Ministry of Agriculture
Estimates 2019
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Accomplishments - Agriculture

Highlights:

- The Ministry of Agriculture's budget for 2018-19 is more than $93 million, an increased investment of $29 million over the next three years.

Message:

- We are supporting local economies, and protecting farming and farmland with the **biggest agriculture budget** ever in B.C.
    - …so that people can access fresh, local food.
- We **re-launched the Buy B.C. program** with $6M over three years
    - …to help our growers and producers reach more people looking for made-in-B.C. products.
- We worked government-to-government with three First Nations to come to **historic recommendations on fish farms in the Broughton Archipelago**.
- When we work gov't-t-gov't with First Nations, we can deliver results that work for everyone – including industry, and make life better for everyone in B.C.
- We launched the new B.C. **Land Matching Program** with the Young Agrarians to connect land owners with new and young farmers ($325,000)
    - …so that more farmers can get onto the land and grow the local food we count on.

- We launched a $5M **Tree Fruit Competiveness** Fund
    - …so producers and processors can update equipment and expand marketing & research.
- We've committed support for a B.C. **beef packing plant** in Prince George with $450,000 to develop an industry-led co-op business model
    - …to build more good jobs for local people.
- We're connecting diners, chefs and B.C. farmers through our Buy BC: Eat Drink Local campaign, and every Chef Needs a Farmer event
    - …to build demand for local, seasonal food.
- We're funding community-based research into bee health with $150,000 to **Bee BC**
    - …to help support honey bees and producers.
- We're supporting **hazelnut growers** in B.C. with $300,000 over three years
    - …so that growers can replant with more resilient trees and expand their operations.
- We launched the $1.3M B.C. **Oyster Recovery Fund** to support research and this year's re-seeding efforts
    - …so that our producers can continue to drive prosperity in coastal communities.

- We boosted this year's funding for 4-H B.C. by over $60,000 to $150,000
    - …to get more youth excited about agriculture, including urban and Indigenous youth.
- For the past two years, we have supported sustainable fisheries with the B.C. **Young Fisherman's Gathering** ($20,000 ($10k per/year))
    - …to bring together young fishers to learn about business, marketing & sustainable harvesting.
- We're **supporting our world class B.C. wine producers** to reach new markets
    - …so that they can continue to draw in tourists, strengthen our local economies and produce the award-winning wine we all enjoy!
- We declared April 2018 B.C. Wine month, and contributed $100,000 to help promote B.C. wine.
- We're supporting a new sustainability certification program for B.C. grape growers to put green standards right on the label ($100,000).
- We're launching new sub-appellations to build local brands and connect more people to local wine – starting with Okanagan Falls.
- We're funding export opportunities for the B.C. Wine Institute to Washington, Oregon and California ($50,000).

- We established a new 5-year **Canadian Agricultural Partnership** with the federal government
    - …so that our agricultural sector can continue to be an economic driver across B.C.
- We're helping producers and processors reach new markets with the $5M B.C. Agrifood and Seafood Market Development Program
    - …to increase demand for B.C. products and create good jobs for British Columbians.
- We're helping producers affected by wildfires with AgriRecovery ($20M in 2017; $5M in 2018)
    - …so that farmers and ranchers can recover and return to their land and livelihoods.
- We're building a resilient agricultural sector with the $6M Climate Change Adaptation Program
    - …so that producers can grow and raise the products we count on now, and into the future.
- We're fueling innovation through the $14M Agri-Innovation Program
    - …so that farmers and processors can develop cutting edge new products and processes.
- We're supporting farmers and ranchers through B.C.'s new AgriStability Enhancement Program
    - …to help producers recover from tough times.

TOP 3 BUDGET ISSUES

1. **ALR Revitalization** – Why isn't there funding in Budget 2019 to support implementation of Bill 52 and to meet the Minister of Agriculture's commitment to revitalize the Agricultural Land Reserve?

- Budget 2018 provided $25k to support the Independent Advisory Committee to undertake a comprehensive engagement process which lead to strategic advice to revitalize the ALR and the ALC
- Since then, the Minister of Agriculture's Advisory Committee on ALR Revitalization has completed consultations and submitted its recommendations. As a result, the province passed Bill 52 last fall, and will be proceeding with further regulatory and legislative reforms to respond to these recommendations.
- We recognize the need to resource the ALC effectively and will be considering funding increases as these legislative and regulatory reforms progress.

2. **Fisheries and Aquaculture** – Why isn't there funding in the Budget to respond to recent recommendations on salmon farming in the Broughton Archipelago or the Wild Salmon Advisory Committee process?

- We are working now with the three First Nations in the Broughton as well as DFO and industry on an implementation plan for the recommendations announced last November. This includes planning and costing of recommendations including wild salmon restoration, First Nations monitoring, and guardian programs
- We are also expecting the recommendations from the Wild Salmon Advisory Committee and preparing our government response.
- It's too early to provide a detailed amount in the Budget, but we are prepared to make funds available once those costs are determined.
- In November 2018, DFO announced $105M for a BC Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund. We are now working with DFO to make BC a partner in that agreement. Pending those discussions, this could be a source of funds to address these recommendations.

3. **Cost impacts to farmers –** How does Budget 2019 address concerns raised by some farmers with the cumulative costs of various government initiatives such as minimum wage, MSP premiums, carbon tax, water rates, etc.

- We are working with farmers and ranchers to make sure we are effectively implementing these changes in a way that minimizes unnecessary costs to industry
- We have also provided significant new investments to support the agriculture sector in becoming more innovative, competitive and growing its business.
- In 2018, BC signed the Canadian Agricultural Partnership with the Government of Canada securing $115M over five years to support the sector to:
    - Increase competitiveness; productivity; profitability;
    - Increase environmental sustainability;
    - Expand domestic and international markets; and,
    - Improve the anticipation, mitigation and response to risks.

Budget 2018 provided $29M over three years to support Grow BC, Feed BC, Buy BC, the largest single investment in the BC Ministry of Agriculture, with the aim to build: sustainable production and help BC producers expand local food production; the value of and availability of BC food; and, consumer awareness and demand for BC foods to support producers and processors to grow their business

Ministry of Agriculture

Budget 2019

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CHANGES FROM 2018/19

1. **What are the budget changes to 2019/20 budget from 2018/19?**
   The Ministry of Agriculture 2019/20 budget estimate is $98.207 million, a net increase of $5.064 million or 5.4 per cent over the 2018/19 budget.

   This includes increases in the following:

- Ministry Operations 's received a net increase of $4.775M made up of:
  - $0.817M increase for the Cannabis Legalization Implementation
  - $1.600M increase for the Grow BC Initiative
    - $0.700M increase for the Revitalizing of the ALR and ALC
    - $0.500M increase for the Incentives for Beginning Farmers
    - $0.300M increase for the Nutrient Management
    - $0.100M increase for the Fruit and Nut Industry Renewal
  - $1.000M increase for the Feed BC Initiative
    - $1.000M increase for the Regional AgHub and Food Innovation Centre/AgHub
    - $0.500M increase for the Procurement and Supply Chain
    - $(0.400)M decrease for the Prince George Abattoir
    - $(0.100)M decrease for the Food Innovation Centre/Aghub
  - $0.500M increase for the BuyBC marketing program
  - $0.858M increase for Collective agreement provisions
- Agricultural Land Commission's net increase of $0.289M made up of:
  - $0.213M increase for the Cannabis Legalization Implementation
  - $0.076M increase for Collective agreement provisions

2. **Why has the capital budget changed?**
   My ministries capital budget is $0.763 million, a net decrease of $0.428 million from 2018/19 due to fewer fleet vehicle replacements ($0.486M) plus; an additional vehicles provision of $0.090 for the Agricultural Land Commission activities related to Cannabis legalization and revitalization initiatives.

