

AgriRecovery/AgriStability

Highlights:

- Many ranchers from the Interior struggled because of the wildfires and while losses were not as high as initially expected; access to grazing and feed has had a financial impact on many farmers and ranchers.

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Background:

- On Aug. 16, the governments of Canada and British Columbia announced they are working under the AgriRecovery disaster framework to determine the type of assistance that may be required by British Columbia's agriculture sector to recover from the impact of wildfires.
- On Sept 5, the federal and provincial government announced a \$20-million AgriRecovery program to help ranchers and farmers recover from losses from the 2017 wildfires.
- On Oct 5, it was announced that applications are available for farmers and ranchers looking to access the Canada-British Columbia Wildfires Recovery Initiative.
- This is cost-shared 60:40 between the Governments of Canada and B.C. and includes:
 - Up to 70 per cent of extraordinary feed costs,-a per/head/day payment based on feed requirements to ensure timely assistance through the recovery period;
 - A per head payment of up to \$80 per breeding animal to help producers with costs including:
 - Up to \$80 per head to re-establish safe winter feeding facilities and general clean-up,
 - Up to 70 per cent of the rental of temporary production facilities,
 - Up to 70 per cent of the market value of breeding animals for mortality;
 - Up to 70 per cent of extraordinary costs incurred by an industry organization and not paid by another agency or government department; and
 - Up to 70 per cent of the extraordinary costs required to return to normal crop production, including:
 - Critical infrastructure not covered by insurance.
 - Labour costs to repair private fences.
 - Reseeding/re-establishment of tame forage and other perennials damaged by fires.

Advice to Minister-CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

Ministry of Agriculture

Date: February 5, 2018

Minister Responsible: Hon. Lana Popham

AgriRecovery

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Advice to Minister-CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

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BACKGROUND:

- As of Jan. 31, 2018 the Ministry had received 175 applications.
- As of Nov. 27, 2017, the Ministry had received 55 applications.
- As of Nov. 1, 2017, the Ministry had received 25 applications.

Timeline:

- On Aug. 16th, the governments of Canada and British Columbia announced they are working under the AgriRecovery disaster framework to determine the type of assistance that may be required by British Columbia's agriculture sector to recover from the impact of wildfires.
- On Sept 5th, the federal and provincial government announced a \$20-million AgriRecovery program to help ranchers and farmers recover from losses from the 2017 wildfires.
- On Oct 5th, it was announced that applications are now available for farmers and ranchers looking to access the Canada-British Columbia Wildfires Recovery Initiative.
- The deadline for applications was January 31, 2018.

Further Background:

- This investment is cost-shared 60:40 between the Government of Canada and the Government of British Columbia.
- Coverage includes:

Advice to Minister-CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

Ministry of Agriculture Date: Feb 9, 2018 Minister Responsible: Hon. Lana Popham	Enhanced AgriStability
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Advice to Minister-CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

- Up to 70 per cent of extraordinary feed costs, -a per/head/day payment based on feed requirements to ensure timely assistance through the recovery period;
- Up to \$80 per head to re-establish safe winter feeding facilities and general clean-up,
- Up to 70 per cent of the rental of temporary production facilities,
- Up to 70 per cent of the market value of breeding animals for mortality;
- Up to 70 per cent of extraordinary costs incurred by an industry organization and not paid by another agency or government department; and
- Up to 70 per cent of the extraordinary costs required to return to normal crop production, including:
 - Critical infrastructure not covered by insurance.
 - \$4.20 per meter to help cover labour costs to repair private fences.
 - Reseeding/re-establishment of tame forage and other perennial crops damaged by fires.
- A federal-provincial-territorial cost-shared suite of Business Risk Management (BRM) programs is available to help farmers in managing disaster events, including wildfires. These include AgriStability, AgriInvest and AgriInsurance. AgriRecovery is a federal-provincial-territorial disaster relief framework intended to work together with the core BRM programs to help agricultural producers recover from natural disasters.

Communications Contact: J. Milne

Program Area Contact: A. Lalani

BC Wine

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Page 010 to/à Page 011

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Background:

- The B.C. government will be placing black and white ads in the following newspapers on Saturday, February 10, 2018 to promote B.C. wines:

Paper	Cost
Globe and Mail	s.17
Vancouver Sun	
Province	
Prince George Citizen	
Total cost of newspaper ads:	\$30,480
Estimated creative and production costs:	\$6,500
Estimated total cost of campaign:	\$36,980*

*Exact costs will be made public as part of Public Accounts.

- BC is home to 929 vineyards, including 254 licensed wineries.
- There are just less than 3,900 hectares of wine grapes and 56 hectares of fresh market grapes.
- Over 60 different grape varieties are produced in the province, the top ten of which include Merlot, Pinot Gris, Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, Gewurztraminer, Cabernet Franc, Syrah, Riesling, and Sauvignon Blanc.
- In 2016, BC wine exports increased 4% to \$9.7 million shipped to 17 international markets.
- The top markets for BC wine were China (54%), Taiwan (23%) and the US (11%)
- Ice wine exports were \$1.8 million of the total.

BC Wine

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Solution:

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BC – AB Trade Dispute

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Background:

- Several media reports published on Feb. 23 claim that the Canadian Free Trade Agreement does not cover alcohol.
- These articles are confusing sales of alcohol made directly to consumer with those made by provincial liquor monopolies.
- Provincial monopolies are subject to the obligation in the CFTA to act in a non-discriminatory fashion.
- The Wine Institute of BC filed a formal challenge of the importation section of Alberta's *Gaming and Liquor Act* seeking to have it declared constitutionally invalid.
- They have filed for an injunction to stop Alberta's actions while their constitutional challenge is before the courts.
- BC has also challenged Alberta's actions under the dispute resolution mechanisms under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement. The first stage is a consultation process.
- This first consultation process can take between 120 and 357 days. After the consultation phase, there are several appeals and compliance phases.
- This will be the first time the dispute process under the CFTA has been used. The federal government is responsible for enforcement under this Agreement.
- The move is a violation of AB obligations under both the New West Partnership and the Canadian Free Trade Agreement.
- In 2016, BC wine exports increased 4% to \$9.7 million shipped to 17 international markets.
- The top markets for BC wine were China (54%), Taiwan (23%) and the US (11%)
- Ice wine exports were \$1.8 million of the total.

Timeline of dispute:

- On December 19, 2017 the Federal Government announced funding for oil spill research "to bring scientists together to improve our collective understanding of how oil spills behave, how best to clean and contain them, and how to best minimize their environmental impacts."

- On January 30, the BC Environment Minister announced the government is proposing a second phase of regulations to improve preparedness, response and recovery from potential spills.
- On February 1st, Alberta announced it would cease talks on upgrading the existing electricity intertie between BC and Alberta.
- On February 7th, Alberta announced that the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Corporation will cease all purchase of BC wine. In 2017 \$70 million was paid to BC producers for wine shipped to Alberta.
- On Feb. 19, BC officially filed a request for consultation under the CFTA, which starts the clock under the dispute resolution mechanisms.
- On Feb. 22, BC referred a proposal on bitumen shipments to the courts for an opinion. This action resulting in Notley backing down from the wine ban in Alberta.

