

Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING
with Steve Robinson, Sara Searle and Matthew Robinson on December 12th, 2018

Ref: 187981

Date: November 13, 2018

Title: Minister's meeting with Steve Robinson, Sara Searle, and Matthew Robinson

Issue: Steve Robinson, Sara Searle and Matthew Robinson have requested a meeting with Minister Popham to discuss concerns regarding agricultural issues in the communities of Pitt Meadows, Abbotsford, Coquitlam and Pemberton.

Background:

Steve Robinson is co-owner of a cranberry growing and processing operation, the Wild Coast Fruit Company, with farmland in Pitt Meadows, Abbotsford, Coquitlam and Pemberton and a berry processing plant in Abbotsford. The Robinson family has a long history in farming in the Fraser Valley, starting in dairy and beef farming, moving to blueberries and finally into cranberries in 1996, which remain the focus today. Steve Robinson is also co-owner, with Matthew Robinson, of the Pitt Meadows Plumbing Company. Sara Searle is the Executive Assistant at that same business.

In January 2018, MLA Lisa Beare met with Steve Robinson, a constituent in her riding, and offered to facilitate a meeting with Minister Popham to discuss concerns regarding agricultural issues in the communities where they operate their farms. The spring meeting was cancelled due to scheduling conflicts, and parties agreed to re-schedule for fall 2018.

Discussion:

The participants have indicated they wish to discuss with the Minister a broad range of issues that are impacting their agricultural operations in Abbotsford, Pitt Meadows, Coquitlam, and Pemberton. These topics include: home plate and home sizes; migrant worker housing; environmental and ditch management; bear management; and interfaces with public and park issues. They have also indicated that they would like to present a proposal to start up farmer-led boards in each community. Please see **Appendix A** for background information on each of these topics.

Suggested Response:

s.13

Appendices: Appendix A – Background Notes

Contact: Willow Minaker, Director Strengthening Farming, 250-356-2215

DIR/MGR WM ED ADM AL DM WS

Appendix A – Background Notes

Home plate and home sizes (farm residential footprint):

- Local governments may implement zoning on the size and siting of residences and accessory facilities (e.g. multi-car garages, swimming pools or tennis courts).
- The Minister's Bylaw Standard (Standard) recommends siting all residences and accessory facilities within a farm residential footprint (a 'home plate') and recommends the maximum size of the farm residential footprint be 2,000m² (21,527 ft²) and that the footprint be located within 60 metres of the front lot line. The Standard also recommends that buildings and structures be located no further than 50 metres from the front lot line and suggests local governments may implement a maximum house size commensurate with the maximum allowed in urban areas or 500m².
- The City of **Coquitlam** does not have a farm residential footprint bylaw and ministry staff are unaware of any plans on the part of Council or staff to develop one.
- The City of **Abbotsford** is undertaking a process to review zoning and Official Community Plan policies concerning agriculture. House size restrictions and farm residential footprint are items which are under consideration, and have been rolled out for public consultation, but have not yet been decided upon.
- The City of **Pitt Meadows** has implemented a farm house footprint maximum of 600m². A farm house may still be 2.5 storeys, which would mean a maximum of 1,672m² (18,000 ft²). This bylaw was prompted by an application for an approximately 31,000 sq. ft. house on Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) land in the City as well as a spike in applications for other large homes in 2016. The farm house may be located anywhere on the property as the City of Pitt Meadows does not have a farm residential footprint bylaw.
- The Squamish Lillooet Regional District (**Pemberton**) has recently enacted a zoning bylaw amendment that introduced a farm residential footprint to Area C (Pemberton). The concept received support from the Area C Agriculture Advisory Committee.
- The farm residential footprint is 2000m² which is consistent with the Minister's Bylaw Standard. However, the rear of the residential footprint can be located a maximum of 85 metres from the lot line (75 metres for the building setback) from which access to the property is obtained, as opposed to 60 metres from the front lot line as recommended by the Minister's Bylaw Standard.
- The bylaw received significant community opposition during the consultation process, primarily from non-farmers, real estate agents, but also the occasional farmer who is opposed to any regulation. As a result, and in spite of the support of the majority of the farming community, the bylaw that was enacted was not quite as restrictive as what was originally proposed.

Temporary farm worker housing (migrant worker housing):

- The *Agricultural Land Commission Act* and Regulation give local governments the authority to approve housing for temporary farm workers. The Act and Regulation do not set a limit on the number of additional residences for farm help accommodation per parcel, but all residences must be deemed necessary for farm use.
- The local government must be provided with evidence that there is a legitimate need for an additional residence for farm help accommodation, but the Act and Regulation leaves this determination to the local government to make.
- Some local governments have adopted detailed guidelines as a basis for determining legitimacy of a request for additional residences for farm workers, in which a threshold for different types of agricultural operations is specified. Other local governments choose to send applications for farm worker housing to the Agricultural Land Commission for review and input.
- The City of **Pitt Meadows** was one of the earliest adopters of a Migrant Farm Worker Housing zoning bylaw amendment. This bylaw amendment was created prior to the Minister's Bylaw Standard for Temporary Farm Worker Housing, but was developed in consultation with ministry staff.
- The agriculture sector utilizes the federal Temporary Foreign Worker Program, which enables employers to hire foreign workers to fill labour shortages when Canadian workers are not available.

- Many of those residing in temporary farm worker housing are Temporary Foreign Workers.
- In 2017, BC received 7,575 work permits for temporary foreign workers from all agricultural occupations. (This is a 13.7 percent increase from 2016).