3. **Are there any new programs in 2019/20?**
   Yes. The ministry has received a $1.030 Million budget lift to undertake the Cannabis Legalization Implementation. The ministry will carry out diagnosis of plant diseases and other plant health problems of cannabis, work with local governments, stakeholders and producers to provide technical advice and expertise, to assist farm operations in implementing

innovative technologies and practices to mitigate the environmental risks associated with agricultural production.

4. Which AGRI programs will use the additional $1M for cannabis? What will they use if for? i.e., why does cannabis legalization create additional expenses for AGRI?

The Ministry needs to continue to build its internal knowledge of cannabis production and understanding of production practices and industry issues, and to provide technical support to land use/planning issues.

The Cannabis Legalization Implementation funding is allocated as follows;

$0.126M to **Plant and Animal Health** for a Plant Health Lab Diagnostician working on diagnosis of plant diseases and other plant health problems of cannabis.
$0.106M to **Sector Development** to fund a Regional Agrologist working with local governments, stakeholders and producers to provide technical advice and expertise
$0.365M to **Innovation & Adaptation** to provide support, advice and guidance to local governments on issues related to cannabis production and local cannabis related bylaws, assist farm operations in implementing innovative technologies and practices to mitigate the environmental risks associated with agricultural production.
$0.100M to **BC Farm & Industry Review Board** in support of BCFIRB's mandate under the Farm Practices Protection Act to hear, make decisions or settle cannabis nuisance complaints
$0.120M for **Overheads** to support IT systems, Banking and Finance, Postal charges, records storage etc.
$0.213M to **Agriculture Land Commission** to ensure compliance with the Agriculture Land Commission Act and the Agriculture Land Reserve Use, Subdivision and Procedural Regulation with respect to cannabis production and management on the ALR.

5. Has there been any budget increase to existing programs?
Yes, there has been a $3.303M budget increase to enhance the GrowBC, FeedBC and BuyBC programs.

6. The Federal Government has promised $100M for a BC Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund, will the Ministry be contributing to the Fund? If so, how much?
The Ministry is in discussions with the Federal Government with regards to funding contributions and deliverables of the fund. We are at the early discussion stages and should have more details in the coming months.

7. **Have any programs moved out of the ministry?**
   No programs have moved out of the ministry.

8. **Did the Ministry receive Treasury Board approval to access Contingencies in 2018/19? What programs did it fund?**
   Yes. The Ministry received approval for $0.110 million for the purchase and installation of a lockable refrigerated storage unit for cannabis diagnostic samples for the Plant Health Lab under the Cannabis Legalization Implementation in 2018/19.

9. **Did the Ministry access Contingencies in two years previous i.e., 2017/18?**
   The ministry received $5M to for the Tree Fruit Replant Program.

10. **Is there any contingency access for 2019/20?**
    There is no contingency access for 2019/20.

Ministry of Agriculture
Budget 2019
Questions and Answers

MINISTER'S OFFICE

11. What is the Minister's basic compensation? What is the Minister's compensation as an MLA and the total?

My basic compensation is $108,105 as an MLA. An additional 50% compensation is paid as a minister, which is $54,052.

My total MLA and minister compensation is $162,157.

12. What is the exact amount of the Minister's holdback?

My holdback is 20% of my compensation paid as a minister; $54,052, or $10,810.

Half is accrued to meeting the government's bottom line and the other half by delivering on those accountabilities attributed to my ministry.

13. What is the number of Staff in the Minister's office and what are the budget changes?

My Office is budgeted for 5 FTEs. s.17

s.17

14. What is the Minister's Office budget for 2019/20? What was the budget and actual spend in 2018/19?

2018/19 actuals are as of January 31, 2019.

	2019/2020 Budget	2018/19 Budget	2018/19 Actuals
50 Base Salaries and Overtime	s.17		
52 Employee Benefits			
54 Leg Sal-Indemnities			
57 Public Servant Travel Expenses			
63 Information Systems-Operating			
65 Office and Business Expenses			
85 Other Expenses			
TOTAL			
FTEs	5	5	5

SALARIES AND STAFFING

15. Which programs have staff reductions?

There have been no staff reductions in any of the programs.

16. How many FTEs are there in the ministry and what is the change from last year?

There is no plan to return to detailed FTE reporting within budget documents.

Ministers have accountability to balance the budget to the bottom line dollar figure.

The number of FTEs that can be accommodated within a ministry's budget depends on many factors, including attrition, staffing lag and the staff mix throughout the year.

There are about 423 people within the Ministry of Agriculture, who work in approximately 30 locations throughout the province. Total budgeted salary and benefits for 2019/20 is $33,460 million.

Key 2018/19 ministry staff numbers are as follows:

	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17
Scientific/Tech Officers	115	99	94
Licensed Science Officers	67	65	64
Laboratory/Health Science Officers	30	23	24

Changes in 2018/19 was due mostly to the need to fill vacant positions within the Plant and Animal Health division.

17. How many auxiliary employees does the ministry have?

As at January 31, 2019, the ministry has 58 auxiliary employees as follows:

- Corporate Governance, 1
- Plant & Animal Health, 16
- Food Safety and Inspection, 15
- Sector Development and Management Services, 10
- Innovation, Industry and Development, 4
- Business Risk Management, 4
- Agricultural Land Commission, 7
- BC Farm Industry Review Board, 1
- Deputy Minister's Office, 0

CONTRACTORS

18. **What services has this ministry outsourced to contractors? How much was spent on contractors providing services to the Ministry in the last fiscal year? Has this gone up or down since the previous fiscal year?**
    My Ministry awarded 92 contracts valued at $7.445M in 2018/19 compared to 107 contracts valued at $4.234M in 2017/18.

19. **How many contracts were tendered? How many were direct awarded? Which ones?**
    55 contracts for a value of $2.967M were awarded through a competitive process in fiscal 2018/19. 37 contracts for a value of $4.477M were direct awarded.

20. **How much has been budgeted for contracts for the coming year? How does this compare to the previous year?**
    $6.724M has been budgeted for contracts for 2019/20 which is an increase of $0.196M from 2018/19. This increase represents funding for the Cannabis Legalization Implementation in 2019/20.

