approach to noxious weed management.

Surplus lands will be assessed against land use priorities to determine their suitability for various potential uses, including land required to mitigate project effects. Consideration will be guided by ongoing conditions associated with project approvals, including vegetation and wildlife habitat compensation, agricultural land use interests and Aboriginal interests, as well as community interests as stated in official community plans and zoning.

For those lands retained as wildlife habitat compensation, there will be management plans developed. Continued agricultural use of these lands is also an objective. BC Hydro will work with government agencies, Aboriginal groups and other potentially affected stakeholders to identify the habitat management objectives, specific actions for the maintenance, creation or enhancement of targeted habitat features, compatible land use

including agricultural practices, and other property-specific management considerations.

BC Hydro-owned land deemed surplus to project or mitigation requirements, and that have continuing agricultural value, may be dealt with in several ways. First, when these land parcels are to be sold, BC Hydro will make efforts to consolidate or connect residual agricultural parcels with adjacent agricultural land holdings, where practical and where owners agree. Secondly, BC Hydro will consult with the Agricultural Land Commission and adjacent landowners to include suitable land.

Provide Your Feedback

3. Please provide any comments regarding the management of surplus agricultural lands:

(In consideration of privacy, do not identify yourself or other specific individuals in your written comments. Any comments including self-identification or identification of third parties will be discarded.)

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D. Establishment of an Agricultural Compensation Fund

As part of the environmental assessment of Site C, BC Hydro proposed the creation of a \$20 million Agricultural Compensation Fund for use in the Peace Region. The purpose of the fund is to mitigate the change in agricultural economic activity as a result of Site C.

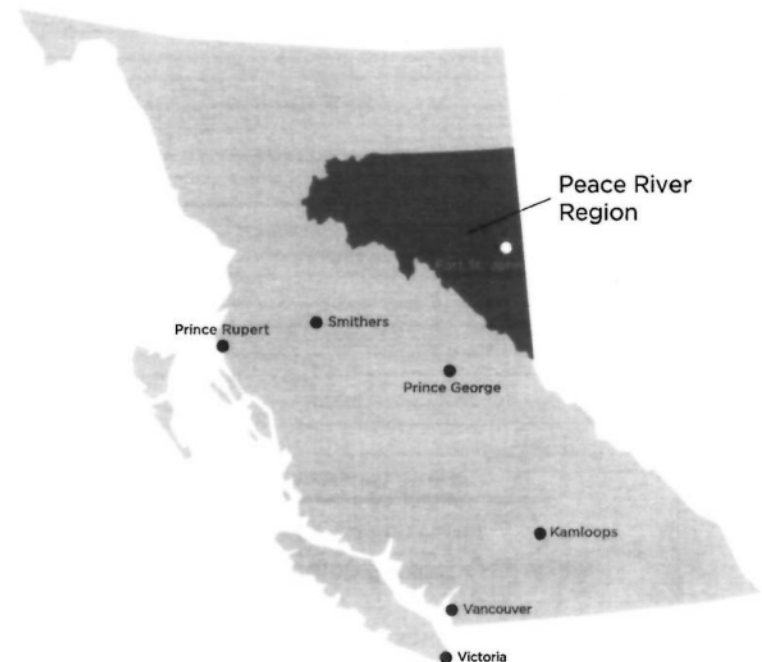
In accordance with Condition 30, BC Hydro's Agricultural Mitigation and Compensation Plan must include:

"...establishment of an agricultural compensation fund of \$20 million for use in the Peace Region or other areas of the province as necessary to compensate for lost agricultural lands and activities, and an approach for establishing the governance and allocation of funds. The EAC Holder must work with the Ministry of Agriculture to establish a governance structure for the agriculture compensation fund that will ensure funds will be used to support enhancement projects that improve agricultural land, productivity or systems."

BC Hydro is accountable for creating the Agricultural Compensation Fund, and responsible for seeking input from agricultural stakeholders on its objectives, administration, and delivery, which is the purpose of this consultation. Input received on the discussion guide information and feedback questions below will provide content for the development of the Framework, and will be the basis for a detailed Mandate to direct the Fund's future implementation.

