

Popham, Lana AGRI:EX

From: Popham, Lana <L.Popham@leg.bc.ca>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:18 AM
To: Popham, Lana AGRI:EX
Subject: Fwd: The Legal Memo

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Alex Morton <alexandramorton5@gmail.com>
Date: September 25, 2017 at 7:05:46 AM PDT
To: "Popham, Lana" <L.Popham@leg.bc.ca>
Cc: "Shoemaker, Wes AGRI:EX" <Wes.Shoemaker@gov.bc.ca>, "Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX" <Geoff.Meggs@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: The Legal Memo

Lana

Thank you so much. I am hoping there can be a positive outcome for your government and for the women standing on the farms on this windy day. In my view they are making it easier for your government to make a move that will benefit the entire coast present and future.

So hoping.

Alex

On Sep 24, 2017, at 10:36 PM, Popham, Lana <L.Popham@leg.bc.ca> wrote:

Good Evening Alex,

Thanks for your email.

I am copying this to my Deputy Wes Shoemaker for follow up.

I noticed that the email you are using for Geoff Meggs is not his correct email. The email you have used has never been his email so he may not have recieved the info you have sent him.

I'm also copying Geoff so he has your information as well.

Cheers, Lana

From: Alex Morton <alexandramorton5@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:13 AM

To: Popham, Lana; geoff.Meggs@leg.bc.ca

Subject: The Legal Memo

Der Lana Popham and Geoff Meggs:

By now you have received the legal memo on the actions of the Ministry of Agriculture's Animal Health Centre in Abbotsford. This document is based on emails that I received via a Freedom of Information request last December. I realized this information was more serious than I could handle personally and thus the memo you received was produced by a law firm.

In particular there were two jealous emails from Dr. Marty when Dr. Miller went public with her findings.

These emails reveal that when Dr Marty realized he was seeing Heart and Skeletal Muscle Inflammation (HSMI) in 2008, he consulted with industry and together they decided it was not HSMI, because, the industry people said, farm salmon in BC do not exhibit the behaviour associated with this disease. Dr. Marty admits in an email to me never attended these farms, which suggests he was relying in industry information. I now have hours of underwater footage from every farm this summer from Campbell River to Alert Bay and the lethargic, emaciated behaviour described for this disease is widespread in these farms. Furthermore, the ATIP documents I have contain information from other government scientists suggesting the same observations as I have made.

Dr. Marty and Marine Harvest and some DFO scientists co-published three scientific papers wherein they state that the virus that causes HSMI, piscine reovirus - PRV, is endemic to BC and benign... even though Dr. Marty was already aware (as per his own emails) that according to the accepted diagnosis used for HSMI in Norway, HSMI was occurring in BC. He never stated in his papers that he had altered this definition with industry, to reach the opposite conclusion. This is a serious omission in scientific publications.

In 2013, I published that PRV found in farm salmon from Superstore is Norwegian and I sent the late filmmaker Twyla Roscovich to Norway to ask the scientists there, who had received samples of BC farmed salmon from me, if the virus was Norwegian. Dr. Are Nylund confirms that it is
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3scxcIDuEOo>

Using Dr. Marty as an expert witness the Federal Minister of Fisheries is fighting me in court to make it legal for the salmon farming industry to put highly contagious PRV-infected farm salmon into net pens coast wide throughout BC without even testing them. Marine Harvest and Cermaq joined as defendants and provided information to the court that 5/6 of Marine Harvest's farm salmon hatcheries are infected and thus the industry would be "severely" impacted if they couldn't put PRV-infected farm salmon into the farms. If I win this lawsuit, again, the industry will be in severe trouble, if I lose PRV-infection will continue to go viral in BC.

There are less than 200 pink salmon in the Ahta River today, a river that should have thousands and I have studied the sea louse and PRV infection that happens to them as they pass the Marine Harvest farms in Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw territory. There is a paper coming out on this. There is no guesswork here. Viruses have fingerprints they are traceable to source and the virus in BC matches the virus sequenced in farm salmon with HSMI in Lofoten Norway.

What you have is a BC Ministry of Agriculture cover up that has resulted in millions of PRV-infected fish pouring into the very territory of the Nations who are now standing on these farms demanding respect for their rights and removal of the industry after 30 years of being ignored. This has grown into a human rights issue.

