

Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING
with Honourable Donna Barnett, Minister of State for Rural Economic Development, March 2, 2017

Ref: 185967

Date: 28 February 2017

Issue: 100 Mile House mobile unit and local slaughter capacity

Background:

The mobile red meat slaughter unit was delivered to 100 Mile House on August 23, 2013.

The BC Investment Agriculture Foundation (IAF) owns the mobile unit and has a five year lease agreement with the current operators, s.22

On December 31, 2016 s.22 gave notice to IAF that he intends to relinquish the mobile slaughter unit on January 31, 2018.

s.22 notified clients of his intention by email on January 16, 2017, noting that "[t]he government is critically aware of the need for slaughter services in the area, and over the next year will be working closely with stakeholders."

s.22 will continue to operate s.22 as a cut-and-wrap meat processing business.

The total cost of the unit was \$381,746.

A docking station is required to operate a mobile unit and costs \$20,000 to \$30,000. Costs to move the mobile unit to a different location are the responsibility of s.22 under the lease agreement.

Discussion:

Currently there are six licensed red meat slaughterhouses in the region; four are operational, two are not operating due to personal circumstances.

- Kam Lake View Meats (Kamloops): operates up to five days a week, near capacity.
- Spokin Lake Meats (150 Mile): not operating, s.22
- Rodear Meats (Horsefly): for sale, not operating.
- Rainer Custom Cutting (Darfield): operating three days a week, near capacity.
- XH Buffalo (70 Mile): limited additional capacity, operational speed is limited.

Overview Regional Slaughter: Cattle, Hogs and Sheep

Company	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Kam Lake View Meats	1,478	1,463	1,279	1,456	1,871	2416	2599	2685	15,247
Spokin Lake Meats	379	424	368	351	375	284	138	0	2,319
Rodear Meats	1,131	1,005	731	1,068	580	513	313	20	5,361
Rainer Custom Cutting	654	680	1,197	929	1,250	1620	1623	1738	9,691
XH Buffalo				120	12	33	70	55	290
Findlay Meats Ltd. (100 Mile House unit)					551	1008	1115	1095	3,769
Total	3,642	3,572	3,575	3,924	4,639	4,866	4,673	5,593	36,777

There are three poultry slaughter operations in the region.

- Rainer Custom Cutting (Darfield): also red meat, 3 days/week, near capacity
- My-Les Poultry (Pritchard): seasonal.
- Pluckin Maniacs (Kamloops): seasonal mobile.

There are two Class E establishments in the Regional Districts of Cariboo and Thompson Nicola; one for beef and one for pork, chicken and rabbit.

Conclusion:

- There is a limited number of regional slaughter operations in the Cariboo. Given this, the unit should be offered for lease in the area between Clinton and Quesnel. An optimal location would be in the vicinity of Williams Lake and 100 Mile House.
- An investment of up to \$30,000 to build required infrastructure (docking station) may discourage potential lessees. s.22 has offered to include improvements (a shed and various pieces of equipment necessary for a slaughter operation) with the unit, in the hope of mitigating potential moving costs which are his responsibility under the lease agreement. This will not reduce the investment required to build a docking station.
- IAF is working with the Ministry of Agriculture Sector Development Branch to develop a communication strategy and a merit-based process for assigning the Mobile Unit. The BC Association of Abattoirs has been notified of the unit's pending availability and is investigating potential interest. To-date there has been a limited number of enquiries.

Contact: Timothy Pigg
Operations Manager
250-861-7505

DIR ADM DM
 GL JM DS

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BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING
with Ukrainian Ambassador Andriy Shevchenko, March 7, 2017

Ref: 185931

Date: February 27, 2017

Issue: Ambassador Shevchenko would like to discuss agrifood and seafood trade opportunities between British Columbia and the Ukraine.

Background: Ambassador Shevchenko is visiting British Columbia (B.C.) and has requested a meeting with Minister Letnick. Ukraine has been embroiled in geopolitical conflicts for the past several years that have impacted its economy and governance. The Ukraine is currently reaching out to countries such as Canada, in order strengthen its economic ties and bolster its relationships in the international community.

Ukraine is a mid-sized economy and in 2015 it had a GDP of USD \$90.6 billion and a population of 42.8 million. It imported \$3.2 billion and exported \$14.6 billion worth of agricultural products in 2015. B.C. and the Ukraine enjoy a largely one-sided trading relationship, with B.C. exporting far more than it imports. In 2015, B.C. was the top provincial exporter in Canada to Ukraine, with 71.3 percent of the country's total exports to this market.