BC – AB Trade Dispute

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- In 2016, BC wine exports increased 4% to \$9.7 million shipped to 17 international markets.
- The top markets for BC wine were China (54%), Taiwan (23%) and the US (11%)
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BC Wine

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Background:

- On Feb. 19, BC officially filed a request for consultation under the CFTA, which starts the clock under the dispute resolution mechanisms.
- The first consultation process can take between 120 and 357 days. After the consultation phase, there are several appeals and compliance phases.
- This will be the first time the dispute process under the CFTA has been used. The federal government is responsible for enforcement under this Agreement.

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- The move is a violation of AB obligations under both the New West Partnership and the Canadian Free Trade Agreement.
- On December 19, 2017 the Federal Government announced funding for oil spill research "to bring scientists together to improve our collective understanding of how oil spills behave, how best to clean and contain them, and how to best minimize their environmental impacts."
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Background:

B.C. Wine Month

On Wednesday February 14th, the B.C. Government announced the proclamation of B.C. Wine Month in April. As part of the news release, the following initiatives were highlighted:

- Increased opportunities to have B.C. wines in local BC Liquor Stores, including local wines from small and medium producers that are not typically available outside of the wineries.
- Promotion throughout the month with storefront displays.
- A greater variety of in-store tastings of B.C. wines.
- Funding for an expansion of the **Buy BC: Eat Drink Local** campaign, to further develop partnerships between the BC Wine Institute and the British Columbia Restaurant and Food Services Association.
- Funding to support the marketing of BC VQA wines to new international markets.

Buy BC: Eat, Drink Local

In October 2017, the B.C. Government kicked off the Buy BC: Eat Drink Local initiative, a campaign aimed at educating British Columbians on the benefits of supporting local agriculture, seafood and food processing companies. It will help local producers connect with the hospitality sector and increase the number of B.C. products that are profiled and served in restaurants and food service establishments around the province.

The highlight of the campaign will be a month-long dining promotion in May 2018, offering consumers the experience to learn about and enjoy fresh dishes made with local ingredients.

Based on conversations with Ministry of Agriculture staff, detailed information on activities and funding are forthcoming.

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British Columbia News

Province supports local wine industry, proclaims April B.C. Wine Month

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/16404>

Wednesday, February 14, 2018 4:05 PM

Victoria - On the heels of Alberta's boycott of B.C. wines, the B.C. government is ramping up its support for the industry by proclaiming April as B.C. Wine Month, including a special month-long promotion at all public liquor stores.

"B.C.'s wine industry is made up of family-run vineyards and wineries that have chosen farming and wine-making as their passion and their profession," said Minister of Agriculture Lana Popham. "In addition to delivering fantastic wine, they also provide good jobs in communities throughout the province, and we are proud to shine a spotlight on the work they do and the wine they make. We told British Columbians we would fight for our wine-making community, and devoting an entire month to B.C. wines is a wonderful way to do just that."

Along with the proclamation of B.C. Wine Month in April, other government initiatives in support of B.C.'s wine industry include:

- Increased opportunities to have B.C. wines in local BC Liquor Stores, including local wines from small and medium producers that are not typically available outside of the wineries.
- Promotion throughout the month with storefront displays.
- A greater variety of in-store tastings of B.C. wines.
- Funding for an expansion of the Buy BC: Eat Drink Local campaign, to further develop partnerships between the BC Wine Institute and the British Columbia Restaurant and Food Services Association.
- Funding to support the marketing of BC VQA wines to new international markets.

While the Province has worked to develop this support, the Ministry of Agriculture has been involved in ongoing engagement with wine producers throughout the province.

"We are grateful for the loyalty and support we have received from the consumers across B.C. and Canada in response to Alberta's announcement to boycott B.C. wine," said Miles Prodan, president and CEO of the BC Wine Institute. "We appreciate the Province's quick response in support of B.C.'s wineries, and we remain resolute in our mission to secure sales opportunities here in B.C. for the many B.C. grape wineries across the province, most of which are small, family-owned-and-operated businesses, and will continue to promote our local world-class products at home and abroad."

B.C.'s wine industry employs about 12,000 people, and has an economic impact of \$2.8 billion annually.

Quick Facts:

- B.C. is home to 929 vineyards, including over 350 licensed wineries.
- There are just under 3,900 hectares of wine grapes grown in B.C.

- Over 60 different grape varieties are produced in the province, including Merlot, Pinot Gris, Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, Gewurztraminer, Cabernet Franc, Syrah, Riesling and Sauvignon Blanc.
- In 2016, B.C. wine exports increased 4% over the previous year to \$9.7 million shipped to 17 international markets.
- Ice wine exports were \$1.8 million of the total.
- The top markets for B.C. wine were China (54%), Taiwan (23%) and the United States (11%).
- These initiatives in support of B.C.'s wine industry will be developed in the context of B.C.'s existing trade obligations.

Learn More:

BC Wine Institute: <http://www.winebc.com/>

BC Liquor Stores: <http://www.bcliquorstores.com/>

Media Contacts

Dave Townsend
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Ministry of Agriculture
250 356-7098

Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

Ministry of Agriculture Date: Feb 21, 2018- UPDATED Minister Responsible: Hon. Lana Popham	Alberta's B.C. Wine Ban + B.C. Wine Month
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Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

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Background:

- On February 6, 2018, Premier Rachel Notley of Alberta announced an immediate ban on the import of B.C. wine into the province.
- This ban was a reaction to the Ministry of Environment's announcement on January 30, proposing a second phase of regulations to improve preparedness, response and recovery from potential spills.
- Prior to the outright ban, Ministry of Agriculture staff received reports from B.C. wine producers that 25 AB wine club members had cancelled their memberships because of the BC government's recent spill management announcement.
- s.21
- B.C.'s Wine Institute claims that:
 - 30 per cent of all wine sold in Alberta is from B.C. with a retail value of \$160 million.
 - Alberta is the second most important market for B.C. wine (behind B.C. itself)
- On February 19, Minister Ralston announced that B.C. was formally challenging Alberta's ban on B.C. wines through the Canadian Free Trade Agreement's (CFTA) dispute settlement process.
- On February 21, the B.C. Wine Institute announced they had sought an injunction that challenges the constitutionality of the ban imposed by the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission on the interprovincial trade of B.C. wine.

Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

Ministry of Agriculture Date: Feb 7, 2018 Minister Responsible: Hon. Lana Popham	Alberta's B.C. Wine Ban
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Background:

- On February 6, 2018, Premier Rachel Notley of Alberta announced an immediate ban on the import of B.C. wine into the province.
- This ban was a reaction to the Ministry of Environment's announcement on January 30, proposing a second phase of regulations to improve preparedness, response and recovery from potential spills.
- Prior to the outright ban, Ministry of Agriculture staff received reports from B.C. wine producers that 25 AB wine club members had cancelled their memberships because of the BC government's recent spill management announcement.
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Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

Ministry of Agriculture

Date: February 5, 2018

Minister Responsible: Hon. Lana Popham

ALC Decision – Woodwynn Farms

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

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BACKGROUND:

- On Nov. 9, 2017 the ALC Executive Committee refused a proposal from the Creating Homefulness Society (Woodwyn Farms).
- The ALC decision was made pursuant to s. 11.1(5) of the Agricultural Land Commission Act.
- The 77.8 ha property is located within in the ALR in Sannichton.
- The Creating Homefulness Society is a registered charity that is in the process of establishing itself as a therapeutic working community in which homeless men and women are trained to assist with crop and livestock production as part of a rehabilitation program.
- On January 18, 2018 the Creating Homefulness Society, who own Woodwynn Farms, announced that they would be selling the property.

Communications Contact:
Dave Townsend

Program Area Contact: James Mack

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Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

Ministry of Agriculture Date: February 5, 2018 Minister Responsible: Hon. Lana Popham	ALR Land & Foreign Ownership
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BACKGROUND:

- In the Fall of 2017, MLA Andrew Weaver put forward a Member's Bill, M 202-Property Law and Land Title Amendment Act, 2017, that would amend the Land Title Act and the Property Law Act by adding a definition of the agricultural land reserve as defined under the Agricultural Land Commission Act, and restrict foreign nationals and foreign corporations from holding land within the agricultural land reserve above a maximum acreage.

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- The B.C. government shares the concerns expressed by MLA Weaver around land use and affordability in the ALR, and agree that the land in the ALR should be used for farming.
- Decisions regarding housing and building permits are the responsibility of local governments.
- The Ministry of Agriculture created a by-law standard in November 2011 that provides local governments with a ready-to-use model that restricts building large residential homes in the centre of ALR lots and ensures the majority of the land is preserved for agricultural use.
- The ALR Revitalization public engagement will run from February 5 to April 30, 2018.

Communications Contact: Meghan

McRae

Program Area Contact: Lorie Hryciuk

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Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

Ministry of Agriculture Date: February 5, 2018 Minister Responsible: Hon. Lana Popham	ALR Land & Medical Cannabis
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BACKGROUND:

- The Ministry developed a Ministers Bylaw Standard "Regulating Medical Marihuana Production Facilities in the Agriculture Land Reserve" that offers local governments guidance for creating bylaws to regulate medical cannabis production facilities in the ALR in their communities.
- It was developed following consultations with local governments, and includes input and guidance the ministry received from communities across B.C.
- It offers provincial standards on the positioning of medical cannabis production facilities on ALR lands, including appropriate distances from neighbouring property lines, schools, parks, watercourses and so on.
- The Ministry will continue working with local governments to ensure there is consistency in communities across the province, and that bylaws align with the B.C. government's bylaw standard.
- Local governments can regulate, but not prohibit federally licensed medical cannabis grown in the Agriculture Land Reserve.
- The Ministry continues to encourage the local governments to be compliant with the bylaw standard.
- The ALR Revitalization public engagement will run from February 5 to April 30, 2018.

Communications Contact: Meghan
McRae
Program Area Contact: Lorie Hryciuk

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Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

Ministry of Agriculture Date: February 5, 2018 Minister Responsible: Hon. Lana Popham	ALR Review Committee
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BACKGROUND:

- The Ministry of Agriculture announced the members of the ALR Review Committee, and the high-level expectations of that committee in a news release on Jan. 4, 2018.
- In a Jan. 10, 2018 Williams Lake Tribune article, local MLA Donna Barnett said the entire ranching industry and the Cariboo Chilcotin region is being overlooked by the newly launched ALR and ALC review panel.
- Barnett said "If you look at the panel, most of the people on it are from the Lower Mainland. Where are the people that actually work on the ground. Where are the cattlemen? This is very troubling considering the challenges we face following last year's wildfires."
- Opposition Agriculture Critic Paton is calling on Minister Popham to reveal the selection process for members of her new advisory committee.
- In a media interview Paton said "it's surprising to me that the Cariboo-Chilcotin's hard-working ranching community, or the Okanagan's talented tree fruit and berry growers, or the Similkameen

Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

Valley's dedicated hay farmers or grape growers wouldn't be included on the committee. What's more, the Kootenays have zero representation, as do important groups like the BC Cattlemen's Association and the BC Agriculture Council."

Communications Contact:
Dave Townsend

Program Area Contact:

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Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

Ministry of Agriculture Date: Feb 5, 2018 Minister Responsible: Hon. Lana Popham	Review of Animal Health Centre
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BACKGROUND:

- On Saturday, October 14, 2017 CTV's W5 aired a story regarding B.C.'s fish farms that called into question the scientific results coming from B.C.'s Animal Health Lab.
- Federal researcher Dr. Kristina Miller alleged during the W5 story that research coming out of the Animal Health Lab that ministry staff have "...a relationship with the industry, and (they are) also ...doing the pathology associated with the regulatory programs. Even if it isn't a conflict of interest, it certainly has the appearance of one."

Communications Contact: Jillian
Milne/Meghan McRae
Program Area Contact: James Mack

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Aquaculture FOI

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Background:

- **Wed, Aug 27, 2017:** Occupations of Marine Harvest fish farms at Midsummer and Swanson Islands began.
- **Tues, Oct 10, 2017:** Alert Bay visit from Premier, Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Minister of Transportation to hear the concerns of the Namgis, Dzwawdaenuxw, Kwikwasutnuxw Haxwa'mis, Mamlalikula, and Kuttera Nations.
- Conversation between Agriculture DM Wes Shoemaker with Fisheries DM Catherine Blewett regarding Animal and Plant Health Centre and aquaculture.

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- **Saturday, October 14, 2017:** Marine Harvest sends response to request to consider implications of restocking in the Broughton Archipelago.
- W5 Piece interview with Dr. Kristi Miller-Saunders made accusations re: Dr. Gary Marty and the data from the Animal Health Centre

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- Interview with Randy Shore regarding fish farms where he accused Minister Popham of launching an investigation into an individual.
- **October 25, 2017:** Review of Animal Health Centre launched. To be conducted by Don Wright.

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- **February 28, 2018:** Vancouver Sun publishes story on preparation of October letter to Marine Harvest regarding restocking in the Broughton Archipelago.

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Broughton Archipelago Fish Farms

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Background:

- **Wed, Aug 27, 2017:** Occupations of Marine Harvest fish farms at Midsummer and Swanson Islands began.
- **Tues, Oct 10, 2017:** Alert Bay visit from Premier, Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Minister of Transportation to hear the concerns of the Namgis, Dzwawdaenuxw, Kwikwasutnuxw Haxwa'mis, Mamlalikula, and Kuterra Nations.
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- Interview with Randy Shore regarding fish farms where he accused Minister Popham of launching an investigation into an individual.
- **October 25, 2017:** Review of Animal Health Centre launched. To be conducted by Don Wright.