Environmental and Ditch Management Issues:

- The Ministry of Agriculture (Ministry) is in the process of revising the Drainage Management Guide to provide the up-to-date information on the regulatory approval processes of agricultural ditch maintenance.
- The Ministry has developed a Riparian Management Field Book as part of the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) process to address riparian protection on agricultural lands.
- There is Beneficial Management Practices funding available for riparian establishment and enhancement under the EFP program that farmers may apply for through BC Agricultural Research and Development Corporation.
- The Ministry through the BC Agriculture Climate Action Initiative completed an “Enhanced Collaboration for Agricultural Drainage and Ditch Management” Project in March 2017 that conducted a high-level assessment of the overall state of agriculture ditches and drainage across the Fraser Valley Regional District, including identifying best management practices for drainage.
- The Fraser Valley Adaptation working group is interested in supporting the implementation of the action items identified in the recently completed report Enhanced Collaboration for Drainage and Ditch Management.
- The Ministry through the BC Agriculture Climate Action Initiative also completed a Drainage Study within the Farm Adaptation Innovator Program. This study was conducted by the University of British Columbia in collaboration with the Delta Farmers’ Institute, the Delta Farmland and Wildlife Trust and local (Delta) farmers. The study evaluates practices (drain spacing, cleaning, pumps) for improving on-farm drainage management to reduce impacts of climate change. The main outcomes were a cost-benefit analysis and decision-making tools.
- In **Pitt Meadows** specifically:
 - Largest non-potable water users are mainly berry producers.
 - Nurseries and greenhouses rely heavily on potable water which puts strain on distribution system.
 - Relatively flat topography poses conveyance constraints.
 - Invasive species, in particular Parrot’s Feather, and silting have increased in the ditches over recent years resulting in reduced effectiveness of drainage and a substantial financial burden.

Wildlife/Agriculture Interface (bear management)

- The participants have indicated they wish to discuss bear management, presumably with respect to losses suffered to their cranberry crop. Staff do not have any information specific to this issue.
- The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development has the mandate for wildlife management, habitat management, range management and wildlife conflict mitigation and prevention (including bear management).
- The Ministry of Environment has responsibility for the enforcement of hunting regulations, preventing and responding to human-wildlife conflicts and problem predator investigations.
- The Ministry through its Business Risk Management Branch delivers programs that help farmers manage risks and the Agricultural Wildlife Damage Compensation program

Interfaces with Public and Park issues

- With respect to **Abbotsford** specifically, ministry staff believe the attendees wish to discuss a processing plant the Robinsons own through Wild Coast Fruit Company, although no details are available with respect to what conflicts may be occurring.
- The Ministry of Agriculture’s Guide to Edge Planning classifies parks and other recreational land uses as having moderate to high compatibility with agricultural uses. Recreational areas with low numbers of

people, low vehicle access, suitable vegetated buffers or fences are likely to have greater compatibility than those with higher numbers of people where there is better access to farm fields.

- Issues that can affect compatibility include trespass, dogs at large, damage to crops and equipment, vandalism of crops and equipment, theft, livestock harassment, fire, spread of weeds and liability for the farmer.
- Best practices for including trails and passive recreation areas into buffered edges include not having the trail exceed one-third of the buffer area and that it should be located away from the agricultural boundary.
- The Ministry has a publication entitled A Guide to Developing Trails in Farm and Ranch Areas which outlines other best practices for developing trails in farming areas.

Agriculture Advisory Committees (Farmer-Led Boards)

- An Agriculture Advisory Committee (AAC) is an advisory body which can be set up by a Municipal Council or a Regional District Board to give advice on agriculture related matters in their community.
- Membership is defined by the local government but always includes representatives of the farming community. AACs can raise the profile of agricultural issues so that farmers are heard in the decision-making process.
- AACs can comment on development applications (rezoning applications, ALR inclusions or exclusions, etc.), long-term planning projects such as Agricultural Area Plans, and engage in education and outreach activities such as farm tours.
- Ministry staff provide support to new and existing AACs by: publishing model terms of reference, hosting AAC workshops around the province, and sitting as non-voting members of AACs.
- **Pitt Meadows** has an Agricultural Advisory Committee and a Farmers Institute.
- **Abbotsford** has an Agriculture, Dyking, Drainage, and Irrigation Advisory Committee which fills the role of an AAC.
- **Coquitlam** does not have an AAC.
- **Pemberton** is served by the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Electoral Area C AAC. There is also a Pemberton Farmer's Institute.

Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION

Ref: 189111

Date: October 25, 2018

Title: Standing Committee Report on BC Meat Production.

Issue: Select Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fish and Food released a report on local meat production with 21 recommendations for government.

Background:

On April 24, 2018, the Select Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fish and Food (SSCAFF) was established and tasked with examining, inquiring into and making recommendations concerning local meat production in BC. SSCAFF launched a public consultation from May 16 to June 15 that invited input from farmers, producers, processors, consumers, restaurateurs and all other individuals and organizations interested in local, small-scale meat production.

On September 28, 2018 SSCAFF released “Local Meat Production and Inspection in British Columbia” (Report). SSCAFF received 74 survey responses, 50 in person presentations, 36 written submissions and 4 in-person briefings. The scope of the Report was strictly focused on the provincial licensing program and did not consider federal slaughter facilities licensed by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).

Discussion:

The Report provides an overview of the consultation process, followed by three topics of focus: 1. abattoir licensing and oversight; 2. skilled labour and workforce; and 3. industry growth and development. Each topic section describes several themes, committee deliberations, and accompanying recommendations.

AGRI should accept all recommendations and propose approaches delivering improvements that collectively balance the shared interests of government and the public in: maintaining competitiveness among enterprises of different scale; food safety, and animal welfare.

