

Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING
With Investment Agriculture Foundation of British Columbia

Ref: 188891

Date: September 13, 2018

Title: Investment Agriculture Foundation of British Columbia Briefing

Background:

The Investment Agriculture Foundation of British Columbia (IAF) is an industry-led, not-for-profit organization representing the agriculture, food processing, farm supply, and post farm gate sectors across British Columbia (BC).

Established in 1996 it works with industry and funding partners (such as the provincial government) to invest in projects that enhance the competitiveness, profitability and sustainability of the sector. IAF's mission is to *"assist British Columbia's producers, processors, agri-businesses and rural communities to develop solutions and seize opportunities."*

IAF's Board of Directors (Board) is composed of 13 representatives from around the province and across sectors. The Ministry of Agriculture (AGRI) and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) liaise with the Board.

Jack DeWit (Chair)	Glenda Gesy (Thompson/Okanagan)
Walter Fritsche (Peace River)	Arzeena Hamir (Vice Chair; Vancouver Island)
Angela Groothof (Fraser Valley)	Dennis Lapierre (Okanagan/Shuswap)
Alistair Johnston (Fraser Valley)	Bert Miles (Treasurer, North Okanagan)
Don Low (Secretary, Kootenays)	Kalpna Solanki (Lower Mainland)
Kiren Sihota (Lower Mainland)	
Dave Zehender (East Kootenay)	Arif Lalani (AGRI Liaison)
Len Bouwman (Fraser Valley)	Natalie Janssens (AAFC Liaison)

Michelle Koski is the organization's new Executive Director. It is expected that the meeting is a "reach out" by IAF to ensure that the Minister and senior executive are aware of the work of IAF.

Discussion:

IAF has a longstanding positive relationship delivering funding to BC's agriculture and agri-food industry. IAF delivers and oversees on AGRI's behalf several of AGRI's Canadian Agriculture Partnership (CAP) programs as well as other programs and initiatives. Current examples are:

- Canada-BC Agri-Innovation Program
- BC Agri-food and Seafood Market Development Preparedness Program
- Buy BC Partnership Program
- Climate Change Adaptation Program
- Bee BC

The first four programs are delivered on behalf of the Innovation and Adaptation Services Branch (IASB). IAF and IASB have a strong working relationship and regularly collaborate to continuously improve program delivery. As of 2018/19, IAF is delivering the Buy BC program on behalf of AGRI including the licensing of the Buy BC logo. Both teams are working closely to ensure that program runs as effectively as possible

Suggested Response:

- IAF is a valued partner of AGRI and we look forward to continuing our long-standing working relationship.
- AGRI appreciates IAF's willingness to deliver and support Buy BC and CAP programming.
- We appreciate IAF's willingness to reach out and discuss shared interests that benefit the agriculture and agri-food sector, which we look forward to continuing to develop together.

Contact: Emily Schulz, Innovation and Adaptation Services Branch, 778-698-8128

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Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION
ON ANIMAL WELFARE

Ref: 188994

Date: September 19, 2018

Title: Update and next steps on animal welfare initiatives in B.C.

Issue: Update on next steps on Dog and Cat Registration System.

Background: BC has a strong legal framework for animal welfare and many actions have been implemented through legislation, partnerships with the sector, funded programs or research. Direction was provided in March 2018 to further advance animal welfare in the province, specifically on restricting shark fins, implementing the National Farm Animal Care Codes of Practice (Codes of Practice) under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act*, and proceeding on the dog and cat registration system development. This note is focused on the implementation of the dog and cat registration system. Separate notes are provided on restricting shark fins and for the codes of practice.

Ministry staff finalized the consultations with those stakeholders that were previously identified by MLA Thornthwaite and that previously participated on earlier consultations in 2016. Consultations focused on the nature and type of regulatory system needed, and specific requirements to be included in a minimum Standards of Care. The consultation outcomes, the work with BCSPCA, and the outcome of a jurisdictional scan on other provincial dog and cat systems, has led to the need for further direction to finalize the next steps in developing the registration system.