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Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

Ministry of Agriculture Date: February 20, 2018 Minister Responsible: Hon. Lana Popham	Minister of Agriculture's Advisory Committee on Fin Fish Aquaculture
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BACKGROUND:

- The Minister of Agriculture's Advisory Committee on Fin Fish Aquaculture submitted the final report to the Ministry of Agriculture on Feb. 1, 2018.

Government's commitments on aquaculture industry

- "We will ensure that the salmon farming industry does not endanger wild salmon by implementing the recommendations of the Cohen Commission, keeping farm sites out of important salmon migration routes, and supporting research and transparent monitoring to minimize the risk of disease from captive to wild fish; We will also provide incentives to

Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

**help the aquaculture industry transition to closed containment where possible.” -2017 BC
NDP Platform**

Communications Contact: Meghan

McRae

Program Area Contact: James Mack

Broughton Archipelago Fish Farms

s.13

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Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

Ministry of Agriculture Date: February 20, 2018 Minister Responsible: Hon. Lana Popham	Washington State Proposed Ban on Fish Farms
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Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

BACKGROUND:

- Washington State senate and house of representatives both recently passed bills that would see the removal of open pen fish farms from adjacent waters as licenses expire, over the next seven years.
 - While they are not yet complete, it is expected that both are expected to pass into law when approved by both the house and the senate.
 - Recent media coverage in B.C. states that Senator Kevin Ranker is asking B.C. to follow suit.
 - Governor Islee has been supportive of the phase out, but also said that B.C. is their own jurisdiction and must be allowed to make their own decisions.
-
- **Government's commitments on aquaculture industry**
 - "We will ensure that the salmon farming industry does not endanger wild salmon by implementing the recommendations of the Cohen Commission, keeping farm sites out of important salmon migration routes, and supporting research and transparent monitoring to minimize the risk of disease from captive to wild fish; We will also provide incentives to help the aquaculture industry transition to closed containment where possible." -2017 BC NDP Platform

Communications Contact: Meghan
McRae
Program Area Contact: James Mack

Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

Ministry of Agriculture Date: February 7, 2018 Minister Responsible: Hon. Lana Popham	Open Pen Fish Farms in Broughton Archipelago
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Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

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Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

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BACKGROUND:

- On Saturday, Aug. 19, 2017, media reported about 300,000 salmon escaped a fish farm net in the San Juan Islands. No escapes took place in B.C. waters.
- On Monday, Aug. 28, 2017, protesters from the 'Namgis, Tlowitsis and Mamalilikulla First Nations began occupying the Swanson Island fish farm. The protesters have asked that permits be revoked and are citing health and environmental concerns about the farms after gathering footage of deformed fish, with unknown ailments, and the major Atlantic salmon spill in Washington last week.
- On Tuesday, Aug. 29, 2017 the Shishalh Nations reported Atlantic salmon has been verified in the Sabine Channel, Sechelt, B.C. The Shishalh Nations is the third group, along with Namgis (Swanson Island) and the Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw to express concerns regarding the escaped Atlantic salmon.
- On Wednesday, Aug. 30, 2017, media reports indicated lumber was delivered to the fish farm on Tuesday, Aug. 29, 2017 and the construction of a house structure is underway by protesters.
- Additional hereditary chiefs from 'Namgis and Mamalilikala arrived to support the occupation.
- Protesters indicated they plan on remaining long-term at the fish farm until the Province revokes the Swanson Island License of Occupation (LOO). Those involved with Operation Virus Hunter II have identified that B.C. can revoke the LOO if the project is found to be not in the Province's best interest.
- On August 31st, 2017 members of the Dzawada'enuxw and Kwikwasutinuxw Haxwamis First Nation led by Chief Okwilagame (Willie Moon), began occupying Wicklow Fish Farm near Port Hardy.
- On October 10, 2017 Premier John Horgan along with Ministers Popham, Donaldson, Fraser and Trevena flew to Alert Bay to meet with Indigenous leaders opposed to open pen fish farming in B.C. waters.
- On October 13, 2017 Marine Harvest vessel on route to deliver smolts to Gilford Island fish farm. Occupiers of the Swanson and Midsummer farms, as well as other protestors, are aware, and there is some discussion about planning to block the Marine Harvest vessel in order to prevent delivery.
- On January 30, 2018 Ministers Popham, Donaldson, Fraser and Heyman met with six First Nations represented by five bands in Vancouver, B.C. to initiate government-to-government discussions to address the issues and concerns about fish farms in the Nations' traditional territories.

Government's commitments on aquaculture industry

Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

- **"We will ensure that the salmon farming industry does not endanger wild salmon by implementing the recommendations of the Cohen Commission, keeping farm sites out of important salmon migration routes, and supporting research and transparent monitoring to minimize the risk of disease from captive to wild fish; We will also provide incentives to help the aquaculture industry transition to closed containment where possible." -2017 BC NDP Platform**

Communications Contact: Meghan

McRae

Program Area Contact: James Mack

Advice to Minister-CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

Ministry of Agriculture

Date: March 7, 2018

Minister Responsible: Hon. Lana Popham

CN Transport of B.C. Grain

s.13

BACKGROUND:

- It was reported at the end of February by Canadian Press that BC Railway had filled less than 20 per cent of the orders for grain cars received the week prior to the report.
- The issue has been raised at the Federal level over the past weeks, leading to the Federal Ministers of Agriculture and Transportation to issue a joint letter to both CN and CP railways on Tuesday, March 6 asking for a solution to be developed that gets grain moving by March 15.
- Also on March 6, iPolitics reported that 40 boats were waiting on B.C.'s coast for grain shipments. 35 vessels in the Port of Vancouver, and 5 vessels in Prince Rupert.

Advice to Minister-CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

- On Monday, March 5, Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe said many producers in his province were facing a looming “cash crunch”, with outstanding grain contracts not being fulfilled while shipments were stalled, and spring seeding weeks away.

Communications Contact: M. McRae

Program Area Contact: J.Easton

BC GRAIN

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There is no doubt that weather is a bit of a contributing factor but the main issue is the lack of rail cars and the engines to pull them.

Priority is now being given to moving oil! In doing so then grain and other products get left behind.

CN has commitments to supply a certain number of rail cars to the facilities and they have failed to do so.

Grain can go south from Prince George in two ways; either via Prince Rupert or to Vancouver. A portion of the BCR line is not being used south of Prince George to its fullest.

Either way the grain producers need rail cars to move their product. Once spring breakup comes there will be restrictions on the use of gravel roads due to soft road conditions.

This is another issue the NE is facing is the lack of good quality roads to move product. This is a dire issue for the grain farmers with little chance it will change without both Federal and Provincial Govt intervention!

There is a significant crisis for the grain industry in the Peace River area of the province. As of today there has been only one rail car loaded at the Viterra Elevator in Fort St. John. The other facilities are experiencing the same issue with the lack of rail transportation. CN has not provided the necessary rail cars and trains to move this grain. Our once provincially owned railway work for the province!

This is a significant financial burden to the Peace River Grain Producers as this suspended income needs an immediate fix.

