

**Ministry of Agriculture**  
**BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING**

Ref: 190383

Date: May 29, 2019

**Title:** Meeting with Chief Byron Louis, Okanagan Indian Band (OKIB)

**Issue:** Indigenous Advisory Group for Agriculture, initiatives to encourage farming on First Nations land, Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) agriculture-related discussions

**Background:** OKIB has just over 10,600 ha of Reserve lands in total. Additionally, the band owns two sizeable private properties with agriculture potential: Sun Valley Ranch (660 acres with agriculture value) and Six Mile Creek (960 acres with agriculture, grazing and timber value). OKIB has a substantial amount of land available for agricultural development but land improvements and capital investments are required to realize its full potential. Most of this land was considered in the Agriculture Opportunity Assessment that AGRI sponsored through GF2 funds in 2014.

Chief Byron Louis presented at the Annual Conference of FPT ministers on Indigenous engagement and building effective partnerships between government and Indigenous peoples. He also provided input as a witness in 2018 to the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food's study of support for Indigenous Canadians in the agriculture and agri-food industry. The Standing Committee's Report released in May 2019 recognized that limited access to capital, land and infrastructure remains the major barrier to the development of agricultural and agrifoods businesses in Indigenous communities.

**Discussion:**  
s.13,s.16

**Suggested Response:**

- AGRI works collaboratively with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada on support for Indigenous agriculture and is open to improving its strategy to guide support for Indigenous engagement and agriculture development.
- The formation of MAIGA is an avenue to explore the needs of Indigenous communities and how to strategically support those needs.
- The Ministry is taking time to review the Standing Committee's report and recommendations

Contact: Erica Nitchie, Indigenous Business Agrologist, 250-241-0973

Appendix 1 Agrifoods Programs for Indigenous Communities & Businesses May 2019

Appendix 2 Minister's Indigenous Advisory Group TOR

DIR   LB   ADM   AL   DM   WS

**Ministry of Agriculture**  
**BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION**

Ref: 190414

Date: June 10, 2019

**Title:** Fracking process for natural gas extraction and its impact on farmland in British Columbia

**Issue:** Minister Lana Popham has requested information on fracking in British Columbia for a meeting with the Honourable Michelle Mungall, Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

**Background:** Hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, is a technique designed to recover gas and oil from shale rock where the rock is fractured by a pressurized liquid. Forcing natural gas from the ground deep below northeast British Columbia farmlands requires some of the most intense hydraulic fracturing operations on earth.

During fracking, tons of sand and millions of litres of water are pressure-pumped underground. The water fractures the shale rock deep below the surface while the sand props the fractures open to let trapped gas out. It takes roughly four million kilograms, or 64 b-train trucks<sup>1</sup> of sand, to complete just one frack job.

Fracking as an extraction technique is increasing in use in B.C.'s northeast region, particularly in the Montney Play, a shale formation known internationally for its size and potential for extraction. The basin holds approximately 449 trillion cubic feet of marketable natural gas, which is just under half of Canada's estimated total natural gas resources, according to National Energy Board estimates.

Impacts to Farming in the ALR

Fracking activities in B.C.'s northeast ALR appear to have a significant impact on surface rights holders in the agriculture sector. The July 2018 interim report of the Minister of Agriculture's Revitalization Committee included multiple recommendations for mitigating oil and gas impacts in the northeast ALR. The Committee identified impact factors and included detailed information from stakeholder submissions to the Committee. (Please see Appendix A for further details)

The December 2018 final report of the Revitalization Committee included expanded provincial government actions to better support for farmers and ranchers who struggle with unmitigated oil and gas impacts to agricultural land:

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Independent Panel Report on Fracking Activity in B.C.

In February 2018, the B.C. Government commissioned an independent panel – the Scientific Hydraulic Fracturing Review Panel (Panel) – to review the practice of hydraulic fracturing in B.C. in the context of ensuring hydrocarbons are produced safely and the environment is protected, and to provide the Province with advice on:

1. What role hydraulic fracturing has in induced seismicity in Northeast BC;
2. What impacts hydraulic fracturing has on water quantity and quality; and
3. What role hydraulic fracturing has on fugitive methane emissions.

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<sup>1</sup> In the road transport/trucking industry, a **B-train** consists of two trailers linked together by a fifth wheel and are up to 27.5 metres (or 92 feet) long.

The three-member Panel collected and assessed information from a broad array of stakeholders and interests and reviewed scientific literature to answer two questions:

- a) Does BC's regulatory framework adequately manage for potential risks or impacts to safety and the environment that may result from the practice of hydraulic fracturing?
- b) How could BC's regulatory framework be improved to better manage safety risks, risk of induced seismicity, and potential impacts to water?

On February 20, 2019, the Panel submitted its final report to Michelle Mungall, Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources (EMPR), which the Minister released publicly on March 19, 2019. The Panel made 97 recommendations primarily focused on addressing knowledge gaps and concerns regarding environmental impacts of hydraulic fracturing<sup>2</sup>. The report addresses water quality, water quantity, induced seismicity and fugitive emissions, but it is not specific to agriculture.