Discussion:

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Page 04 to/à Page 05

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Contact: Lorie Hrycuik, Executive Director

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Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION
Meeting with BC Chicken Marketing Board on September 24, 2018

Ref: 188915

Date: September 19, 2018

Issue: Robin Smith, Chair of the B.C. Chicken Marketing Board (BCCMB) has requested a meeting with the Minister of Agriculture (AGRI) to discuss key priorities and issues regarding Board composition; animal welfare; Supply Management; trade; pricing concerns and industry stability.

Background:

The BCCMB is an agricultural commodity board that monitors and regulates the production and marketing of chicken in B.C. The mandate of the BCCMB is “to regulate the pricing and production of B.C. chicken in accordance with consumer expectations on animal care, food safety and sustainability. Further, to grow the market for B.C. chicken while maintaining principles of strategic planning, accountability, fairness, effectiveness, transparency and inclusivity.”

Discussion:

Board Composition:

The BCCMB questions why they are the only commodity Board with LGIC appointed members.

The BCCMB governance structure is unique amongst B.C. and Canadian supply managed commodity boards because it has a majority of government appointed members that are independent, see Appendix A – Current Structure for details. Independent members allow boards to appropriately address significant conflict of interest while retaining quorum for critical decision-making. Support of informed decision-making, while managing conflict of interest considerations, is of overall benefit for chicken growers, the industry and B.C. agriculture. The board faces ongoing tensions between competing interests, primarily; growers wanting the highest price paid for chicken, and processors wanting to pay as little as possible. Two of the government appointed members terms are expiring on September 30, 2018 with vacancies being filled by reappointing A. Johnston and appointing G. Hahn to replace R. Payne through an Order in Council.

Suggested Response:

- **I want to acknowledge the challenges faced in the role of Chair or board member on the BC Chicken Marketing Board and want to thank you for your time and dedication.**
- **I am pleased that we were able to find suitable candidates willing to fill the upcoming vacancies.**

Animal Welfare:

BCCMB wishes to inform of steps they are taking to address animal welfare and public trust, and communicate any concerns they may have with the Ministry enshrining the Animal Care and Handling Codes of Practice, in regulation, this Fall.

BCCMB requires all BC chicken growers to be in compliance with the National Farm Animal Care Council Codes of Practice. In 2017, a video depicting unacceptable treatment of chickens during the catching process was released to the public. In response to this disturbing video, BCCMB took immediate steps, including: Requiring signatures on reports to demonstrate producer/delegate attendance at catching, licensing catching companies, and auditing the catching and loading process. As well, the BC Farm Industry Review Board (BCFIRB) expects all poultry boards to: ensure that producers or a responsible delegate are physically present for the full duration of catching and loading, ensure appropriate monitoring and enforcement of mandatory

animal care programs and remain alert to any potential gaps in animal care programs that may impact orderly marketing and respond accordingly.

British Columbia is working to enshrine, in regulation, the animal care and handling codes of practice. The Ministry is currently completing consultation across livestock industry associations to build industry understanding of Ministry's intent to enshrine National Farm Animal Care Council Codes of Practice in regulation, in fall 2018; seek industry associations' input on outreach to members to ensure awareness / understanding of intent/Codes/implementation, and any specific farm animal sector issues; involve BCSPCA to support improved industry-BCSPCA understanding and allay concerns the Codes would be used as another enforcement tool, and; sharing information on BC's proposed approach and assessing industry needs and concerns for implementation. Ministry staff are also working closely with industry and the BC Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (BCSPCA) to develop an education and communications plan to support successful implementation.

Suggested Response:

- **I want to thank BCCMB for participating in the Ministry's consultation process and acknowledge BCCMB's swift response in addressing animal welfare concerns with the catching process.**

Supply Management/Trade Issues:

The B.C. poultry sector is concerned about potential concessions in a renegotiated NAFTA. The United States has expressed interest in dismantling supply management in Canada; however, the focus to date has been on the dairy industry.

Given BC is a high cost production province, supply management affords protection to BC poultry and dairy industries that otherwise may not be viable at their current scales. Supply management is a trade consistent measure that helps achieve a wide range of economic and societal objectives for Canada. Canada's position remains that it will protect supply management, although recent statements have suggested Canada might give some market access concessions for dairy. The renegotiation of NAFTA is on the heels of Canada signing the Comprehensive and Progressive Transpacific Partnership (CPTPP) in spring of 2018, which saw approximately 2.1% of the Canadian poultry market opened for CPTPP country imports.