In 2016, B.C. exported \$31.4 million to Ukraine, a 94.9 percent increase from 2015, and imported only \$624,704, a 41.6 percent decrease from 2015. B.C.'s top exports to Ukraine in 2016 were Pacific hake (\$29.6 million), wild salmon (\$913,040), and pollock (\$380,445). B.C.'s top imports from Ukraine in 2016 were blackberries and mulberries (\$311,724), honey (\$87,349) and sunflower seed oil (\$78,538). In 2016, the trading relationship amounted to a \$30.8 million trade surplus for B.C.

In July 2016, Canada and Ukraine signed the Canada-Ukraine Free Trade Agreement (CUFTA). There were many goals of the agreement, most notably:

- a reduction in tariffs;
- increased investment;
- a commitment to resolving non-tariff barriers; and,
- the establishment of dispute settlement provisions.

After six rounds of negotiations that began in 2010, the agreement was ratified by the Canadian House of Commons on February 14, 2017, and is now with the Canadian Senate. Once implemented, Ukrainian tariffs on 86 percent of Canadian exports will immediately be removed. The remaining tariff concessions will be implemented over a seven year period with 99 percent of tariffs on imports from Ukraine removed when the agreement comes into force. It should be noted that during negotiations, Canada maintained the supply management system and did not provide any access to the supply managed commodities.

Discussion: B.C.'s agrifood and seafood industry will benefit from the tariff concessions in the CUFTA; particularly seafood. Immediately upon entering into force, tariffs on seafood, which are currently up to 20 percent, will be removed. This will be beneficial for B.C.'s exports of Pacific hake to Ukraine, and to a lesser extent, wild salmon and pollock. Pacific hake, as B.C.'s top export to Ukraine in 2016 as well as 2015, has clear and rising demand in the Ukrainian market: in 2016,

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exports of hake increased 88.7 percent, or \$13.9 million, from 2015 levels. This is in part due to improvements in market certainty and financing for seafood producers.

Other products that have been identified to benefit from reduced tariffs are wine and ice-wine (for which a tariff of \$0.42 per litre will be removed upon implementation of the agreement), and pet food and animal feed (for which tariffs up to 10 percent will be removed over the seven year period). B.C. did not export any wine or ice-wine to the Ukraine in 2016, 2015, or 2014, but it did export small amounts of pet food in 2014 (\$20,676). Furthermore, B.C. did not export any beef or pork to Ukraine in the previous three years, but the Canadian Meat Council has expressed optimism in the media over the tariff reductions that will eventually come into effect for fresh, frozen, and chilled pork, as well as beef and veal.

It should be noted that there remains the possibility of disruptions to trade with the Ukraine due to geopolitical events in the region. These events could interrupt trade flows between B.C. and Ukraine and pose risks to B.C.'s agrifood and seafood exporters, including the risks of non-payment and significant delays in the transportation of goods.

Despite the potential for disruption, the reduced tariffs under CUFTA will provide new opportunities for B.C. agrifood and seafood, particularly with B.C. seafood producers who will immediately have an advantage over other nations that do not have a preferential access to the Ukrainian market, including the United States.

Suggested Response:

- The meeting with Ambassador Shevchenko provides a welcome opportunity to discuss B.C.'s agrifood and seafood trade with Ukraine.
- Ukraine's tariff reductions will provide an opportunity for B.C.'s seafood exports, particularly Pacific hake, and potentially wild salmon and pollock. Going forward, wine, ice-wine, pet food and animal feed could also benefit from reduced tariffs as well.
- Ministry staff will work with B.C.'s producers and other governmental agencies to ensure exporters are able to take advantage of these new market opportunities and if necessary, are prepared for any potential disruptions that could occur in Ukraine in the coming months and years.

Contact: Justin Bedi, Corporate Governance, Policy and Legislation Branch, 250 953-3427

ED LH ADM JM DM DS

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Ref: 185886
X-Ref: 184817

Date: February 22, 2017

Issue: Review of the Federal Government's Response to the Standing Committee study of the Temporary Foreign Worker.

Background: In Spring 2016, the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities (HUMA) undertook hearings with stakeholders from across Canada from a range of sectors as part of a study intended to improve the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP). While no British Columbia agrifood and seafood sector industry associations testified before the Standing Committee, their views were represented indirectly through the testimony of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and the Canadian Agricultural Human Resources Council.

In a letter to the federal Minister of Employment (see Attachment), the Ministry of Agriculture (AGRI) contributed its views on the needs of B.C.'s agrifood and seafood sector directly. AGRI has also been working with the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training (JTST) to ensure the interests of the agrifood and seafood sector are represented in dialogue with the federal government on the TFWP.