This issue will be brought up on Monday in the leg and it would be good to have you make a suggestion on how this can be resolved.

[<https://ipmcdn.avast.com/images/icons/icon-envelope-tick-green-avg-v1.png>]http://www.avg.com/email-signature?utm_medium=email&utm_source=link&utm_campaign=sig-email&utm_content=emailclient> Virus-free. www.avg.comhttp://www.avg.com/email-signature?utm_medium=email&utm_source=link&utm_campaign=sig-email&utm_content=emailclient>

Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

Ministry of Agriculture Date: Feb.05, 2018 Minister Responsible: Hon. Lana Popham	Housing of Agricultural TFW's
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Background:

- The Temporary Foreign Worker Program is a federal immigration program that enables Canadian employers to hire foreign nationals to fill skills and labour shortages on a temporary basis.
- TFWs have access to provincially-funded services that are available to all workers (workplace safety, employment and housing standards, health care, consumer protection, workers' compensation, policing, and court services).
- The Employment Standards Branch (ESB) enforces legislation and regulations regarding wages, holidays, and working conditions for all workers and provides help in person, on-line or through a toll-free number.
- Demand for TFWs is highest in agriculture, information and cultural industries, and manufacturing.
- In 2017, BC received 7,575 work permits for Temporary Foreign Workers (TFWs) from all agricultural occupations. (This is a 13.7 percent increase from 2016).
- The BC Agriculture Council (BCAC) organizes inspections of TFW housing, using updated industry-developed housing guidelines that exceed federal program requirements in many areas.

Industrial Camps Regulation (Ministry of Health)

- The Ministry of Health provides policy support for land use management, which includes regulating industrial camps.
- The regulation outlines the requirements for a number of public-health-related factors, including:
 - camp siting and size
 - arrangement of camp facilities (including sleeping accommodations)
 - provision of safe drinking water

Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

- location and construction of sewage facilities
- waste management

Communications Contact:

Program Area Contact: Lorie Hryciuk

Meghan McRae

Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

Ministry of Agriculture Date: Feb.23, 2018 UPDATED Minister Responsible: Hon. Lana Popham	Housing of Agricultural TFW's
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Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

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Background:

- The Temporary Foreign Worker Program is a federal immigration program that enables Canadian employers to hire foreign nationals to fill skills and labour shortages on a temporary basis.
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- The Employment Standards Branch (ESB) enforces legislation and regulations regarding wages, holidays, and working conditions for all workers and provides help in person, on-line or through a toll-free number.
- Demand for TFWs is highest in agriculture, information and cultural industries, and manufacturing.
- In 2017, BC received 7,575 work permits for Temporary Foreign Workers (TFWs) from all agricultural occupations. (This is a 13.7 percent increase from 2016).
- The BC Agriculture Council (BCAC) organizes inspections of TFW housing, using updated industry-developed housing guidelines that exceed federal program requirements in many areas.
- In 2017 a working group was formed with representatives from the Ministries of Labour and Health and the BC Agriculture Council and is facilitated by AGRI.
- The working group agreed that in order for any steps forward to be effective it should be from a coordinated systems approach to address the foundational issues and drive a proactive approach. The proposed actions to be reviewed are:
 - Coordination – commit to provincial coordination to take a systems approach to address housing
 - Inspections – focus on improving housing inspections including standards, inspector training, frequency and proactive follow up issues.
 - Industry Engagement- Drive cultural change to commit to high quality housing standards and ensure knowledge of standards and compliance implications.
 - Regulatory review – regulatory review to identify improvements of the Industrial Camps Regulation, *Public Health Act* (and other housing standards to ensure clarity and consistency)
- Recently, four informative sessions were organized for employers of TFWs under the SAWP

Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

program by the Ministries of Labour (WorkSafeBC), Health and AGRI with input from BCAC and the Mexican Consulate. The sessions were held in Delta, Abbotsford, Kelowna and Osoyoos. The sessions have been well attended.

Industrial Camps Regulation (Ministry of Health)

- The Ministry of Health provides policy support for land use management, which includes regulating industrial camps.
- The regulation outlines the requirements for a number of public-health-related factors, including:
 - camp siting and size
 - arrangement of camp facilities (including sleeping accommodations)
 - provision of safe drinking water
 - location and construction of sewage facilities
 - waste management

Communications Contact:

Program Area Contact: Lorie Hryciuk

Meghan McRae

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CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE TO MINISTER – FEB. 16, 2018

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ADVICE TO MINISTER

<p>CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE</p> <p>Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Date: February 1, 2018 Minister Responsible: Hon. Selina Robinson</p>	<p>Kelowna Long-Term Water Supply Plan Update</p>
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ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- The integration of the South East Kelowna Irrigation District and the City of Kelowna water systems is an important project that will benefit the community while reducing costs for the district and city.
- My ministry continues to support Kelowna and the Irrigation District toward an approach that advances the integration of the two water systems, using the approved grant funding.
- We continue to support the outcomes of the Value Planning Study from 2017 that looked at a City wide integration plan. The outcomes and underlying principles create a framework that can help guide the parties to a path forward.
- We encourage the City to continue to work collaboratively with all stakeholders to develop the best possible integrated solution providing water to all residents.

If asked about potential cost increases for the South East Kelowna Irrigation District and City of Kelowna water integration:

- Potential cost increases are subject to confirmation through the project tender process, which will be closing at the end of this month.
- Following confirmation of project costs through the tender process, the Ministry will continue to work with the City of Kelowna and the South East Kelowna Irrigation District to refine the options to move forward, together on a solution.
- A grant extension for federal-provincial funding awarded under the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund has been secured until December

31, 2019 and the Ministry will ensure that the program continues to provide support to utilize the funding effectively.

If asked why three Irrigation Districts chose not to participate in Value Planning Study:

- **It is my understanding that the Black Mountain Irrigation District, the Rutland Water Works District and the Glenmore-Ellison Improvement District were supportive of the process that took place and will look to the results to inform their own future decisions and involvement as a district.**

What if other districts move forward with own infrastructure needs without federal and provincial dollars:

- **The 2017 plan, from the Value Planning process, reflects the entire region based on the 2012 Kelowna Integrated Water Supply Plan.**
- **The immediate priority is South East Kelowna Irrigation District and the city. Each part of the region will need to look at their own short- and long-term needs.**

If asked for ministry's stance on dissolution of other improvement districts:

- **The ministry is not prepared to establish an arbitrary deadline for integrating the other improvement districts within the City of Kelowna at this time.**
- **We're encouraging the city to work collaboratively with all entities to develop the best possible approach to providing water to all residents.**

KEY FACTS REGARDING THE ISSUE:

— NOT PUBLIC.

On Feb. 27, 2017, Kelowna city council formally received the completed Value Planning Study, calling for a city-wide integrated water system. Completion of the Value Planning Study enabled the municipality to apply for a grant from the federal and provincial Clean Water and Wastewater Fund.