Highlights of the Panel's conclusions with respect to the two key questions:

- The very rapid development of shale gas in northeast B.C. makes it difficult to assure risks are being adequately managed
- There is a challenge in quantifying risk because there are too few data to assess risk
- Current regulations under many Acts appear to be robust
- Insufficient evidence was provided to the Panel to assess the degree of compliance and enforcement of regulations
- There is value in targeted research to address important knowledge gaps and concerns regarding impacts. The response to increased water footprint that accompanied fracking development is an excellent example of filling knowledge gaps and responding to concerns:
  - Rapid development of fracking saw an unprecedented amount of freshwater use, and after, wastewater disposal
  - Pressures caused by the need for freshwater led to research successes in the recycling of wastewater for hydraulic fracturing, which has quickly and significantly reduced fresh water needs.
  - This one advancement presents a significant step-change in reducing key concerns respecting water quantity

A phased approach to implementing the Panel's recommendations is currently underway with EMPR releasing a short-term action plan in Spring 2019 followed by a longer-term action plan in December 2019.<sup>3</sup>

### **Discussion:**

Challenges to farming from oil and gas impacts in the northeast ALR have been understood for some time, particularly as extraction technology has improved and expanded. There have been efforts by the provincial government, notably EMPR and the Oil and Gas Commission (OGC) to better understand and assess these impacts. One of the most significant challenges is the imbalance between existing levels of Government support for the two sectors as evidenced by the large northeast regional presence and strong organization of the Oil and Gas Commission, which acts as a regulator and advocate for B.C.'s oil and gas industry (and has delegated authority for land use decisions under the *Land Act*, *Mines Act*, etc.) versus the ALC which also has an advocacy role to encourage farming in the ALR, is a much smaller organization located in the Lower Mainland, and has a more specific and limited role of restricting non-farm impacts within the ALR. A delegation agreement exists between these two organizations to provide the OGC with oversight to support oil and gas development while recognizing farming as a key interest in the ALR.

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<sup>2</sup> The Panel's report is available at: [www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/natural-gas-oil/responsible-oil-gas-development/scientific\\_hydraulic\\_fracturing\\_review\\_panel\\_final\\_report.pdf](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/natural-gas-oil/responsible-oil-gas-development/scientific_hydraulic_fracturing_review_panel_final_report.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> For more information, please see: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2019EMPR0008-000427>

One northeast community identified by both the ALC and the OGC as a key concern for impacts is Farmington. Farmington is an agricultural area/neighbourhood between Dawson Creek and Fort St. John quite significantly impacted by oil and gas activity. In July 2018, there were 559 active wells within 15 kilometers of Farmington. In addition to an exponentially increased footprint of industrial development on agriculture land and local and regional cumulative impacts, issues identified by residents from expansive well pads and related activity include:

- Light, noise and air quality/emissions pollution
- Trembling/seismic activity from fracking operations
- Insufficient reclamation impacting immediate and longer-term use of farm fields
- Noxious weeds, erosion
- Competing land use (community pastures, forestry, trappers) means less forage allocation for cattle
- Liability of orphaned and abandoned sites (note OGC has an Orphan Well Program)
  - Environmental contamination
  - Nonpayment of rents
  - Liens on private property

#### New Deputy Minister Advisory Board and Executive Committee

Further to the recommendations of the Minister's Revitalization Committee, the Ministry of Agriculture (Ministry) and EMPR are currently confirming terms of reference to undertake assessment and actions in conjunction with the ALC and OGC. This would include the establishment of two committees and core activities:

- DM Advisory Board (DMs of Agriculture, EMPR, Chair of ALC and Chief Commissioner and CEO of the BC Oil and Gas Commission) to guide the work of the Executive Committee
- ADM-level Executive Committee to review Revitalization Committee recommendations and oil and gas and agriculture interactions, and provide considerations to the DM Advisory Board. The Executive Committee will:
  1. Examine the issues raised by the Revitalization Committee more fully;
  2. Identify challenges and opportunities to be addressed;
  3. Undertake a review of the existing data/information available to assist in informing the work;
  4. Develop a comprehensive report on Agricultural and Oil & Gas land use within the NE ALR; and
  5. Make recommendations on next steps including the development of any related strategy.

#### **Suggested Response:**

- On behalf of Government, the Ministry undertook a comprehensive revitalization of the legislative and regulatory framework for the ALR and ALC, including stronger restrictions of non-farm activity in the ALR to support and encourage farm use
- The Ministry is looking forward to working closely with the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources in supporting the work of the ALC and the OGC in the northeast ALR, on behalf of the agriculture and oil and gas sectors.

Contact: Heather Anderson, Corporate Governance, Policy and Legislation 778 698-3110  
Lori Vickers, Sector Development Branch 250 787-3241

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## **Appendix A: July 2018 Interim Recommendations of the Minister's Revitalization Committee**

### **Mitigating the Impacts of Oil and Gas Activity in the ALR**

The Committee recognizes that the energy sector is vitally important to the British Columbian economy. But so too is the extraordinary soil capability and micro-climate of the Northeast of the province, both of which support a robust and large-scale agricultural industry.

The Committee has previously noted that it is imperative there be a government-wide policy shift in identifying agricultural land and industry as a resource equivalent to other resources, and oil and gas is no exception. It is essential an 'agriculture-first' approach be applied to the ALR in the Northeast.

The development of the energy sector has exceeded the capacity of the current regulatory environment to protect farmland. The impacts of oil and gas extraction on agricultural land and farm businesses in Northeast B.C. have reached a breaking point. Cumulative impacts over the last decade from accelerating oil and gas development have rendered portions of agricultural lands unusable and others difficult to farm. With continued changes in extraction and processing methods along with the pace and scale of development, these activities that were once considered temporary are no longer. Instead they are permanent industrial sites built on farmland and next to farm communities.