On September 16, 2016, HUMA tabled the results of its study on the TFWP report in the House of Commons. The report contains 21 recommendations, including the following highlights for the agrifood and seafood sector that:

- Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada:
 - study the impacts of expanding the definition of primary agriculture as found in the Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations; and,
 - amend the Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations to remove the relevant provisions with respect to the "cumulative duration" rule.
- Employment and Social Development Canada:
 - ensure the cap on the percentage of temporary foreign workers a business can employ at a given time, be set at a minimum of 20 percent and further review sector and geographic considerations; and,
 - review current monitoring and enforcement mechanisms in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, with the objective of addressing gaps in employer compliance and the protection of migrant workers' rights. In addition, an effort shall be made to move away from a complaint-driven model of program enforcement.

Changes to the cumulative duration rule and the extension of an exemption to the cap for seasonal industries for 2017 were subsequently announced on December 13, 2016.

On January 30, 2017, the Government of Canada tabled its official response to HUMA.

Discussion: A review of the official response to HUMA by the federal government appears that the agrifood and seafood sector is unlikely to prioritize these sectors in its response. The response provides no new federal commitments but instead suggests that further details on changes to the TFWP will be announced in Budget 2017, which is expected to be announced in March.

When staff reached out to JTST Training, who is responsible for addressing the labour issues for the agriculture sector, AGRI was informed the following three items may be at the top of the list of items slated for inclusion in the upcoming Federal Budget 2017:

- (1) A new Global Talent stream of the TFWP, with faster processing and a modified labour market test (will help tech and high growth sectors);

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- (2) Changes to the Labour Market Impact Assessment fee structure (this could help Seaspan); and,
- (3) Increased worker protection mechanisms.

The response also indicated that the development of next steps will be undertaken and will be released once reported to the committee. Without specific details at this time, it is unclear what if any further changes may be contemplated that would respond to the needs of the agrifood and seafood sector.

Next Steps:

- AGRI staff will continue to monitor the situation and will report out on the Federal Governments' announcements of the changes to the TFWP in Budget 2017.
- An update will be completed by the end of March 2017 depending on when Budget 2017 is released.

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

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SEP 19 2016

File: 0280-30

Ref: 184817

Honourable MaryAnn Mihychuk, PC, MP
Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Mihychuk,

I am writing regarding the importance of the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP) to British Columbia's agrifood and seafood industry. While I understand the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities has now concluded hearings for its study of the TFWP, I would like to take this opportunity to register my views on the program as it relates to British Columbia's priorities in advance of the release of the Standing Committee's report and recommendations.

Recently, the B.C. government released the *B.C. Agrifood and Seafood Strategic Growth Plan*. As an important pillar of the overarching *B.C. Jobs Plan*, the *Strategic Growth Plan* sets a goal of achieving agrifood and seafood sector revenues of \$15 billion a year by 2020 (a 43% increase from 2010) and includes 20 actions to increase production, drive competitiveness and build markets. The Growth Plan recognizes the importance of participating in and supporting labour market initiatives by: better leveraging existing progress to ensure stable and predictable access to an adequate supply of appropriately skilled workers; and attracting new entrants, youth and First Nations to the sector to support agri-businesses development and succession planning.

The governments of B.C. and both Canada support the principle of hiring Canadians first. Provinces hold primary responsibility for ensuring coordinated investments to support affordable public education and post-secondary education opportunities that enable and promote career paths in agriculture and seafood as options for youth and secondary careers.

The B.C. government also recognizes that many Canadian agrifood and seafood producers and processors must continue to rely on the TFWP to meet their seasonal needs. In fact, according to TFWP statistics published by your Ministry, I understand the primary agriculture sector

accounted for over 59% of all positions on positive Labour Market Impact Assessments (LMIAs) issued across Canada in 2015.

.../2

While the situation in British Columbia is somewhat less acute, primary agriculture still accounts for a significant amount of program use at 46% of positions. Therefore, I raise to your attention the following specific concerns for further consideration as you develop your response to the Standing Committee's upcoming report:

- The Seasonal Agricultural Work Program (SAWP) is generally working well and should remain relatively stable in its current form. However, the National Commodity List (NCL) should be removed to allow greater program choice for all agrifood employers. Employers' experience with the NCL is that it quickly becomes out of date, is difficult to amend and is overly narrow in its selection of eligible commodities making it difficult for many primary agriculture employers to access the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (SAWP).
- Review program requirements and internal processes to identify opportunities to streamline, align standards and achieve efficiencies. The primary agriculture sector is subject to considerable uncertainty due to weather, climate and variable growing conditions; in order to better support the sector, employers need clarity regarding application processes and approval timelines in order to respond effectively to the conditions in a given season.
- Remove the current 4-year limit on the cumulative duration that a foreign national can work in Canada. Currently, SAWP workers are the only class of low-skilled workers not subject to this limit. However other foreign workers in the primary agriculture sector, including those hired through the Primary Agriculture Stream, remain subject to this cumulative duration limit. This creates undue hardship on employers who need to repeatedly train new workers, particularly in light of the uneven inclusion of primary agriculture commodities on the NCL discussed above.