In March 2017, the city was approved for close to \$44 million from the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund to upgrade their systems. :

Other Clean Water and Wastewater Fund recipients for the Kelowna region include:

- \$41,002,000 for the Rose Valley Water Treatment Plant
- \$602,082 for the Falcon Ridge Water System Improvement.

The water supply plan implemented over time would see drinking water drawn from two main sources: Mission Creek and Okanagan Lake. The plan also identified the need for separation of the drinking and agricultural systems to allow for lower-quality untreated water to be used for agricultural purposes, ultimately reducing costs over time.

Spring flooding delayed some of the work related to the integrated water supply project. Kelowna has submitted an extension request for the project funding, seeking permission to allow for the project to go beyond program deadlines. The extension request until December 31, 2019 has received approval from the Province and from Infrastructure Canada.

It was determined in September 2017 that service estimates for the South East Kelowna Irrigation District (SEKID) were underestimated, leaving a greater proportion of integration costs unfunded. Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing staff are supporting Kelowna and SEKID in determining an approach forward for the integration project using the approved grant funding, and are again taking up a more active role in facilitating collaboration between the two parties.

Confirmation of the cost increases is contingent upon the project tender process, which is expected to close at the end of February 2018. Ministry staff have been working internally to explore options for a best path forward for the project if there are significant cost increase, including with regard to how the project can be financed by the two parties (Ministry grant programs do not fund cost overruns), and will be actively working with the City and SEKID to refine the options to move forward, together, once costs are confirmed.

Background on the Value Planning Study

— NOT PUBLIC

In 2016, the City of Kelowna and four area water irrigation districts (the Black Mountain Irrigation District, the Rutland Water Works District, the Glenmore-Ellison Improvement District and the South East Kelowna Irrigation District) worked together toward a single approach for updating the region's water system, with support from facilitators provided by the Province. This step involved participating in a Value Planning Study.

Black Mountain Irrigation District, Rutland Water Works District and Glenmore Ellison District decided to pull out of the value planning (VP) process after determining that they did not need to apply for funding to upgrade their water systems. The three districts maintained that their water systems met necessary Interior Health Authority requirements and they did not need any significant infrastructure funding. The three IDs will continue to move forward with their respective plans on their own.

The City of Kelowna and the South East Kelowna Irrigation District completed the VP process together. The city intends to apply for funding to upgrade their systems.

The VP workshop looked at the majority of previous studies and plans to identify possible solutions that:

- Provided the best, lowest-cost approach.

- Achieved public health standards.
- Included administrative and operational flexibility.
- Maintained the region's important agricultural interests.

With guidance from the Interior Health Authority and the ministries of Community, Sport and Cultural Development (formerly) and Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, the VP workshop identified creative solutions to a complex problem.

The Province supported the VP process through direct participation of the former minister and ministry staff and provided facilitators from Circle Square Solutions (Chris Trumpy and George Abbott) to work with the parties. Strategic Value Solutions Inc, a value planning specialist firm, was hired by the City and Improvement District to undertake the value planning exercise. Mayor Basran is on record saying that water is Kelowna's top concern.

Background on Improvement Districts

Integration or dissolution of an irrigation or improvement district are local matters that need to be addressed at the local level. Dissolution of an irrigation or improvement district can be triggered by events such as:

- incorporation of a municipality that consolidates the local services provided by the regional district and any improvement districts;
- the request of a majority of the property owners with a proposal for an alternative service arrangement;
- the request of the trustees of the improvement district after consultation with the property owners; or
- in rare circumstances, the Province may dissolve an improvement district.

Improvement districts are dissolved in the same manner as they are created: by an order of the Provincial Cabinet.

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Media: Coverage in spring 2017 following announcement of the agreement. One article questioned whether Mission Creek could provide enough water for the region. There is also intermittent coverage of the region's water quality or restrictions.

Communications:	Melanie Kilpatrick	778 698-9176
Program:	Brian Bedford	798 698-3232

Kelowna city hall.—Capital News file

Kelowna to hold agricultural water rate info sessions

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To: Smith, Jessica C AGRI:EX; Beale, William AGRI:EX
Cc: Shoemaker, Wes AGRI:EX
Subject: CAP KM's


Canadian Agricultural Partnership

- In April 2018, the Canadian Agricultural Partnership will come into effect. It is estimated the federal and provincial governments will invest more than \$400 million in B.C. under the program between 2018 and 2023.
- The B.C. government has been diligent in ensuring the voices of B.C. farmers, ranchers, food processors and those in the seafood sector are heard during the process of developing the Canadian Agricultural Partnership.
- On Tuesday, Feb 13, the Feds announced the framework for the overarching multi-lateral agreement. The three key areas where federal programs and activities will focus are:
 - o Growing Trade and expanding markets (\$297 M)
 - o Innovative and sustainable growth of the sector (\$690 M)
 - o Supporting diversity and a dynamic, evolving sector (\$166.5 M)
- The Federal programs that are now open for application are (funding will begin on April 1):
 - o Growing Trade and expanding markets
 - o AgriMarketing Program
 - o AgriCompetitiveness Program
 - o Innovative and sustainable growth of the sector
 - o AgriScience Program
 - o AgriInnovate Program
 - o Supporting diversity and a dynamic, evolving sector
 - o AgriDiversity Program
 - o AgriAssurance Program
- The forthcoming bilateral agreement between B.C. and Canada will outline the industry programs, and will align with the Federal programs, but offer some flexibility.. The details of this agreement are still being finalized.
- B.C. anticipates a smooth transition from the Partnership's predecessor, Growing Forward 2, to the Canadian Agricultural Partnership.

Meghan McRae
Communications Director,
Ministry of Agriculture
Government Communications and Public Engagement
P:250-952-0622

Arms length
that what they demand

2 attachments

 **News Release-Embargo.pdf**
225K

 **ATT00001.htm**
1K

Background:

The setting is the 129th annual convention for the BC Fruit Growers Association executive and members from across B.C. The theme of the convention is "The Path Ahead".

Minister Popham has been asked to provide remarks for 10 minutes to the approximately 100-120 attendees.

BCFGA General Manager Glen Lucas advises the challenges and work to do going forward include:

- water supply infrastructure in the Okanagan
- industry seeking project funding for innovation projects
- looking at foreign ownership of farmland.

In a message to attendees in the convention program, Glen Lucas says "the future path of the BCFGa will be determined by the Province's decisions on Replant Administration and the election of the new BCFGa Board of Directors. Many new delegates at the meeting will need to get up to speed quickly on making responsible decisions – the credibility and success of the BCFGa depends upon it."

Organizer Contact:

Glen Lucas, General Manager, BC Fruit Growers Assoc, 250 212-8828

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ADVICE TO MINISTER

<p>CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE</p> <p>Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology</p> <p>Date: Feb. 5, 2018</p> <p>Minister Responsible: Hon. Bruce Ralston</p>	<p>BCIC terminates agreement with Bioenterprise BC</p>
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SUGGESTED RESPONSES:

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BACKGROUND:

The BC Innovation Council (BCIC) has decided to terminate its four-year agreement with Bioenterprise Corporation because Bioenterprise was not meeting performance expectations at the half-way point in the agreement.