#	SSCAFF Recommendation	Agencies	Proposed Approach
TOPIC 1: ABATTOIR LICENSING AND OVERSIGHT			
1	Encourage AGRI to look for ways to improve cross-ministry coordination, collaboration and communication.	Lead Agency: AGRI (FSIB) Partners: Ministry of Health (HLTH) Regional Health Authorities (RHAs) Ministry of Environment (ENV)	AGRI will access existing AGRI-HLTH-ENV ADMs Committee to improve cross-Ministry coordination, collaboration and communication, and to explore specific initiatives such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review of multi-agency licensing and inspection of Class A facilities.• Administration of Class D and E facilities.
2	Require AGRI (or their designate) to increase resources to ensure increased inspections at Class D and E facilities.	Lead Agency: AGRI (FSIB) Partners: HLTH RHAs	Currently, RHAs licence D and E facilities. AGRI will work with HLTH and RHAs to investigate funding implications of increasing inspections of D and E facilities.

3	Investigate alternative boundary restrictions for sales, other than regional districts, for Class D and E licensees.	Lead Agency: AGRI (FSIB) Partners: HLTH RHAs	AGRI will work with HLTH and RHAs to investigate alternative boundary restrictions for Class D and E licensees. Requires amendment to Meat Inspection Regulation (MIR).
4	Allow provincial inspectors to enter a public livestock sale yard to test animals on a regular basis.	Lead Agency: AGRI (PAHB) Partners: AGRI (FSIB) CFIA BCSPCA	CFIA currently inspects public livestock yards and conducts some testing. BC's Chief Veterinarian can appoint inspectors to conduct tests but authority may not include live animals. May require regulatory amendment. AGRI will investigate regulatory and funding implications of increasing inspections and testing at public livestock yards.
5	Investigate options to expand use of technologies to extend or implement virtual inspections in communities.	Lead Agency: AGRI (FSIB)	AGRI will explore technology options for virtual inspection. Access to internet is limited in remote areas where most Class D and E facilities located.
6	Ensure regular reviews of the inspection system occur, in consultation with producers and processors.	Lead Agency: AGRI (FSIB)	Comprehensive slaughter capacity study underway to identify gaps and provide a baseline to inform review of the inspection system.
7	Provide training and education opportunities to producers and processors about food quality, food safety and humane treatment of animals.	Lead Agency: BC Association of Abattoirs (BCAA) Food Processors Association (BCFPA) Partners: AGRI (FSIB)	BCAA and BCFPA currently conduct education and training programs for food safety plan development and humane slaughter. AGRI will promote sector awareness that funding for food safety and traceability is available to slaughter establishments through Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP). AGRI will work with BCAA and BCFPA to investigate increasing training and education opportunities.
8	Ensure sufficient resources available for enforcement to ensure humane treatment of animals during meat production and inspection.	Lead Agency: AGRI (FSIB) Partners: CFIA BCSPCA	AGRI is responsible for animal welfare of animals while in Class A or B facility. CFIA is responsible for humane transport. BCSPCA is responsible for on-farm animal welfare. AGRI will work with HLTH and RHAs to investigate funding implications of increasing resources to ensure humane treatment at D and E facilities.
TOPIC 2: SKILLED LABOUR AND WORKFORCE			
9	Offer opportunities for professional or post-secondary training programs for meat production and processing.	Lead Agency: Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills & Training (AEST) Partners:	AEST is engaged in finding opportunities for expansion of meat production/processing training programs, with support from AGRI. AGRI will continue to work with AEST and BCAA to improve training for meat production

		AGRI BCAA	and processing (see also #11 and #16).
10	Ensure that information regarding safe slaughtering techniques is readily available and kept up-to-date.	Lead Agency: AGRI (FSIB) Partners: RHAs BCAA	AGRI will work with RHAs to explore making SlaughterSafe course material available online. AGRI will investigate making the Class D and E Code of Practice <u>mandatory</u> for all licensees. AGRI will explore making MIP Vet available as a resource to Class D and E licensees, subject to appropriate liability safeguards.
11	Develop or enhance existing apprenticeship, mentorship co-op training programs, including opportunities at the high school level.	Lead Agency: AEST Ministry of Education (EDUC) Partners: AGRI BCAA BCFPA	AGRI will continue to work with AEST, EDUC and BCAA to develop and enhance apprenticeship, mentorship and co-op training for meat production and processing (see also #9 and #16).
TOPIC 3: INDUSTRY GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT			
12	Ensure that sufficient productive agricultural land is available for livestock grazing.	Lead Agency: AGRI (SDB) Partners: Agricultural Land Commission (ALC)	AGRI will investigate how to help new farmers through Grow BC to access land, facilitate farm succession and identify options and incentives for land access.
13	Promote the availability of productive Crown land within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) for livestock grazing purposes.	Lead Agency: AGRI (SDB) Partners: ALC	AGRI will investigate how to help new farmers through Grow BC to access land, facilitate farm succession and identify options and incentives for land access.
14	Ensure Buy BC campaign highlights benefits of purchasing local meat products.	Lead Agency: AGRI (SDB)	AGRI will review current Buy BC campaign to ensure benefits of local meat products are highlighted appropriately.
15	Investigate options to develop a three-to-five-year averaging formula for those who derive less than 50 percent of their income from farming.	Lead Agency: AGRI (BRMB) Partners: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)	AGRI will investigate disaster compensation options for farmers and producers.
16	Provide additional training for finishing of meat products to producers.	Lead Agency: AEST EDUC Partners: BCAA BCFPA AGRI (FSIB)	AGRI will continue to work with AEST, EDUC and BCAA to develop and enhance training for meat processing (see also #9 and #11).
17	Reduce current travel time restrictions to one hour between Class A and Bs and Class D and Es.	Lead Agency: AGRI (FSIB) Partners: HLTH RHAs	Regulation currently requires consultation with licensed facilities within 100 km. AGRI policy based on this is 2 hours travel time to allow for different circumstances related to hauling equipment, terrain, and seasonal conditions. AGRI will review policy, including consultation with RHAs, and explore options.