I understand that future policy directions for the TFWP may be discussed at an upcoming meeting of the Forum of Labour Market Ministers. I have instructed my officials to work with their colleagues at the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training to ensure that the views of B.C.'s agrifood and seafood sector are reflected in this discussion. However, I appreciate the opportunity to share this information with you directly so that it may be given due consideration. I trust that the sudden, severe and unilateral restrictions on use of the TFWP implemented by your predecessor in June 2014 will not be repeated.

I look forward to continuing the collaborative relationship between British Columbia and Canada as we work to implement the Government's response in a way that meets the needs of the agrifood and seafood sector.

Sincerely,



Norm Letnick
Minister

cc: The Honourable John McCallum, PC, MP
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship

Bryan May, MP
Chair, Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the
Status of Persons with Disabilities

The Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, PC, MP
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

The Honourable Shirley Bond, MLA
Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Minister Responsible for Labour

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Ref: 185910

Date: February 17, 2017

Issue: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada released the Canadian Agricultural Outlook today with forecasts on farm cash receipts and farm incomes for BC in 2016 and projecting in 2017.

Background:

- The Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) forecast is the earliest economic indicator released for the agriculture sector. It provides the first outlook of provincial and national farm incomes for 2016 and 2017. The information is used to prepare the federal budget for AgriStability and AgriInvest and is used for production and price analyses and policy and program development by various firms and government organizations.
- AAFC forecasts three provincial farm income measures (Appendix 1):
 - net cash income (farm cash receipts minus farm operating expenses);
 - realized net income (net cash income adjusted for depreciation and income-in-kind); and,
 - total net income (realized net income adjusted for changes in the value of farmer-owned inventories of crops and livestock).
- These three provincial farm income measures are aggregate, measures of farm income and farm revenues. Individual farm incomes can vary widely from these provincial estimates depending upon commodities produced, prices, weather conditions and management practices.
- The Statistics Canada 2016 farm cash receipt estimates, scheduled for release in May 2017, are the official data source for the Ministry of Agriculture's tracking of provincial agriculture revenues.

Discussion:

Farm Income Indicators 2016: (Appendix 2)

- All three BC farm income measures are forecast to be lower in 2016 than in 2015 primarily due to a 1% decline in FCR combined with a slight (0.4%) rise in farm operating expenses.
- The three provincial farm income measures for BC are as follows:
 - Net cash income is forecast to decline by 10% from \$477.4 million in 2015 to \$430.5 million in 2016. For Canada the forecasted decrease is 2%;
 - Realized net income in BC is forecast to decline from \$74.4 million in 2015 to \$19.1 million in 2016; and,
 - Total net income is forecast to fall from \$103.9 million to \$84.2 million in 2016.

Farm Cash Receipts 2016: (Appendix 3)

- BC's farm cash receipts are forecast to be down \$35.7 million (1%) from \$3.120 billion in 2015 to \$3.084 billion in 2016. The forecasted decrease for Canada is also 1%.
- BC's decrease includes a \$98.6 million (6%) decrease in livestock receipts and a \$5.2 million (14%) decrease in direct program payments, which is offset by an expected \$68.2 million (4%) increase in crop receipts.
- The lower livestock receipts result from a \$125.5 million decline (36%) in cattle and calf receipts as producer prices in both Canada and the United States fell following an expansion of U.S. production after three years of tight supplies and high prices. The decline in cattle and calf receipts are moderated by an expected increase in dairy receipts by nearly \$18 million (3%), poultry by \$14 million (3%), eggs by \$10 million (8%), and hog receipts by \$0.8 million (2%).
- The increase in 2016 crop receipts is largely due to a \$27 million (8%) increase in greenhouse vegetables, an \$18 million (8%) increase in berries, a \$10 million increase (2%) in floriculture and nursery sector receipts combined, a \$7 million (20%) increase in potatoes, a \$5 million (3%) increase in field vegetables, a \$4.5 million (9%) increase in grapes and a \$2.7 million (6%) increase in apples.

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- Forecasted declines are reported for grains and oilseeds (down \$7.8 million or 14%), mainly due to lower marketings in 2016 as very wet conditions during harvest left notable wheat and canola on fields, primarily in the Peace River region.
- Program payments are down in 2016 relative to 2015 when large payments were made to producers in response to the Avian Influenza outbreak and under the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program.