Responsible oil and gas development, as with all resource sector activities, is important to the preservation of agricultural land. The Committee encourages the government to ensure that the extraction of subsurface resources does not continue to permanently damage some of the best agricultural soils in the province and take precedence over farming, farm businesses, ranching and the agricultural industry. The ALR, and the farmers who make a living on it, should be treated equally and with respect in order for both activities to co-exist and benefit all British Columbians.

In an effort to strike a balance between the needs of the agricultural sector and the energy sector, the Committee makes the following recommendations:

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***Why is oil and gas development in the Northeast of B.C. such a significant concern in the ALR?***

- Key impacts to agriculture include the nature of subsurface rights (oil and gas access to land is ‘guaranteed’), changing technology, costs and profitability of the energy sector, and the exponent erosion of agriculture surface rights due to the increase in the scale and number of oil and gas activities;
- The shift from a single well lift system to multi-pad well sites; exponential growth in numbers and increased physical impact on the land base;
- The increase in permanent, industrial infrastructure due to additional on-site processes;
- Well sites are no longer being reclaimed and put back into agricultural production. Wells are often abandoned, inactive or suspended for long periods of time meaning the land cannot be farmed;
- Due to the imbalance between subsurface and surface rights, and the compulsory aspect of the entry to the land, landowners have very little power to minimize the agricultural impact on their property when development occurs; and
- Signing a surface rights lease agreement enters the landowner into a contractual agreement with the operating company; conditions to minimize the surface or operational impacts can be put in this agreement; however compliance with these conditions lies with the willingness of the operating company. Further, the enforcement of these conditions is often too cumbersome, time consuming and costly for the landowner to pursue.

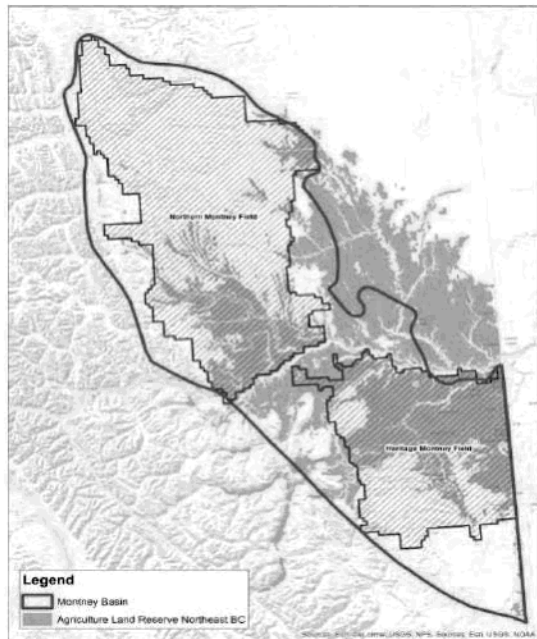
***Northeast B.C.: The ALR and Montney Gas Basin***

The Montney Gas Basin is a major shale gas formation extending from Northeast B.C. to Northwest Alberta. As is shown in Figure 1, there is a high degree of overlap between the ALR and areas of possible resource extraction. It is the source of much of the current oil and gas exploration, development, and production in B.C.’s Peace River Region. The neighborhood of Farmington, as shown in Figure 2, is a prime example of an

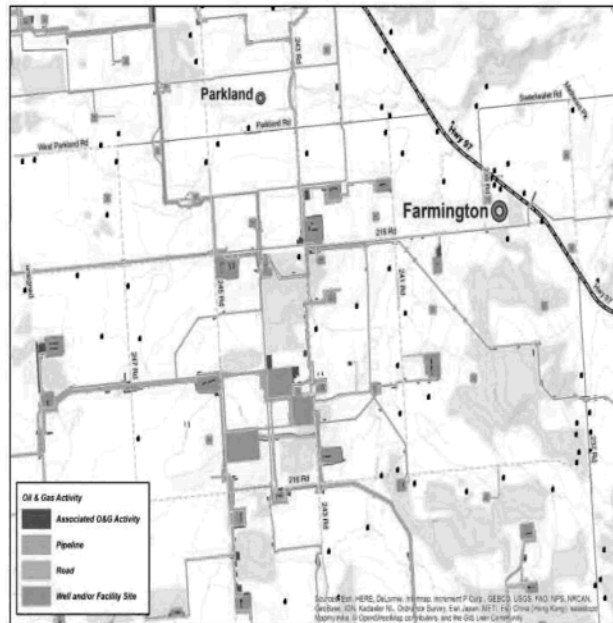
area that is significantly impacted by oil and gas activity. Presently, there are 559 active wells within 15 kilometers of Farmington, with an additional 88 in development and 291 authorized, on approximately 150 well pads. In addition to these active wells, there are 73 facilities in the area. Thirty-eight (38) applications to develop additional wells are being processed, 32 of which are on private land, four on Crown land, and two on both Crown and private land. Of these applications, 30 belong to Encana, four to Arc Resources, three to Tormaline, and one to Plateau.

Within the Farmington neighbourhood, there are also 575 residences, of which approximately 50 are within 500 meters of an active well or facility site.

**Figure 1: Montney Gas Basin and the ALR**



**Figure 2: Farmington Oil & Gas Activity**





## **Appendix B: December 2018 Final Recommendations of the Minister's Revitalization Committee**

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### Need for a Deputy-Minister Task Force and Strategy

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Need for an Increased ALC and Ministry of Agriculture Presence

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**Ministry of Agriculture**  
**BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR SHELLFISH ROUNDTABLE MEETING**

Ref: 190477

Date: June 6, 2019

**Title:** Minister Popham to attend the Shellfish Roundtable on June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

**Issue:** The meeting will host a discussion of issues facing the shellfish aquaculture sector and areas the Province can support the industry moving forward.