This past month, AGRI staff engaged with the B.C. Chicken Growers Association, B.C.'s Primary Poultry Processors Association and BCCMB for consultations this August on CPTPP Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) allocation options and preferences. The meetings were held to inform industry of the Province of B.C.'s positions and to formulate an official provincial response letter in response to Canada's request for input.

With regards to TRQ allocation, the B.C. poultry production and processing sectors are in agreement that B.C. needs to secure a larger share within Canada. The poultry sector expressed dissatisfaction with what they saw as a historic, inequitable distribution TRQ allocation across Canada. They view the CPTPP TRQ as a potential mechanism to rectify this imbalance. Access to TRQ, which allows the allocation holder to import poultry product at a lower price than what is domestically available, is seen by the B.C. sector as an opportunity to improve their processing capacity and efficiency, enabling the entire B.C. sector to better compete with larger poultry producing and processing provinces, such as Ontario. The outcome of the federal CPTPP TRQ consultations, which will determine the TRQ allocation method, is expected to be available in October or November, however, no official date has been set. Success will require coordination and open information exchange between value chain members, provincial and federal governments.

Suggested Response:

NAFTA

- The B.C. government and I are steadfast supporters of the supply management system. I recognize the considerable economic contribution that the supply management sectors, including poultry, make to our province and I remain an advocate of the system.
- I will keep working with our federal colleagues to help best protect B.C.'s poultry industry as these important and challenging NAFTA negotiations continue.
- I encourage you to continue to engage with the ministry staff to express your concerns and receive updates on the NAFTA negotiation process.

CPTPP

- I recognize your concerns about the signing of the CPTPP. The federal government has indicated they are interested to hear about the impacts this agreement will potentially have on the industry and I encourage you to reach out to them.
- B.C. is supportive of your endeavor to capture a greater percentage of TRQs for the B.C. poultry sector. As I believe you are aware, my Ministry, in conjunction with Jobs, Trade, and Technology (JTT), wrote a letter to the federal government outlining the TRQ concerns and preferences of the B.C. supply managed sectors. The Province, through JTT, continues to be in contact with Canada on the matter and to advocate for the Province's position.

Pricing concerns and industry stability:

There are currently two active appeals before BCFIRB about the Chicken Board's June 27, 2018 live chicken pricing decision. One appeal was filed by the Primary Poultry Processors Association of British Columbia (Processors) on July 5, 2018 and the second appeal was filed by the Chicken Growers' Association on July 20, 2018. The issues involved in this appeal are complex and BCFIRB anticipates that there will be multiple interveners, extensive evidence and multiple experts and witnesses. A seven-day hearing has been set for this fall.

B.C. is the third largest producer of chicken in Canada. However, it is also a higher production cost province when compared to other provinces. Constitutionally, and under provincial legislation, provincial chicken marketing boards are responsible for setting the price a producer is paid for their chicken. Many factors go into setting producer price such as feed price, chick price, labour, stocking densities, bird size and catching costs. This creates additional challenges for supervisory agencies and marketing boards – how to best manage production levels and pricing in a much more fluid and competitive national environment.

Suggested Response:

- **It would not be appropriate for the Minister to make statements or intervene in any fashion with respect to issues under active appeal before BCFIRB.**

Developing a "Team BC" approach to BC chicken industry future

BC chicken growers and processors face a competitive national market. While supply management helps ensure each province has some share of national production, there are no such controls on where chicken can be processed or sold.

In 2014, the Ontario chicken sector launched "Team Ontario", a three-party committee consisting of the Ontario Farm Products Marketing Commission, Chicken Farmers of Ontario and the Association of Ontario Chicken Processors. This team approach concept is supported by the Ontario government, and is focused on the resolution of industry issues, collaboration on solutions and joint engagement of political stakeholders at industry events.