Operating Expenses 2016:

- BC's farm operating expenses are forecast to rise slightly by \$11.2 million (0.4%) from \$2.64 billion in 2015 to \$2.65 billion in 2016. For Canada, expenses are forecasted to decline about 1%.
- The increase is largely due to higher expenditures for cash wages (up \$13.2 million or 2%) and commercial feed (up \$7 million or 1%). However these were moderated by BC's heating fuel rebate of \$6.6 million in 2016.
- BC's top three cost items, accounting for just over half of the total farm operating expenses in 2016 continued to be cash wages (25% share), commercial feed (19% share) and interest payments (7% share).

BC Outlook 2017:

- Farm cash receipts are forecast to increase by \$85 million (3%) in 2017 while operating expenses rise by \$99 million (4%) resulting in a further decline of 3% in provincial net cash income for 2017.
- Overall crop farm cash receipts are forecast to increase by close to 5% (1% in Canada), while livestock farm cash receipts are forecast to decline by 1% (down 4% for Canada) in 2017.
- BC is forecast to see continued growth in berries, tree fruits, greenhouse vegetables, floriculture and nursery sectors, as well as improved grain and oilseed receipts with expectations of more normal harvest conditions in the Peace in 2017.
- The decline in livestock farm cash receipts is led by an expected 22% further drop in cattle and calf receipts with prices forecast to continue to decline in 2017 along with a drop in the total number of animals marketed. The decline in cattle and calves receipts are expected to be offset by positive forecasts (ranging from 2% to 4%) in supply managed sector receipts of chickens, turkeys, eggs and dairy.

Summary:

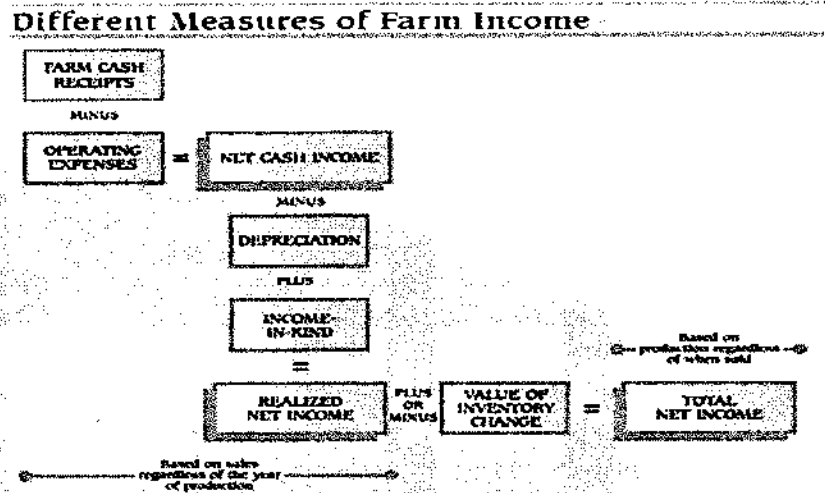
- All three BC farm income measures are forecast to be lower in 2016 than in 2015 primarily due to a 1% decline in farm cash receipts combined with a slight (0.4%) rise in farm operating expenses.
- The 1% decline in farm cash receipts in 2016 is slightly better than the 2.2% decline projected in early December and will be more than offset by the projected 7.4% growth in BC's food and beverage manufacturing shipments, resulting in continued increase in BC's total agrifood and seafood revenues for 2016.
- The early forecast in 2017 is showing an increase in farm cash receipts and rising operating expenses. It is early days to predict the three provincial farm income measures.

Contact: Laura Munroe, Corporate Governance, Policy and Legislation Branch, 250 208-3481