			Review will include consideration of competitiveness with Class A and B facilities, and how to ensure food safety and animal welfare at Class D and E facilities (see also #1, #2, #8, #10).
18	Review mobile slaughter regulations to look for opportunities to make mobile slaughter more accessible to small producers in BC.	Lead Agency: AGRI (FSIB)	Current regulation does not have specific requirements for mobile slaughter. AGRI will review mobile slaughter in BC and other jurisdictions, and investigate regulatory, fiscal and economic implications of making mobile slaughter more accessible to small BC producers.
19	Cooperate with producers and processors to address seasonal capacity issues by expanding business opportunities.	Lead Agency: AGRI (SDB)	AGRI will explore how to address seasonal capacity issues, relying on information from slaughter capacity study when it is complete (see also # 6). AGRI will investigate development of materials to educate small producers about safe and humane slaughter of animals for personal consumption (see also #10).
20	Work with 4-H, Young Agrarians and Farmers Institutes, to promote interest and engagement in the industry.	Lead Agency: AGRI (SDB) Partners: 4-H Young Agrarians Farmer Institutes	AGRI (SDB) will continue to engage with 4-H, Young Agrarians and Farmers Institutes.
21	Create a comprehensive and accessible reference to highlight existing educational and other programs.	Lead Agency: AGRI (SDB)	AGRI will review AgriService BC website to update and ensure complete listing of available resources. AGRI will explore development of materials to assist producers to become licensed.

Conclusion:

SSCAFF conducted a province-wide consultation on local, small-scale meat production from May-June 2018.

On September 28, SSCAFF released their Report on local meat production and inspection in BC highlighting three topic areas: abattoir licensing and oversight; skilled labour and workforce; and industry growth and development. The Report makes 21 recommendations.

AGRI should accept and take action to implement the recommendations to improve inspection, training, and education with respect to food safety and animal welfare in a way that balances the shared interests of government and the public in maintaining competitiveness among enterprises of different scale.

Contact: Diana Edwards, Policy and Project Analyst, 778-698-3427

DIR

ADM

DM

Appendix 1 – List of Recommendations

ABATTOIR LICENSING AND OVERSIGHT	
	Inspection and Enforcement
1	Encourage the Ministry of Agriculture to look for ways to improve cross-ministry coordination, collaboration and communication to expand current meat inspection and enforcement services to realize efficiencies, minimize risks, ensure consistency, simplify practices for producers and processors, as well as share best practices and enhance skills.
2	As a way of supporting small-scale meat producers and processors, require the Ministry of Agriculture (or their designate) to increase resources to enable engagement with Class D and E licensed facilities to ensure increased inspections at those facilities, including slaughter.
3	Help Class D and E licensed producers reach markets closer to home by investigating alternative boundary restrictions for sales, other than regional districts.
4	Work with relevant authorities to address the gap that currently exists in inspection and enforcement related to livestock sales or auctions to enable provincial inspectors to enter a public livestock sale yard to test animals on a regular basis.
5	Investigate options to expand use of current technologies to extend or implement virtual inspections in communities, where available.
6	Confirm that regular reviews of the inspection system occur, in consultation with producers and processors, to ensure ongoing opportunities for assessment and improvement of the current system.
	Food Safety
7	Provide ongoing training and education opportunities, including during inspections, to producers and processors with respect to food quality and safety, as well as the humane treatment of animals, to share knowledge and awareness of current best practices.
	Humane Treatment of Animals
8	Ensure there are sufficient resources available for enforcement to ensure compliance in relation to regulations regarding the humane treatment of animals by those engaged in all aspects of meat production and inspection.
SKILLED LABOUR AND WORKFORCE	
	Education and Training
9	Offer additional opportunities for professional or post-secondary training programs to encourage new entries into the meat production and processing industries, and to provide upgrading or new skill development for those already working in these industries to promote career longevity.
10	Ensure that information regarding safe slaughtering techniques, safety standards and best practices is made available in a variety of formats (including online or through a correspondence course model), is kept up to date, and is supported with in-person training and slaughter opportunities.
	Recruitment and Retention of Skilled Labour
11	Look at options to develop or enhance existing apprenticeship, mentorship and co-op training programs, including opportunities at the high school level, to help build workforce capacity and transfer valuable institutional knowledge.
INDUSTRY GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT	
	Access to Farmland
12	Ensure that sufficient productive agricultural land is and remains available for livestock grazing in order to encourage increased livestock and local food production capacities.
13	Strongly promote the availability of productive Crown land within the Agricultural Land

	Reserve for livestock grazing purposes in an urgent manner, particularly in light of the devastation caused by wildfires and other natural disasters.
	Marketing and Promotion
14	Make sure that the “Buy BC” promotional marketing campaign highlights the benefits of purchasing local meat products to encourage British Columbians to support local producers and retailers.
	Financial Considerations
15	In partnership with the federal government, investigate options to develop a three- to five-year averaging formula in relation to natural disaster compensation for those who derive less than 50 percent of their income from farming.
	Slaughter Capacity
16	Provide additional training for finishing of meat products to producers to help alleviate capacity issues by extending the slaughter season.
17	Reduce current travel time restrictions to one hour between Class A/B licensed facilities and Class D/E licensed facilities to help alleviate local slaughter capacity challenges and increase local livestock production.
18	Review mobile slaughter regulations to look for opportunities to make mobile slaughter more accessible to small producers in B.C. without compromising food safety or the humane treatment of animals.
19	Cooperate with producers and processors to address seasonal capacity issues by expanding business opportunities to maintain a viable living, including increasing the production of value-added specialty products and services.
	New Farmers
20	Through the Ministry of Agriculture, work with community and industry organizations, such as 4-H, Young Agrarians and Farmers Institutes, to continue to promote interest and engagement in the industry through local agricultural fairs.
21	Create a comprehensive and accessible reference, to be made available through the Ministry of Agriculture in a variety of formats, to highlight existing educational and other programs to ensure that those interested in entering the industry can find the information they need.

Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING WITH
BC ASSOCIATION OF ABBATOIRS on November 6, 2018

Ref: 189160

Date: October 29, 2018

Title: Meeting with BC Association of Abattoirs to discuss Standing Committee report.

Issue: BC Association of Abattoirs wishes to discuss the Standing Committee's 21 recommendations.

Background:

BC Association of Abattoirs (BCAA) was formed in 2009 to serve BC producers and provide consumers with safe, high quality meat products. BCAA represents provincially and federally licensed abattoirs in the province. Most A and B operators are members of the BCAA, along with some Class D and E operators. BCAA provided key support for the sector's transition to the new provincial inspection regime. As well, Ministry of Agriculture (AGRI) has funded initiatives delivered by BCAA for food safety, animal welfare and traceability objectives that have aided the success of the provincial meat inspection program since its inception in 2014.

The Select Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fish and Food (SSCAFF) launched a public consultation from May 16 to June 15 that invited input from individuals and organizations interested in local, small-scale meat production. On September 28, 2018 SSCAFF released "Local Meat Production and Inspection in British Columbia" (Report). SSCAFF received 74 survey responses, 50 in person presentations, 36 written submissions and 4 in-person briefings. The scope of the Report was strictly focused on the provincial licensing program and did not consider federal slaughter facilities licensed by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

Discussion:

The Report is framed around three topics of focus: 1. abattoir licensing and oversight; 2. skilled labour and workforce; and 3. industry growth and development. The three topic areas are a helpful framework for discussion.

The Report makes 21 recommendations that encourage government coordination, and increased inspection, training, and education with respect to food safety and animal welfare. The recommendations are best considered in the context of the entire report rather than in isolation. AGRI is reviewing the Report to develop options that balance the shared interests of government and the public in:

- maintaining competitiveness among enterprises of different scale;
- food safety, and
- animal welfare.

BCAA will want to discuss all recommendations and may wish to focus on those that deal with education and skilled labour development (#7, 9, 11 and 16). BCAA is currently working with Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training (AEST) to encourage education and training for food safety and humane slaughter. From June-September 2018 BCAA conducted a 10-week "Meat Processing Certificate Training Program" for meat cutters.

#	SSCAFF Recommendation	Agencies	Proposed Approach
TOPIC 1: ABATTOIR LICENSING AND OVERSIGHT			
1	Encourage AGRI to look for ways to improve cross-ministry coordination, collaboration and communication.	Lead Agency: AGRI (FSIB) Partners: Ministry of Health (HLTH) Regional Health Authorities (RHAs) Ministry of Environment (ENV)	AGRI will access existing AGRI-HLTH-ENV ADMs Committee to improve cross-Ministry coordination, collaboration and communication, and to explore specific initiatives such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of multi-agency licensing and inspection of Class A facilities. Administration of Class D and E facilities.
2	Require AGRI (or their designate) to increase resources to ensure increased inspections at Class D and E facilities.	Lead Agency: AGRI (FSIB) Partners: HLTH RHAs	Currently, RHAs licence D and E facilities. AGRI will work with HLTH and RHAs to investigate funding implications of increasing inspections of D and E facilities.
3	Investigate alternative boundary restrictions for sales, other than regional districts, for Class D and E licensees.	Lead Agency: AGRI (FSIB) Partners: HLTH RHAs	AGRI will work with HLTH and RHAs to investigate alternative boundary restrictions for Class D and E licensees. Requires amendment to Meat Inspection Regulation (MIR).
4	Allow provincial inspectors to enter a public livestock sale yard to test animals on a regular basis.	Lead Agency: AGRI (PAHB) Partners: AGRI (FSIB) CFIA BCSPCA	CFIA currently inspects public livestock yards and conducts some testing. BC's Chief Veterinarian can appoint inspectors to conduct tests but authority may not include live animals. May require regulatory amendment. AGRI will investigate regulatory and funding implications of increasing inspections and testing at public livestock yards.
5	Investigate options to expand use of technologies to extend or implement virtual inspections in communities.	Lead Agency: AGRI (FSIB)	AGRI will explore technology options for virtual inspection. Access to internet is limited in remote areas where most Class D and E facilities located.
6	Ensure regular reviews of the inspection system occur, in consultation with producers and processors.	Lead Agency: AGRI (FSIB)	Comprehensive slaughter capacity study underway to identify gaps and provide a baseline to inform review of the inspection system.
7	Provide training and education opportunities to producers and processors about food quality, food safety and humane treatment of animals.	Lead Agency: BC Association of Abattoirs (BCAA) Food Processors Association (BCFPA) Partners: AGRI (FSIB)	BCAA and BCFPA currently conduct education and training programs for food safety plan development and humane slaughter. AGRI will promote sector awareness that funding for food safety and traceability is available to slaughter establishments through Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP). AGRI will work with BCAA and BCFPA to investigate increasing training and education