Ministry of Agriculture
Budget 2019
Questions and Answers

Ministry of Agriculture
Contracts and Transfers Statistics
April 1, 2018 - January 31, 2019

	#	$	% by #	% by $
Total number & dollar value of contracts and transfers	s.17			
Total number & dollar value of contracts				
Contracts awarded through a competitive process				
Contracts directly awarded				
Total number & dollar value of transfers (shared cost arrangements & grants)				
Transfers awarded thorough a competitive process				
Transfers directly awarded				
Total contacts and transfers awarded through a competitive process				
Total contacts and transfers directly awarded				
Analysis of competed contracts, shared cost arrangements & grants:				
Code 100 - Open Competitive Process				
Code 300 - Competitive Process Among Selected Vendors				
Code 400 - Selected Vendor from Pre-Qualified List				
Code 401 - Competition Among Vendors on Pre-Qualified List				
Code 500 - Purchase from a Corporate Supply Arrangement				
Code 600 - Other Purchase Process				
Analysis of direct awards:				
Code 200 - Direct Award to Public Sector Organization				
Code 201 - Direct Award to Sole Source				
Code 202 - Direct Award for Emergency				
Code 203 - Direct Award for Security, Order, Etc.				
Code 204 - Direct Award for Confidentiality				
Code 205 - Direct Award, Notice of Intent				
Code 206 - Direct Award Permitted Under Another Corporate Policy or Legislation				
Code 207 - Direct Award Under $25,000				
Code 208 - Direct Award, Shared Cost Arrangement (Financial Assistance)				
Code 209 - Direct Award Shared Cost Arrangement (Competitive Selection Process Not Appropriate)				
Other:				
Code 601 - Other Continuing Service Agreements				
Code 602 - Other Grants and Entitlements				
Code 900				
Un-coded				

OPERATING EXPENSES

21. **What is the Ministry Travel budget in 2018/19 and in 2019/20? What has been spent to date in 2018/19?**
    The ministry travel budget is $1.280M in 2018/19 and $1.280M in 2019/20.
    The ministry spend to January 31st in the current fiscal year for travel is $0.726M.

22. **What is the Ministry STOB 67 (*Informational Advertising and Publications)* budget in 2019/20? What has been spent to date in 2018/19?**
    The ministry has $0.040M in STOB 67 – *Informational Advertising and Publications* in 2019/20.

    Budget in this STOB is managed by Government Communications and Public Engagement in the Ministry of Finance.

GOVERNMENT TRANSFERS

23. What is the comparative year over year Government Transfers?
Describe some of the transfers.

The ministry budget for Government Transfers has increased to $45.717M in 2019/20 from $42.617M in 2018/19.

Some examples of Transfers are:

- $11.736M is allocated to Agri-Stability, a margin based income stability program to protect producers from large declines in their farming income caused by production losses, increased costs or market conditions.
- $7.555 is allocated to the Greenhouse Carbon Tax Relief Grant Program to provide carbon tax relief to commercial greenhouses (vegetable, floriculture wholesale production nurseries and forest seedling nurseries).
- $8.860M is allocated for the Grow, Feed, Buy BC program.
- $1.630M is allocated to the Tree Fruit Replant program.

24. What are the Recoveries found on Page 40 of 2019/20 Estimates?
Describe some of the recoveries.

The ministry recoveries budget remains at $24.426M in 2019/20 as in 2018/19.

Some examples of Recoveries are:

- $13.343M is recovered from the Federal Government for Canadian Agricultural Partnership program.
- $10.314M is recovered from the Federal Government for Business Risk Management programs (AgriStability, AgriRecovery, Agricultural Wildlife program).
- $0.471M is recovered from various agencies for work done in the Plant Health Laboratory.
- $0.236M is recovered from West Coast Reduction Ltd for animal rendering and recycling.

CAPITAL ALLOCATION

25. Describe the capital budget and what the funding will be used for.

The ministry has $0.763M in capital available in 2019/20.
The capital allocation is available for

- $0.565M Specialized Equipment for the plant and animal health lab,
- $0.195M for the purchase of vehicles to be used in the field,
- $0.003M for office furniture and equipment

OTHER

26. Have there been any audits done of the ministry?

As part of the year-end process, the Ministry is audited by the Office of the Auditor General. The Ministry is subject to regular payment audits by the Payment Review Office, Ministry of Finance. The Ministry's Canadian Agricultural Partnership Program, Production Insurance, Wildlife and AgriStability programs are also subject to annual audits by the Federal Government.

27. Were there any recommendations from the Office of the Auditor General? If so, what is outstanding?

There are no outstanding recommendations from the Office of the Auditor General.

Resource Summary

Core Business Area	2018/19 Restated Estimates[1]	2019/20 Estimates	2020/21 Plan	2021/22 Plan
Operating Expenses ($000)				
Agriculture Science and Policy[2]	s.17			
Business Development[2]				
BC Farm Industry Review Board				
Executive and Support Services				
Sub-Total				
Agricultural Land Commission				
Production Insurance Special Account				
Total				
Ministry Capital Exper				
Executive and Support Services				
Total				

[1] For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2018/19 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2018/19 Estimates.
[2] Funding provided for increased programing for Grow Feed Buy BC, and Cannabis Legalization Implementation.

* Further information on program funding and vote recoveries is available in the Estimates and Supplement to the Estimates.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
($000)

			50	51	52	54	Subtotal Salaries and Benefits	55	57	59	60	63	65	67	68	69	70	73	75	Subtotal Operating Costs
Ministry Operations - AGRI		s.17																		
Vote 13	Agriculture Science and Policy																			
	Business Development																			
	BC Farm Industry Review Board																			
	Executive and Support Services																			
	Minister's Office																			
	Corporate Services																			
Ministry Operations - AGRI Total																				
Agricultural Land Commission																				
Vote 14	Agricultural Land Commission																			
Agricultural Land Commission Total																				
Special Accounts - AGRI																				
SA	Production Insurance Account																			
Special Accounts - AGR Total																				
Transfer from Ministry Operations Vote																				
SA	Transfer from Ministry Operations Vote																			
Transfer from Ministry Operations Vote Total																				
Grand Total																				

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
($000)

		77	79	80	Subtotal Government Transfers	81	84	85	Subtotal Other Expenses	86	88	Subtotal Recoveries	89	90	Subtotal Recoveries External	Grand Total
Ministry Operations - AGRI		s.17														
Vote 13	Agriculture Science and Policy															
	Business Development															
	BC Farm Industry Review Board															
	Executive and Support Services															
	Minister's Office															
	Corporate Services															
Ministry Operations - AGRI Total																
Agricultural Land Commission																
Vote 14	Agricultural Land Commission															
Agricultural Land Commission Total																
Special Accounts - AGRI																
SA	Production Insurance Account															
Special Accounts - AGR Total																
Transfer from Ministry Operations Vote																
SA	Transfer from Ministry Operations Vote															
Transfer from Ministry Operations Vote Total																
Grand Total																

Ministry of Agriculture

2019/20 – 2021/22 SERVICE PLAN

February 2019



For more information on the British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture contact:

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Published by the Ministry of Agriculture

Minister Accountability Statement



The *Ministry of Agriculture 2019/20 - 2021/22 Service Plan* was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*. I am accountable for the basis on which the plan has been prepared.

Honourable Lana Popham
Minister of Agriculture
February 1, 2019

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Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Agriculture (the Ministry) is responsible for the production, marketing, processing and merchandising of agriculture and seafood products; the institution and carrying out of advisory, research, promotional, sustainability and adaptation, food safety or plant and animal health programs, projects or undertakings relating to agriculture and seafood; and the collection of information and preparation and dissemination of statistics relating to agriculture and seafood.