BCIC exercised its right to terminate by providing 60 days' notice to Bioenterprise before Jan. 31, 2018. Notice was issued on Jan. 30, 2018, and the termination is effective March 31, 2018.

The Ministry of Agriculture is in full support of terminating the contribution agreement with Bioenterprise and is reviewing other opportunities to better provide incubation and acceleration services to the agritech sector.

Bioenterprise is an Ontario-based business accelerator offering commercialization services to help promote the creation, growth and expansion of businesses engaged in agri-technologies. The company's B.C. operations are known as Bioenterprise BC.

Through two years of its four-year agreement, Bioenterprise BC's results were far below agreed expectations.

Bioenterprise BC had a four-year goal of expanding 40 B.C. companies, in addition to helping the launch of 25 businesses new to B.C. At the end of the first year, Bioenterprise had one paying client.

Results on other commitments such as staffing, revenue, and events and sponsorships were also far below expectations as laid out in the agreement.

BCIC met with Bioenterprise and the Ministry of Agriculture on Sept. 12, 2017, and again on Nov. 1, 2017. As a result of these meetings and review of the Bioenterprise model, concerns about the effectiveness and value of the Bioenterprise model for BCIC emerged:

- The operation is structured as a virtual accelerator specifically for prime venture capital opportunities. There is a very limited number of such opportunities in B.C. at this time, and the venture capital fund it intended to build has not happened.
- Being virtual, B.C.-based operations at the current cost level are not necessary.
- The Bioenterprise model differs from the BC Acceleration Network and BCIC would prefer to offer services consistent with the BC Acceleration Network model.

ADVICE TO MINISTER

It also became apparent that most B.C. agritech companies are not in a growth stage that is suitable to the services initially proposed by Bioenterprise.

BCIC and the Ministry of Agriculture have developed a strong partnership with the goal of fostering innovation in the B.C. agrifood sector. Collaboration has focused on supporting the growth and promotion of the B.C. agritech cluster, mostly through the programs delivered by the BC Acceleration Network. Of the 160-plus agritech companies in B.C., at least 50 from several regions in B.C. have participated in BCIC's Venture Acceleration and, as a result, have generated revenue and created new jobs.

BCIC and the Ministry of Agriculture see value in continuing the support to early-stage agritech companies across the province through the BC Acceleration Network. BCIC and the Ministry of Agriculture also recognize that there is an opportunity to provide acceleration services to not only agritech companies but also other innovative agrifood clients, including food processors and primary producers through a new agrifood accelerator.

BCIC and the Ministry of Agriculture will continue to define this opportunity and build on the lessons learned over the past couple of years.

In April 2015, Bioenterprise made a proposal to BCIC to establish B.C. operations ("Bioenterprise BC") with the CAIP funding. It was proposed that Bioenterprise would provide "elite" accelerator services, including coaching and exposure to private investors, top performers from other business acceleration and commercialization programs such as the Agritech Venture Acceleration Program (AVAP), and the Canada-B.C. Agri-innovation Program. It was expected that Bioenterprise BC would augment the services and capabilities of BCIC's BC Acceleration Network.

Recognizing the opportunity to provide services that would enable the most promising B.C. agritech companies to move toward commercialization, in November 2015 BCIC was directed by the Ministry – with Ministry of Agriculture approval – to award a four-year, \$800,000 contribution agreement to fund Bioenterprise using Ministry of Agriculture-deferred funds held by BCIC.

In January 2015, Bioenterprise secured a four-year funding agreement from the Canada Accelerator and Incubator Program (CAIP). As part of CAIP's requirements, Bioenterprise developed an expansion plan that included potential activities in B.C.

Communications contacts: Dave Paulson, Brad Densmore, Tasha Schollen (JTT) / Robert Boelens, Meghan McRae (AGRI)

Program area contacts: Kevin Butterworth, Christine Little (JTT) / Tomica Davic (BCIC)

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, January 2018

HULLCAR REPORT – AGRICULTURAL WASTE CONTROL REGULATION

Key Messages:

- Our government initiated this review because residents need to have faith their government is listening and will be taking action to ensure both water quality and agricultural interests are protected.
- The nine sets of recommendations outlined in the review of the Hullcar Valley aquifer are clear, thoughtful, and based on the best available information we have.
- We accept the recommendations of the report and are working to implement many of the short- and longer-term suggestions.
 - We will take lesson learned from the Hullcar review and ensure best practices for agriculture waste management are applied across the province.
 - We have released for discussion an intentions paper on proposed amendments to the Agricultural Waste Control Regulation.
- This government is committed to working with the Splatshin First Nation, residents of the Hullcar Valley and the local agriculture producers to restore the Hullcar Valley aquifer and to have the water advisory removed.

Background:

- On August 2, 2017, the Province ordered a review into the pollution in Hullcar Aquifer with the end goal of ensuring agricultural practices are consistent with the provision and protection of clean, safe drinking water.
- Oliver Brandes, an independent national water and governance expert, was chosen to provide strategic advice and oversee the review. Calvin Sandborn, legal director with the University of Victoria's Environmental Law Centre served as special advisor.
- Mr. Brandes provided a review copy of the nearly-final report to the Ministry of Environment Hullcar Review Project team in early October, and to key stakeholders later in October 2017.
- The final report was received November 24, 2017.

GCPE ENV – CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

- The key stakeholders are: the District of Spallumcheen, the Steele Springs Water, and the agriculture industry.
- The Splatshin First Nation has significant interests in the issue and copies of the draft report have been shared and discussed with them.
- Representatives from the agriculture sector were also informed of the report's draft recommendations.
- The final report lists nine sets of recommendations with the end goal of returning the soil nitrate balance and restoring the aquifer to acceptable nitrate levels.
- The immediate and short term actions contained in those recommendations include a moratorium on spreading liquid manure on areas of concern and ensuring residents have immediate access to clean drinking water.
- Longer term actions include establishing sustainable governance structures for water utilities in the area, and supporting new technologies.
- Accordingly the government has released an intentions paper seeking public comment on proposed amendments to the Agricultural Waste Control Regulation that:
 - Will apply to all agricultural operations across the province, including hobby and commercial operations.
 - Will provide outcome-based requirements to protect the environment and prevent pollution. The proposed requirements:
 - Address the concept of a "temporary moratorium" (as recommended in the Hullcar report) by giving the statutory decision maker the discretion to prohibit land applications in high precipitation areas, including over vulnerable aquifers for a high-risk period.
 - This discretion would apply in specific conditions and circumstances, on a case by case basis, based on evidence.
 - Address the concern regarding intensive livestock operations by limiting the amount of nutrients applied to crop nutrient requirements, which should leave no excess nutrients to leach into the aquifer.