			opportunities. (See also #9, #11, and #16)
8	Ensure sufficient resources available for enforcement to ensure humane treatment of animals during meat production and inspection.	Lead Agency: AGRI (FSIB) Partners: CFIA BCSPCA	AGRI is responsible for animal welfare of animals while in Class A or B facility. CFIA is responsible for humane transport. BCSPCA is responsible for on-farm animal welfare. AGRI will work with HLTH and RHAs to investigate funding implications of increasing resources to ensure humane treatment at D and E facilities.
TOPIC 2: SKILLED LABOUR AND WORKFORCE			
9	Offer opportunities for professional or post-secondary training programs for meat production and processing.	Lead Agency: Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills & Training (AEST) Partners: AGRI BCAA	AEST is engaged in finding opportunities for expansion of meat production/processing training programs, with support from AGRI. AGRI will continue to work with AEST and BCAA to improve training for meat production and processing (see also #7, #11 and #16).
10	Ensure that information regarding safe slaughtering techniques is readily available and kept up-to-date.	Lead Agency: AGRI (FSIB) Partners: RHAs BCAA	AGRI will work with RHAs to explore making SlaughterSafe course material available online. AGRI will investigate making the Class D and E Code of Practice <u>mandatory</u> for all licensees. AGRI will explore making MIP Vet available as a resource to Class D and E licensees, subject to appropriate liability safeguards.
11	Develop or enhance existing apprenticeship, mentorship co-op training programs, including opportunities at the high school level.	Lead Agency: AEST Ministry of Education (EDUC) Partners: AGRI BCAA BCFPA	AGRI will continue to work with AEST, EDUC and BCAA to develop and enhance apprenticeship, mentorship and co-op training for meat production and processing (see also #9 and #16).
TOPIC 3: INDUSTRY GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT			
12	Ensure that sufficient productive agricultural land is available for livestock grazing.	Lead Agency: AGRI (SDB) Partners: Agricultural Land Commission (ALC)	AGRI will investigate how to help new farmers through Grow BC to access land, facilitate farm succession and identify options and incentives for land access.
13	Promote the availability of productive Crown land within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) for livestock grazing purposes.	Lead Agency: AGRI (SDB) Partners: ALC	AGRI will investigate how to help new farmers through Grow BC to access land, facilitate farm succession and identify options and incentives for land access.
14	Ensure Buy BC campaign highlights benefits of purchasing local meat products.	Lead Agency: AGRI (SDB)	AGRI will review current Buy BC campaign to ensure benefits of local meat products are highlighted appropriately.
15	Investigate options to develop a three-to-five-year averaging formula for	Lead Agency: AGRI (BRMB)	AGRI will investigate disaster compensation options for farmers and producers.

	those who derive less than 50 percent of their income from farming.	Partners: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)	
16	Provide additional training for finishing of meat products to producers.	Lead Agency: AEST EDUC Partners: BCAA BCFPA AGRI (FSIB)	AGRI will continue to work with AEST, EDUC and BCAA to develop and enhance training for meat processing (see also #9 and #11).
17	Reduce current travel time restrictions to one hour between Class A and Bs and Class D and Es.	Lead Agency: AGRI (FSIB) Partners: HLTH RHAs	Regulation currently requires consultation with licensed facilities within 100 km. AGRI policy based on this is 2 hours travel time to allow for different circumstances related to hauling equipment, terrain, and seasonal conditions. AGRI will review policy, including consultation with RHAs, and explore options. Review will include consideration of competitiveness with Class A and B facilities, and how to ensure food safety and animal welfare at Class D and E facilities (see also #1, #2, #8, and #10).
18	Review mobile slaughter regulations to look for opportunities to make mobile slaughter more accessible to small producers in BC.	Lead Agency: AGRI (FSIB)	Current regulation does not have specific requirements for mobile slaughter. AGRI will review mobile slaughter in BC and other jurisdictions, and investigate regulatory, fiscal and economic implications of making mobile slaughter more accessible to small BC producers.
19	Cooperate with producers and processors to address seasonal capacity issues by expanding business opportunities.	Lead Agency: AGRI (SDB)	AGRI will explore how to address seasonal capacity issues, relying on information from slaughter capacity study when it is complete (see also # 6). AGRI will investigate development of materials to educate small producers about safe and humane slaughter of animals for personal consumption (see also #10).
20	Work with 4-H, Young Agrarians and Farmers Institutes, to promote interest and engagement in the industry.	Lead Agency: AGRI (SDB) Partners: 4-H Young Agrarians Farmer Institutes	AGRI (SDB) will continue to engage with 4-H, Young Agrarians and Farmers Institutes.
21	Create a comprehensive and accessible reference to highlight existing educational and other programs.	Lead Agency: AGRI (SDB)	AGRI will review AgriService BC website to update and ensure complete listing of available resources. AGRI will explore development of materials to assist producers to become licensed.

Suggested Reponses:

s.13

Contact: Diana Edwards, Policy and Project Analyst, 778-698-3427

DIR	ADM	JM	DM	WS
_____		_____		_____

Appendix 1 – List of Recommendations

ABATTOIR LICENSING AND OVERSIGHT	
	Inspection and Enforcement
1	Encourage the Ministry of Agriculture to look for ways to improve cross-ministry coordination, collaboration and communication to expand current meat inspection and enforcement services to realize efficiencies, minimize risks, ensure consistency, simplify practices for producers and processors, as well as share best practices and enhance skills.
2	As a way of supporting small-scale meat producers and processors, require the Ministry of Agriculture (or their designate) to increase resources to enable engagement with Class D and E licensed facilities to ensure increased inspections at those facilities, including slaughter.
3	Help Class D and E licensed producers reach markets closer to home by investigating alternative boundary restrictions for sales, other than regional districts.
4	Work with relevant authorities to address the gap that currently exists in inspection and enforcement related to livestock sales or auctions to enable provincial inspectors to enter a public livestock sale yard to test animals on a regular basis.
5	Investigate options to expand use of current technologies to extend or implement virtual inspections in communities, where available.
6	Confirm that regular reviews of the inspection system occur, in consultation with producers and processors, to ensure ongoing opportunities for assessment and improvement of the current system.
	Food Safety
7	Provide ongoing training and education opportunities, including during inspections, to producers and processors with respect to food quality and safety, as well as the humane treatment of animals, to share knowledge and awareness of current best practices.
	Humane Treatment of Animals
8	Ensure there are sufficient resources available for enforcement to ensure compliance in relation to regulations regarding the humane treatment of animals by those engaged in all aspects of meat production and inspection.
SKILLED LABOUR AND WORKFORCE	
	Education and Training
9	Offer additional opportunities for professional or post-secondary training programs to encourage new entries into the meat production and processing industries, and to provide upgrading or new skill development for those already working in these industries to promote career longevity.
10	Ensure that information regarding safe slaughtering techniques, safety standards and best practices is made available in a variety of formats (including online or through a correspondence course model), is kept up to date, and is supported with in-person training and slaughter opportunities.
	Recruitment and Retention of Skilled Labour
11	Look at options to develop or enhance existing apprenticeship, mentorship and co-op training programs, including opportunities at the high school level, to help build workforce capacity and transfer valuable institutional knowledge.
INDUSTRY GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT	
	Access to Farmland
12	Ensure that sufficient productive agricultural land is and remains available for livestock grazing in order to encourage increased livestock and local food production capacities.
13	Strongly promote the availability of productive Crown land within the Agricultural Land