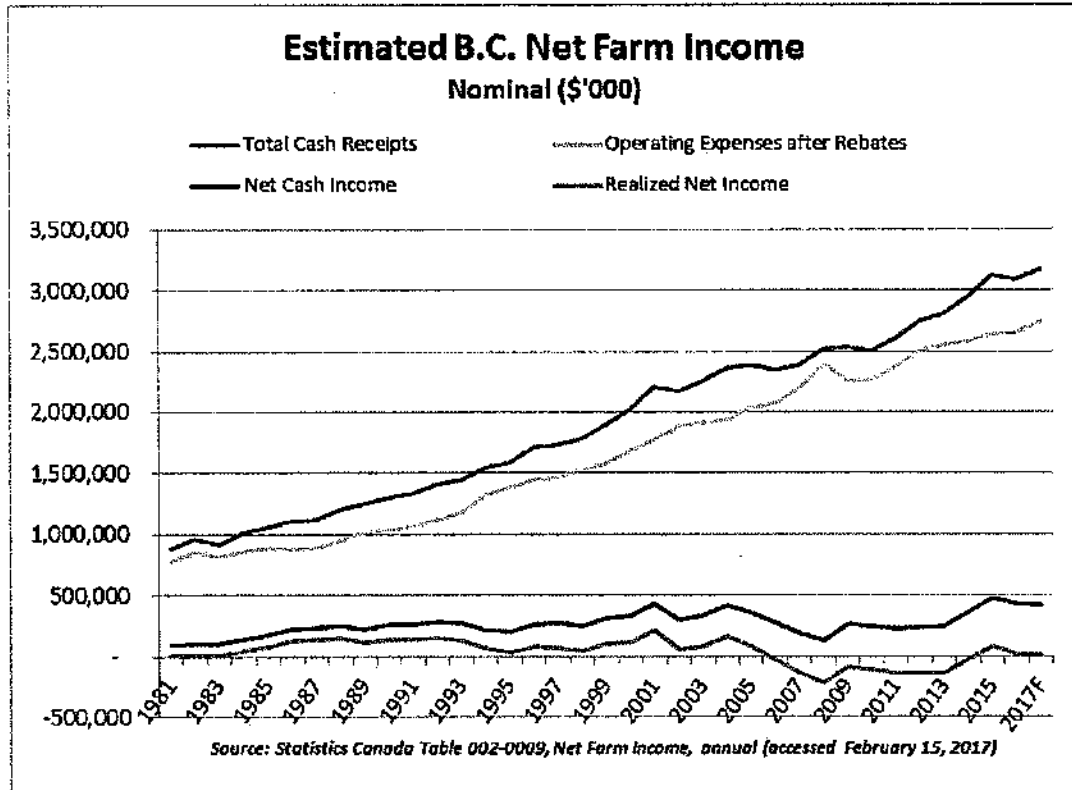
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Appendix 1



Appendix 2



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Appendix 3

BC Farm Income (\$000)	5 Year Average 2011-2015	2015	2016F	2016F vs 2015	2016F vs 5 Year Average	2017F	2017F vs 2016F
	(\$ 000)	(\$ 000)	(\$ 000)	% Change	% Change	(\$ 000)	% Change
Total Crop Receipts	1,382,360	1,523,420	1,591,610	4%	15%	1,670,173	5%
Total Livestock Receipts	1,417,329	1,559,485	1,460,848	-6%	3%	1,451,987	-1%
Total Direct Payments	45,022	36,700	31,454	-14%	-30%	47,122	50%
Farm Cash Receipts	2,844,711	3,119,605	3,083,912	-1%	8%	3,169,282	3%
Operating Expenses after Rebates	2,533,836	2,642,209	2,653,435	0%	5%	2,752,194	4%
Net Cash Income	310,875	477,396	430,477	-10%	38%	417,088	-3%
Income in Kind	4,903	5,857	5,369	-8%	9%	5,159	-4%
Depreciation Charges	390,436	408,873	416,750	2%	7%	416,462	0%
Realized Net Income	-74,658	74,379	19,096	-74%	**	5,785	-70%
Value of Inventory Change	18,645	28,821	65,082	126%	249%	18,227	-72%
Total Net Income	-56,013	103,200	84,178	-18%	**	24,012	-71%

**The calculation of percent change of negative numbers yields a counter-intuitive, although arithmetically correct result.

F - Forecast

Data Sources:

Historical data (2011 - 2015): Statistics Canada, Cansim.

Forecasts (2016 and 2017): Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

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February 15, 2017

Ref: 185862

Date: February 15, 2017

Issue: Dinner with between Ministry of Agriculture Minister Norm Letnick and Department of Fisheries and Oceans Minister Dominic LeBlanc on February 15, 2017.

The following is a list of BC priorities and key messages:

1. Recognition of DFO staff efforts.
2. Economic development funding – need for improved eligibility for federal funding programs for fisheries, aquaculture and seafood sector.
3. Hecate Strait Marine Protected Area (MPA) and Marine Conservation Targets (MCTs).
4. Integrated Geoduck Management Framework – next steps to implementation.
5. Oyster Product Integrity/ Canadian Shellfish Sanitation Program.
6. Coded Wire Tag Program (Salmon Stock Assessment).

1. Recognition of DFO staff efforts

Main Issue: Despite some recent challenges regarding the Hecate MPA, BC wants to recognize the important contributions of a number of key DFO staff.