BCCMB is interested taking a similar approach to "Team Ontario". As a high cost production province, a common vision and a coordinated approach between provincial and western value chain members, including provincial governments, could help strengthen BC's chicken sector, and the related industries its supports.

Due to the ongoing pricing tension between growers and processors, BCCMB is seeking government facilitation to bring the growers and processors to a common ground, and form Team BC. This is a delicate request that would likely require a significant level of diplomacy, because BCFIRB is the arms-length, independent decision maker when it comes to appeals over board decisions, and there is a significant history of tension between growers and processors over pricing.

Suggested response:

- **Thank you for your proposal regarding developing a Team BC approach to strengthen BC's chicken sector.**
- **I encourage you to continue to provide additional details and information to Ministry staff and BCFIRB as you move forward.**

Contact:

Georgina Hodson, Director, Industry Development (250) 896-6221

Geneve Jasper, Livestock Team Lead (250) 398- 4341

Anna North, Manager Agriculture Science & Policy Division (778) 698- 7941

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Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING ON DIRECTION
OF ANIMAL WELFARE

Ref: 188958 (replaces 188771)

Date: September 14, 2018

Title: Options for proposed regulatory changes to animal welfare in BC

Issue: Confirming key components of new regulatory regimes to:

- Enshrine accepted management practices for livestock and other farmed animals in regulation; and
- Regulating the dog and cat breeding industry to address irresponsible commercial breeders and sellers

Background:

Livestock and other Farmed Animals

Several provinces have enshrined, in regulation, nationally recognized Codes of Practice for Care and Handling of Farm Animals. Enshrining the National Farm Animal Care Council's Codes in regulation will ensure British Columbia livestock and farmed animal operators understand the Codes and how they support operators when followed.

Ministry Consultation: The Ministry is currently completing consultation across livestock industry associations based on industry schedules/needs. This includes sharing information on BC's proposed approach and assessing industry needs and concerns for implementation. Ministry staff will work closely with industry and the BC Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (BCSPCA) to develop an education and communications plan to support successful implementation.

Next steps: The Ministry intends to bring forward an education/communication plan and a draft regulation for Minister's direction by early October 2018.

Commercial Dog and Cat Breeders and Sellers

Changes in early 2017 to the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* (PCAA) enabled the Province to create a regulatory system for commercial dog and cat breeders, and sellers of their offspring. This includes licensing or registration and inspections against minimum Standards of Care. The goal of the regulatory system is to address puppy mills and other irresponsible breeders, and those that profit from selling these animals.

Ministry Consultation: The Ministry began consultations on regulatory options for breeders in 2016, expanding this to brokers and sellers in late 2017. Consultations included the nature and type of regulatory system needed, and specific requirements to be included in a minimum Standards of Care. Industry stakeholders, including those identified by members of the BC government, were consulted in the development of options for the regulatory regime.

Cross-jurisdictional review: To understand the range of regulatory approaches available, the Ministry undertook a cross-jurisdictional review of regulatory systems addressing dog and cat welfare that currently exist in Canada (New Brunswick, Manitoba and Quebec). Each system is unique and covers a different range of regulated activities (i.e., not just breeding and selling).

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Page 13 to/à Page 14

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Contact: Terri Giacomazzi, Senior Policy Analyst

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Page 16 to/à Page 17

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**Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION
ON ANIMAL WELFARE**

Ref: 188958

Date: September 17, 2018

Title: Update and next steps on animal welfare initiatives in B.C.

Issue: Update on Codes of Practice consultation and next steps.

Background: BC has a strong legal framework for animal welfare and many actions have been implemented through legislation, partnerships with the sector, funded programs and research. Direction was provided in March 2018 to further advance animal welfare in the province, specifically on restricting shark fins, implementing the National Farm Animal Care Codes of Practice (Codes of Practice) under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act*, and proceeding on the dog and cat registration system development. This note is focused on the implementation of the Codes of Practice. Separate notes are provided on restricting shark fins and for the dog and cat registration system.

Ministry staffs have completed consultation with the key industry associations on the Codes of Practice and are preparing next steps for consideration by the minister.

Discussion:

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Contact: Terri Giacomazzi, Senior Policy Analyst

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Page 20

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