**Background:**

In 2017 B.C. shellfish aquaculture totaled 9,100 tonnes, accounting for 43% of the provincial shellfish harvest, with a landed value of \$21.8 million and a wholesale value of \$61.9 million. Farmed shellfish includes clams, geoducks, mussels, oysters, and scallops. There are approximately 450 sites in BC; however and estimated 30% are not in production. Oysters represent the highest harvest volume and value with 7,700 tonnes in 2017 and landed and wholesale values of \$13.9 million and \$28.5 million respectively.. Shellfish aquaculture is similar to finfish aquaculture in regulation as operators are required to hold a provincial Crown Land tenure for their site, in addition to a federal aquaculture license issued by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO).

Much of the shellfish aquaculture industry is represented by the British Columbia Shellfish Growers' Association (BCSGA), which is a non-profit organization managed by Executive Director, Darlene Winterburn. The BCSGA represents approximately 70% of BC shellfish farmers and other related industry members including suppliers, processors, and service providers. Their goal is to advance the growth and value of the BC shellfish industry by providing leadership and advocacy to members, government, and other stakeholders.

BCSGA is coordinating a meeting of the Shellfish Roundtable on June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019. This will be an opportunity for a number of shellfish growers (usually 8-10 members) discuss industry concerns with the Minister of Agriculture and staff.

**First Nations Considerations:** DFO established an Aquaculture Management Advisory Committee (AMAC) for shellfish with the objective to advise DFO on BC shellfish aquaculture management strategies and allocated 7 seats to First Nations. First Nations groups are in support of the BCSGA and many are active participants in shellfish farming operations along BC's coast. First Nations have a long history of shellfish farming and an expanding industry would provide opportunities for more jobs and First Nations owned businesses in an industry that promotes environmental stewardship. First Nations communities provide approximately 20% of the workforce in the aquaculture and fishing sector, substantially higher than the provincial average of 5%.

**Discussion:**

It is expected that industry representatives will want to discuss a number of issues that have been expanded below (a summary of financial figures is provided in Appendix 1):

- 1. Update on Oyster Recovery Fund:** The \$1.3-million B.C. Oyster Recovery Fund, announced in June 2018, provided short-term relief funds to British Columbia oyster growers for the purchase of oyster seed to support production continuity. Eligible producers could receive up to 75% of the cost of oyster seed purchased between January 1, 2018 and March 31, 2019, to a maximum of \$10,000 per license holder. More than 100 oyster farmers from British Columbia's coastal communities benefitted from the program which provided almost \$860,000 to eligible oyster aquaculture license holders (see Appendix 2 for a final report on the fund). Many industry members expressed gratitude for the Ministry of Agriculture's welcomed support.

The fund was also established to support 1) \$75,000 for a survey of affected internal (farmers) and external (retailers, chefs, consumers) stakeholder groups and a communication plan targeted to external stakeholder groups and communication materials (video/print/graphics) to support the plan and assist industry in repairing and rebuilding BC's oyster brand; 2) \$250,000 to support research projects related to norovirus and *Vibrio* which have caused several food borne illness outbreaks in the past couple of years that were detrimental to the industry and brand of B.C. Working directly with GenomeBC, Ministry staff have identified three research projects, two dealing with norovirus (sequencing and detection and dispersion in the marine environment) and one dealing with *Vibrio* (sequencing to better understand the relation between *Vibrio* in the environment and human infection). The total cost for the research is \$1.44 million, which will be cost shared between the Ministry, GenomeBC, GenomeCanada and the BC Shellfish Growers Association. This Ministry's contribution is \$250,000.

**Key Messages:**

- **B.C. oyster growers provide world-class products that are enjoyed locally and around the world, and we want to ensure that continues to happen.**
- **The Ministry of Agriculture works with other federal and provincial agencies, shellfish growers, and the seafood and restaurant industries to investigate outbreaks, carry out research on norovirus and *Vibrio* to minimize risks, raise awareness of the importance of food safety and the handling of oysters, and develop recommendations to improve food safety systems.**

2. **Shellfish Land Reserve:** Shellfish industry representatives have requested the Province consider the development of an 'aquaculture land reserve', similar to the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR). This could be considered in the form of an extension of the ALR zoning on waterfront properties into the adjacent marine area, or other alternative. There are numerous jurisdictional and regulatory challenges that would need to be overcome before this could be enacted by governments. The shellfish industry recognizes these challenges and understands that movement on this initiative is a long term item.