	Reserve for livestock grazing purposes in an urgent manner, particularly in light of the devastation caused by wildfires and other natural disasters.
	Marketing and Promotion
14	Make sure that the “Buy BC” promotional marketing campaign highlights the benefits of purchasing local meat products to encourage British Columbians to support local producers and retailers.
	Financial Considerations
15	In partnership with the federal government, investigate options to develop a three- to five-year averaging formula in relation to natural disaster compensation for those who derive less than 50 percent of their income from farming.
	Slaughter Capacity
16	Provide additional training for finishing of meat products to producers to help alleviate capacity issues by extending the slaughter season.
17	Reduce current travel time restrictions to one hour between Class A/B licensed facilities and Class D/E licensed facilities to help alleviate local slaughter capacity challenges and increase local livestock production.
18	Review mobile slaughter regulations to look for opportunities to make mobile slaughter more accessible to small producers in B.C. without compromising food safety or the humane treatment of animals.
19	Cooperate with producers and processors to address seasonal capacity issues by expanding business opportunities to maintain a viable living, including increasing the production of value-added specialty products and services.
	New Farmers
20	Through the Ministry of Agriculture, work with community and industry organizations, such as 4-H, Young Agrarians and Farmers Institutes, to continue to promote interest and engagement in the industry through local agricultural fairs.
21	Create a comprehensive and accessible reference, to be made available through the Ministry of Agriculture in a variety of formats, to highlight existing educational and other programs to ensure that those interested in entering the industry can find the information they need.

Ministry of Agriculture
INFORMATION NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR MEETING WITH s.22 AND
s.22 REGARDING SALMON

Ref: 189296

Date: November 14, 2018

Title: Meeting with s.22 to discuss salmon and salmon farms in British Columbia.

Issue: s.22 a local business man and s.22 wish to discuss concerns related to Pacific salmon stocks and salmon farms.

Background: s.22 is a local business person with a continuing interest in Pacific salmon. s.22 s.22

s.22 a recreational fishing operation in Nootka Sound which
s.22 s.22
s.22

Wild Pacific salmon are of great social and economic importance to B.C., sustaining communities coast-wide and generating a wholesale value of \$207 million in 2016. New data indicates a \$4.8 billion to the economy of Canada and the U.S. over the 2012 to 2015 period (over \$1B to B.C.). Many Pacific salmon stocks have suffered disastrous declines leading to equivalent declines in the ecosystems and economies that rely on them. B.C., through the Ministry of Agriculture and other provincial agencies, works on a variety of initiatives that support the restoration and conservation of wild Pacific salmon. The federal government, through Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), is responsible for the conservation and protection of fish and fish habitat, for marine fisheries and for aquaculture (in BC) and Aboriginal fisheries.

First Nations Considerations: One third of fish harvesting jobs are in First Nation communities. Pacific salmon are of critical cultural, social, and economic importance for coastal and interior First Nations. In s.13

of a strategy to support restoring healthy and abundant wild salmon stocks in B.C. The focus of the strategy development is the restoration and enhancement of wild salmon populations, sustainable fisheries management and stewardship opportunities, and new economic development opportunities to assist viable and sustainable community-based fisheries. The WSAC report has been released and will form the basis of

upcoming public consultations led by the Select Standing Committee on Agriculture, Food and Fish. Details of the official consultation on the WSAC paper are still being organized. The paper can be found here: <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/121/2018/10/Wild-Salmon-Strategy-Options-Paper.pdf> . Comments can be provided to the Wild Salmon Secretariat by email: wildsalmonsecretariat@gov.bc.ca or phone: 250-387-0863.

B.C. agencies are currently working towards goals that may align with the NDP platform commitments regarding wild salmon and impacts from salmon farms. These include implementation of the Minister of Agriculture's Advisory Council on Finfish Aquaculture recommendations, development of a Pacific Fisheries Fund in concert with DFO, and working closely with our federal aquaculture counterparts on improving the environmental and social sustainability of the industry.

s.22 ; and s.22 may also provide their views on the implications of the recent decision to permit month-to-month salmon farm tenures in the Broughton Archipelago. On January 30, 2018 the Provincial Government met with five bands representing six First Nations (Dzawada'eunuw, Kwikwasut'inuxw-Haxwa'mis, Gwawaenuk, 'Namgis, and Mamalilikulla) to discuss the issue of salmon farm tenures in their asserted traditional territories. At the January 30 meeting, the Nations and Province agreed to move forward on a consent-based government-to-government (G2G) process to reach agreement related to historical concerns related to these tenures. On September 25, 2018, the Provincial Government and the 'Namgis, Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis and Mamalilikulla First Nations decided to extend their mandate 60 days to continue their work regarding salmon aquaculture tenures in the Broughton Area, following significant progress this summer.

In advance of these negotiations, B.C. announced a new policy on the issuance of salmon farm tenures. Effective June 2022, the Province will only grant *Land Act* tenures to fish farm operators who have satisfied the DFO that their operations will not adversely impact wild salmon stocks and who have negotiated agreements with the First Nation(s) in whose territory they propose to operate.