Response Points:

- Thank you Minister Dominic LeBlanc for appointing Paul Sprout as Pacific Salmon Commissioner. Paul has been doing a fabulous job in treaty negotiations now underway in Portland Oregon.
- Rebecca Reid, Regional Director General, for her attendance at Ministers of Agriculture Advisory Council on Finfish Aquaculture, and for continuing efforts to improve the relationship and communication between AGRI and DFO.
- Jeff Grout, Resource Manager Salmon, for his work with BC on steelhead recovery and the related recertification of BC's salmon fisheries by the Marine Stewardship Council.
- Paul Ryall, Director Resource Management for his leadership at the annual meeting of International Pacific Halibut Commission which increased British Columbia's share of the resource while providing for more equitable accounting of Alaskan catch in future.
- Sylvie Lapointe, Acting Director General, for her continuing work with US state Department in support of renewing reciprocal access provisions in the trans-boundary Albacore tuna fishery.

2. Economic development funding for the seafood sector:

Main Issue: Currently there are limited federal funding opportunities for the fisheries, aquaculture and the seafood sectors. BC has sent letters to both Minister MacAulay and Minister LeBlanc advocating for increased economic development funding for the seafood sector.

Response Points:

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- BC's overarching priority is to better align federal funding programs with the economic opportunities for fisheries, aquaculture and the seafood sector.
- BC would like to see coordinated work by CCFAM Ministers to address funding for the seafood industry and would like to see a federal funding program set up for seafood like the Growing Forward cost shared arrangement on agriculture.
- The CCFAM has also been a forum for discussions at the FPT level to discuss options for expanding eligibility for federal funding for seafood through the next Agricultural Policy Framework with a focus on innovation and food safety.

3. Hecate Strait MPA and MCTs:

Main Issue: BC continues to be concerned about the federal process for advancing MPA decisions as evidenced by the recent Hecate Strait MPA decision. Now that the Hecate decision has been made BC wants to focus on actions DFO needs to take to improve the MPA process going forward.

Response Points:

- DFO should prioritize outstanding research on the Hecate MPA to determine whether some commercial fishing activities can be allowed to resume;
- DFO should consider providing for any appropriate fishing activities that can take place in conjunction with the ongoing research; and,
- Consistent with the Canada-B.C. Marine Protected Area Network Strategy and previous requests from Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, DFO should establish:
 - A clear and defined process for B.C. to engage with DFO on how best to reach strategic MPA objectives in the Pacific; and,
 - A clear and defined process for B.C. to engage with DFO and stakeholders on the development of MPA networks for the Pacific, including how to engage on any proposed changes to the management of each MPA prior to being finalized.

4. Integrated Geoduck Management Framework:

Main Issue: DFO Minister LeBlanc has signed the Integrated Geoduck Management Framework that had been in development for the last several years. The signing has not yet been publicized.

Response Points:

- BC's is encouraged by the signing of the Integrated Geoduck Management Framework and is ready to support its implementation.
- The K'omoks First Nation has expressed desire to begin geoduck aquaculture immediately and will likely be encouraged by this development.
- However, BC is concerned that it may receive a great number of applications which may overwhelm our ability to process them effectively and efficiently.
- BC is working with DFO staff on a communications strategy and details of program roll-out to attempt to ensure effective and efficient administration under the new policy.

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5. Oyster Product Integrity/Canadian Shellfish Sanitation Program (CSSP)

Main Issue: There have been a number of recent norovirus outbreaks associated with the consumption of raw BC oysters. This phenomenon is new and poorly understood and if left unresolved will impact a significant portion of the BC oyster market.

Response Points:

- DFO needs to work with CFIA to research the issue related to raw BC oysters and to determine its root cause.
- DFO needs to work with CFIA to streamline the process for imposing harvesting closures to minimize the risks of unwholesome product entering the marketplace.
- Note, this work would be based around activating the CSSP, a federal food safety program managed with three key agencies, CFIA, DFO and Environment Canada is to protect Canadians from the health risks associated with the consumption of contaminated oysters, clams, and mussels.

6. Coded Wire Tag Program (Salmon Stock Assessment).

Main Issue: Lack of federal funding for Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) salmon stock assessment and management programs may lead to loss of economic opportunity for BC fishers.

Response Points:

- Agreed to under the Pacific Salmon Treaty, the Coded Wire Tag (CWT) program allows fisheries management agencies on the West Coast to determine salmon stock exploitation rates, survival rates, complete stock assessments, and evaluate management performance.
- The CWT Program is fundamental to the sustainable management of chinook and coho stocks on the Pacific Coast.
s.13,s.16
- Absence of adequate, accurate salmon stock data provided by the CWT program, DFO may be required under its precautionary approach to reduce commercial, recreational and first nations salmon fisheries.
s.13,s.16

Contact: Lorie Hryciuk, Executive Director, Corporate Governance, Policy and Legislation, 250 386-8299

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Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING
with Jim Kelly, Ambassador of Ireland to Canada on February 22, 2017

Ref: 185851

Date: February 14, 2017

Issue: Minister Letnick meeting with His Excellency Jim Kelly, Ambassador of Ireland to Canada to discuss agrifoods and agritech.