**Key Messages:**

- **The Ministry of Agriculture has worked hard to optimize the Agricultural Land Reserve and expansion into the marine environment is an interesting consideration.**
- **The Province is happy to consider innovative solutions that provide stability and business certainty to the shellfish sector.**

1. **Plastics and Pollution:** There have been growing concerns in recent years with the amount of pollution and debris from shellfish aquaculture operations accumulating in adjacent areas. This typically comes in the form of Styrofoam from floats, or plastic oyster trays ending up on the beaches in and around shellfish aquaculture sites. Whether a result of neglectful operators or weather-related causes, the issue has been raised by local governments and neighbourhood associations. In 2017, DFO conducted a survey of Baynes Sound shellfish sites that found significantly high rates of non-compliance with either provincial tenure, or federal aquaculture license. Many of these infractions were related to improper storage of equipment, particularly plastic and Styrofoam. The BCSGA coordinated a 'Big Beach Cleanup' in 2018 to help remove some of this pollution from aquaculture sites

The Government of Canada has made commitments at the G7 level to reduce use of plastics overall, and particularly those avenues that plastic enters the marine environment. On June 10, 2019, the Prime Minister announced further policy direction on banning single-use plastics by 2021. With the rising interest from the federal government and social push to reduce marine

plastics, sources of high-visibility pollution will become more scrutinized. B.C. has helped fund some industry members to transition to more 'green' equipment through programs like the Fisheries and Aquaculture Clean Technology Adaption Program (FACTAP), but there is still room for improvement.

**Key Messages:**

- **B.C. has heard concerns from local organizations regarding unfortunate incidents of lost equipment being found on adjacent shores.**
- **We recognize that some situations are beyond anyone's control but encourage the industry to take advantage of programs such as FACTAP and BCSRIF to help transition to more environmentally friendly infrastructure.**
- **B.C. applauds the efforts of the industry in participating in events like the Big Beach Cleanup in Baynes Sound last year.**

- 3. Shellfish Development:** The Province is working to support the shellfish industry to deal with environmental issues and help grow production through other funding programs such as the Fisheries and Aquaculture Clean Technology Adaptation Program (FACTAP). Since the program was launched in the 17/18 Fiscal, a total of 41 projects have been approved totaling \$6.2 million dollars to support Shellfish and finfish aquaculture, marine fisheries and seafood processing clean technology adoption. The Ministry, through the Grow BC, Feed BC, Buy BC budget uplift (FACTAP FUND) has allocated \$640,000 dollars towards FACTAP projects. Of the total, 10 projects were for shellfish aquaculture (24%), representing \$1.3 million in total project costs and \$144,615 in provincial contributions. The next intake for new projects will take place in the fall of 2019 after the federal election. Fiscal year 2020/2021 will be the final year for FACTAP.

The B.C. Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (BCSRIF) will provide \$142.85 million in B.C. over five years with 70% from federal funding and 30% from B.C. While the initial intake of submissions was focused on salmon restoration, following intakes are available to innovations across all B.C. fisheries including shellfish aquaculture.

**Key Messages:**

- **B.C.'s shellfish industry is a significant economic, social, and cultural contributor to the Province. The Ministry of Agriculture is committed to the economic sustainability of the shellfish fishery sector.**

- 4. Provincial Tenure Processing Capacity:** A longstanding concern from the shellfish industry has been the delay in processing applications for new tenures or tenure modifications. This process is managed through the Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations (FLNR). It is acknowledged that FLNR statutory decision makers are in the midst of a significant backlog in processing applications, leading to significant wait times for decisions. This delay and uncertainty negatively impact the aquaculture industry, who is subject to seasonal business requirements and investment timelines. Through the Broughton process, FLNR staff have provided recommendations to government that include a Treasury Board request for increased capacity. A Cabinet decision is pending.

**Key Messages:**

- **We are aware of the provincial resourcing challenges and the impact that has on the aquaculture industry. We are working towards solutions to this issue.**
- **In response to a recommendation within the Broughton aquaculture process, staff have completed an analysis and provided recommendations to government on resourcing. The recommendations are being considered internally at this time.**

- 5. Norovirus Action Plan:** Outbreaks of norovirus from eating contaminated B.C. oysters in previous recent years lead to the potential closures of many oyster farms in the Baynes Sound area. The potential closures were scheduled during times around the Strait of Georgia roe herring fishery which was determined to be the source of the norovirus outbreak in 2018. A Norovirus Action Plan was developed with the BCSGA, the herring fleet, and federal and provincial government agencies. The action plan enabled the herring fishery to occur with no closures to oyster farms and prevented any outbreaks of food borne illness due to norovirus.

**Key Messages:**

- **B.C. is pleased to hear that the Norovirus Action plan developed through discussions with the shellfish industry, government, and herring fleet successfully resulted in no farm closures following the herring fishery in Baynes Sound this year, and that there have been no reported cases of norovirus thus far in 2019.**

Contact: Mike Turner, Intergovernmental Relations and Seafood, 778 698-3129,  
Myron Roth, Team Lead Aquaculture and Marine Fisheries, 778-698-3404

ED DT ADM JM DM WS

## APPENDIX 1

### SUMMARY OF MINISTRY FUNDING IN SUPPORT OF SHELLFISH AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT.

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**BRIEFING NOTE**  
**BC Fruit Growers Association**

## Briefing Note

**What:**

The Premier's Office has requested a BN / Information note regarding the BCFGA and any current activities, issues, letters or updates on meetings with the minister or ministry.

**Who:**

N/A

- **Executive Summary:**

The BCFGA is an industry association representing B.C. fruit growers' interests.

- The Province announced provided \$9.46 M in 2015/16 to support the 7-year Tree Fruit Replant Program (TFRP).
- The Province provided \$5 M in 2018 to support an industry competitiveness fund to support advancement of the sector.
- Minister Popham and Ministry of Agriculture staff are regularly engaged with the BCFGA.

- **Background:**

The BCFGA is an industry association representing B.C. fruit growers' interests through activities which include lobbying governments for positive change to risk management programs and providing services and products to growers.

- BCFGA represents ~ 485 commercial tree fruit growers in the Okanagan, Similkameen, Shuswap and Creston Valleys.



## BRIEFING NOTE

### BC Fruit Growers Association

- The tree fruit industry is composed of approximately 800 growers managing 14,500 acres of tree fruit in crops in the Okanagan, Similkameen and Creston Valleys. Currently, tree fruit production is approximately \$260 M annually.
- B.C.'s tree fruit industry is very small compared to its direct competitor (Washington State) to the south. B.C. produces approximately 4 M boxes of apples compared to Washington States' 130 M boxes annually.
- Despite the relative size of the industry, B.C. continues to produce high quality, high value apples and cherries, capitalizing on competitive advantages of late season harvest and superior variety selection for worldwide transport.
- Since 2001, the Province has invested over \$50 M into the TFRP, triggering a corresponding investment by growers of approximately \$110 M.
- In order to retain and reinvigorate B.C.'s tree fruit production, a 7-year \$9.46M TFRP was introduced in 2015/16. The program was developed with the BCFGA and continues to be strongly supported by industry. There are three years remaining in the current agreement, which lasts until end of fiscal year 2021/22.
- Announced in February 2018, the Tree Fruit Competitiveness Fund (Fund) provides up to \$5 M in funding to industry over four years.
- The Fund aligns with a recently updated industry strategy aiming to help B.C. growers maintain their reputation for innovative practices and quality products. The Fund will help growers increase efficiency, sales, and productivity levels through projects that support:
  - Infrastructure: modernization, such as new or innovative equipment
  - Marketing: exploring export market opportunities and market development research

## BRIEFING NOTE

### BC Fruit Growers Association

- Research: cultivator, disease and pest research
- The program is administered by BCFGA and Investment Agriculture Foundation (IAF). AGRI staff participate on the review committee (ex-officio) to assist in governance and administration.
- The BCFGA have made requests to Minister Popham & the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Administration to:
  - Extend the current Tree Fruit Replant Program (TFRP) to 2025 with an additional \$6 M in funding.
  - Make adjustments to the payroll tax.
  - Review and adjustment of AGRI's Agristability Program (income stabilization).
- The BCFGA is concerned about potential changes to the piece rate system and minimum work age for farm labour.
- **Recommendations:**
  - The current government supports the continued stability and economic viability of the tree fruit industry.
- Encourage the BCFGA to continue engaging with AGRI on forward planning and initiatives that support the tree fruit industry.
- Thank the BCFGA on the success of the TFRP and their ongoing support and dedication.

## BRIEFING NOTE

### Media Event

### Victoria

## Briefing Note

### What:

*Premier seeking details of key ALR Revitalization legislative changes*

### Who:

*For meeting with media on Thursday, June 20, 2019*

### Executive Summary:

*Ministry of Agriculture released a Fact Sheet on Tuesday, June 18, 2019 to:*

- Address Opposition member questions in the Legislature and concerns from the public/media since mid-May 2019 on key ALR changes
- Confirm ALR revitalization changes and confirm existing legislative support for agri-tourism, cannabis production, and additional dwellings in the ALR
- Signal Government is listening to local governments and ALR families and expects to soon allow a grandfathering period for manufactured homes for immediate family members to balance ALR protection with ALR families' needs

### Background:

*Information on Additional Residences, specifically Mobile Homes*

On February 22, 2019, Bill 52 was brought into force by regulation. The ALCA and its regulations were amended to provide that:

- Additional residences could be approved by the ALC (rather than local governments) if they are necessary for farm use. The process requires an application to the ALC which must first be approved by local government (must meet local bylaws, etc.) before the ALC can consider.
- Pre-existing additional residences were grandfathered, as was construction of additional residences with all authorizations in place and substantial construction of the foundation initiated before February 22, 2019.

## BRIEFING NOTE

### Media Event

### Victoria

Rationale: The requirement for ALC, not local government, approval of additional residences if necessary for farm use was one of several key amendments to the ALCA and part of changes to allowable residences in the ALR to meet Government's commitment to revitalize the ALR by recognizing agriculture as a priority use in the ALR, and careful management of non-agricultural uses.

#### *How additional residences were allowed prior to Bill 52.*

Prior to the February 22, 2019 regulation bringing Bill 52 into force, the ALCA and regulation provided:

- Additional residences could be approved by a local government if they were necessary for farm use
- One manufactured home or accommodation above an existing farm building was permitted with local government approval and without application to the ALC in both Zone 1 and 2. These were for immediate family and did not need to be necessary for farm use
- A carriage house was permitted with local government approval and without application to the ALC in Zone 2

#### *How we are moving forward with related home plate regulation changes in the future.*

The Fact Sheet signals that Government is listening to local governments and ALR families and expects to soon allow a grandfathering period for manufactured homes for immediate family members to balance ALR protection with ALR families' needs. The Ministry has been completing policy analysis and early engagement to provide options to Government for a provincial homeplate (maximum size) for a principal residence and all other residential structures (e.g., sheds, pools, etc.) on an ALR property. With Government's interest in providing manufactured home flexibility to ALR families, the homeplate scope is now broadened to include potential for manufactured homes for non-farm purposes to be included within the homeplate. An additional residence outside the homeplate would still require approval of the ALC and be necessary for farm use.

### Recommendations:

*Minister recommends Ministry Fact Sheet message and signal Government's intent prior to the regulation proceeding to assure families impacted by the manufactured home change and prepare local governments for the expected applications to come.*

**Ministry of Agriculture**  
**BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION**

Ref: 190554

Date: June 24, 2019

**Title:** Briefing on the B.C. Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (BCSRIF).

**Issue:** Status of BCSRIF and decisions on project funding.

**Background:** On March 15, 2019, Premier Horgan and federal Minister Andrew Wilkinson announced a \$142.85M five-year joint investment to create the British Columbia Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (BCSRIF). The federal government committed \$100M to the fund and the provincial contribution to BCSRIF is \$42.85M (70:30 contribution ratio).

At the March 15<sup>th</sup> announcement, the provincial funding priorities for the first year of BCSRIF were identified as follows:

- Protecting critical salmonid habitats from loss or degradation and investing in the restoration of critical habitats that have been lost or degraded.
- Maintenance of healthy and diverse salmon populations, with focus on existing community-based hatcheries and community education.
- Supporting the implementation of the recommendations that were provided by First Nations governments, industry and the Province around aquaculture in the Broughton Archipelago.

During this announcement, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) opened BCSRIF to the first Expressions of Interest (EOI) process. This intake resulted in 192 submissions. Of those submitted, 23 are not advancing as they were deemed to not meet the eligibility criteria. For the others, a joint review process was undertaken involving DFO and provincial subject matter experts (includes staff from the following ministries: Agriculture; Environment; Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation; and, Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development). This process resulted in a list of 23 EOI proponents who are eligible for BCSRIF funding and who have submitted an EOI that is highly-aligned with the priorities of BCSRIF. The remaining 146 EOIs will be reviewed and considered for future intakes (see Appendix 1 for full details provided by DFO).

**First Nations Considerations:** All coastal First Nations and many interior First Nations have a cultural connection with salmon and are intimately involved in salmon fisheries, management and habitat restoration. About 31 percent of all commercial fishing jobs (including processing) are held by B.C.'s Indigenous people. Salmon farms are currently located in the traditional territories of 28 First Nations, with 20 economic and social partnerships in place with B.C. salmon farmers. 78% of B.C.'s farmed salmon production comes from areas covered by partnerships with First Nations. First Nations communities provide approximately 20% of the workforce in the aquaculture and fishing sector, substantially higher than the provincial average of 5%.

**Discussion**

By May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 24 full proposals had been invited and received. The proposals span many program areas including habitat restoration, enhancement, commercial and recreational wild capture fishing, aquaculture, and science and research (see Appendices 2 and 3 for full details). The proposals are dispersed geographically throughout B.C., with both coastal and interior projects recommended for funding. The projects are relatively equally spread amongst the program pillars (innovation, science partnerships, infrastructure) with around 70% of them linking to the priority of *restoration, protection and maintenance of healthy and diverse salmon populations and their habitats*.

Some examples of projects expected to be funded include:

- \$4.9M to the B.C. Conservation Federation to pilot innovative freshwater habitat restoration methods on the Thomson River to benefit Fraser chinook, coho, sockeye and steelhead stocks.
- \$1.6M to University of British Columbia to study the effects and sustainability of catch and release methods in recreational salmon fisheries.
- \$1M to the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium to analyze the risk of climate change to the sustainability of BC wild and hatchery salmon stocks.
- \$900K to the Sportfishing Institute of BC to continue development of app-based catch monitoring tools and digital licensing for over 300 thousand recreational tidal anglers.
- \$300K to the Comox Valley Project Watershed Society for field application and testing of tools for identifying, mapping and quantifying important forage fish populations and their habitats to support enhanced conservation of chinook salmon in coastal BC

12 proposals are recommended to proceed with no special conditions. 6 are recommended to proceed with conditions. 5 require further discussion or clarification, and 1 was not recommended to proceed at this time. The total funds requested was \$69.4M, with \$13.3M of those funds requested for year one- fiscal year 19/20. While negotiations with project proponents will determine a final total contribution amount, the provincial contribution approved-in-principle for these projects is \$4.0M this fiscal year.

Pending Ministers' approvals, contribution agreements will be negotiated with proponents in late June/early July. Funding announcements will be made in July and August, and engagement with proponents for a second round of funding will begin in late August, into September, prior to the federal writ period.

#### **Next Steps:**

- **Ministerial approval of projects recommended by Steering Committee (mid to late June).**
- **Contribution Agreements with proponents negotiated and approved (mid to late June).**
- **Some funding agreements are expected to be jointly announced in July/August, in advance of the federal election.**
- **DFO and provincial staff will continue to review EOIs to support future funding and the fall 2019 intake.**

#### **Appendices:**

**Appendix 1 - DFO Presentation - Ministerial briefing update on BCSRIF proposal review process**

**Appendix 2 - BCSRIF Table of Round 1 Funding Recommendations**

**Appendix 3 - BCSRIF Priorities and Description of Projects Recommended for Funding**

Contact: David Travia, Corporate Governance, Policy & Legislation Branch, 778 974-3764

ED TD ADM JM DM WS

## BRIEFING NOTE

### Briefing on the BC Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund

Premier's Office, Tuesday, July 2 9:00 am

## Briefing Note

**What:** Technical briefing on the BC Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (BCSRIF) for Premier Horgan and the Premier's Office in advance of project funding decisions and pending announcements.

**Who:** Premier Horgan, Premier's Office officials, Minister Popham, Deputy Minister Shoemaker, Assistant Deputy Minister Mack and staff.