Concerns may also be raised regarding Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKW) initiatives and recreational salmon fishing impacts. DFO is responsible for the management of SRKW and salmon as well as implementing requirements under the federal *Species at Risk Act*. B.C. acknowledges the threats to the SRKW populations, and that unpopular measures may be needed to ensure their future viability. However, due to the significance of the remaining salmon fisheries in B.C., it is important that the federal government conducts transparent consultation with full socio-economic analyses when considering Pacific fisheries closures.

Suggested Response:

s.13

Contact: David Travia, Director, Intergovernmental Relations, Seafood and Trade, 778-974-3764

ED LH ADM JM DM WS

Page 20

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

NR

Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION

Ref: 189317
X-Ref: 188317

Date: October 29, 2018

Title: Restricting Possession and Distribution of Shark Fins in BC.

Issue: Implementation of legislative restrictions on the possession and distribution of shark fins.

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 with advanced education. A minister briefing on September 19, 2018 provided direction to proceed on restricting the possession, sale, trade and distribution of shark fins in BC under the *Fish and Seafood Act* (FSA), as well as amending the FSA to close a loophole by removing the ability of persons to possess or distribute restricted fish for human consumption if authorized by a federal permit or license.

All shark fins (except those from spiny dogfish) come into Canada by importation since the federal government banned shark finning in domestic waters in 1994. Canada has jurisdiction over importation and regulates importation and trade of shark fin in two ways. If shark fins come from the species of sharks listed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), then a person wishing to import those fins must have a permit issued under or recognized by the federal *Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act*. However, CITES lists only 12 species of the approximate 440 known species of sharks. For non-CITES sharks, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency issues permits allowing the import of shark fins.

In October 2018, the Senate passed a private member's bill to ban the importation of shark fin into Canada and sent it to the House of Commons for consideration. If this bill is passed by both houses of parliament, any Provincial regulation of shark fin will be moot. However, it is impossible to determine if or when the bill could be passed.

First Nations Considerations: BC's Indigenous people currently hold about 31% of all commercial fishing jobs. Some Indigenous people work in fisheries and processing plants that include the harvest of spiny dogfish. Evidence establishes that First Nations have used dogfish for 4000 years.

Discussion: The Province has the ability to restrict possession, sale, trade and distribution of shark fins in BC by allowing for the regulatory designation of any fish as a "restricted fish" if that fish may be subject to inhumane or unsustainable harvesting practices (see Appendix A). The permitting regime could require that the shark fin must come from a Marine Stewardship Certification (MSC) fishery.

MSC currently has no certification for sharks other than dogfish. In practice, this would mean that persons could only receive permits to possess or distribute MSC certified dogfish for human consumption. Canada does not have a directed fishery for pelagic sharks. BC dogfish harvesters have not renewed their MSC certification in 2013 due to significant market decline. MSC has recently advised that they have reservations about certifying this fishery because of the public controversy associated with it.

There will also need to be discussions with the Regional Health Authorities on enforcement of the new permitting regime, as they are responsible for the licensing and inspecting of food premises where persons with permits would handle shark fins.

Ministry staff are working to develop a Provincial permitting regime that will require regulation under the FSA to bring it into force. Currently, the drafting priority is the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* (ALCA)

and associated regulations. It is also important to note, that if the Senate and the House of Commons passes the federal bill to ban shark fins into Canada, a provincial permitting scheme would become redundant.

Given the priority of proceeding on restricting shark fin into BC by the Green Party, a briefing of the Caucus will be organized to ensure it is known this is a priority, once the ALCA bills and regulations are proceeding.

Summary:

- Ministry staff will continue to develop the provincial permitting scheme to inform new regulations.
- If the Senate and the House of Commons passes the federal bill to ban shark fins into Canada, a provincial permitting scheme would become redundant. Ministry staff will continue to monitor the progress.
- Drafting time for the permitting scheme is delayed given the ALCA bill and the regulations are the drafting priority.
- A Green Party briefing is currently being schedule to inform of the direction on shark fins.

Contact: Arlene Anderson, Legislation Manager 778-658-5170

ED

ADM

DM

Appendix A

Fish and Seafood Act, [SBC 2015] CHAPTER 14

Possession or distribution of restricted fish or aquatic plants

- 6 (1) In this section, "**restricted fish or aquatic plants**" means prescribed fish or aquatic plants that
- (a) are subject to prohibitions or restrictions on harvesting under an enactment of Canada or an international agreement to which Canada is a party, or
 - (b) may be subject to harvesting practices that are inhumane or unsustainable.
- (2) A person must not possess or distribute for human consumption restricted fish or aquatic plants except as authorized under
- (a) a licence, permit or other authorization issued under an enactment of Canada, or
 - (b) a permit issued by a licensing officer.
- (3) A licensing officer may issue a permit, with or without terms or conditions, for the purposes of subsection (2) (b)
- (a) subject to the regulations, and
 - (b) only for a purpose that, in the opinion of the licensing officer, is in the public interest.
- (4) A person who holds a permit issued under subsection (3) must comply with all terms and conditions of the permit.

CLIFF#: 189326
Client / Writer: Minister's Office
Main issues: Finfish Aquaculture

Bullets prepared by: David Travia
Date prepared: November 1, 2018
Last revised (include initials):

Response points for Correspondence Unit:

s.13,s.16

Special Notes / Instructions:

Key Facts:

s.13

CLIFF#: 189327
Client / Writer: MO
Main issues: Labour issues/Temporary
Foreign Workers

Bullets prepared by: Heather Anderson
Date prepared: November 1, 2018
Last revised (include initials):

Response points for Correspondence Unit:

s.13

Special Notes / Instructions:

Appendix A – B.C. Labour Programs and Labour Statistics

Programs:

