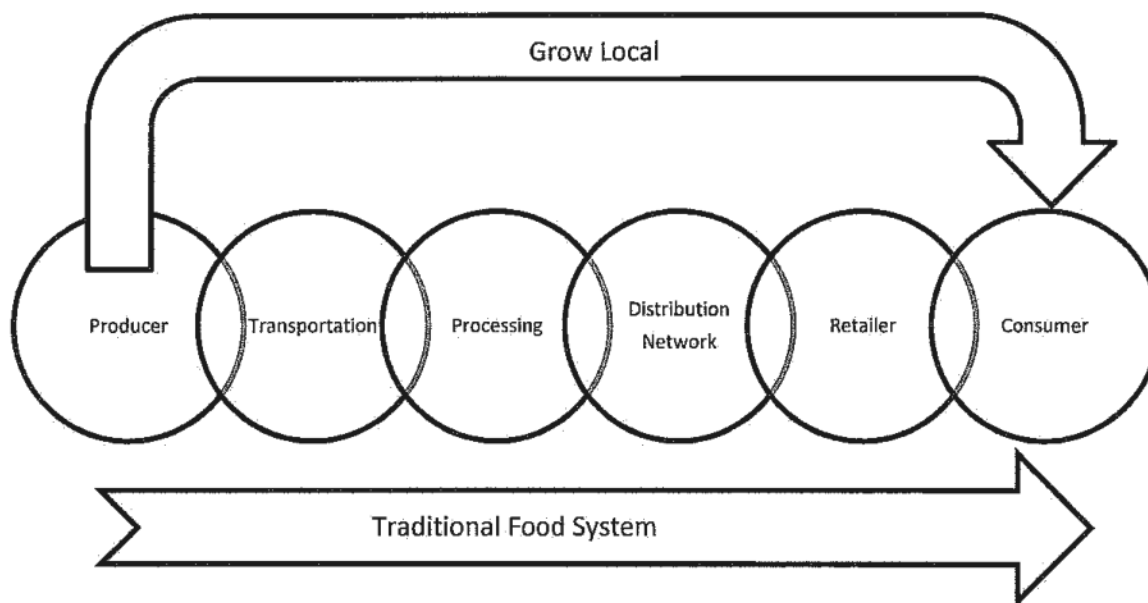


Grow Local

GROW LOCAL GOAL: Undertake 'Grow Local' pilot projects that engage more British Columbians in growing food in their communities, providing another source of fresh produce, while strengthening the connections between British Columbians and our agricultural sector, in order to fulfill the 2016 Throne Speech.



The Grow Local concept shortens the traditional food system between producers and consumers. This may imply compressed systems where the producer and consumer link directly (e.g. community gardens and farmers markets), or where the producer, processor, and consumer link (e.g. food hubs).

MINISTRY INITIATIVES UNDERWAY: The Ministry of Agriculture is engaged in a number of current initiatives or activities that also contribute to supporting British Columbians to be engaged in small scale or local production including introductory and Masters Bee Keeping programs, biosecurity education and support for small flocks and herds (see Appendix A for a high level list of Ministry initiatives). These initiatives or activities are often delivered in partnership with other stakeholder organizations or have a strong connection with local governments.

OTHER GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES UNDERWAY: A number of Provincial agencies, municipalities, and non-governmental organizations are also actively engaged in initiatives that promote local foods, healthy eating and food knowledge, support sustainable food systems, and provide mentorship to youth or new entrants (See Appendix B for a detailed scan of initiatives underway by other agencies and jurisdictions). For example:

- Ministry of Health supports food literacy and access to healthy foods through the Farm to School Project, the School Fruit and Vegetable Nutrition Project and the Farmer's Market Nutrition Coupon Project.

- Regional District of East Kootenay (RDEK) is undergoing a 'Backyard Agriculture Project,' consulting on the public's support for small scale backyard agriculture and informing the potential development of zoning bylaw amendments.
- City of Vancouver has developed an Urban Farming bylaw pilot which will run for two growing seasons. The pilot creates two zones for residential and commercial urban farming operations, requires business licenses of urban agriculture locations intending to sell, and places restrictions on the types of products.

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Appendix A - Ministry of Agriculture Initiatives

Province -wide	Offering extension programs through the Plant and Animal Health Branch (e.g. Introductory and Masters Bee Keeping programs; Small poultry flock biosecurity and health programs; Small ruminant flock biosecurity and health programs)	
	Providing diagnostic support through the Plant and Animal Health Branch (e.g. Plant Health Diagnostic Lab; free commercial crop production guides; web-based Pest Management in the Home and Garden resources; home gardener production guide available (\$32.95).	
Locally Targeted Initiatives	Location	Initiative
	MetroVan	Implementation of Agriculture Area Plan to increase use of farmland and local food production.
	City of Surrey	Exploration of incubator farms on city-owned properties.
	Pemberton Farmers Institute	Active promotion and empowerment of new entrants to farming.
	Comox Farmers Market	Development of a GF2-funded Strategic Plan that may be applicable for other Farmers Markets once completed.
	Kelowna	Engagement in Farm Circle Tours (West Kelowna) showcasing local products.
	RD Fraser Ft George & Bulkley Nechako	Implementation of their "Beyond the Market" program empowering new entrants and local small lot producers.
	Quesnel	Exploration of an Agriculture Centre via a feasibility study.
	Tofino Community Food Initiative	West Coast Farm and Garden Show, bringing farmers together on the West Coast of Vancouver Island and connecting them with coastal restaurateurs, distributors and buyers.

Appendix B – Other Initiatives Underway

British Columbia Scan			
Type of Agency	Issue	Organization	Action
Provincial Government	Agricultural Land	Agricultural Land Commission (ALC)	Preserves agricultural land as the independent administrator of the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR)
	Environmental Stewardship	Environment (ENV)	Responsible for the effective protection, management and conservation of B.C.'s water, land, air and living resources (e.g. watershed management; climate action)
	Environmental Stewardship	Forest, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO)	Responsible for stewardship of Provincial Crown land and natural resources (e.g. range lands, tenures) and wildlife population and habitat management (e.g. predator programs, fishing and hunting licenses).
	Labour Supply	Jobs, Tourism and Skills Development (JTST)	Delivers skills training programs, labour market information and programs to attract new workers to BC
	Local Food Policy, Small-Scale Production, Community Capacity Building	Ministry of Health (HLTH) Ministry of Health & Provincial Health Authorities	Offers a range of programs (e.g. Farmers Market Nutrition Coupon Program, Farm to School BC, BC School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Program) to promote healthy eating among low-income families, children, pregnant women and seniors which also support small-scale production models Increases community food security through the Community Food Action Initiative. Objectives are to increase awareness of food security, improve access to local and healthy food, promote food knowledge and skills, increase community capacity to address local food security, and develop policy to support community food security.
	Small-Scale Production, Labour Supply	Social Development and Social Innovation (SDSI)	Project-based job creation funding, including some community-based, small-scale production initiatives (e.g. volunteer gardening programs, gleaning programs, farm-gate markets)
Municipal Government		Vancouver Food Policy	The Vancouver Food Policy Council supports the development of a just and sustainable food system for the City of Vancouver that fosters sustainable equitable food production, distribution and consumption; nutrition; community development and environmental health.

British Columbia Scan			
Type of Agency	Issue	Organization	Action
Non-government	Labour Supply; Environmental Stewardship	British Columbia Agriculture Council (BCAC)	Support the delivery of a range of programs and services to BC's primary agriculture producers (e.g. Environmental Farm Plan Program, Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program, BC Young Farmers)
	Agricultural Land; Innovative Technologies	University of British Columbia (UBC)	Operates a range of programs to facilitate farm land access and support new entrants, as well as conducts research to develop and test innovative food production technologies (e.g. UBC Farm, Okanagan Sustainability Institute)
	Environmental Stewardship	Okanagan College-Vernon	Operates Kalamalka Demonstration Garden and Patchwork Farms to showcase sustainable water management practices
	Agricultural Land	Real Estate Foundation British Columbia	Operates granting programs, including a strategic priority on "sustainable food systems"
	Labour Supply; Business Skills; Innovative Technologies	University of the Fraser Valley	Delivers post-secondary education programs in agricultural production and agribusiness management; Supports applied research through the Agriculture Centre of Excellence
	Institutional Procurement	Meal Exchange/Real Food Challenge (RFC)	Currently running a pilot project in B.C., the RFC offers campuses a comprehensive and decisive definition for Real Food, sets a high standard upheld consistently among institutions, and supports users in tracking their progress. The RFC works directly with producers to represent their interests in institutional purchasing contracts.
	Small-Scale Production; Community Supported Agriculture	City Harvest Co-Operative	Follows Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) system. Members are in part operators and partial owners in the farm. Is working to develop a policy framework and a Memorandum of Understanding with the Victoria School District to install and potentially operate farms on school land.

International Scan			
Jurisdiction	Issue	Initiative	Action
United Kingdom	Growing Local	Growing Local is Going Local	The venture aims to develop links between local governments and the community. Provides a bag of locally grown food for purchase Growing local courses, workshops and resources (for both school-aged and Adults)
	Growing Local	Grow Local Swansea	Encourages communities to grow their own food by funding a range of community-based growing projects with the aim of improving access to fresh fruit and vegetables throughout the city, particularly among those on lower incomes Funding projects includes: Communal sheds and greenhouses Equipment and tools Plants and seeds Training Site improvements e.g. fencing, water supply or upgrading paths Development of after school growing clubs
	Sustainable food systems	Federation of City Farms & Community Gardens	Growing Together: Initiative aiming to help community growing groups to thrive financially by finding alternatives to grant funding. Community Land Advisory Service: tackles the lack of available land for community gardening and associated activities by working with both landowners and community groups Gardeniser Project: Gardeniser is a unique, skills-sharing project to develop and promote garden facilitator training, to help in the development of community gardens in Europe Care Farming UK: Care Farming UK wants to provide a voice and supportive services for care farming (which is the use of farms for therapy) School Farm Network: offers support and assistance to school farms, co-ordinates meetings and facilitates the exchange of ideas and information, including peer teacher support.

Australia	Growing Local	Grow It Local	<p>Grow it Local celebrates backyard, balcony, community and windowsill food farming in urban areas.</p> <p>distributed seeds, put gardens in bus stops, hosted a dinner as part of Good Food Month at the Queen Vic Markets, curated the Grow Show at the Melbourne Town Hall veggie patch and generally just nerded-out on interesting ways to grow things in unexpected spaces</p>
	Community Supported Agriculture	Australian City Farms & Community Gardens Network	<p>Facilitating the formation and management of community gardens and similar social enterprise by making available information, networking opportunities and, where possible, advice f</p> <p>Promoting the benefits of community gardening and urban agriculture to creating cities of opportunity f</p> <p>Positioning community gardening and urban farming as a leading activity within the community food movement</p>
New Zealand	Home Gardening	Go Gardening	Provides education, tips and resources for gardening
	Home Gardening	Garden Grow	Provides planting and growing information and directions on a range of plants
	Community Supported Agriculture	Project Gro	<p>Provides funding and information for organic locally grown initiatives</p> <p>Community Gardens: work with various community organizations to ensure that community gardens are supported financially and otherwise</p> <p>Delta Community Trust: enabled the construction of 4 transportable compost bins</p>

Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION

Ref: 184076

Date: March 29, 2016

Issue: Implications of a potential minimum wage increase on BC's agricultural sector

Background: On March 25, 2016, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Minister Responsible for Labour Shirley Bond issued a statement regarding the BC minimum wage. Minister Bond's statement indicates that a "modest incremental adjustment" in line with economic growth is being considered, in order to help ensure a greater number of British Columbians benefit from the province's strong overall economic position. Previously, BC had announced that minimum wage increases would be based on inflation. The new minimum wage rate would be announced later this spring and would come into effect on September 15, 2016.

BC's agriculture, fisheries and value-added industries employ approximately 55,000 British Columbians and about 6000 foreign agricultural workers. Increases to legislated minimum wages would apply to all workers in BC, regardless of whether they are BC residents or foreign labourers.

Accounting for already-announced 2016 minimum wage increases, BC's current minimum hourly wage of \$10.45 is the lowest in Canada (see Appendix A). While BC's Employment Standards Act sets out minimum piece work rates for farm workers (see Appendix B), actual wages paid to farm workers cannot be less than the minimum hourly wage (i.e. \$10.45/hour). The average 2016 minimum wage rate is \$11.12/hour across all 13 provinces and territories, ranging from the lowest in BC at \$10.45 (followed by \$10.50 in Newfoundland and Labrador, and Saskatchewan) to a high of \$12.50 in the Northwest Territories. If the territories – which have the highest hourly minimum wage rates – are excluded from this calculation, the average minimum wage across all provinces is \$10.80.

Employers who hire foreign agricultural workers face additional non-wage costs, such as airfare, accommodation and health insurance; a portion of these additional costs may be offset through payroll deductions. Foreign nationals working in BC under the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (SAWP), which accounts for about half of foreign agricultural workers in the province, earn between \$10.59/hour for lower-skilled occupations in most commodity groups to a high of \$15.00 for higher-skilled occupations in mushroom and pedigreed canola production.

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Labour accounts for the largest share of BC farms' operating expenses, at approximately 25%. Increases to minimum wages would result in additional costs to these businesses and could decrease overall profit margins. At the same time, cost-of-labour increases provide an incentive to farm businesses to improve labour productivity (e.g. adoption of technology and/or innovative practices).

Increasing agrifood and seafood profit margins and increasing agrifood and seafood labour productivity are two of the key competitiveness indicators in the *BC Agrifood and Seafood Strategic Growth Plan* (SGP).

The Ministry's current suite of Growing Forward 2 (GF2) Farm Business Advisory Services (FBAS) offer a range of programming which can help farmers adopt progressive business management practices and strategies to plan for and attenuate normal increases to business input costs, such as minimum wage increases.

Next Steps

- BC has the lowest minimum wage rates across Canada -
s.13;s.17
- Continue promotion of available programs and supports (e.g. FBAS) to help employers mitigate the potential impacts of increases to BC's minimum wage through GF Programming communications and marketing as well as AgriServiceBC.
- Bring this forward to the MAAC working groups seeking strategic advice on opportunities and actions to assist the industry impacted by the wage increases.

Contact: Emily Shaw, Corporate Governance, Policy and Legislation, 250-387-3232

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Provincial/Territorial Minimum Wages – 2016

Jurisdiction	Effective Date	Hourly Wage Rate
Alberta	01-Oct-2015	\$11.20
British Columbia	15-Sep-2015	\$10.45
Manitoba	01-Oct-2015	\$11.00
New Brunswick	31-Dec-2014	\$10.30
	01-Apr-2016	\$10.65
Newfoundland and Labrador	01-Oct-2015	\$10.50
Northwest Territories	01-Jun-2015	\$12.50
Nova Scotia	01-Apr-2015	\$10.60
	01-Apr-2016	\$10.70
Nunavut	01-Jan-2011	\$11.00
	01-Apr-2016	\$13.00
Ontario	01-Oct-2015	\$11.25
Prince Edward Island	01-Jul-2015	\$10.50
	01-Jun-2016	\$10.75
	01-Oct-2016	\$11.00
Quebec	01-May-2015	\$10.55
	01-May-2016	\$10.75
Saskatchewan	01-Oct-2015	\$10.50
Yukon	01-Apr-2015	\$10.86
	01-Apr-2016	\$11.07

Piece Work Rates for Farmer Workers in BC – 2016

Commodity	Piece Work Rate*
Apples	\$17.39 a bin (27.1 cu. ft.)
Apricots	\$20.00 a 1/2 bin (13.7 cu. ft.)
Beans	\$0.239 a pound
Blueberries	\$0.404 a pound
Brussels sprouts	\$0.166 a pound
Cherries	\$0.228 a pound
Grapes	\$18.48 a 1/2 bin (13.7 cu. ft.)
Mushrooms	\$0.240 a pound
Peaches	\$18.48 a 1/2 bin (12.6 cu. ft.)
Pears	\$19.58 a bin (27.1 cu. ft.)
Peas	\$0.299 a pound
Prune plums	\$19.58 a 1/2 bin (13.7 cu. ft.)
Raspberries	\$0.364 a pound
Strawberries	\$0.350 a pound
Daffodils (hand harvested)	\$0.140 a bunch (10 stems)

* Not to go below \$10.45/hour.

Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION

Ref: 184014

Date: March 29, 2016

Issue: Information to support the FPT Ministers of Agriculture conference call on March 31, 2016.

Background: The Honorable Lawrence MacAulay, Federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, has requested a conference call with his provincial/territorial counterparts on March 31, 2016 (see Attachment 1 for Minister MacAulay's biography, a list of PT Ministers, and November 12, 2015 correspondence to register BC's policy priorities). The proposed agenda for the call includes:

- introductions;
- a trade update;
- overview of the 2016 federal budget; and
- the Growing Forward 3 (GF3) Ministerial Policy Statement.

The March 31st call is intended to be an introductory call to the upcoming face-to-face FPT Ministers' meeting on July 20 – 22, 2016 in Calgary, Alberta (See Attachment 2 – Annual Conference of Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers and Deputy Ministers of Agriculture).

Discussion:

1. Introductions: While Minister MacAulay has met many of his provincial/territorial colleagues informally, this is his first time formally introducing himself to the entire group (See Attachment 3 – Minister of Agriculture and AgriFood Mandate Letter).

Key Points:

- In correspondence dated November 12, 2015, BC has registered its policy priorities for agriculture, agrifoods and fisheries with the newly-appointed federal Ministers MacAulay and Tootoo respectively.
 - The call provides an opportunity to confirm BC's interest in working with the federal government on GF3 and other key agriculture and agri-food initiatives from the federal mandate letter.
2. Trade Update: Federal negotiators have recently achieved greater access to international markets through the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and Comprehensive Canada-European Union Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), as well as the repeal of Country of Origin Labelling (COOL) laws in the United States.

Key Points:

- Many provinces were disappointed that the 2016 Federal Budget did not include details on CETA and TPP compensation programs for the supply-managed sector. Ontario and Quebec are likely to raise this issue during the Ministers call.

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3. 2016 Federal Budget: The March 22, 2016 Federal Budget did not provide expected clarity on how the federal government will realize key mandate priorities. Following the October 2015 federal election, the mandate letters to the new Cabinet Ministers included a number of initiatives which are very important for BC (see Attachment 4 – Federal Mandate Letters), including:
 - A commitment to assess whether the suite of farm income safety nets meets the needs of Canadian farmers when they are faced with serious challenges beyond their control;
 - Implementing a new multi-year agricultural policy framework to replace Growing Forward 2 (GF2);
 - Creating an Agri-Food Value Added Investment Fund to attract investment and create good jobs in food processing; and,

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- Developing a national food policy that promotes healthy living and safe food by putting healthier high-quality food, produced by Canadian ranchers and farmers, on the tables of families across the country.

Key Points:

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4. Growing Forward 3 - Ministerial Policy Statement: Minister MacAulay will provide an overview of the proposed process and high-level priorities for the Ministerial Policy Statement, which will be tabled for approval at the 2016 FPT Ministers and Deputy Ministers of Agriculture meeting in Calgary. The statement provides the policy framework for GF3 and marks the beginning of formal negotiations toward new multilateral agreements and bilateral agreements.

The current Growing Forward 2 cost shared funding agreement is set to expire on March 31, 2018. Ministry staff is engaged with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) in early discussions around a renewed funding framework. The 2015 FPT Ministers of Agriculture communiqué contained a commitment to further discuss the implications of how Growing Forward 2 areas of focus (i.e. Innovation, Competitiveness & Market Development, and Adaptability & Industry Capacity) could be applied to a broader range of food products, such as seafood.

Key Points:

- Overall, BC is satisfied with progress to date in a number of policy areas, including ensuring relative stability in Business Risk Management (BRM) programs, greater profile for climate change adaptation and general policy alignment between GF3 and BC's *AgriFood and Seafood Strategic Growth Plan*.

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Next Steps:

- Seek clarity on the details from the 2016 Federal Budget as it relates to key BC policy issues and initiatives including dedicated funding for the food processing sector and once details and implications are known, to develop a proactive response to ensure BC agrifood and seafood sector is supported if required.
- Continued active participation for BC in GF 3 negotiations to ensure BC agriculture policy issues including seafood eligibility and stability in BRM programming is clearly stated and proactively addressed, and no decrease in funding allocation occurs for next agreement occurs.

Contact: Emily Shaw, Corporate Governance, Policy and Legislation, 250-387-3232

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

Ref: 184052

Date: March 29, 2016

Issue: Status of 2008 Farm Assessment Review Panel recommendations.

Background: In 2008, government established the Farm Assessment Review Panel (FARP) to conduct a province-wide review of the existing farm assessment regulations and policies to ensure the process is fair, equitable and streamlined. The Panel reported to the then Minister of Community and Rural Development (now Community, Sport and Cultural Development) and provided its final report in July 2009 with nine recommendations to Government on ways in which to simplify and streamline the farm assessment regulations, and enhance the agricultural environment in BC.

The Ministry of Agriculture (AGRI) was a party to the inter-ministry working group charged with examining key FARP recommendations. The results of the working group's analysis is summarized in the table below:

Farm Assessment Review Panel Recommendations	s.13	Implemented
2.1 Require mandatory submission of Canada Revenue Agency income tax return for farm classification.		N
2.2 Amend reporting period for income for farm classification to coincide with federal income tax reporting period.		Y
2.3 Harmonize primary agriculture products list with federal farm income tax list.		N
2.4 Ministry of Agriculture to review primary agriculture products list within three years.		Y
4.0 Establish a single income threshold of \$3500 for all farm properties; eliminate \$10,000 threshold for properties less than two acres; and additional 5% increment for farms over 10 acres.		Y (only \$3500 threshold)*
5.0 For farm status properties in the ALR – land that is actively farmed will not be split classified.		Y
6.0 For farm status properties not in the ALR (Non-ALR) - Property will not be split classified if at least 50% of the parcel is under production or contributes to the production of qualifying primary agriculture products, or at least 25% of the parcel is under production and the owner/farmer meets the higher income threshold (\$10,000 for 2010; and 4 times the income threshold [\$14,000] for 2011 and beyond).		Y
8.0 Extend home site farm classification to retired farmers on ALR farms that stay in production.		Y
9.0 Increase exemption on farm improvements to the greater of 87.5% of assessed value or \$50,000.		Y

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Discussion: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development (CSCD) staff have indicated that they now consider their work to implement the FARP recommendations complete.

The Ministry of Agriculture's *BC Agrifood and Seafood Action Plan* includes a commitment by the Ministry to "identify options for increasing and intensifying production on unused or underutilized land." A review of the minimum income thresholds required to achieve "farm class" could help incentivize production on both lands within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) and non-ALR properties. These minimum thresholds have not been increased since before the FARP's final report and were the top issue raised during FARP's public consultations. However, any recommendations on how to proceed will need to include due consideration of current stakeholder positions, including potential impacts on municipal tax bases, and linkages to other related work underway (e.g. legalization of recreational marijuana).

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Key Messages:

- CSCD considers the FARP recommendations to be completed.

s.12;s.13;s.14

Contact: Emily Shaw, Senior Manager, Corporate Governance, Policy and Legislation, 250 387-3232

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Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION

Ref: XX

Date: March 24, 2016

Issue: Request for information on poultry industry associations, how they are structured and how they interact.

Background:

- Information in this note is updated slightly from Briefing Note for Minister Meeting: 181180.
- The BC Chicken Growers Association (BCCGA), the BC Egg Producers Association (BCEPA), BC Turkey Association (BCTA), and the BC Hatching Egg Producers Association (BCHEPA) are all producer associations of their respective commodity groups.
- The table below outlines the leadership of each of the organization in 2015. ***Please note that the results of the early March 2016 elections are still being updated.**

Board	Board Composition	Association (sub group to mktg board)	Commodity	2015 Association President*
		BC Poultry Association	Represents four associations	Ray Nickel
BC Chicken Marketing Board	2 elected from BCCGA, 3 BC Gov appointed (including Chair)	BC Chicken Growers Association	Produce chickens for meat consumption	Ravi Bathe
BC Egg Marketing Board	4 elected by BCEPA, Chair appointed by BC Gov	BC Egg Producers Association	Produce eggs for consumption	Dan Kampen
BC Broiler Hatching Egg Commission	4 elected by BCHEPA, 1 appointed chair by BC Gov	BC Hatching Egg Producers Association	Produce broiler chicken hatching eggs	Brian Brandsma
BC Turkey Marketing Board	3 elected by BCTA, Chair appointed by BC Gov	BC Turkey Association	Produce turkey for meat consumption	Steve Heppell

- Directors of the respective associations are producers. Directors are typically compensated for their service to the associations through per diems. Some producers may produce multiple commodities, and some directors may also sit as grower representatives on their respective marketing boards.
- Associations are funded by levies collected by the marketing boards. The marketing boards work closely with their respective producer organization to collaborate on projects relevant to their member producers.
- The BC Poultry Association (BCPA) represents the four producer associations. Directors of the producer associations are appointed to form the BCPA Board. The BCPA was formed following the avian influenza outbreak in 2004 and was involved with steering the development of the BC Biosecurity Standards and the BC Poultry Industry Emergency Response Plan. They also participated in development of the captive insurance product. The Poultry Biosecurity Committee and Emergency Response Committee are committees of the BCPA. The BCPA has assumed the role of the collective voice for regulated poultry production in the province.
- The various producer associations tend to interact formally through the BCPA. Many producers cross commodities and, therefore, share and receive information from multiple sources, often creating informal information channels.
- There are other, small associations that represent small groups of small flock owners for varying purposes also in existence around the province. They are not unified or represented by a provincial body and tend to regionally based.