The legal and regulatory environment that guides the work of the Ministry includes 30 statutes which relate wholly or primarily to the Ministry. A complete list of legislation for which the Ministry is responsible is available at: http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/amr/amr/1135179498

Strategic Direction and Alignment with Government Priorities

The Government of British Columbia is putting people at the heart of decision-making by working to make life more affordable, improve the services people count on, and build a strong, sustainable economy that works for everyone.

Over the past year, significant government investments in areas including housing, child care and the elimination of fees, such as Medical Service Premiums, have contributed to making life more affordable for British Columbians today and into the future. Ministries are engaged in ongoing work to improve the availability of services citizens rely on including those related to primary medical care, education and training, transportation, the opioid crisis and poverty.

A strong economy that works for all regions of B.C. is diversified, resilient and improves the standard of living for people across the province. With that in mind, government is focusing on sustainable economic growth that strengthens our natural resource sectors, continues the development of the emerging economy, supports small business and uses innovation and technology to solve B.C. problems. A key priority in 2019/20 and beyond will be driving economic growth with cleaner energy and fewer emissions. At the same time, Ministries continue to build prudence into budgets and plan for challenges.

Underpinning the work of all ministries are two shared commitments: reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and consideration of how diverse groups of British Columbians may experience our policies, programs and initiatives. As part of these commitments, Ministries are working to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, and Gender-Based Analysis+ policy and budgeting.

In July 2017, each minister was given a formal mandate letter that identifies both government-wide and ministry-specific priorities for implementation.

This service plan outlines how the Ministry of Agriculture will support the government's priorities, including selected action items identified in the Minister's Mandate Letter [https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/government/ministries-organizations/premier-cabinet-mlas/minister-letter/popham-mandate.pdf]. Over the previous fiscal year, the Ministry of Agriculture made progress on these priorities by implementing:

Grow BC, *Feed BC*, *Buy BC* supports sustainable shared prosperity for a better BC by supporting BC's agriculture, seafood and food processing sectors, encouraging consumption of BC products and building resiliency within the sector. Agriculture is a key contributor to economic development and diversification; and is a main contributor to rural economic development by supporting province-wide job creation. The Agriculture and seafood sector creates economic and social benefits for Indigenous groups, has the potential to attract provincial investment and supports workforce development and skills training.

Government Priorities	Ministry of Agriculture Aligns with These Priorities By:
Making life more affordable	• Grow BC: Build sustainable production and help BC producers expand local food production (Goal 1)
Delivering the services people count on	• Feed BC: Increase the use of BC grown and processed foods by large BC based purchasers such as government facilities (Objective 2.1) • Foster innovation and develop a Food Hub Network to support food processing. (Objective 2.2)
A strong, sustainable economy	• Buy BC: Build consumer awareness and demand and help local producers market their products to grow their businesses (Goal 3) • Build and leverage a strong, recognizable Buy BC brand to help producers and processors expand sales and ensure consumers can easily identify local food and beverages (Objective 3.1)

The following performance plan outlines how the Ministry of Agriculture will continue to track progress on key mandate letter commitments and other emerging government priorities.

Performance Planning

Goal 1: *Grow BC*: Build sustainable production and help BC producers expand local food production

Objective 1.1: Enhance Services and Supports to the Agri-Food and Seafood Sector

The Ministry will deliver a wide variety of programs and services to facilitate farmers and processors to increase their production while enhancing the sustainability of their operations and supporting government priority initiatives.

Sustainable production depends on having producers; and British Columbia's farmers are, on average, the oldest in Canada. The Ministry will address the significant barrier of access to land for those seeking to enter the industry through land matching, measures to incentivize landowners to make land available and succession planning for existing producers planning their retirement.

The Ministry has increased agriculture sector capacity to maintain competitiveness, manage risks, enhance productivity and contribute to economic growth through action on climate change and increasing environmental sustainability. The Ministry will continue to enhance nutrient management improvement activities and work with industry, local governments, research organizations and other government agencies to increase the capacity of BC farmers to adapt to climate change. This includes supporting the creation of Regional Adaptation Strategies and regional adaptation projects.

Key Strategies:

1. Enhance services and supports to producers and processors.
2. Help new farmers access land.
3. Support climate adaptation and mitigation.

Performance Measure(s)	2017/18 Forecast	2018/19 Target	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target
1.1 Number of attendees at succession planning events	110	160	230	250

[1.1] Data Source: Ministry of Agriculture

Linking Performance Measures to Objectives:
Written succession plans identify family and/or non-family members as successors increasing certainty of access to farms and farm land. Some of these successors will effectively be new farmers. Currently, only a small fraction of farms in BC have succession plans (1,179 out of 17,528). The Ministry will present succession planning workshops around the province in order to encourage producers to plan for transition and create opportunities for new farmers.

Objective 1.2: Ensure the Future of the Agri-Food and Seafood Sector by Protecting the Land Base and Animal, Plant and Human Health.

Preservation of agricultural land is a provincial priority overseen by the Agricultural Land Commission. The Ministry of Agriculture is mandated with revitalizing the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) and the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC). In 2018, the Minister established an independent Advisory Committee to engage with stakeholders and the general public to provide Government with advice and guidance to support regulatory and administrative improvements. The first legislative changes were announced in 2018 and the Minister continues to benefit from the Advisory Committee's work.

The Ministry, in partnership with federal, provincial and local government agencies, delivers services and initiatives to manage food safety, and plant and animal health risks. These services protect public health, contribute to maintaining public trust and support consumer confidence domestically and internationally in BC agriculture and seafood products.

Key Strategies:

1. Revitalize the Agricultural Land Reserve and the Agricultural Land Commission.
2. Complete the Agricultural Land Use Inventory (ALUI) process for the ALR by 2022.
3. Protect animal, plant and human health.

Performance Measure(s)	2017/18 Baseline	2018/19 Forecast	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target	2021/22 Target
1.2 Cumulative Hectares (Ha) of ALUI	3.5M Ha	3.7M Ha	3.9M Ha	4.2M Ha	4.6M Ha

[1.2] Data Source: Ministry of Agriculture

Linking Performance Measures to Objectives:
The Ministry supports the ALR and preservation of farm land by promoting a positive urban/agriculture environment, along with working to keep ALR land in production and supporting farmers looking to expand or improve their operations.

ALUIs collect comprehensive data about land use and land cover. These inventories generate information that facilitates support for the sector, inform agricultural practices and allow the monitoring of changes in land use patterns and practices. ALUIs also help advise emergency response for environmental disasters and animal health events.

Goal 2: *Feed BC:* Build the availability, value and variety of BC food

Objective 2.1: Increase the use of BC Grown and Processed Foods by Large BC based purchasers such as government facilities.

The Ministry is working to deliver on the Government's commitment to increase the use of BC grown and processed foods in large BC based purchasers including government facilities such as hospitals and public post-secondary institutions. To capitalize on opportunities for government facilities to increase the purchase of BC foods, the Ministry is working with government and industry partners to match the food needs of these facilities with BC food production.

Key Strategies:

1. Build capacity along the value chain.
2. Identify partnership opportunities and Feed BC targets.
3. Provide education and training to producers, processors and distributors on institutional requirements.