Background: The Ambassador of Ireland has requested a meeting with Minister Letnick to discuss B.C. agrifood and agritech innovations.

Agrifood and Seafood Exports:

B.C.'s agrifood and seafood sector is a major contributor to the provincial economy, with more than 200 agriculture products and about 100 different species of fish, shellfish and marine plants, and is home to nearly 2,500 food and beverage processing businesses, making the province one of the most diverse regions in North America. The B.C. government remains committed to growing the agrifood and seafood sector within the province by increasing sector revenues to \$15 billion per year and sector export sales to \$3.5 billion per year, both by 2020.

The European Union (EU), with its 28 member states, 500 million people and annual economic activity of almost \$17 trillion, is the largest and most lucrative market in the world. It is also the world's largest import market for goods.

The Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) will provide new market access opportunities for key Canadian agricultural exports. Preferential access to this market offers new opportunities and a competitive edge for Canadian workers, businesses, exporters and investors. The EU Parliament voted to approve CETA on February 15, 2017. Canada is expected to have the third reading of Bill C-30 and receive Royal assent as early as April, 2017, with regulation changes to follow in the months after.

Innovation and Agritech:

The Ministry of Agriculture (AGRI) is focused on growing and promoting the B.C. agritech sector of 50+ companies. Agritech represents the convergence of technology in agriculture and has significant potential to enhance production and competitiveness. B.C. has a number of agritech competitive advantages, including:

- A diverse agricultural landscape that creates a "living lab" for the development, pilot and commercialization of innovations;
- Strong linkages to a thriving tech sector, science sector and clean tech sector; and,
- Innovation Programs like the Canada-B.C. Agri-Innovation Program and two agritech focused business accelerators to help advance the growth and development of ideas to commercial/global potential.

Since 2013, AGRI has invested \$13 million in over 150 innovation projects, where 46 of these projects have been direct investments to new technologies. Through the Growing Forward 2 Federal-Provincial Innovation Programs, AGRI is investing approximately \$25 million over five years (2013 - 2018) to support the B.C. agritech sector.

Discussion:

Agrifoods Market Development:

- The B.C. Agrifood and Seafood Export Ready Business Catalogue features close to 100 export-ready B.C. agrifood and seafood suppliers, showcasing some of the many high-quality, great-

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tasting food and beverage products that B.C. has to offer the world. The catalogue is available in four languages: English, Mandarin, Korean and Japanese.

- Through the Provincial-Territorial Growing Forward 2 agreement, AGRI provides a B.C.-branded booth presence at international tradeshows, including: the Seafood Expo Global in Brussels, SIAL Paris, ANUGA Food Fair in Cologne, Fruit Logistica Berlin, and Salon de Gourmet in Spain. Exporters and associations are provided with the opportunity to join a government-funded booth on a selective invitation basis, and/or provide marketing collateral and product samples to be distributed by B.C. government representatives.
- With the implementation of CETA, it is expected that the reduction in trade tariffs for packaged food products will result in a large increase in the number of B.C. food processors targeting the European market.

Note: While Germany, France and the U.K. are secondary priority markets for B.C.'s agrifood and seafood exports, Ireland is currently not an identified market.

Promoting Agritech:

- AGRI is increasingly focused on growing and promoting the emerging "agritech cluster" – 50+ companies gaining global recognition for their leading technologies, including waste-to-resource technology, by-product processing for value added products, robotics, automation, precision agriculture, drones, sensors, biotechnology/bio-security (genomics), vertical farming, etc.
- The upcoming #BCTECH Summit (Summit) in Vancouver, B.C., from March 14 - 15, 2017, will feature an agritech pavilion that showcases some of B.C.'s best and brightest agritech innovators. Last year's Summit was extremely successful when approximately 3,500 people participated from 10 countries, including representation from 850 companies, 80 speakers, 200 exhibitors, and 180 investors. In addition, 228 B2B meetings connected 42 buyers and 92 subject matter experts.
- We aim to create an environment where the agritech cluster can continue to grow and innovate in B.C., promote the adoption of technologies in B.C., and work with both domestic and international jurisdictions to identify opportunities for idea sharing/collaboration.

Key Messages:

- We would welcome the opportunity for further discussion with Ireland about what opportunities there are for "innovation exchange" between our nations.
- We would encourage you to send delegates to explore the technology that exists in agriculture at the upcoming #BCTECH Summit in Vancouver, B.C., on March 14 - 15, 2017.

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