Contact: Clayton Botkin, Industry Specialist – Poultry and Regulated Markets, (604)556-3081

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Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION

Ref: 184058

Date: March 22, 2016

Issue: 2016 Federal Budget Highlights on Spending for Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture.

Background: The federal budget was tabled on March 22, 2016. The following are highlights on specific spending for agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture.

Fisheries or initiatives that affect fisheries are mentioned several times during the 2016 budget:

- \$197.1 million over five years, starting in 2016–17, to Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) to increase ocean and freshwater science, monitoring and research activities. Funding will support new and expanded research activities that will promote the health of fish stocks and sustainable aquaculture, enable more comprehensive monitoring of the impacts of aquatic pollution, and enhance our knowledge of freshwater ecosystems.
- \$33.1 million in 2016–17 to DFO to extend the Atlantic and Pacific Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiatives (PICFI). These measures will ensure that First Nations can access commercial fisheries and build sustainable commercial fishing enterprises.
- \$81.3 million over five years, starting in 2016–17, to DFO and Natural Resources Canada to support marine conservation activities, including the designation of new Marine Protected Areas under the *Oceans Act*. Parks Canada will also continue efforts to develop new National Marine Conservation Areas. Together these actions are designed to achieve the target to protect 10% of Canada's marine and coastal areas by 2020.
- \$148.6 million for small craft harbour infrastructure improvements, including major capital construction projects on wharves, floats, breakwaters, and shore protection, to ensure a network of safe and accessible harbours for use by commercial fish harvesters across Canada.
- Fostering growth in fisheries is mentioned as a key component of Northern economic development.

Agriculture and Agri-Food are mentioned several times in the 2016 budget:

- \$30 million over six years, starting in 2016–17, to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) to support advanced research in agricultural genomics. Over the coming year, the Minister of AAFC will develop an approach for additional investments in agricultural science and research informed by the review of federal support for fundamental science to be undertaken by the Minister of Science.
- \$41.5 million, on a cash basis, starting in 2016–17, to support the rehabilitation and modernization of select AAFC and Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) research stations and laboratories in BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario and Quebec. This investment will also facilitate advanced biological and environmental research through the procurement of state-of-the-art scientific equipment.
- For the agri-food processing sector, the Government's intends to launch public consultations on eliminating tariffs on food manufacturing ingredients other than supply-managed products. These ingredients are primarily used in the agri-food processing industry, Canada's largest manufacturing employer and an important contributor to Canada's economy. Eliminating tariffs on imported ingredients will support investment and job creation in this important sector by strengthening the competitiveness of Canadian agri-food processors in domestic and foreign markets.
- The current Growing Forward 2 (2013–18) five-year policy framework, includes spending of \$3 billion by federal, provincial and territorial governments, and emphasizes support for agricultural and agri-food innovation, competitiveness, and market development.
- In addition, business risk management (BRM) programs to help farmers manage the risks associated with severe market volatility and disaster situations average annual federal provincial - territorial spending of approximately \$2 billion.

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Enhancing Food Safety:

- \$38.5 million over two years, on a cash basis, starting in 2016–17 to further strengthen and modernize Canada's food safety system. With this funding, the CFIA will invest in systems that will help target inspection activities to the highest-risk domestic and imported foods. The CFIA will also enhance inspection activities abroad to assist in responding to food safety risks before they reach domestic consumers.

Clean Energy with respect to Fisheries and Agriculture:

- Budget 2016 proposes to provide over \$1 billion over four years, starting in 2017–18, to support clean technology, including the forestry, fisheries, mining, energy and agriculture sectors.

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Although climate change is not specifically mentioned, there is a sizable investment in clean technology for forestry, fisheries, mining, energy and agriculture sectors.

Conclusion: The budget identifies some specific funding in both fisheries and agriculture that are aligned with BC priorities. It will be important for the continued and active participation in the new Growing Forward 3 negotiations, particularly in the food processing sector given there was no announcement for a special fund for this sector. As well, continued monitoring and consulting with the federal partners on the details of the announcements as they are released will be critical.

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

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Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION

Ref: 184024

Date: March 17, 2016

Issue: Impact of Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP) changes on BC's agriculture, seafood and value-added sectors

Background: On February 19, 2016, Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) posted information on its website regarding changes to the TFWP. These changes provide an exemption to the low wage cap introduced in June 2014. The 2014 wage cap restricts the number of temporary foreign workers (TFWs) an employer may hire in low wage positions to a maximum of 10% of their low wage¹ work force. The wage cap was gradually phased in, currently sitting at 20% as of July 1, 2015; this will be halved to 10% on July 1, 2016. Applications by employers seeking authorization to hire TFWs in excess of the wage cap will not be processed.

The new exemption, which is in effect from February 19, 2016 to December 31, 2016, allows employers in seasonal industries (e.g. fish processing, fairs and carnivals, ski and snowboard instructors) to hire any number of TFWs for low wage seasonal positions provided they are for a work duration of no longer than 180 days. The exemption can only be used one time, per work location and will be valid until the end of 2016. This announcement is similar to a previous exemption administered under the Conservative government in 2015 that was limited to seasonal positions for longer than 120 days.

Discussion: As with the majority of other TFWP changes introduced in June 2014 (see Appendix 1), the low wage cap does not apply to on-farm primary agriculture positions, including those under the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program (SAWP) and the agriculture stream.

The wage cap does apply to low-wage positions in food processing, fish and seafood processing and other value-added industries. The new exemption is intended to provide more opportunities to employers to hire TFWs in low-wage positions for short-term seasonal labour demands. BC industries with a high degree of seasonal labour demand such as fish and seafood processing, stand to benefit from the additional flexibility provided by the cap, while those with more stable labour demands (e.g. meat processing) do not.

In BC in 2013, the number of TFWs in fish and food processing related occupations was 226. In 2014, the year that the 30% cap was introduced, those numbers dropped by 28%. s.13

In addition, the new federal Liberal government has announced a review of the TFWP, which is being led by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resources and the Status of Persons with Disabilities (HUMA).s.13

Next Steps: Ministry staff will monitor HUMA proceedings for indications of additional potential changes to the TFWP which may affect agriculture, aquaculture, commercial fisheries and value-added industries.

Contact: Emily Shaw, Corporate Governance, Policy and Legislation, 250-387-3232

EDIR LH ADM JM DM DS

¹ Low wage" is defined as a position earning less than \$22/hour, the median hourly wage in the BC labour market based on Statistics Canada's 2014 Labour Force Survey.

CONFIDENTIAL
ADVICE TO MINISTER

Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION

Appendix 1 - Summary of TFWP changes (June 2014)

1. Complete ban for most positions in restaurants, hotels and retail in most regions of Canada (where unemployment is above 6%). The ban includes:
 - Food counter attendants, kitchen helpers
 - Cleaning staff
 - Cashiers, clerks
 - Security staff
2. Other “low wage” jobs will be defined as those paying under the provincial median wage (approx. \$20 per hour in most regions).
3. A non-refundable fee of \$1,000 per position just to apply (the money is lost if the position is not approved). This applies to both low and high wage TFWs, other than seasonal agriculture.
4. Employers of low wage workers will be allowed to have a maximum of 10% of the workforce as TFWs (other than for firms under 10 workers). This will be phased in for current TFW employers over the next two years.
5. Work permits for both low and high wage TFWs will be reduced from 2 years to 1 year. Low wage TFWs will be required to return home after a maximum of 24 months.
6. Massive new paperwork requirements to document every application, every interview and reasons for every rejected candidate.
7. Still no national pathway to permanent residency for lower-skilled TFWs.

Note: High wage jobs (above the provincial median wage), seasonal agricultural workers and live-in caregivers are exempt from several of these provisions. High wage jobs will require the \$1,000 non-refundable application fee and will be subject to a 1-year maximum with a transition plan for the employer to move to an all-Canadian workforce. These changes do not currently apply in Quebec, but the federal government is working with the province to expand this across the country.

NATURAL RESOURCE SECTOR – JOINT MINISTRY DECISION NOTE

Date: March 4, 2016

File: 0280-130

CLIFF: NRS 183966

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Norm Letnick, Minister of Agriculture (AGRI) and Honourable Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO).

ISSUE: Aquatic Plant Harvesting Documents for the Tla'amin Final Agreement (TFA).

BACKGROUND:

The TFA comes into legal effect on April 5, 2016. Under the TFA, Tla'amin First Nation will acquire the right to harvest fish and aquatic plants for domestic purposes (i.e. for Tla'amin members' personal consumption), within the Tla'amin Fishing Area. To enable Tla'amin harvest of fish and aquatic plants, the Province is obligated to provide Harvest Documents if Tla'amin request them as part of their Annual Fishing Plan (AFP).

Tla'amin requested Harvest Documents for Aquatic Plants and Freshwater Fish as part of their 2016 AFP, for the 2016/2017 fishing year. Harvest Documents issued to Tla'amin are valid for the fishing year, but can be amended by the responsible Minister for conservation, health and public safety concerns.

Section 13 of the *Tla'amin Final Agreement Act* states that it is the Minister charged with the administration of the *Wildlife Act* (Minister of FLNRO) who has authority to issue all Harvest Documents for the purposes of the TFA:

13. The minister charged with the administration of the Wildlife Act has the authority to issue and amend licences, permits or other documents in respect of the Tla'amin Fishing Right for the purposes of and in accordance with paragraphs 76 to 81 of Chapter 9 [Fisheries] of the Tla'amin Final Agreement.

DISCUSSION:

The Harvest Document for Freshwater Fish will be generated by FLNRO staff and forwarded to the Minister of FLNRO directly. However, because AGRI administers BC's commercial aquatic plant harvest under the *Fisheries Act* and Fisheries Act Regulations, AGRI staff have generated the Aquatic Plant Harvest Document for signature by the Minister of FLNRO (see attached). Because the Harvest Document is to be signed by the Minister of FLNRO, the Harvest Document is on FLNRO letterhead. AGRI staff have also developed a Tla'amin Aquatic Plant Harvest Guide and a Tla'amin Aquatic Plant Harvest Log to facilitate AGRI's management of the harvest (see also attached).

The Harvest Document for 2016/2017 does not impose a harvest limit, as an allocation for aquatic plants was not established by the Province under the TFA. Given authorization is for domestic purposes only, the risk of not imposing a limit is small. However, the Harvest Document does establish restrictions on harvest techniques and imposes reporting requirements. AGRI considers it important to both encourage sustainable harvest practises and collect data on the harvest to inform its ongoing management of the commercial aquatic plant harvest. Should harvest reports from TFN at

some point suggest a harvest limit would be advisable, the Province can establish a limit under paragraph 59 of the TFA (Fisheries Chapter).

If the attached Harvest Document is signed by the Minister, it will be effective from April 5, 2016 to January 31, 2017, to be consistent with the AFP. No fees or royalties are due to the Province as a result of Tla'amin's harvesting for domestic purposes under the TFA.

The Tla'amin have reviewed a draft of the Aquatic Plant Harvest Document and consider it acceptable.

OPTIONS:

The TFA compels the Province to issue a Harvest Document to Tla'amin. Tla'amin is planning community consultation in relation to the Harvest Document on March 15, 2016. Further delay in approval of the Harvest Document at this time could impact Tla'amin members' ability to harvest under the TFA. .

Option 1: Minister of FLNRO signs the Harvest Document and directs staff to provide the signed document, to Tla'amin.

Implications:

- Satisfies Provincial treaty obligation to Tla'amin.
- Allows Tla'amin members to begin harvesting aquatic plants under the TFA beginning April 5, 2016.

s.13

RECOMMENDATION:


Option 1: Minister of FLNRO signs the Harvest Document and directs staff to provide the signed document to Tla'amin.