Performance Measure(s)		2018/19 Forecast	2019/209 Target	202021 Target	2021/22 Target
2.1	Number of individual BC government facilities that have increased their purchase of BC produced and/or processed foods.	55	114	165	195

[2.1] Data Source: Ministry of Agriculture

Linking Performance Measures to Objectives:
Tracking the number of BC government facilities that are increasing the purchase/use of BC produced and/or processed foods will allow the Ministry to track and report on the success of the range of Feed BC initiatives currently underway with industry stakeholders and BC provincial ministries.

Objective 2.2: Foster Innovation and Develop a Food Hub Network to Support Food Processing

The Ministry encourages growth in the agriculture and seafood sector through programs that foster innovation, including the development of new products, processes or technologies that will ultimately be market-ready. Innovation projects are designed to enhance the ability of the sector to research, develop, pilot, commercialize and/or adopt technologies to enhance competitiveness; accelerate

business development; and access and participate in knowledge-transfer. BC's approach to developing a BC Food Hub Network, including a core Innovation Centre located at the University of British Columbia is intended to leverage sector/regional diversity to build competitive linkages across the supply chain and the innovation continuum.

Key Strategies:

1. Support the development of new products, processes and/or technologies.
2. Through the creation of a Food Hub Network better support food processing throughout BC.

Performance Measure(s)	2017/18 Baseline	2018/19 Forecast	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target	2021/22 Target
2.2 Cumulative number of innovations commercialized	27	38	43	50	58

[2.2] Data Source: Ministry of Agriculture

Linking Performance Measures to Objectives:
Monitoring the cumulative number of innovation projects, funded by the Ministry, that become commercialized will help indicate the extent to which innovation programming is meeting its objective to support and accelerate projects that lead to commercialization of innovation products, processes, practices and technologies across BC. In addition to this measure, the ministry will be monitoring the creation of components of the Food Hub Network which will help demonstrate Food Hub Network momentum.

Goal 3: *Buy BC:* Build consumer awareness and demand and help local producers market their products to grow their businesses

Objective 3.1: Build and leverage a strong, recognizable Buy BC brand to help producers and processors expand sales and ensure consumers can easily identify local food and beverages.

The Ministry is committed to delivering an enhanced Buy BC marketing program to build consumer awareness and demand and help local producers market their products. A key component of the program is a strong Buy BC brand identifier that helps consumers recognize and seek out BC products. Making the choice to buy BC food and beverages directly supports local farmers, producers and processors, strengthens communities and ensures that future generations of British Columbians can depend on a safe, secure supply of local food.

Key Strategies:

1. Enhance consumer recognition of the Buy BC brand.
2. Deliver Buy BC programming including Buy BC: EAT DRINK LOCAL and cost-shared partnership activities.
3. Build the food literacy of British Columbians

Performance Measure(s)	2017/18 Baseline	2018/19 Forecast	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target	2021/22 Target
3.1 Annual value of domestic purchases of agriculture and seafood products	$7.0 billion	$7.4 billion	$7.7 billion	$8.1 billion	$8.5 billion

[3.1] Data Source: BC Stats Estimates

Linking Performance Measures to Objectives:
Buy BC is intended to encourage the purchase of BC agriculture and seafood commodities by British Columbians, through enhanced communication, advertising and promotional activities, cost-shared funding programs and local food literacy initiatives. Monitoring the annual value of domestic purchases over time will help identify whether the program is successfully impacting the food purchasing behaviours of consumers within the province.

Objective 3.2: Help Producers and Processors Expand Sales in Priority Export Markets

The Ministry supports the expansion of export sales through the delivery of a suite of market development programs and services aimed at ensuring the agriculture and seafood sector has the knowledge, skills and resources to effectively capitalize on emerging market opportunities. Expanding international markets contributes to sustainable, long-term growth for BC's agriculture and seafood sector and economic growth and job creation across the province.

Key Strategies:
1. Deliver market development initiatives to expand export sales.
2. Deliver cost-shared programming to enhance the ability of the agrifood and seafood sector to access and expand international markets and build marketing skills capacity and market intelligence.

Performance Measure(s)	2017/18 Baseline	2018/19 Forecast	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target	2021/22 Target
3.2 Annual value of international agriculture and seafood exports	$3.9 billion	$4.0 billion	$4.2 billion	$4.3 billion	$4.4 billion

[3.2] Data Source: Statistics Canada

Linking Performance Measures to Objectives:
This performance target demonstrates the value of BC's international marketing strategy and ability of producers and processors to export to priority markets, by measuring the overall value of BC's agriculture and seafood exports. This performance measure tracks approximately 700 BC agriculture and seafood product exports to 157markets, including those destined for BC's top five markets: the United States, China, Japan, Hong Kong and South Korea.

Resource Summary

Core Business Area	2018/2019 Restated Estimates	2019/20 Estimates	2020/21 Plan	2021/22 Plan
Operating Expenses ($000)				
Agriculture Science and Policy[1]	s.17			
Business Development [1]				
BC Farm Industry Review Board				
Executive and Support Services				
Sub-Total				
Agricultural Land Commission				
Production Insurance Special Account				
Total				
Ministry Cap				
Executive and Support Services				
Total				

[1] Funding provided for increased programing for Grow Feed Buy BC, and Cannabis Legalization Implementation

* Further information on program funding and vote recoveries is available in the Estimates and Supplement to the Estimates.

Appendix A: Agencies, Boards, Commissions and Tribunals

Agricultural Land Commission

The Provincial Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) is the independent administrative tribunal dedicated to preserving agricultural land and encouraging farming in BC. The ALC is responsible for administering the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), a provincial land use zone where agriculture is the primary land use taking place on the limited agricultural land base.

British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board

The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board (the Board) is an independent administrative tribunal that operates at arm's-length from government. As the regulatory tribunal responsible for the general supervision of BC regulated marketing boards and commissions, the Board provides oversight, policy direction and decisions to ensure orderly marketing and to protect the public interest. In its adjudicative capacities, the Board provides a less formal system than the court for resolving disputes in a timely and cost effective way.

The Marketing Boards and Commissions include:

BC Broiler Hatching Egg Commission
BC Chicken Marketing Board
BC Cranberry Marketing Commission
BC Egg Marketing Board
BC Hog Marketing Commission
BC Milk Marketing Board
BC Turkey Marketing Board
BC Vegetable Marketing Commission

www.gov.bc.ca/bcfarmindustryreviewboard

BRITISH COLUMBIA

July 18, 2017

Honourable Lana Popham
Minister of Agriculture
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, British Columbia V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Popham:

Congratulations on your new appointment as Minister of Agriculture.

It has never been more important for new leadership that works for ordinary people, not just those at the top.

It is your job to deliver that leadership in your ministry.

Our government made three key commitments to British Columbians.

Our first commitment is to make life more affordable. Too many families were left behind for too long by the previous government. They are counting on you to do your part to make their lives easier.

Our second commitment is to deliver the services that people count on. Together, we can ensure that children get access to the quality public education they need to succeed, that families can get timely medical attention, and that our senior citizens are able to live their final years with dignity.

These and other government services touch the lives of British Columbians every day. It is your job as minister to work within your budget to deliver quality services that are available and effective.