The next few pages provide information and ask for your feedback regarding the following topics:

- **Vision:** Why are we creating an Agricultural Compensation Fund? Where should the Fund be targeted and what should it cover?
- **Governance:** How should the Fund be administered? How should projects be reviewed?
- **Eligibility:** Who should be eligible to apply? What is the nature and scope of projects that should be funded?
- **Allocation:** How should funds be allocated and over what time period?



Why are we creating an Agricultural Compensation Fund?

Where should the Fund be targeted and what should it cover?

Proposed Vision Statement

"Enhance the Peace Region's opportunity for agricultural production and agrifoods economic activity."

4. Please provide any comments regarding the proposed vision statement for the Agricultural Compensation Fund:

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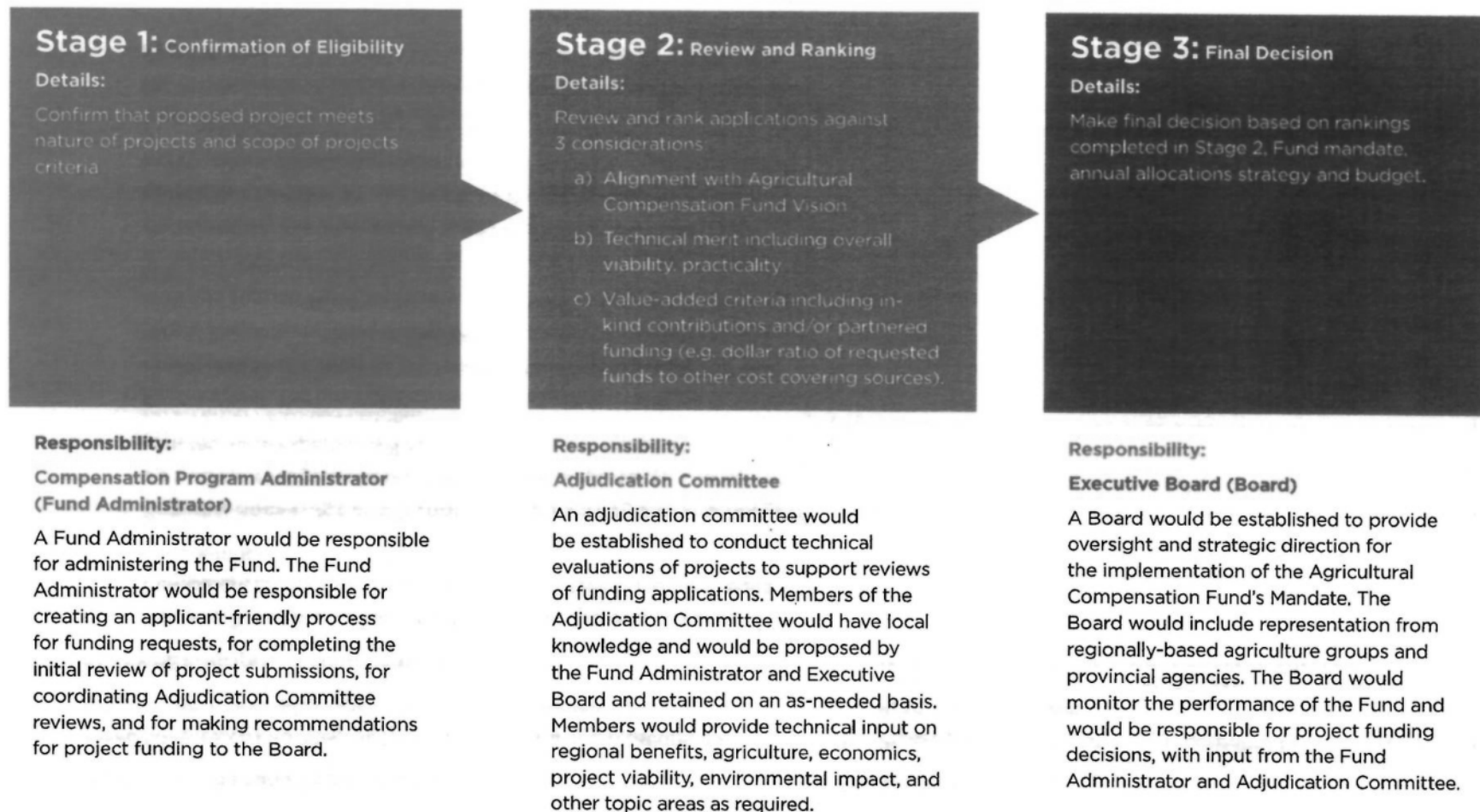
8 Agricultural Mitigation and Compensation Plan Framework

How should the fund be operated?