The Hullcar Aquifer:

- Nitrate levels have consistently exceeded water quality guidelines from March 2014 to present with respect to the Hullcar aquifer which is a drinking water source for the Hullcar Valley. There are 53 residents connected to the Steele Springs Water District (SSWD), 22 independent well users, and the Splatshin which all rely on the aquifer for drinking water.
- The aquifer provides drinking water to as many as 250 people.
- A combination of factors is likely affecting the Hullcar aquifer, but the 2017 Golder Study of the Hullcar Aquifer identified agriculture as the primary cause. It is understood that the nitrates are coming from several area farms/feedlots (primarily manure), and possibly, to a lesser extent, residential septic systems.
- Interior Health (IHA) issued a "Water Quality Advisory" in July 2014 to all drinking water users in Hullcar Valley - not a "Do Not Drink" or "Do Not Use" order. While there is a level of risk associated with consuming the drinking water, it does not meet the threshold for a "Do Not Use" order. Boiling the water will have no effect on nitrate levels.
-

GCPE ENV – CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

Communications Contact: Danielle Bell
Program Area Contact: Ed Hoffman

250 387-9630
250 565-6443

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, January 29, 2018

FISH PROCESSING PLANT AUDIT

Key Messages:

- The people of B.C. expect their government to keep our water safe, and protect our wild salmon stocks.
- The Province will protect the environment and health of wild salmon by strengthening the requirements for fish processing and fish farming operations.
- The government will work with industry, First Nations and local communities on required actions to make sure any discharge into our coastal waters does not contaminate or endanger wild salmon.
- We will do this by developing a comprehensive set of measures that will apply to the fish farming and fish processing industry along our coast.

Background:

- In November, a viral video was posted online of “blood water” being dumped into the ocean from fishing processing plants – including footage from Brown’s Bay Packing in Campbell River, and Lion’s Gate Fisheries in Tofino.
- Ministry compliance staff conducted site inspections at both facilities the week of Dec.4, 2017. Samples were collected and lab results showed the presence of piscine reovirus (PRV) which is infected blood thought to pose a threat to wild salmon.
- The ministry will continue to monitor these facilities to ensure compliance.
- Following an announced review of fish processing plants on December 20, the Province has initiated inspections of the 28 fish processing plants with provincial permits.
- The inspections will review whether:
 - Effluent discharge is potentially causing harmful pollution.
 - Current authorizations contain strong environmental protection provisions.
 - Current authorization holders in the fish processing sector are in compliance with their permit.
 - Best achievable technology (BAT) is being used in the treatment of effluent from fish processing plants.
- Once inspections and data collection is complete, ministry staff will review permits and/or regulations to ensure best available technology is used in the treatment of effluent from fish processing plants to protect wild salmon stocks.

Accomplishments – Services

Background:

- This is a list of services the Government has improved since being sworn in.

Solution:

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Opposition Ethics Record

Main Message:

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Accomplishments - Affordability

Highlights:

- Actions the Government is taking to make life more affordable for British Columbians.

Solution:

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Opposition - Main

Message:

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Accomplishments

Background:

- BC's NDP government was sworn in on July 18, 2017.
- This is a list of accomplishments achieved since that time.

Solution:

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Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, January 2018

Office of the Auditor General Climate Action Audit

Key Messages

- Our government will provide real climate leadership to grow a sustainable economy for British Columbians.
- We will support mitigation efforts to reduce emissions, along with adaptation efforts to respond to the effects of climate change.
- We accept the Auditor General's recommendations in the report and will ensure their intent is achieved.
- Our government has taken step towards a stronger climate action with the formation of the Climate Solutions and Clean Growth Advisory Council.
- The Advisory Council will provide strategic advice to government on actions and policies to reduce carbon pollution and create good jobs in a sustainable economy.

Background:

- The Office of the Auditor General (OAG) conducted a performance audit expected to be released early in 2018 which includes:
 - Government action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions including targets, plans to achieve them, current progress and reporting.
 - Government action to adapt to a changing climate.
 - Efforts of ministries to adapt – ministries include: Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNR), Agriculture (AGRI), Transportation and Infrastructure (TRAN), Emergency Management BC and Municipal Affairs and Housing (MAH).
- The audit is coordinated with similar audits in other provinces and federal audits. It precedes a national summary report expected in spring 2018.

GCPE ENV – CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

- Following the release of this audit, a Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts will review it and report to the Legislative Assembly.

The Province is already following the Audit's recommendations by doing the following:

- Providing advice to government on actions and policies that can contribute to carbon pollution reductions and optimize opportunities for sustainable economic development and job creation. Establishing the Climate Solutions and Clean Growth Advisory Council (CSCG Advisory Council).
- Undertaking a province-wide risk assessment on the effects of climate change - TRAN and FLNRO developed plans already.
- AGRI has partnered with the federal government in funding the BC Agriculture & Food Climate Action Initiative.
 - The Initiative funds projects and the development of tools and resources to make the agriculture sector more resilient in dealing with climate change. Focus areas include regional adaptation strategies, and practices supporting farm and climate change adaptation, agriculture water storage, sustainable irrigation and water management, reducing vulnerabilities to extreme precipitation and flooding, monitoring and managing change pest populations, and managing for increasing variability in climate and weather.
- Emergency Management BC is now including climate change criteria to evaluate flood mitigation.
- FLNRO is developing a strategy for flood hazard management.
- MAH is researching assessing risk of climate change at a local level.
- A provincial drought management strategy is underway.

Government also has committed to doing the following:

- Implementing a clear, comprehensive climate action strategy that will reduce emissions, along with taking advantage of new opportunities while putting people to work and growing the economy.
- Introducing a new legislated target for 2030 of 40% reduction in carbon emissions below 2007 levels.
- Increasing B.C.'s carbon tax by \$5 per tonne per year beginning April 1, 2018 until it reaches \$50 per tonne in 2021.
- Establishing sectoral targets and plans for built environment, industry and transportation sectors.

ADVICE TO MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL GCPE-FIN ISSUE NOTE Ministry of Finance RECORD OPR: GCPE Finance Date: February 28, 2018 Minister Responsible: Carole James	Budget 2018: Carbon Tax Changes
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RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

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BACKGROUND:

The government is taking a new approach to carbon pricing and action with both Budget 2018 and Budget 2017 Update. As set out in Budget 2017 Update, the BC carbon tax rate will increase annually by \$5 per tonne of carbon dioxide emissions until it reaches \$50 per tonne in 2021, starting April 1, 2018, Carbon tax rates will be as follows:

- April 1, 2018: \$35/tonne
- April 1, 2019: \$40/tonne
- April 1, 2020: \$45/tonne
- April 1, 2021: \$50/tonne
- April 1, 2022: \$50/tonne

Carbon tax revenue for 2018-19 is forecast at \$1,488 million at the higher rate of \$35 per tonne.

Support for industry in Budget 2018:

Budget 2018 includes a proposed clean growth incentive program to help industry transition to a clean growth economy. The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy will lead the program that would provide an:

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Support for families in Budget 2017 Update:

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The maximum annual climate action tax credit will be increased by about 17% to:

- \$135 per adult from \$115.50
- \$40 per child from \$34.50 (single parents receive the adult amount for the first child in the family).

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File Updated:

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