I have tried since last November to meet with the BC NDP to warn you of this situation, but you have all refused.

Piscine reovirus is a highly contagious salmon blood virus that does not break down at temperatures that exceed human body temperature. Meanwhile the salmon farming industry in BC has exempted itself from any requirement to freeze farm salmon before it is served as sushi, so people are eating it raw straight from the farm. Wild salmon exposed to salmon farms are highly infected, while those distant from farms are not, the virus is Norwegian, and wild salmon exposed to salmon farms are in such a state of collapse, most First Nation food fisheries are closed.

Both of you have long been aware of the problems with salmon farms and you have both met with me on this prior to the NDP forming government.

The BC NDP is the landlord of the salmon farms in Musgamagw Dzawda'enuxw, Namgis, Mamalilkulla territory, these nations have never given you permission to put farm here. Glen Clark, Moe and Corky approved a lot of these farms even as I was talking to them then, explaining the risks known in Norway. Norwegian members of government came to Canada and are recorded in the Hansard warning Canada about the farmers intent to do as they like in Canada, and the Licences you hold are expiring soon. The industry has millions of eggs in their

hatcheries slated to go into these very farms, so you need to give them a heads up on your intentions ASAP. Over a \$million was spent trying to ease the industry into closed containment with government subsidies and they refused. Now time has run out for wild salmon and you are holding this mess.

Marine Harvest has ignored the First Nation demand not to put further fish into their territory and sent the Norwegian registered Viktoria Viking to Midsummer loaded not only with salmon, but also herring, which they are not allowed to have in their boats. It is now a stand-off. Young women are living in very uncomfortable conditions on this farm to protect the future of their children. Marine Harvest knows winter and high winds are coming soon and are cruelly just waiting them out, but a wood stove arrived on site yesterday. No one is giving up now.

There is an entire Cermaq farm (Sir Edmund) that is holding only herring. The salmon have been harvested, but the company has been holding the herring at least since the 9th of August. This farm is not licenced as a herring farm. Furthermore every farm has thousands of herring in and around the farm and they are infected with PRV.

There is a strong sense of lawlessness around what is going on here. DFO shows up to protect the industry as they violate FN requests, but no longer even bother to count the collapsing herring and salmon populations here.

Geoff, you expressed your deep concern about this industry in 1984 when you wrote "The days of common property fishing are over." And here we are. The only fish boats moving are the farm packers working for Norwegian companies. Thousands of jobs have been lost even as Alaska and Russia enjoy huge runs of salmon in absence of salmon farms. This is exactly the effect salmon farms have had world wide, wild salmon go into exceptional collapse (Ford & Myers 2008) and local communities suffer. If wild salmon exposed to salmon farms in BC were not collapsing, it would be nothing short of a miracle, everyone would be excited to know why. But here we are suffering the second lowest Fraser sockeye run in a row and evidence that these fish are vanishing as they pass the farms on their way to sea. Cohen has given the industry until 2020 to prove they are having less than minimal impact in the Discovery Islands before those farms should cease to operate. Attached is my paper on this

You have a short window of opportunity to get out ahead of this scandal. Claire Trevena campaigned in this territory on the promise to get salmon farms out of this territory and if you don't do that by next spring's wild salmon out-migration you risk being the government that allowed extinction to occur in BC's most southern virgin watershed and many other rivers.

This problem is only going to get bigger and there is only one course of action. Make a public announcement that out of respect for the First Nations of BC, you are rescinding the Licences of Occupation for salmon farming in Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw, Namgis and Mamalilkulla territories and the migration route within these territories i.e. Tribune, Burdwood, Sir Edmund and Fife Sound must be empty before March 2018. Wild salmon can only live or die, they can't negotiate. I will ensure that the numbers on what happens when salmon farms are removed from this route again are published. I already did this for the fallow route enacted by the Province in 2003, which resulted in the best survival of pink salmon ever recorded.

Geoff - you know how dangerous and aggressive this industry is and you understand everything I am saying here. I have not advised the chiefs of this situation yet as there was false hope of response by either the Minister of Fisheries or yourselves, but all of you have failed us and I will be forwarding this email shortly to the people whose territory I live in because I can't silently watch extinction. I am giving you a heads up so you can collect your thoughts.

All the best,

Alexandra Morton

250-974-7086