To achieve the administrative requirements outlined on the previous page, it is proposed that the Fund's organizational structure would include an Executive Board, an independent Fund Administrator, and an Adjudication Committee with agriculture and economic experts. Administration costs would be covered by the Fund. The proposed roles and responsibilities of each are outlined below and the relationship between each group is illustrated in the flowchart.

How should projects be reviewed?

It is proposed that project funding applications would be reviewed using a three-stage process:



Provide Your Feedback

6. Please provide any comments regarding the proposed organizational structure of the Fund:

(In consideration of privacy, do not identify yourself or other specific individuals in your written comments. Any comments including self-identification or identification of third parties will be discarded.)

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7. Please provide any comments regarding the proposed three-stage process for reviewing project funding applications.

(In consideration of privacy, do not identify yourself or other specific individuals in your written comments. Any comments including self-identification or identification of third parties will be discarded.)

[illegible]

D3. Agricultural Compensation Fund Eligibility

Who should be eligible to apply?

It is proposed that the following groups be eligible to apply for funds:

- Individuals and/or partnerships (including new entrants to agriculture)
- Non-profit organizations
- Peace Region industry associations, agencies, boards, and councils
- Educational institutions

8. Please rate your level of agreement with the proposed applicant categories noted above:

Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. Please provide any comments regarding the proposed applicant categories:

(In consideration of privacy, do not identify yourself or other specific individuals in your written comments. Any comments including self-identification or identification of third parties will be discarded.)

What is the nature and scope of projects that should be funded?

We are interested in feedback regarding the nature and scope of projects that the agricultural community would like to see eligible for funding. BC Hydro has undertaken past consultation with agricultural stakeholders and the public regarding this topic.

In 2012, as part of public consultation regarding Site C, BC Hydro sought input regarding agriculture, asking consultation participants to rate their level of agreement with using funds from the agricultural compensation program to support the exploration of a range of regional agricultural mitigation project. 61 per cent of participants strongly or somewhat agreed with exploring the following types of projects:

- Crop irrigation research, development and infrastructure to enhance agricultural capability
- Vegetable sector projects, such as vegetable storage and processing facilities near transportation routes, to support development of higher-value agricultural production
- Forage sector projects to increase current forage and grain crop production levels
- Range and pasture sector improvements, such as clearing, seeding, fertilizing, and fencing, to increase capacity and local production
- Regional agricultural programs, such as invasive plant management, agricultural climate adaptation research or local food production programs

It is proposed that the Fund should consider a broad range of project categories to allow for consideration of projects that can provide maximum benefit to the agricultural sector. Based on this approach, the project categories proposed for the Fund include:

- Research and development
- Market development
- Training and education
- Capital investment for industry infrastructure
- Transportation and supply chain

The project criteria would be reviewed annually to ensure that it is current and comprehensive.

10. Please rate your level of agreement with projects in each of the following project categories being eligible for funding:

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Research and Development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Market Development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Training and Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Capital Investment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

11. Please provide any comments regarding the project criteria:

(In consideration of privacy, do not identify yourself or other specific individuals in your written comments. Any comments including self-identification or identification of third parties will be discarded.)

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Eligible Activities/Project

- Land productivity (such as new crops and technology)
- Land base management (such as shelterbelts or windbreaks, weed management programs and improvements to grazing capacity)
- Land base improvements and infrastructure (such as livestock watering facilities, fencing for wildlife control and irrigation)
- Market access and infrastructure (such as regional value-added initiatives, institutions and services)
- Infrastructure and Transportation improvements (such as cleaning and packing, warehousing and storage, and distribution facilities to support vegetable industry)
- Sustainability (adoption of green and alternative technologies in place of fossil fuel-driven energy systems)
- Climate change response (on-farm responses and adaptations)
- New product and practice viability (studies, demonstrations to test new methods)

Ineligible Activities

- Core activities of government or non-government agencies or programs, including lobbying activities
- Development of policy related to land or agricultural management
- Administration of government regulations
- Engagement in enforcement and compliance activities
- Costs incurred prior to formal notification of funding approval

(In consideration of privacy, do not identify yourself or other specific individuals in your written comments. Any comments including self-identification or identification of third parties will be discarded.)