Our third key commitment is to build a strong, sustainable, innovative economy that works for everyone, not just the wealthy and the well-connected. Together, we are going to tackle poverty and inequality, create good-paying jobs in every corner of the province, and ensure people from every background have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

These three commitments along with your specific ministerial objectives should guide your work and shape your priorities from day to day. I expect you to work with the skilled professionals in the public service to deliver on this mandate.

…/2

Office of the Premier

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PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E1

Location:
Parliament Buildings
Victoria

As you are aware, we have set up a *Confidence and Supply Agreement* with the B.C. Green caucus. This agreement is critical to the success of our government. Accordingly, the principles of "good faith and no surprises" set out in that document should also guide your work going forward.

As minister, you are responsible for ensuring members of the B.C. Green caucus are appropriately consulted on major policy issues, budgets, legislation and other matters as outlined in our agreement. This consultation should be coordinated through the Confidence and Supply Agreement Secretariat in the Premier's Office. The secretariat is charged with ensuring that members of the B.C. Green caucus are provided access to key documents and officials as set out in the agreement. This consultation and information sharing will occur in accordance with protocols established jointly by government and the B.C. Green caucus, and in accordance with relevant legislation.

British Columbians expect our government to work together to advance the public good. That means seeking out, fostering, and advancing good ideas regardless of which side of the house they come from.

Our government put forward a progressive vision for a Better B.C. that has won broad support with all members of the legislature. There is consensus on the need to address many pressing issues such as reducing health-care wait times, addressing overcrowded and under-supported classrooms, taking action on climate change, tackling the opioid crisis, and delivering safe, quality, affordable child care for all. As one of my ministers, I expect you to build on and expand that consensus to help us better deliver new leadership for British Columbians.

As part of our commitment to true, lasting reconciliation with First Nations in British Columbia our government will be fully adopting and implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. As minister, you are responsible for moving forward on the calls to action and reviewing policies, programs, and legislation to determine how to bring the principles of the declaration into action in British Columbia.

In your role as Minister of Agriculture I expect that you will make substantive progress on the following priorities:

- Revitalize the Agriculture Land Reserve and the Agricultural Land Commission.

- Establish Grow B.C. to help young farmers access land, and support fruit and nut growers and processors to expand local food production.

- Initiate Feed B.C. to increase the use of B.C.-grown and processed foods in hospitals, schools, and other government facilities.

- Bring back an enhanced Buy B.C. marketing program to help local producers market their products, and work with local producers to expand market access in the rest of Canada and abroad.

- Work with growers, processors, colleges and universities, as well as the Minister of Advanced Education and the Minister of State for Trade, to develop a B.C. Food Innovation Centre to innovate in the processing, packaging and marketing of B.C. food products, linking local food producers with new technology, and expanding exports and access to world markets.

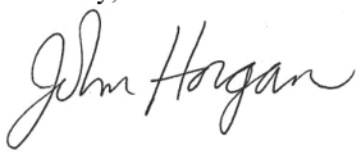
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All members of Cabinet are expected to review, understand and act according to the *Members Conflict of Interest Act* and to conduct themselves with the highest level of integrity. Remember, as a minister of the Crown, the way you conduct yourself will reflect not only on yourself, but on your Cabinet colleagues and our government as a whole.

I look forward to working with you in the coming weeks and months ahead.

It will take dedication, hard work, and a real commitment to working for people to make it happen, but I know you're up to the challenge.

Sincerely,



John Horgan
Premier

Ministry of Agriculture – Legislative Overview of Act Responsibilities

The Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for 25 Statutes (20 in full, 5 in part) and 62 Regulations. The list below outlines each statute, regulation and the details if applicable in alphabetical order.

Act	Details (if applicable)
Agricultural Land Commission • Agricultural Land Reserve Use, Subdivision and Procedure Regulation	The Act defines the Agricultural Land Reserve and establishes the Agricultural Land Commission with the following purposes: • to preserve agricultural land; • to encourage farming on agricultural land in collaboration with other communities of interest; • to encourage local governments, First Nations, the government and its agents to enable and accommodate farm use of agricultural land and uses compatible with agriculture in their plans, bylaws and policies. The Act describes the Commission's procedures for determining when land is included in or exempted out of the Agricultural Land Reserve, when agricultural lands may be subdivided, and for approval of non-farm uses of agricultural land. Applications for non-farm use and subdivision of agricultural land may be delegated to local governments or First Nations governments where the lands are within their respective jurisdictions.
Agrologists	The Act provides a legislative framework for the British Columbia Institute of Agrologists to regulate the practice of agrology in the province, including qualifications, conduct and practice. Application procedures for membership are described. The composition of the council for the Institute and the terms of the councillors are stated.
Animal Health • Animal Products and Byproducts Regulation • Bee Regulation • Enforcement Regulation • Fur Farm Regulation • Game Farm Regulation • Laboratory Fees Regulation • Livestock Licensing Regulation	The *Animal Health Act* enables government to: • apply effective control measures to a larger number of reportable and notifiable animal diseases; • inspect animals, animal products and byproducts; • protect certain data and information; • make orders for the management of disease, or for the seizure and destruction of animals, animal products and byproducts to control the spread of a disease; • license a variety of operators engaged in business that relate to animals, animal products or animal byproducts;

• Poultry Health and Buying Regulation • Reportable and Notifiable Disease Regulation	• place greater accountability on persons responsible for animals to ensure that on-farm practices prevent the occurrence and spread of disease; • work with industry and other governments to monitor animal health and to participate in health management and research programs.
Farm Income Insurance • Farm Income Plans Regulation	The Act enables the establishment and administration of farm income plans, which are voluntary participation programs for British Columbia farmers designed to provide for the payment of money to reduce losses caused by price fluctuations such as low market return and escalating input costs.
Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) • British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board Regulation • Specialty Farm Operations Regulation	The Act ensures that farmers can farm in the Agricultural Land Reserve by protecting them from nuisance lawsuits, nuisance bylaws and prohibitive injunctions when they are using normal farm practices. The Act also overrides the *Local Government Act* by providing that zoning and rural land use bylaws created by local governments are subject to provincial standards and the approval of the Minister responsible for agriculture. A board is established to deal with complaints about farm practices, including the ability to order a farmer to improve or to stop poor farm practices. The board builds on an existing peer review process to investigate and attempt to resolve disputes before hearings are held.
Farmers and Womens Institutes • Farmers and Womens Institutes Act Regulation	Farmers' and women's institutes are rural organizations concerned with most aspects of the farming industry and society from a community agriculture point of view. The Act describes the objects for which farmers' and women's institutes may be incorporated and provides a process for incorporation. It authorizes the appointment of a Superintendent of Farmers' Institutes.
Farming and Fishing Industries Development • Blueberry Industry Development Fund Regulation • British Columbia Salmon Marketing Council Regulation • British Columbia Wine Grape Council Regulation • Cattle Industry Development Council Regulation • Dairy Industry Development Council	The purpose of this Act is to enable producers of commodities of the farming and fishing industries to collect levies approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. The Minister establishes a council to administer the levy fund and apply those funds to promote and benefit their industries.