### Executive Summary:

Based on a joint federal-provincial governance and review process, 12 BCSRIF project proposals were recommended to proceed with no special conditions. Six were recommended to proceed with conditions. Five required further discussion or clarification, and one was not recommended to proceed at this time. As a result of discussion and direction from the bilateral Steering Committee, 23 projects are recommended to proceed to the negotiation of funding agreements. The total funds approved-in-principle for these projects is \$57.2M, with \$12.9M of those funds requested for year one, fiscal year 19/20. While negotiations with project proponents will determine a final total contribution amount, the provincial contribution approved-in-principle for these projects is approximately \$4.0M this fiscal year.

**Background:** On March 15, 2019, Premier Horgan and federal Fisheries and Oceans Minister Jonathon Wilkinson announced a \$142.85M five-year joint investment to create the British Columbia Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (BCSRIF). The federal government committed \$100M to the fund and the provincial contribution to BCSRIF is \$42.85M (70:30 contribution ratio). At the March 15th announcement, the provincial funding priorities for the first year of BCSRIF were identified as follows:

- Protecting critical salmonid habitats from loss or degradation and investing in the restoration of critical habitats that have been lost or degraded.
- Maintenance of healthy and diverse salmon populations, with focus on existing community-based hatcheries and community education.

## BRIEFING NOTE

### Briefing on the BC Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund

Premier's Office, Tuesday, July 2 9:00 am

- Supporting the implementation of the recommendations that were provided by First Nations governments, industry and the Province around aquaculture in the Broughton Archipelago.

To ensure that the best use of hatcheries is understood and carefully implemented, the Province is taking steps to develop a future vision for community-based hatcheries in B.C. These steps will support the recommendations made by the WSAC and include:

- BCSRIF funding Pacific Salmon Foundation to conduct an assessment of hatchery operations across the Province (\$2M), and,
- Ministry of Agriculture is finalizing a contract with a consultant (Mr. Mike Hicks) to help develop a provincial vision on the future of salmon enhancement activities, assist with the PSF hatcheries assessment project, and work with community hatchery organizations to increase efficiency in restoring wild salmon stocks.

During this announcement, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) opened BCSRIF to the first Expressions of Interest (EOI) process. This intake resulted in 192 submissions. Of those submitted, 23 are not advancing as they were deemed to not meet the eligibility criteria. For the others, a joint review process was undertaken involving DFO and provincial subject matter experts (including provincial staff from: Agriculture; Environment; Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation; and Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development). This process resulted in a list of 169 EOI proponents who are eligible for BCSRIF funding and of that, 23 who have submitted an EOI that is highly-aligned with the priorities of BCSRIF. The remaining 146 EOIs will be reviewed and considered for future intakes (see Appendix 1 for full details provided by DFO).

By May 24th, 2019, 24 full proposals had been invited and received. The proposals span many program areas including habitat restoration, enhancement, commercial and recreational wild capture fishing, aquaculture, and science and research (see Appendices 2 and 3 for full details). The proposals are dispersed geographically throughout B.C., with both coastal and interior projects recommended for funding. The projects are relatively equally spread amongst the program pillars (innovation, science partnerships, infrastructure) with around 70% of them linking to the priority of *restoration, protection and maintenance of healthy and diverse salmon*



## BRIEFING NOTE

### Briefing on the BC Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund

Premier's Office, Tuesday, July 2 9:00 am

*populations and their habitats.* Some examples of projects expected to be funded, and which highlight the Premier's priorities, include:

- \$4.9M to the B.C. Conservation Federation to pilot innovative freshwater habitat restoration methods on the Thomson River to benefit Fraser chinook, coho, sockeye and steelhead stocks.
- \$2M to the Pacific Salmon Foundation to undertake a science-based review of hatchery results.
- \$350K to National Indigenous Fisheries Institute to undertake a thorough review of Indigenous Engagement to increase efficacy of, and Indigenous participation.
- \$7.4M to the 'Namgis First Nation to implement the Indigenous Monitoring and Inspection Plan, Capacity building within the FNs community and salmon habitat restoration.
- \$900K to the Sportfishing Institute of BC to continue development of app-based catch monitoring tools and digital licensing for over 300 thousand recreational tidal anglers.

Based on a joint federal-provincial governance and review process, 12 project proposals were recommended to proceed with no special conditions. Six were recommended to proceed with conditions. Five required further discussion or clarification, and one was not recommended to proceed at this time. As a result of discussion and direction from the bilateral Steering Committee, 23 projects are recommended to proceed to the negotiation of funding agreements. The total funds approved-in-principle for these projects is \$57.2M, with \$12.9M of those funds requested for year one, fiscal year 19/20. While negotiations with project proponents will determine a final total contribution amount, the provincial contribution approved-in-principle for these projects is approximately \$4.0M this fiscal year.

#### Next Steps:

- Contribution Agreements are being negotiated with proponents negotiated and will be approved late June/early July.
- Some funding agreements are expected to be jointly announced in July/August, in advance of the federal election.
- DFO and provincial staff will continue to review EOIs to support future funding and the fall 2019 intake.



## **BRIEFING NOTE**

### **Briefing on the BC Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund**

**Premier's Office, Tuesday, July 2 9:00 am**

#### **Recommendations:**

Endorsement is sought for B.C.'s approval of the first intake of BCSRIF proposals, and for the process and approach of this collaboration with DFO to support wild salmon in BC.

#### **Appendices:**

Appendix 1 – BCSRIF Premier Briefing July 2019

Appendix 2 - BCSRIF Table of Round 1 Funding Recommendations

Appendix 3 - BCSRIF Description of Projects Recommended for Funding