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How should funds be allocated and over what time period?

A wide variety of approaches to fund allocation, including consideration of the size of awards, maximum duration of project funding, and frequency of disbursements have been explored.

The preferred approach for the Agricultural Compensation Fund is to retain flexibility to provide funding for projects that would provide the greatest benefits to agricultural production and agrifoods economic activity in the Peace River region. It is proposed that projects requesting over \$20,000 in

funds should have a minimum of one other funding source. The other funding sources could include in-kind contributions or other government or private funding. A second source of funding provides external validation of project value, and also creates a greater commitment by the project proponent to deliver the project. Specific details for fund applications and project requirements will be developed after the Fund Mandate is created.

The table below summarizes options considered by the Consultation Steering Committee for the following topics:

Topic	Options Considered	Research Findings
Fund Duration How long will the Fund be in place?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single project investment (i.e., spend all \$20 million on a major investment such as an Agricultural Research and Development Centre) • Spread payout over a 5-, 10- or 20-year period • Endowment Approach, where only the interest would be allocated to projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determining a specific timeframe for the Fund may limit eligible projects and Fund effectiveness.
Annual Allocation How much would be dispersed from the Fund each year?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$20 million in one year (i.e., single project investment) • \$4 million per year for 5 years • \$2 million a year for 10 years • \$1 million per year for 20 years • Endowment Approach, which could be continued in perpetuity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-determining annual fund distribution totals may reduce the impact of the Fund by delaying funding of projects with merit.
Duration of Project Funding How long should a project be eligible to receive funding for?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One year only • Multiple years, with an annual reporting requirement to secure funding for subsequent years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the seasonality of agriculture, several growing seasons are often required to understand the benefits of a new program, technology or process.
Project Funding Limits What percentage of a project's cost should be eligible for funding?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No limit on individual project costs • Limited to \$500,000 per project, per applicant, per year • Limited to 50 per cent of a project's cost • Limit the % of in-kind contribution • Requirement of funding from at least one other source. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding from a minimum of a second source provide validation of project value, and creates a greater commitment by the project proponent.
Application Submission Deadlines When should project applications be accepted?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-determined intake periods to focus review process on annual or bi-annual submissions • No deadlines – applications accepted and reviewed continuously 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-determined intakes for large applications assists in review processes, and efficiency of funding awards. • Consider allowance for small funding requests to be considered on an ongoing basis.

Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

(In consideration of privacy, do not identify yourself or other specific individuals in your written comments. Any comments including self-identification or identification of third parties will be discarded.)

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About You

16. Which provincial agricultural region are you from?

- ☐ Peace
- ☐ Omenica Skeena
- ☐ Cariboo Chilcotin Coast
- ☐ Thompson Nicola
- ☐ Okanagan
- ☐ Kootenay
- ☐ South Coast
- ☐ Vancouver Island/Coast

17. What agricultural sector(s) are you active in?

(select all that apply)

- ☐ Beef cattle ranching
- ☐ Dairy cattle
- ☐ Fruit and nut tree farming
- ☐ Field vegetables, melon farming and potato farming
- ☐ Greenhouse, mushroom, nursery and floriculture production
- ☐ Hog farming
- ☐ Forages
- ☐ Oilseed and grain farming
- ☐ Poultry and egg production
- ☐ Sheep and goat farming
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

18. What is your role within the agricultural sector?

(select all that apply)

- ☐ Primary producer (farmer/rancher)
- ☐ Agriculture industry organization
- ☐ Agricultural service industry
- ☐ Agricultural product processor/marketer
- ☐ Agricultural researcher/educator
- ☐ Government representative
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

19. Please provide your contact information (optional):

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Position: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Personal information is collected for the purposes of stakeholder consultation regarding the development of a Framework for an Agricultural Mitigation and Compensation Plan for the Site C Clean Energy Project by BC Hydro, under s. 26(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Please be aware that any personal information in connection with your response to the survey is collected by Kirk & Co. Consulting Ltd. and stored in Canada by FluidSurveys and not BC Hydro.