Regulation • Grain Industry Development Fund Regulation • New Tree Fruit Varieties Development Council Regulation • Raspberry Industry Development Council Regulation • Woodlot Product Development Council Regulation	
Fish and Seafood • Fish and Seafood Licensing Regulation • Enforcement Regulation	*The Act except as it relates to licensing respecting the growing of aquatic plants and the harvesting of wild aquatic plants.* The Act ensures that any fish or aquatic plants that may be distributed to the public for human consumption meet food safety standards. The Act enables a licensing regime, and creates an inspection and enforcement system to ensure licence holders are complying with the Act and with any terms or conditions of their licence. A range of punitive options ranging from administrative penalties to criminal charges are available. The Act also outlines record keeping and reporting requirements, and allows for reassessment, reconsideration and review of orders. The Minister is authorized to designate licensing officers, reviewing officers, and inspectors.
Food and Agricultural Products Classification • Egg Grading and Standards Regulation • Enforcement Regulation • Organic Certification Regulation • Wines of Marked Quality Regulation	This Act provides a grading and classification system for food and agricultural products produced or distributed in BC based on quality, physical attributes or method of production. The Act also allows for the creation of protected labels for prescribed products, such as requiring certification to be able to use the word “organic” in the marketing of organic products. The purpose of these provisions is to support and strengthen consumer confidence and decision-making. The Act also contains provisions for inspector appointments, duties and responsibilities, reporting and record-keeping requirements, and compliance and enforcement.
Food Safety • Meat Inspection Regulation	*The Act as it relates to food establishments where animals are slaughtered for food purposes.* The Act requires operators of food establishments to be responsible for ensuring that

	their food is safe for human consumption. The Act provides for a licensing system for food establishments, and for the summary suspension or amendment of the licence if the operation of a food establishment poses a risk to human health or safety. Standards for establishments are set out in regulation. The appointment and powers of inspectors are described, including the ability to prohibit sales of food where operators have not complied with regulations. An inspector can seize and destroy food that is contaminated or unfit for human consumption and the minister may order a recall of such food that has been sold or distributed.
Insurance for Crops • Continuous Crop Insurance Regulation	The Act empowers the Minister to enter into a crop insurance agreement with the federal government. Under this agreement, it also authorizes the establishment and administration of schemes of crop insurance in the province and the establishment of a crop insurance fund.
Livestock • Livestock Regulations • Pound Districts Regulation	The Act: • permits establishment of livestock districts where, with minor exceptions, livestock may run at large within the district boundaries; • permits the establishment of Bull Control areas, which under the direction of a Bull Control Committee determine the number, breed, breeding, quality and age of bulls allowed to run at large within the area; • permits the establishment of pound districts to allow keepers, peace officers and others to capture animals at large within a specified area, and allows for the sale of unclaimed impounded animals and the reimbursement of the keeper. A Livestock Notice is also published under the Act, although it is not a regulation. It sets out bull control areas, livestock districts and pound districts.
Livestock Identification • Livestock Identification Regulation	The Act allows the livestock industry to establish a system for registration of brands in the province, for brand inspection and for the transfer of brands. The Act describes the powers of inspectors and includes a requirement to keep records of livestock transactions and to present such records to inspectors upon request.
Livestock Lien	The Act creates a possessory lien in favour of every keeper of a livery, boarding or sale stable and every agistor of cattle holding any livestock or effects. An agistor is a person who feeds or pastures an animal for a fee. The lien on the livestock or effects left with them by their owners is for the value or price of food, care, attendance or accommodation furnished for the livestock.

Local Government • Right to Farm Regulation	*ss. 481 (1) and 551 to 554. The regulation is authorized under s. 553 of the Act.* The provisions dealing with farm bylaws (sections 551 – 554) are the administrative responsibility of the Minister responsible for the *Farm Practices Protection Act*. These sections allow for the setting of provincial standards for local government (land use and farm) bylaws, enable the development of special bylaws for farming, and direct that local government bylaws be reviewed in relation to the provincial standards.
Milk Industry • Milk Industry Standards Regulation	*s. 12 as it relates to bulk tank milk grader licences, and the remainder of the Act.* The Act ensures the safety and quality of all milk and milk products by requiring certification of dairy farms and licensing of dairy plants. The Act also ensures that all milk sold comes from certified dairy farms and that all milk processed into dairy products, with the exception of raw milk used in the production of certain specialty cheeses, is pasteurized. The Act also outlines the role of the BC Milk Marketing Board in determining payment to milk producers. The Act is supported by the Milk Industry Standards Regulation which details standards for cleanliness and quality during all phases of milk production and processing. The Minister responsible for agriculture issues bulk tank milk grader licences. The Minister of Health issues licences for persons operating or working in dairy plants.
Ministry of Agriculture and Food	Although the Ministry has changed names several times, this Act describes the purposes and functions of the Ministry, which include matters relating to: • the production, marketing, processing and merchandising of agricultural products and food; • the institution and carrying out of advisory, research, promotional or education extension programs, projects or undertakings relating to agriculture and food; and • the collection of information and preparation of statistics relating to agriculture and food and the dissemination of these statistics as the Minister considers advisable. The Act also empowers the Minister to enter into agreements with other governments.

Ministry of Forests and Range	*s. 4 (d) (ii), and s. 4 (e) as that provision relates to the portfolio of the Minister of Agriculture.* This section of the Act relates to government's responsibility to encourage an efficient and competitive ranching sector.
Natural Products Marketing (BC) • British Columbia Broiler Hatching Egg Scheme • British Columbia Chicken Marketing Scheme, 1961 • British Columbia Cranberry Marketing Scheme, 1968 • B.C. Egg Marketing Board Powers and Duties Regulation No. 1 • B.C. Egg Marketing Board Powers and Duties Regulation No. 3 • British Columbia Egg Marketing Scheme, 1967 • British Columbia Hog Marketing Scheme • British Columbia Milk Marketing Board Regulation • British Columbia Turkey Marketing Scheme • British Columbia Vegetable Scheme • Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act Regulations	The Act provides for a system of Schemes for individual commodities to promote, control and regulate production, transportation, packing, storage and marketing of natural products in the province, including prohibition of that production, transportation, packing storage and marketing in whole or in part. The Act provides for the constitution of marketing boards and commissions under the Schemes, and provides them powers vested by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. A supervisory and appellate Board, the British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board (BC FIRB), is also created under the Act. There is no B.C. Egg Marketing Board Powers and Duties Regulation No. 2.
Plant Protection • Bacterial Ring Rot Regulation • Balsam Woolly Adelgid Regulation • Blueberry Maggot Control Regulation • Domestic Bacterial Ring Rot Regulation • Golden Nematode Regulation	*The Act except as it relates to the treatment of the North American Gypsy Moth.* The Act provides for the prevention of the spread of pests destructive to plants in British Columbia, including the powers of inspectors and the authority to establish quarantine areas.