Approved / Not Approved


Signature
Honourable Norm Letnick, Minister of
Agriculture

March 14, 2016
Date

Approved / Not Approved


Signature
Honourable Steve Thomson, Minister Forest
Lands and Natural Resource Operations

March 14 / 2016
Date

Attachments: 1) Aquatic Plant Harvest Document for Tla'amin Nation

Contact:*ADM: James Mack**Div: Agriculture Science and Policy
Division**Phone: 250-356-1821***Alternate Contact:***Name: Wayne Sparanese, Manager**Div/Region/Branch: Seafood Safety and Quality**Phone: 250-897-7526***Prepared by:***Name: Jim Russell**Branch/Region: Seafood Safety and
Quality**Phone: 778-677-5422*

Reviewed by	Initials	Date
DM		
DMO		
ADM		
PRGM Dir./Mgr.		



Aquatic Plant Harvest Document for Tla'amin Nation

File No.: 20560-20-HD Tla'amin
Harvest Document No.: Tla'amin-01

Issued To: Attention: Hegus, Tla'amin Nation
Tla'amin Nation
6686 Sliammon Road
Powell River BC V8A 4Z3

This Harvest Document is issued by the Minister under the authority of Section 13 of the *Tla'amin Final Agreement Act* and Paragraph 76, Fisheries Chapter of the *Tla'amin Final Agreement*, for Aquatic Plant species managed by the Province of British Columbia. All terms used in this document have the same meaning as that contained in the *Tla'amin Final Agreement* and applicable legislation.

Accordingly, this Harvest Document authorizes Tla'amin Nation to exercise their Tla'amin Fishing Right for Domestic Purposes, in accordance with the following conditions.

Harvest Period: April 5, 2016 to January 31, 2017

Harvest Location: Tla'amin Fishing Area

Harvestable Aquatic Plant Species:

- Group 1:** Giant kelp (*Macrocystis integrifolia*) / Bull kelp (*Nereocystis luetkeana*)
- Group 2:** Sugar kelp (*Saccharina* spp.) / Ribbon kelp (*Alaria* spp.) / Feather Boa kelp (*Egregia menziesii*) / *Eisenia arborea* / *Costaria costata* / *Agarum* spp. / Sea Cabbage (*Hedophyllum sessile*) / Three Ribbed kelp (*Cymathere triplicatei*) / *Pterygophora californica*
- Group 3:** *Gracilaria* spp. / *Gracilariopsis sjoestedtii* / *Gelidium* spp. / *Gymnogrongs* spp. / *Ahnfeltia* spp. / Red Weed (*Agardhiella tenera*) / *Endocladia muricata* / *Gloiopeltis furcata*
- Group 4:** *Iridaea* spp. / Little Turkish Towel (*Gigartina* spp.)
- Group 5:** Rockweed (*Fucus* spp.) / *Sargassum muticum* / Chain Bladder (*Cystoseira geminata*)
- Group 6:** Nori (*Porphyra* spp.) / *Rhodomenia* spp. / Sea Lettuce (*Ulva* spp.) / Gut Weed (*Enteromorpha* spp.) / *Monostroma* spp.
- Group 7:** Eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) / Surfgrass (*Phyllospadix* spp.)
- Group 8:** Sea Asparagus (*Salicornia* spp.)
- Group 9:** Other marine plants not referenced above.

Permitted Harvest Techniques:

- Hand harvesting only, using a sharp cutting instrument.

- A Tla'amin Harvester must not block access to upland areas.
- This Harvest Document does not allow trespass on upland areas.
- Each Tla'amin Harvester must keep a harvest log to be submitted by Tla'amin Nation to the Ministry of Agriculture annually.
- Giant kelp (*Macrocystis integrifolia*): Only individual fronds may be cut. No more than 25% of the fronds on any individual plant may be cut.
- Bull kelp (*Nereocystis leutkeana*): Blades closer than 20 cm from the bulb must not be cut. The bulb or stipe must not be harvested.
- No more than 20% of the plants in any bed of any species may be harvested.
- For Sugar kelp (*Saccharina* spp.) and Winged kelp (*Alaria* spp.), blades closer than 10 cm from the base of the plant must not be cut.
- For Feather Boa kelp (*Egregia menziesii*), only branches longer than 50 cm may be cut. The branch must be cut so that at least 5 cm of the rachis remains intact.
- Any species in Group 3: No plant may be harvested closer than 5 cm distal from the base.
- For *Iridaea* spp. and Little Turkish towel (*Gigartina* spp.), blades closer than 10 cm from the base of the plant must not be cut.
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Definitions:

“distal” means remote from the point of attachment or origin;

“group” means a specific group of marine plants;

“harvest” includes cut, take, dredge, rake or otherwise obtain;

“Tla'amin Harvester” means an individual member of the Tla'amin Nation engaged in aquatic plant harvest;

“upland” privately owned waterfront property.

Monitoring & Reporting: All Tla'amin harvesters must complete a Tla'amin Aquatic Plant Harvest Log. Tla'amin Nation to submit the harvest logs of all Tla'amin harvesters by March 1, 2017 to:

Attention: Marine Plant Biologist
Ministry of Agriculture
2500 Cliffe Avenue
Courtenay, BC
V9N 5M6

These conditions may be amended in accordance with Paragraph 80 and 81 of the Tla'amin Final Agreement.

Issued By:



Steve Thomson
Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Issue Date: March 14 / 2016

TLA'AMIN AQUATIC PLANT HARVEST LOG

Name of Tla'amin Harvester: _____

Harvest Document #: _____

Note: This log must be completed IN INK after each daily harvest, prior to leaving harvest area. Log must be available for inspection at all times, while harvesting or transporting the plants.

Date Harvested (yyyy/mm/dd)	DFO Stat Area and Subarea	Specific Area Description	Species Harvested	Quantity Harvested (Kg wet weight)	Initial of Harvester
Total Weight [Kilograms (Kg)] for this log sheet					



Ministry of Agriculture

I declare this harvest log to be correct and true to the best of my knowledge

**Return this form to the Ministry of
Agriculture:**

Ministry of Agriculture
2500 Cliffe Avenue
Courtney, BC V9N 5M6

Attention: Marine Plant Biologist

Signature of Harvester: _____

Date: _____

Print name: _____



Aquatic Plant Harvest Document for Tla'amin Nation

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Harvest Document No.: Tla'amin-01

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Tla'amin Nation
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Issued By:

Steve Thomson
Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Issue Date: _____

TLA'AMIN AQUATIC PLANT HARVEST LOG

Name of Tla'amin Harvester: _____

Harvest Document #: _____

Note: This log must be completed IN INK after each daily harvest, prior to leaving harvest area. Log must be available for inspection at all times, while harvesting or transporting the plants.

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Total Weight [Kilograms (Kg)] for this log sheet					



Ministry of Agriculture

I declare this harvest log to be correct and true to the best of my knowledge

**Return this form to the Ministry of
Agriculture:**

Ministry of Agriculture
2500 Cliffe Avenue
Courtney, BC V9N 5M6
Attention: Marine Plant Biologist

Signature of Harvester: _____

Date: _____

Print name: _____

Tla'amin Aquatic Plant Identification Guide

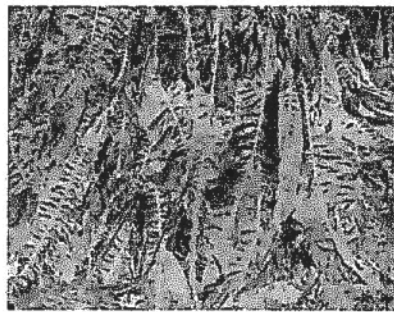
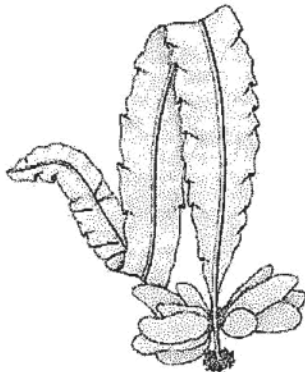
Brown Algae (Phaeophyta)

'Rockweed' *Fucus gardneri*



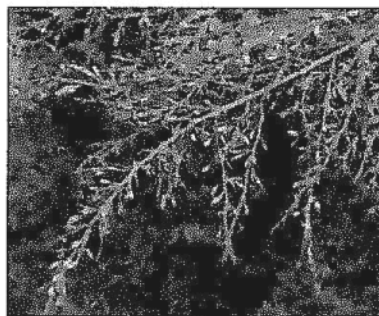
Habitat –Abundant, on rocks of the middle and low intertidal zones, in fully sheltered to fully exposed habitats.

'Ribbon Kelp' *Alaria marginata*



Habitat –On rocks in the lower intertidal and upper subtidal zones.

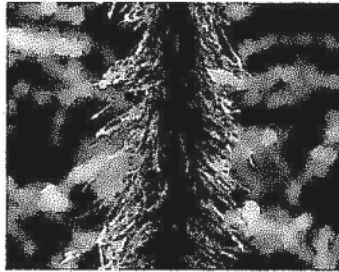
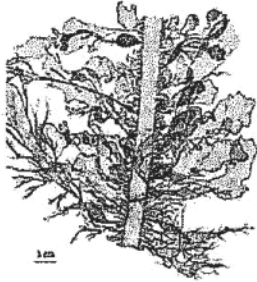
Sargassum muticum



Habitat –On rocks in the lower intertidal and upper subtidal zones.

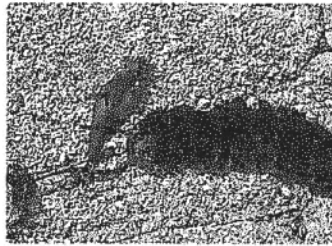
Tla'amin Aquatic Plant Identification Guide

'Feather Boa Kelp' *Egregia menziesii*



Habitat –On rocks in the lower intertidal and upper subtidal zones in fairly exposed areas.

'Sugar Kelp' *Saccharina (Laminaria) latissima (saccharina)*



Habitat –on rocks in the lower intertidal and upper subtidal zones.

'Bull Kelp' *Nereocystis leutkeana*



Habitat –On rocks in the upper subtidal zone and to a depth of 30-90 m.

Tla'amin Aquatic Plant Identification Guide

'Acid Kelp' *Desmarestia ligulata*

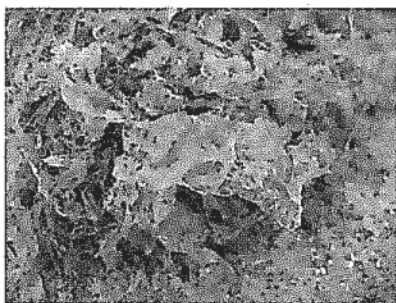
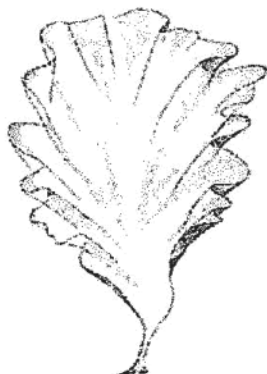


Habitat – On rocks and shells in the lower intertidal and upper subtidal zones.

Tla'amin Aquatic Plant Identification Guide

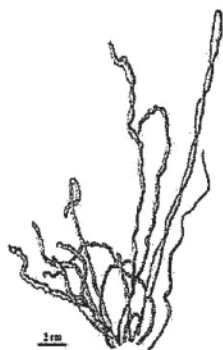
Green Algae (Chlorophyta)

'Sea Lettuce' *Ulva lactuca*



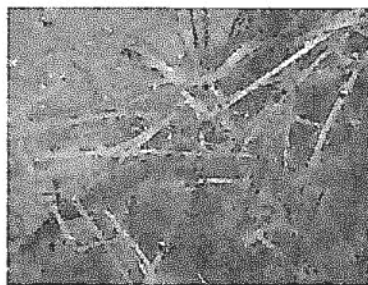
Habitat –On rocks and free floating in the lower intertidal and upper subtidal zones.

'Gut Weed' *Enteromorpha intestinalis*



Habitat –On rocks and epiphytic on other algae and shells in the upper intertidal zone; often in brackish water.

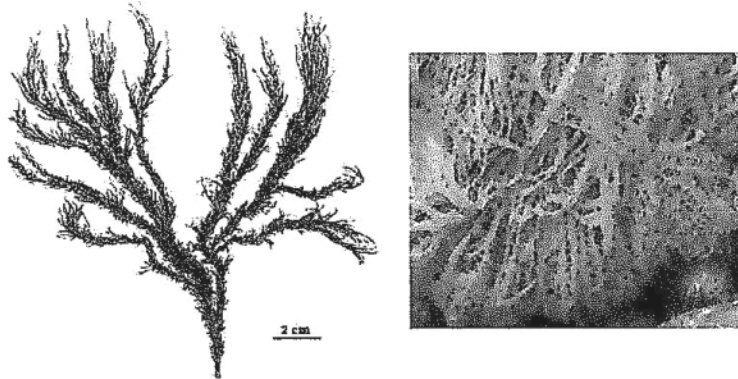
'Eelgrass' *Zostera marina*



Habitat –In quiet bays, usually with mud bottom, in the lower intertidal and upper subtidal regions.

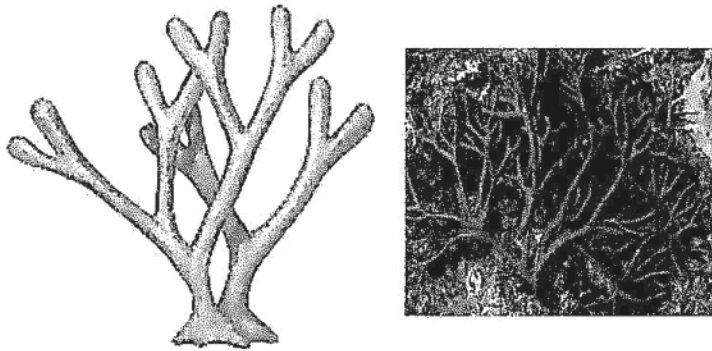
Tla'amin Aquatic Plant Identification Guide

'Witches Hair' *Acrosiphonia coalita*



Habitat –Common to abundant, on rocks and in tidepools, in the mid to low intertidal.

'Dean Man's Fingers' *Codium fragile*

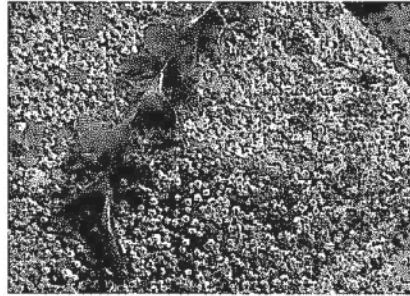


Habitat –Frequent to common, on rocky shores, in pools in the mid to low intertidal. Occasional to common, on rocks, subtidally.

Tla'amin Aquatic Plant Identification Guide

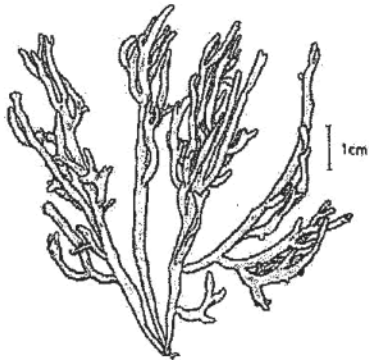
Red Algae (Rhodophyta)

'Nori' *Porphyra abbottiae*



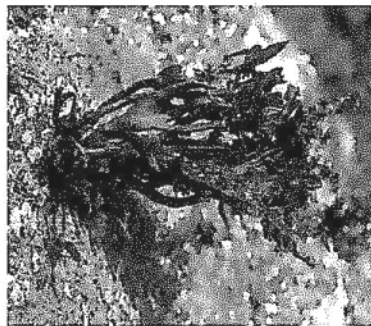
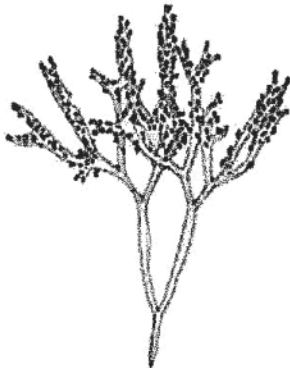
Habitat –On rocks and epiphytic on other algae in the intertidal and upper subtidal zones.

Gracilaria and *Gracilariopsis* spp.



Habitat –On rocks and shells in the lower intertidal and upper subtidal zones.

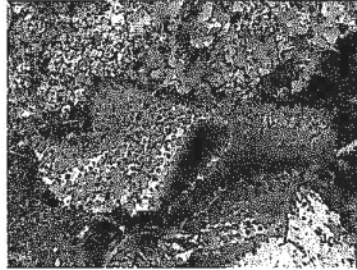
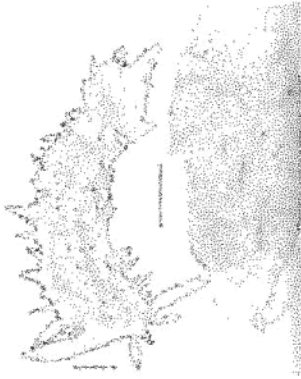
Mastocarpus jardinii



Habitat –On rocks in the mid to high intertidal zone.

Tla'amin Aquatic Plant Identification Guide

'Turkish Towel' *Chondracanthus exasperatus*

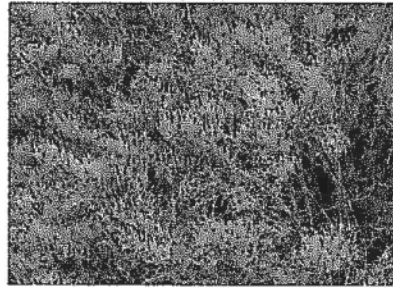
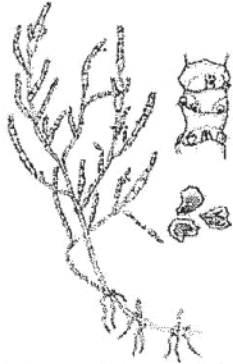


Habitat –Common on rocks, low intertidal and subtidal.

Tla'amin Aquatic Plant Identification Guide

Flowering Plants (Magnoliopsida)

'Sea Asparagus' *Salicornia virginica*



Habitat –Frequent in coastal salt marshes and tidal wetlands.

Tla'amin Aquatic Plant Identification Guide

Citations

Fucus gardneri

Line diagram –Copyright 2003, 2004 Paul C. Silva and the Regents of the University of California

Photo –Copyright Marilyn I. Cannon

Alaria marginata

Line diagram –depts.washington.edu/jrlab/Salomon/methods.html

Photo –www.seaweeds.alaska.com/species.asp?SeaweedID=20

Sargassum muticum

Line diagram – ucjeps.berkeley.edu/guide/brown83.html

Photo – www.rafts.org.uk/projects/biosecurityplanning...

Egregia mensiesii

Line diagram –ucjeps.berkeley.edu/guide/brown32.html

Photo: Colin Bates – www.marinebiodiversity.ca/.../egregia.jpg/view

Laminaria saccharina

Line diagram –ucjeps.berkeley.edu/guide/brown54.html

Photo – lebrusc.cher-alice.fr/pages/laminaria_sacchar...

Nereocystis luetkeana

Line diagram – www.pc.gc.ca/.../toile-web/toile-web4b_e.asp

Photo – www.georgiastrait.org/?q=node/556

Desmarestia ligulata

Line diagram – ucjeps.berkeley.edu/guide/brown20.html

Photo – www.beachwatchers.wsu.edu/ezidweb/seaweeds/Desmarestialigulata.htm

Ulva lactuca

Line diagram –www.01sante.com/.../icontent/index.php?page=590

Photo –commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ulva_lactuca.jpeg

Enteromorpha intestinalis

Line diagram –copyright 2003, 2004 Paul C. Silva and the Regents of the University of California

Photo –www.guiamarina.com/.../Enteromorpha%20sp..htm

Eelgrass (*Zostera marina*)

Line diagram - www.oregon.gov/DSL/SSNERR/coreprinciples.shtml

Photo: www.pwlf.org/eelgrass/photos.htm

Tla'amin Aquatic Plant Identification Guide

Acrosiphonia

Line diagram – <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/guide/green3.html>

Photo – www.beachwatchers.wsu.edu/ezidweb/seaweeds/Ac...

Codium fragile

Line diagram/ Photo –

<http://linnet.geog.ubc.ca/Atlas/AtlasAlgae.aspx?sciname=Codium%20fragile>

Porphyra abbotiae

Line diagram – <http://www.seaweedsalaska.com/species.asp?SeaweedID=110>

Photo: Penny White – [flickr.com/photos/47257354@N00/2090782156](https://www.flickr.com/photos/47257354@N00/2090782156)

Gracilaria

Line diagram – www.fao.org/docrep/field/003/ac417e/ac417e00.htm

Photo: www.thereeftank.com/forums/f190/anyone-sellin...

Salicornia virginica

Line diagram – www.florafaunagraphics.com/Botany.html

Photo – www.pknoll.net/.../chenopodia_salicornia.html

Mastocarpus jardinii

Line diagram –

www.miljolare.no/delt/bilder/planter/saltvann/aasen_1980/raudalgar/index.htm

Photo: [flickr.com/photos/seaweedlady/562943736/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/seaweedlady/562943736/)

Chondracanthus exasperates

Line diagram – www.marine.stanford.edu/GMSonline.htm

Photo – www.dereila.ca/dereilaimages/Marine.html

Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION

Ref: 183955

Date: March 4, 2016

Issue: Industrial Lands

Background:

One of Port Metro Vancouver's (PMV) strategic priorities is to increase port capacity over the next 15-20 years. This strategy identifies the lack of suitable land as a top risk and therefore PMV has developed an aggressive land acquisition strategy across the lower mainland (PMV 2014 financial report).

According to a reporter (Country Life in BC February 2016), this plan includes the acquisition of 2,700 acres by 2030 which includes land within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR). PMV's CEO Robin Silvester is quoted as saying "I don't think we would be bound [by the ALC]. As a federal body here at Port Metro Vancouver, we have supremacy". Mr. Silvester was also quoted as describing agriculture as "emotionally important [but] almost meaningless for the Lower Mainland", economically and as a local food supply.

The City of Richmond, City of Delta, and the Delta Farmers Institute have all expressed concerns over PMV's process and the potential loss of farmland.

Discussion:

Property Ownership

PMV's legal name is Vancouver Fraser Port Authority (VFPA). VFPA has several wholly-owned subsidiaries which exist as property holding companies, including North Fraser Terminals Inc., Port Metro Vancouver Enterprises Inc., and Port Metro Vancouver Holdings Inc. Three additional subsidiaries include: Canada Place Corporation (manages Canada Place), Port Metro Vancouver Ventures Ltd. (venture investment), and Marine Safety Holdings Ltd.

Ministry of Agriculture (AGRI) staff attempted to research all land currently owned by PMV within Vancouver, Richmond and Delta to determine the potential impact to land in the ALR. This research included BC Land Title and Survey Authority property title searches on all 8 known business names, all land holdings identified by PMV on their website, and BC's Integrated Land and Resource Registry.

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Conclusion:

PMV has six subsidiaries with three set up as property holding companies. Property title research shows that PMV has influence over 3 parcels totaling approximately 230 acres of ALR land. All three parcels were being farmed as of 2010. PMV's known ALR ownership is a fraction of the land it is looking for to support its long term port activities.

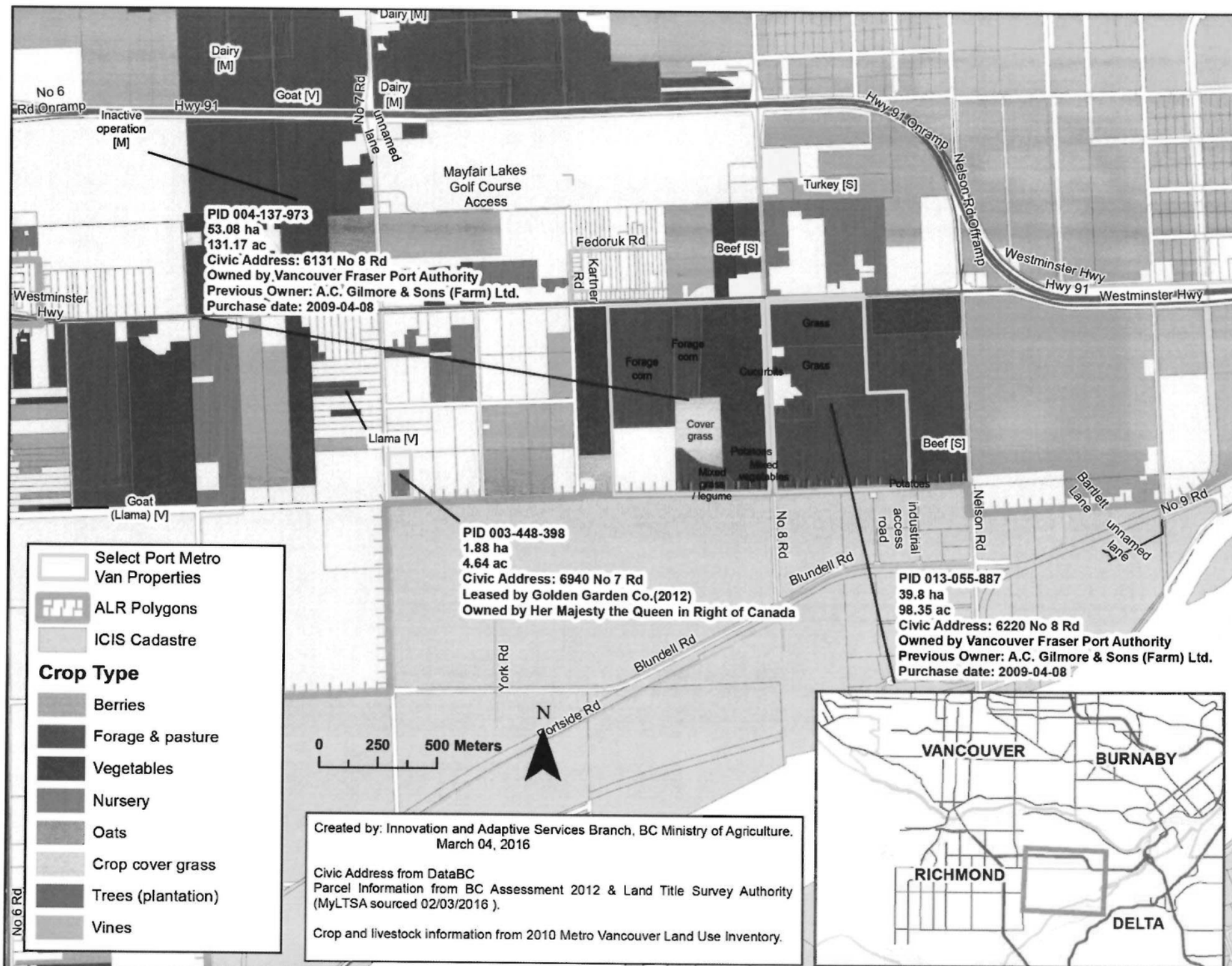
PMV also acts as an agent of the Crown and manages land and property that is registered in the name of Her Majesty The Queen of Canada. AGRI has no reliable way to determine which Crown parcels are under PMV management and in the ALR.

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Contact: Brenda Lennox, Innovation and Adaptation Services Branch 250 356-2945

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Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION

Ref: 183722

Date: March 4, 2016

Issue: BC Poultry Association's request regarding the administration of Import Tariff Rate Quotas and composition of the BC Chicken Marketing Board – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUESTED BY THE MINISTER

Background: On January 21, 2016, BCPA submitted a letter to the Minister detailing two requests:

1. The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade agreement provides for additional import access to Canada's supply managed markets (including dairy, chicken, turkey and eggs) through a system of allocated Tariff Rate Quotas (TRQs). BCPA is seeking a shift of responsibility for the administration of the TRQs from Global Affairs Canada to the national poultry agencies and has asked for Minister Letnick's support for this with the federal government.
2. BCPA requests the Ministry proceed with an Order-In-Council to amend the current Board composition to a single government-appointed Chair and four elected registered chicken growers.

The Minister has asked for additional industry input on the question of the administration of TRQs and for a discussion of the pros and cons of the chicken board being composed mostly of elected chicken producers.

Discussion: AGRI has discussed TPP-related issues with the BC Farm Industry Review Board (FIRB) and members of the poultry industry. AGRI recognizes the need for review and changes in administration of TRQs. The increase in import TRQ resulting from the TPP could exacerbate the already heavy focus on central-Canada for production quota, leading to shortages for BC-based processors. FIRB and AGRI are in agreement that the administration of TRQs must reflect the national principles on which supply management is founded, including balanced national allocations that ensure regions have sufficient supply to fill regional demand.

Perspective of the processing sector with regard to the administration of Tariff Rate Quotas (TRQs)

In a discussion on this issue of the administration of TRQs with Ron Kilmury, a consultant for Primary Poultry Processors Association of BC, it was pointed out that in the past, these TRQs have primarily gone to central Canadian interests (processors, wholesalers and retailers) to the disadvantage of western primary processors. Mr. Kilmury believes that with the increase in TRQs that will occur if/when the TPP comes into force, now is a good time to press the federal government to provide a more equitable distribution of TRQs across Canada. Furthermore, Mr. Kilmury was clear that the benefits to the economy would be more significant if TRQ was given to primary processors rather than to wholesalers/retailers, as primary processors will add more value to the product in the region than for a product that goes directly for sale.

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Rationale and Pros/Cons regarding independent members on marketing boards and commissions

- Boards are first instance regulators – the structure of the boards must be such that it enables them to deliver the legal obligations of the responsibility.

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Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION

- Having producer-only or producer-dominated boards risks the regulator being captured (or the perception of being captured) by those it regulates. Serious problems can arise including conflict of interest; acting only in the producer interest rather than the public interest; loss of social licence, etc.
- Having some producer members is valuable to ensure credibility with industry and in providing knowledge about the industry.
- Independent members add value. They bring a public interest and governance focus and they fill expertise (and skill-set) gaps that might otherwise not be available.
- Boards may not want to incorporate more independent members at first but will likely see the benefit in time. This has been the case with regard to the independent chairs.
- A example of the value of independent board members is the Cranberry Commission which sought out independent members to broaden its range of expertise. This has worked to ensure that sound marketing policy is met.
- Also, the BC Milk Marketing Board includes a non-producer member elected of the Milk Industry Advisory Committee (MIAC).
- Simply having independent board members is not sufficient in ensuring an effective and public interest focus board. The process for selecting independent members needs to be transparent and competency-based. This proviso should apply to board or government appointed members.
- Boards can select their own independent members providing they do it using a BCFIRB approved process. This approach is already in use (in the case of the Cranberry Commission) and has proven to be effective.
- To ensure that the independent voice representing the broader public interest predominates on boards not only should the Chair and Vice-Chair should be government appointees but more than half (i.e., a majority) of the board members (including the Chair and Vice-Chair) should be independent or government appointed members.
- Ultimately, it comes down to good governance. Government's role is to ensure appropriate regulatory structure is in place so that the intent of legislation can be met (in this case, the intent of regulated marketing).
- The environment in which regulated marketing and supply management operate is becoming increasingly complex. The boards must have the skill sets, experience and knowledge to deal with technically challenging decisions.
 - Independent members bring outside skill sets and knowledge to support building outcomes that matter beyond the producer level. Focusing only at the producer level is a fundamental weakness given the world of trade agreements, rapidly shifting retail and consumer demands and processor consolidation.
 - As a first instance regulator, board decisions need to be accountable to the industry and the value chain, not specific business interests. In the past, decisions by chicken producer board members resulted in conflicts of interests.
- BCFIRB supports the addition of independent members (e.g., Vegetable Marketing Commission supervisory review decision January 7, 2013).
- Having independent members helps solve the problem for some sectors that don't have a sufficiently large pool of producers to serve on the board/commission (e.g., vegetables/hogs)
- The original intent of the supply management system was to have non-producers on the national supervisory agency – the Farm Products Council of Canada, all provincial supervisory boards and national commodity agencies.

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

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Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING
with the His Excellency Tony Negus, Australian High Commissioner to Canada on March 8, 2016

Ref: 183957

Date: March 3, 2016

Issue: British Columbia – Australia Agrifoods Trade Relations and the Trans Pacific Partnership trade agreement.

Background: Mr. Negus was appointed as the Australian High Commissioner to Canada in February 2015. Please see the Appendix for background information on His Excellency.

The export profiles of both BC and Australia have a strong focus on natural resources including agrifoods. While BC and Australia compete on a few key products (beef and wheat) the export profiles are mostly complimentary.

In 2015, BC exported \$27.2 million worth of agrifood and seafood products to Australia – the Province's 11th largest export market – down 4.36% from 2014. Top exports included food preparations for manufacturing (\$6.7 million), canned Sockeye salmon (\$5.3 million), coffee (\$3.1 million), canned pink Salmon (\$2.8 million), and blueberries (\$2.5 million).

In 2015, BC imported \$170.4 million worth of agrifood and seafood products from Australia, up 17.7% from 2014. Top imports included beef cuts (\$38.8 million), lamb cuts (\$38.3 million), wine (\$30 million), and sheep cuts (\$14.1 million).

Discussion: Australia and Canada are both signatories of the 12-country Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP). This agreement, which was reached in October 2015, is now with the TPP governments for ratification.s.13

Beyond supply management, the other issue for Australia in its trade relations with Canada is wine. Australia, along with the United States, the European Union, Chile and Argentina, has complained in writing to Canada that BC's recent liquor reforms do not comply with international trade obligations. On March 5, 2015, the Australian Wine and Grape Authority – a government run entity – wrote to Premier Clark taking issue with BC's move to only allow 100% BC wine on grocery shelves. The letter outlines the following:

- BC VQA wine sales are growing and have a 20.9% total share of the market, while Australian wine sales are declining in BC.
- Concern was expressed that BC wineries are receiving preferential treatment, including being allowed to direct deliver without any fees or mark-ups and receive rebates for wines sold in BC Liquor Stores – and the move to only allow BC wines on grocery store shelves is unfair and contrary to existing trade agreements.

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It is worth noting that Canada, in spite of its relatively small market, represents Australia's 4th largest market for wine after the US, the UK and China. Overall, Australian wine exports grew by 15% last year, but exports to Canada, as well as the US and the UK, declined. Canada, and in particular BC, which represent approximately 16.5% of the total Canadian market, remains a buoyant and valuable market for Australian

wine. Australian wine is the second largest source of imported wine in BC. According to Statistics Canada data, their wine exports to BC grew by 3% (contrary to the Australian Wine and Grape Authority's claims that exports to BC are declining).

Suggested Response:

- BC strongly supports the Trans-Pacific Partnership, and has encouraged the federal government to ratify the agreement as soon as possible.
- BC has, as does Australia, a strategic interest in the Asia-Pacific region. The Province of BC acts as an advocate within Canada for closer ties throughout the region. In particular, we are interested in Australia's success in achieving trade agreements with key nations in the region. We recognize the huge growth opportunities that this region represents for our agrifood and seafood industries.
- As a relatively small wine region where imports dominate our market, we need to support the viability and growth of our industry.
- Nevertheless, BC is mindful of Canada's international trade obligations and we work closely with the federal government to ensure BC's liquor distribution policies are consistent with these obligations.
- We both know how our domestic wine industries contribute positively to our tourism and culinary sectors.
- Canada, and in particular BC, remains a buoyant and valuable market for Australian wine.
- Canada, in spite of its relatively small market, is the fourth largest market for Australian wine.
- Of the Canadian market, BC represents 16%.
- Australian wine is the second largest source of imported wine in BC, recording a 3% growth in the past year.

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

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Appendix

High Commissioner H.E. Mr. Tony Negus AO APM



The Australian High Commissioner to Canada is His Excellency Mr. Tony Negus AO APM. Taking up his appointment in February 2015, Mr. Negus previously served in the Australian Federal Police for 32 years and most recently as its Commissioner from 2009-2014.

In 2016 Mr. Negus was named in the Australia Day Honours List as an Officer in the Order of Australia (AO). He has also been awarded the Australian Police Medal (APM) in 2005.

Mr. Negus has been awarded several international awards including the INTERPOL Medal in 2014 in recognition of his significant contribution to global safety and security, the Indonesian National Police Meritorious Service Star in 2012 and the International Police and Public Safety 9/11 Medal (USA) in 2012.

Mr. Negus holds a Masters of Public Policy and Administration from Charles Sturt University, a Graduate Diploma of Executive Leadership from the Australian Institute of Police Management, and has attended a Harvard University leadership program. Mr. Negus is married with three children.

Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION

Ref: 183936

Date: March 1, 2016

Issue: Employment in BC's agrifood and seafood sector could grow by 6% (3,254) between 2014 and 2024.

Background:

- The Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training (JTST) is the lead ministry for jobs and labour in BC and produces the provincial Labour Market Outlook (LMO) which forecasts job openings by occupation within BC.
- Upon special request by AGRI, JTST produced employment forecasts for those agrifood- and seafood-related sectors for which they had data: Agriculture; Fishing (including hunting and trapping); and Food Manufacturing.
- AGRI used the employment growth forecasts to generate projections for total employment in the provincial agrifood and seafood industry for 2017, 2020 and 2024 to align with the *2012 BC Agrifoods Strategy*; the *BC Agrifood and Seafood Strategic Growth Plan (SGP)*; and, the lifespan of the Growing Forward 3 agreement.

Discussion:

- AGRI projections are based on Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates for the number of BC residents employed in the sector – 54,400 in 2014.
- The projections show BC's total agrifood and seafood labour force could increase to 56,651 in 2017 (up 2,251 and 4.1%); to 57,535 in 2020 (up 884 and 1.6%); and to 57,654 by 2024 (up 119 and another 0.2%). (See Appendix.)
- Strong growth in employment is projected to occur in the food and beverage manufacturing sectors, while the agriculture, aquaculture, and commercial fishing sectors are projected to see employment decline or remain unchanged.
- By 2024, the projection is for an increase of 3,420 persons in food manufacturing, 968 persons in beverage manufacturing, a decline of 900 persons in agriculture (including aquaculture) and a decline of 234 persons in commercial fishing.
- The LFS and the projection do not include non-residents of BC and in particular do not take into account the number of Temporary Foreign Workers in BC agriculture (which rose from 696 persons in 2005 to 6,007 persons in 2014) nor the farm help that BC farmers secure through the World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms, and Work Away programs.
- JTST's LMO forecasts an increase in the total number of job openings for the sector. Most will result from replacements of existing workers due to retirement or death which will not cause a change to the total employment number but offers an opportunity for new entrants into the industry.

Summary:

- BC's total agrifood and seafood employment could increase 6% from 54,400 in 2014 to 57,654 by 2024. Growth is projected to occur in the food and beverage manufacturing sectors while the agriculture, aquaculture and commercial fishing sectors are projected to see employment decline or remain unchanged.

Contact: Laura Munroe, Corporate Statistics and Research Unit, 250 208-3481

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Appendix: BC Agrifood and Seafood Employment Outlook to 2024

	2014	2017	2020	2024	Change 2014-2024	Percent Change 2014-2024
Agriculture ¹	24,300	24,200	23,700	23,400	-900	-3.7%
Commercial Fishing ²	2,000	1,724	1,742	1,766	-234	-11.7%
Food Manufacturing	21,900	23,947	25,012	25,320	3,420	15.6%
Beverage Manufacturing ³	6,200	6,780	7,081	7,168	968	15.6%
Total Agrifoods	54,400	56,651	57,535	57,654	3,254	6.0%
Percent Change Between Years		4.1%	1.6%	0.2%		

Source: BC Ministry of Agriculture, Corporate Statistics and Research Unit, January 2016. Adapted from Statistics Canada, 2014 Labour Force Survey and from projected growth rates provide by the BC Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training, 2024 Labour Market Outlook model.

1. Agriculture includes Crop and Animal Production (including Aquaculture), plus Support Activities for Crop and Animal Production.
2. Commercial Fishing forecasts are based on forecasted growth rates for Fishing, hunting and trapping.
3. Beverage Manufacturing forecasts are based on forecasted growth rates for the Food Manufacturing sector.

Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING
With s.22 on March 11, 2016

Ref: 183965

Date: March 8, 2016

Issue: The s.22 is requesting an amendment be made to the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) Use Subdivision and Procedure Regulation to increase the maximum allowable floor area for retail sales beyond the 300 m² (3229 ft²) currently permitted.

Background:

Since 2009, the s.22 has operated a successful farm market on their property at s.22 ("the subject property" – see attachment) in Abbotsford. The farm market is located within the ALR and is outside of the City of Abbotsford's Urban Development Boundary.

s.22 sells products from their own farms, products from other local farms, and non-local products including canned goods, frozen and dairy products. As the Farm Market is located on their farm within the ALR, they are subject to the 300 m² (3229 ft²) floor area limit for retail sales in the ALR Use Subdivision and Procedure Regulation of the *Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) Act*.

In 2013 s.22 applied for a building permit to expand the rear of the building but were found by the City of Abbotsford Building and Planning departments to be in contravention of zoning and the ALR use Subdivision and Procedure Regulation due to the amount of retail floor area and a restaurant use. The City of Abbotsford supported a non-farm use application to the ALC for these Uses. Ministry of Agriculture (Ministry) staff received a referral for the application at that time and commented that the Ministry did not support the application due to the precedent that it may set for other businesses. The ALC turned down the application. s.22 requested an appeal of the decision and this was denied by the ALC.

On February 29, 2016, Ministry staff received a referral for an ALR exclusion and subdivision application from the City of Abbotsford for the subject property. If the City of Abbotsford passes a resolution forwarding this application it will proceed to the ALC for a decision.

First Nations Considerations: N/A

Discussion:

s.22 has been very successful in capturing the market for local food and their store is also providing other local businesses with a retail outlet for their products. The store also carries a wide variety of non-local food and with this diversity and range of products the Farm Market has essentially become a full service grocery store.

Ministry staff have noted that the presence of the s.22 on the subject property may be driving land speculation along the Highway 11 corridor. The amount of traffic created by the Farm Market is likely impacting nearby farms. The City of Abbotsford has received applications for gas stations and restaurants and Ministry staff have been contacted by major supermarket chains inquiring about locating in this area. If the exclusion application is successful, there is potential that a large supermarket chain will seek to purchase the site and convert it to a conventional supermarket.

While it is understandable that s.22 wishes to maximize the return from the building on their existing site, the business has grown to the extent that it will likely be successful in an urban area and so impacts on the property and surrounding farmland are starting to affect the long term agricultural productivity

of the immediate area. While the City of Abbotsford has supported to date^{s.22} to expand their business on the current site, they have also expressed concern about the tax unfairness this poses for other grocery retailers in the City. Tax paid to the City in 2015 for the subject property totaled only^{s.22}

Suggested Response:

- I commend^{s.22} for your success in developing a thriving business and for supporting other local food producers and processors.
- I understand that the City of Abbotsford and the ALC are currently reviewing an application for exclusion on this property. The Commission is an administrative tribunal performing an independent, quasi-judicial role and it would be inappropriate for me to involve myself on pending matters before the Commission. I respect the Commission's independence in decision-making and do not want to do anything that could be perceived as fettering this independence. Questions with respect to the application process are appropriately directed to the Commission should a new application be under consideration.
- The Ministry has recently conducted a consultation process on the discussion paper for Agri-tourism and Farm Retail Sales. The feedback received was diverse and is currently being reviewed, but productive farming will continue to be the priority use for the ALR.

Contact: Alison Fox, Land Use Agrologist 604-556-3106

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Ministry of Agriculture
INFORMATION NOTE FOR MLA's BOND AND MORRIS

Ref: 184050

Date: March 18, 2016

Issue: Beyond the Market Proposal for a Provincial Community-Based Extension Services Program

Background:

The Beyond the Market (BTM) project www.beyondthemarket.ca is an economic development strategy to support the local food and agriculture sector across the BC Highway 16 region. This project is managed Community Futures Development Corporation of Fraser-Fort George (CF FFG), based in Prince George BC, in partnership with many agencies across the BC. The project began in 2010 as a means to offset mountain pine beetle impacts, and has utilized regional funding sources through Omineca Beetle Action Coalition (OBAC) and local government. Accessing new funding sources has been a challenge. The Regional District Bulkley Nechako and Regional District Fraser Ft. George recognized the value of the program to local agriculture and stepped forward as the new primary funders for a downsized BTM program. s.22 is stepping down as the program coordinator and a replacement part-time coordinator will begin in April. From their literature:

"The purpose of the new program model is to provide community-based extension services to the agriculture sector across the province, with a particular focus on new and young farmers. The program will link provincial strategies with local opportunity, and will adapt to the specific needs and strengths of each region. As a result, new and young farmers across the province will have low-barrier access to professional support, with a particular focus on business management to enhance their ability to grow their business and create jobs"

AGRI has been a member of the BTM management advisory committee since its inception. BTM has accessed approximately \$15,000 annually from Growing Forward 3.1 funding for business management projects and seminars, such as: business planning boot camps, direct marketing sessions and development of a new entrant leasing checklist.

Discussion:

This proposal directly links to the Strategic Growth Plan 3.2. *Identify and implement opportunities to support the success of new entrants, youth, and First Nations in the agrifood and seafood sector including succession planning.* Background work related to the Strategic Growth Plan deliverables has identified the proposed BTM project as a possible, but costly, model for addressing this strategy.

BTM's rural community delivery model of new entrant programs is responsive, effective and successful at providing programs and projects for new entrants and smaller producers. The strength of the existing BTM program is the capacity to act as a match maker between land owners and new entrants, supporting access to private land for new entrants.

BTM is seeking funding for their programs. BTM has advised that the cost of the 6 regional rural delivery model is approximately \$333 000 annually. This is not available through the Business Knowledge Strategic Adaptation (BKSA) GF2 3.1 annual budget.

Over the next fiscal year AGRI support to specifically new entrant programming/projects will be approximately \$35,000.

Contact: Brent Barclay, P.Ag, Manager, Agrifood Business Development

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Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION

Ref: 184048

Date: 24 March 2016

See also: 182213, 182775, 183123 and 183124

Issue: BC Wildlife Federation (BCWF) feedback during the Wildlife and Agriculture Conflict Reduction Review.

Background:

The BCWF is British Columbia's largest and oldest voluntary conservation organization. Membership is made up of over 100 separate and distinct clubs (e.g., local Rod and Gun Clubs, and local Fish and Game Societies) from throughout British Columbia, ten Regional Associations, and direct members, for a collective membership of about 46,000 members. Members are primarily hunters, anglers and outdoor recreationists (there are almost half a million hunters and anglers in B.C.). BCWF's strategic objective is to ensure the sound, long-term management of B.C.'s fish, wildlife, park and outdoor recreational resources in the best interests of all British Columbians, and to coordinate all the voluntary agencies, societies, clubs and individuals interested in that objective. The BCWF is an active member of the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation (HCTF), having two board members on the Foundation. For 2015-16, HCTF approved 119 enhancement and restoration projects benefitting BC's fish and wildlife, totalling approximately \$6M.

The Wildlife and Agriculture Conflict Reduction Review (WACRR) technical committee consulted (via teleconference) with Mr. Al Martin from the BCWF on January 7, 2016.

Discussion:

In the past year, Minister Letnick has met or corresponded with the BCWF on at least four occasions. Meetings were held in May 2015 (Ref: 182213) and October 2015 (Ref: 182775). Issues were disease transmission between wild and domestic sheep, and other ungulate-related conflicts respectively. Correspondence also occurred in October 2015 (Ref: 183123 and 183124) on the topic of management of predators. During the January 2016 WACRR consultation meeting, the BCWF provided substantial response to the consultation questions. Response highlights were:

1. BCWF expressed concern about the lack of landscape-level objectives for management of ungulate populations and habitat.
2. BCWF seeks to have greater access to ungulates and waterfowl for recreational hunters.
3. BCWF wants to see greater use of local hunters to mitigate problem wildlife (ungulates, waterfowl and predators) through strategic hunting.
4. BCWF has a high level of concern for control of predators, with respect to lack of research to support a predator management system, and lack of landscape-level objectives for predators and their habitat.
5. BCWF is concerned about the ongoing issue of disease transmission between wild and domestic sheep. Specifically, the need for zone separation rather than fencing, and the need for more veterinary oversight.
6. BCWF strongly advocated for greater communication and coordination through regional and provincial inter-agency roundtables with stakeholders.

Next Steps:

Complete the Wildlife and Agriculture Conflict Reduction Review and report results to the BCWF.

Contact: Linda Wilson, Sector Development Branch, 604 556-3057

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Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING on May 22, 2015
Topic: Other agriculture and wildlife matters

Ref: 182213

Date: May 20, 2015

Issue: A meeting with Vice President Jim Glaicar and Operations Director Cheryl Johnson is expected on May 22, 2015 at the BC Cattlemen's AGM. Topics of interest are wild and domestic sheep interactions and other agriculture and wildlife matters.

Background:

AGRI, FLNRO and MoE all play a role in the management of issues around the Agriculture/Wildlife interface. Agri manages compensation and mitigation for wildlife livestock conflicts and encourages best management practices. FLNRO has care and conduct of legislation and regulations for managing wildlife including, population, habitat, human conflicts, licensing of activities and inventories and assessments. MOE enforces hunting regulations, responds to human wildlife conflicts and problem predator investigations and mitigation.

Agri staff deliver programs that help farmers manage risks primarily through the Agricultural Wildlife Damage Compensation program. Compensation for losses are available under this program for crop losses due to wildlife and livestock losses (kills) from verifiable predator interaction. Agri also has a limited amount of resources for fencing in high priority areas to control losses to crops.

The challenges faced by the sector in dealing with three agencies on these programs have been raised and is a focus of further internal consideration on how the interface for the sector can be improved.

First Nations Considerations: The management of wildlife populations is an issue of interest to manage First Nations.

Discussion:

There is a large overlap between agricultural lands and elk habitat. Elk population levels impact agriculture. A common message from agricultural producers and other stakeholders is a desire to have input on the Province's management of wildlife populations, to insure that the implications for agriculture and the wildlife populations are acknowledged and addressed. The three ministries working in this area are aware of the concerns and are working towards a more cohesive approach to issues and more consultation with stakeholders to improve the flow of information and the effectiveness of policy objectives across Ministries.

FLNRO has recently implemented a Cumulative Effects Framework for assessing and managing cumulative effects of natural resource management decisions. This model improves the ability to manage for desired outcomes. Currently the tool provides a landscape level assessment and is limited to evaluating legislative implications. The ministries are working to develop a means for the decision model to include the evaluation of implications for agriculture.

MoE has provided front line assistance with wildlife livestock conflicts and through both the Conservation Officer Service and a Provincial Predator Conflict Prevention and Response Coordinator the sector felt well supported. The coordinator position has been vacant since April 1 and a pressure has increased to re-staff this position. MOE is considering options to do so

Agri relied on this MOE coordinator position to assist in implementation of the AWP predator loss verification inspections conducted by Provincial Conservation Officers and to provide oversight on inspection quality. All AWP compensation payments for losses due to a predator required his review and approval. In addition, he conducted loss verification training courses for producers across the province, to enable them to

carry out verification for their neighbor in instances where the Conservation Officers may not be timely or available.

The Ministry developed the Wildlife Damage Mitigation Initiative (fencing) in 2013 as a formative step towards the Ministry's goal of preventing and reducing adverse interactions between wildlife and agriculture in the first place. Under this initiative, the Ministry shares the cost of funding mitigation and prevention activities on private land with producers who have persistently large losses in order to reduce the loss and the need for continued compensation. Wildlife Damage Mitigation is a step toward a larger policy objective of working with other ministries and producers to develop opportunities and tools to manage proactively adverse interactions between wildlife and agriculture.

Suggested Response:

- Livestock – predator and wildlife – crop conflicts are a common issue in many areas of the Province.
- Agri, FLNRO and MOE jointly manage the interactions and work together to develop programs
- In response to concerns from stakeholders, the three ministries are considering options to streamline delivery and improve accessibility for stakeholders to influence program decisions
- Provincial wildlife management with respect to its implications for agriculture should be guided by a cohesive Provincial policy framework.
- Revisions to program delivery will be developed over the coming months and will include stakeholder consultations on impacts on agriculture and wildlife populations

Contact: Gary Falk, BRMB, 250 861-7232
Grant Parnell, Business Development Division 250 356 1122

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Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION
Topics: Wild and Domestic Sheep

Ref: 182213

Date: May 20, 2015

Issue: Update on the Bighorn Sheep and Domestic Sheep issue in support of a meeting with BC Wildlife Federation representatives May 22, 2015.

Background: A meeting with Vice President Jim Glaicar and Operations Director Cheryl Johnson is expected on May 22, 2015 at the BC Cattlemen's AGM. Topics of interest are wild and domestic sheep interactions and other agriculture and wildlife matters.

FLNR and Agri staff have been working on a number of issues surrounding the topics of interest above. Staff have identified some broad options for addressing the risks of disease transfer between the sheep populations while balancing the economic and operational impacts to the domestic sheep sector. This work has focused on information gathering and analysis around the geographic locations on the two populations (wild and domestic) of sheep, the vectors and method of disease transmission and the methods of addressing the risks.

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s.13 The new *Animal Health Act* (AHA) was recently brought into force and may provide tools to manage the spread of disease.

Staff have also worked for many months assembling geographic information to identify where the bighorn sheep habitats are in relation to domestic sheep farms. This mapping project will include the Agricultural Land Reserve boundaries and the Livestock and Pound Districts. All of this data will identify where the risk of contact occurs across the province and where to best target efforts.

First Nations Considerations: The bighorn sheep die offs have prompted three levels of First Nations governments to pass resolutions banning domestic sheep production in their traditional territories.

Discussion: Bighorn sheep can contract respiratory disease (potentially fatal) through other means besides contact with domestic sheep. Research has determined that there is more than one bacteria (poly microbial) present in respiratory disease and that both healthy bighorn sheep and domestic sheep can carry these bacteria. Positive bacteria samples have been collected from the South Okanagan bighorn herd in 2014 with no die-off, indicating that the presence of the bacteria does not necessarily lead to fatalities. Stress factors such as overpopulation, introduction of new animals and/or a sudden change to a high plane of nutrition are all factors that can contribute to a pneumonia outbreak in bighorn sheep as well.

Eliminating or restricting domestic sheep from having contact with bighorn sheep has been the main focus of various mitigation strategies over the years, but with varying success rates. These have included fencing, buyouts, a local government animal control bylaw and a request for a covenant prohibiting domestic sheep¹. There is a lack of documented data that supports how successful these initiatives have been in reducing bighorn sheep deaths.

Additional approaches being considered which are more directive in managing the risk of contact focus on future expansion and establishment of domestic herds only in low risk areas. The existing 'higher risk of contact' areas are also on the radar for identifying solutions that work for all parties and may include a

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Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION
Topics: Wild and Domestic Sheep

requirement for Premises Identification for sheep operations as well as consideration of incentives to establish effective fencing for separation.

Staff work has resulted in both some preliminary mapping and identification of some broad policy tool concepts to manage the issue. The mapping has been made public through release to the Sheep Separation Working Group and its members (BC Sheep Federation for one). The policy concepts will be presented to government shortly for consideration and direction for further development. Stakeholder consultation will be conducted before any changes are implemented.

Key messages:

- The continuance of wild sheep in key habitats of the province is a desired outcome
- The maintenance and careful expansion of the domestic sheep sector is also a desired outcome
- Contact between these species is a known risk of disease transmission and this issue must be managed to meet both desired outcomes
- Agri and FLNRO staff are aware of the issue and support both outcomes.
- The current policies and tools are partly effective and need review and revision to catch up to the current situation
- Agri and FLNRO staff are working on a new suite of policies to address the issue more completely
- Recent implementation of the AHA offers some new tools
- Government will soon have some recommendations to consider to improve the situation
- No changes will occur without further consultation and analysis of changes

Contact: Leslie MacDonald, Sector Development Branch, 250 556 3074
Grant Parnell, Business Development Division, 250 356 1122

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Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION
Topics: Wild and Domestic Sheep

Paper produced by FLNR May 15, 2014

In response to the May 15, 2014 Wild/Domestic Sheep Separation Meeting with Chris Barker, Past President of the Wild Sheep Society of BC and Director of the Wild Sheep Foundation and Jeremy Ayotte, BC Wild/Domestic Sheep Separation Program Coordinator with the Ministers of FLNR and Ag and Ministry staff

During the meeting the Ministers endorsed the past and present activities of the BC Wild/Domestic Sheep Separation Program and its partners and acknowledged that over the next year the Livestock Act and the Forests and Range Protection Act are to be opened. This may present a unique and timely opportunity for regulation changes in both Acts to reduce the risk of wild and domestic sheep contact on both private and Crown lands.

One of the actions discussed as to communicate the interest in the two ministries to work collaboratively on overarching solutions to mitigating the risk. The following is suggested as a starting point.

The British Columbia Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, with mandate over Crown lands and wildlife and Ministry of Agriculture with mandate over livestock and agricultural production have a joint dilemma. The dilemma involves wild and domestic sheep, both iconic features of the western Canadian landscape. Science has proven that when the two species are in contact disease transfer can occur, leading to pneumonia and fatal consequences to the wild sheep. Each ministry acknowledges that such contact creates a significant risk to wild sheep and that management of the issue can result in threats to both wild and domestic sheep populations and economies. However, they affirm there is value in ensuring the health and continued presence of both. Together, the ministries agree to work collaboratively to develop new regulations and tools to proactively manage the risk of contact. The solutions to the dilemma move beyond fencing to prevent contact towards encouraging domestic sheep agriculture in areas of low risk of contact with wild sheep and managing to remove the risk of contact between the species in areas where high risk exists. The Ministers of both Ministries look forward to helping to jointly preserve the uniqueness of British Columbia agricultural and wildlife heritage in our province.

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Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING
with Cheryl Johnson, BC Wildlife Federation on October 13, 2015

Ref: 182775

Date: September 16, 2015

Issue: Update on work to develop a balanced approach for perpetuation of domestic and wild sheep in B.C.

Background:

When wild sheep and domestic sheep are in contact with each other, wild sheep die. The mechanisms and relationships are complicated. Staff from the Ministries of Agriculture (AGRI) and Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) are working to develop a solution that will balance a healthy wild sheep population and viable domestic sheep industry.

Discussion:

Through collaborative GIS mapping between AGRI and FLNRO we have a spatial understanding of the locations of wild sheep herd ranges and domestic sheep herds in BC. This characterizes the risk for contact between the two species, and hence the risk for die-off of wild herds. The mapping provides clarity around the opportunity in the northwest part of the Province to pre-emptively establish measures to protect the wild thimhorn herds in the area without impacting domestic sheep producers, as there is currently no domestic production in the area. Areas with overlapping ranges will require a balanced approach.

Now that the *Animal Health Act* has come into force, it has strong potential to be the basis for a management model that provides the Province with the required authority to manage these populations for the overall benefit of both.s.14 s.13

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Recommended Response:

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A provincial initiative is currently underway to review programs and operational policies for managing wildlife / agriculture conflicts. Domestic and wild sheep conflict will be an integral part of the review. Consultation with stakeholders, including the BC Wildlife Federation, will commence in November with the objectives of improving our client service and reducing conflicts. While sheep management issues will likely be raised, the review will not duplicate or replace provincial efforts currently underway to look at the domestic/wild sheep disease transmission issue. The results of the review, however, will likely lead to a new structure for raising and addressing difficult agriculture/wildlife issues such as this.

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

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November 10, 2015

File: 0280-30

Ref: 183123

George Wilson
President
BC Wildlife Federation
101 - 9706 188th St
Surrey BC V4N 3M2

Dear Mr. Wilson:

Thank you for your letter of October 9, 2015 regarding predator management in British Columbia.

Over the next few months, the ministries of Agriculture, Environment and Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations are undertaking a coordinated review of provincial management policies and programs relating to wildlife/agriculture conflicts. The Committee formed to lead the Wildlife/Agriculture Conflict Reduction Review will be contacting you shortly to invite B.C. Wildlife Federation participation and feedback in the review. The project lead is Mr. Ken Nickel, Director, Sector Development Branch, Ministry of Agriculture. Mr. Nickel can be reached by telephone at (604) 556-3103 or by email at Ken.Nickel@gov.bc.ca.

I encourage you to share your thoughts and recommendations on all wildlife/agriculture conflict issues with the Committee. I trust this cross-ministry review process will be a significant step toward the integrated and reasoned approach to wildlife conflict management you requested.

Thank you for writing and sharing your concerns with me.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Norm Letnick
Minister

pc: Honourable Steve Thomson
Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Honourable Mary Polak

Minister of Environment

Ken Nickel, Director
Ministry of Agriculture

Kevin Boon, General Manager
BC Cattlemen's Association



November 10, 2015

File: 0280-30

Ref: 183124

George Wilson
President
BC Wildlife Federation
101 - 9706 188th St
Surrey BC V4N 3M2

Malcolm Bachand
Vice President
Wild Sheep Society of BC
101 - 30799 Simpson Rd
Abbotsford BC V2T 6X4

Dear Messrs. Wilson and Bachand:

Thank you for your joint letter of October 9, 2015 regarding predator management in British Columbia.

The ministries of Agriculture, Environment and Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Management will soon be undertaking a collective review of provincial management policies and programs relating to wildlife/agriculture conflicts. The Committee formed to lead the Wildlife/Agriculture Conflict Reduction Review will be contacting the B.C. Wildlife Federation and the Wild Sheep Society to invite their participation and feedback. It is of course the decision of your two organizations whether you would prefer to share your views jointly or separately. The Project Lead and contact person is Ken Nickel, Director – Sector Development Branch, AGRI (604.556.3103).

I encourage you to share your thoughts and recommendations on all wildlife/agriculture conflict issues with the Committee. I believe that this cross-ministry review process will be a significant step toward the integrated and reasoned approach to wildlife conflict management you requested.

Thank you for writing and sharing your concerns with me.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Norm Letnick
Minister

pc: Honourable Steve Thomson
Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Honourable Mary Polak
Minister of Environment

Kevin Boon, General Manager
BC Cattlemen's Association