• Little Cherry Control Regulation • North American Gypsy Moth Eradication Regulation, 2017	
Prevention of Cruelty to Animals • Cattery and Kennel Regulation • Dairy Cattle Regulation • Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulation • Sled Dog Standards of Care Regulation	The Act ensures the humane treatment of animals by providing a legislative mandate for the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) in British Columbia. It outlines the membership, the constitution and powers of the society including the inspection powers of their officers, rights of seizure and disposal or sale of animals taken into custody. The Act identifies standards of care for animals, requirements for transporting animals, and duties of operators of regulated activities involving animals. The Act provides for specific protection of service animals, and prohibits baiting and fighting of animals.
Seed Potato • Cariboo Certified Seed Potato Control Area Regulation • Pemberton Certified Seed Potato Control Area Regulation • Seed Potato Regulation	The Act facilitates the growing of certified seed potatoes, provides for the constitution of seed potato control areas, appointment of seed control committees (functions, powers and duties), and places restrictions on the growth of any seeds except those of a variety prescribed by the committee in a seed potato control area.
Special Accounts Appropriation and Control	*s. 9.2* This section of the Act allows for the creation of a special account known as the Production Insurance Account that is used to fund government insurance payments under the *Insurance for Crops Act*.
Veterinarians	The Act provides a legislative framework for those practising veterinary medicine in the province to regulate their qualifications, registration, standards of conduct and practice, and conduct investigations and disciplinary proceedings when required. The British Columbia Veterinary Medical Association is continued as the College of Veterinarians of British Columbia. The College may make bylaws, some of which must be approved by registrants. The College may certify technicians and establish bylaws related to the practice of aspects of veterinary medicine by technicians.
Veterinary Drugs • Veterinary Drug and Medicated Feed	The Act restricts the sale and manufacture of medicated feeds and veterinary drugs except by a pharmacist or a veterinarian licensed under this Act. The Act also allows for the inspection of premises on which medicated feeds or veterinary drugs are

Regulation	manufactured. The Minister may prohibit the use of certain drugs if considered to be dangerous to a person or animal.

ADVICE TO MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE Ministry of Agriculture Date: Jan 11, 2019 Minister Responsible: Minister Lana Popham	**ALC Chair appointment**

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **Jennifer Dyson's appointment as Chair of the ALC is a choice that supports agriculture in B.C.**

- **Jennifer has over a decade of experience as an ALC commissioner, including time on a regional panel, and also brings her experience as an active farmer.**

- **The ALC has a great team in place to protect farmland and encourage farming and Jennifer Dyson is going to lead them to do it.**

- **Given the pressures on the ALR in recent years, the government would like the ALC to have stable and strong leadership as it moves forward, and Ms. Dyson's five year term provides that.**

TRANSITION FROM COMMITTEE TO COMMISSION CHAIR

- **Jennifer had proven how invaluable she was to the ALC over the decade of service she provided as an ALC Commissioner.**

- **She did an amazing job leading the Minister's ALR committee through the consultation phase of the revitalization initiative, visiting nine communities, and encouraging over 270 written submissions and over 2300 surveys from British Columbians telling us how they think the ALR and ALC can be revitalized.**

- **This work is critical to the future of the ALR, and she brought much to the process before she stepped away from this work to take on the ALC chair leadership role.**

- **If anything, her success in chairing the revitalization committee through its interim report to government solidified for me that she is absolutely the right choice for the role of the ALC Chair, and I'm excited to see what's to come.**

KEY FACTS:

Jennifer Dyson was appointed as the Chair of the Agricultural Land Commission on May 14, 2018, following the conclusion of the former Chair, Frank Leonard's term.

Ms. Dyson has been appointed for a five-year term, while the previous government appointed Mr. Leonard for a three year term. The legislation is clear that terms of appointment can be between three and five years.

Prior to her appointment as ALC Chair, in January 2018 Jennifer Dyson was appointed as part of a a nine-member independent committee to revitalize the ALC and ALR.

The committee was tasked with leading the revitalization of the ALR and ALC through a meaningful consultation process with stakeholders and British Columbians, and Jennifer was appointed chair of the committee.

Upon her appointment as Chair of the ALC, Jennifer Dyson removed herself as chair of the ALC revitalization committee.

Communications:	Meghan McRae	250 952-0622
Program:	Wes Shoemaker	250 XXX-XXXX

Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

Ministry of Agriculture **Date:** Jan 24, 2019 **Minister Responsible:** Hon. Lana Popham	**ALC Commissioners and Panels**

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **It is expected that all members of the Agricultural Land Commission including new commissioners and vice-chairs will execute their duties with the utmost integrity and professionalism.**
- **Elected representatives are responsible for making sure the ALC has the tools and ability to fulfill its mandate including decisions about how best to resource Commission positions.**
- **We're committed to making sure the ALC has commissioners in place with the knowledge and expertise to fulfill their mandate to preserve farmland and encourage farming and ranching, and currently has 17 commissioners to deliver on that mandate.**
- **A variety of criteria are evaluated when assessing potential candidates, including meeting residency requirements and knowledge of the agricultural industry.**
- **The Governing Principles of the appointment process are as follows:**
  - **Merit-Based: Appointments are governed by the overriding principle of selection based on merit - an objective assessment of the fit between the skills and qualifications of the prospective candidate and the needs of the agency.**
  - **Transparent: The appointment process guidelines are clear and understandable and available to the public.**
  - **Consistent: The appointment process is applied consistently in respect of all appointments to agencies.**
  - **Probity: Agency members must be committed to the principles and values of public service and perform their duties with integrity.**
  - **Proportionate: The appointments process is subject to the principle of proportionality; that is, the process is to be appropriate for the nature of the post and its responsibilities.**

BACKGROUND

The ALC consists of at least 13 Commissioners and are appointed from each of the 6 geographic ALR regions

Prospective members apply through the Crown Agencies and Board Resourcing Office (CABRO) .

The Agricultural Land Commission Act (the "ALC Act") stipulates that prospective members must be knowledgeable in matters relating to agriculture, land use planning, local government or first nation government.

Members of the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) are appointed by the Minister responsible. The Chair and Vice-Chairs are appointed by Cabinet.

The ALC carries out its duties in six regional panels: Island, South Coast, Okanagan, Kootenay, Interior, and North.

ISSUE: Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) – Land Included into, and Excluded from, the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) by Fiscal Year

Recommended Response:

- **The ALC includes and excludes land from the ALR based on the ALC's legislative mandate and the processes established in legislation and regulation.**
- **The ALR area, as of the last reporting period ending February 11, 2018, is 4,613,347 ha.**
- **Between 2012 and 2019 the ALC has decreased by 9,942 hectares. This figure reflects application and non-application related ALR boundary changes.**
- **Non-application related exclusions represent 66% of the total reduction in the ALR since 2012 (See background section for more detail).**
- **The count for 2018/19 includes both outright and conditional approvals. For inclusions, the 292 ha total includes 129 outright and 163 conditional approvals. For exclusions, the 107 ha total includes 87 outright and 20 conditional approvals.**
- **The majority of the lands, both excluded from and included to the ALR since 2001, were mixed & secondary agriculture capability (Class 4, 5, 6).**

Background:

Fiscal Year	Inclusions (ha)	Exclusions (ha)	Net Change (ha)	Current Total ALR (ha)
April 1, 2012				4,623,289
2012/13	238	1,709	- 1,471	4,621,818
2013/14	1,296	1,957	- 662	4,621,156
2014/15	792	1,090	- 298	4,620,858
2015/16	79	4,283	- 4,204	4,616,654
2016/17	198	943	- 745	4,615,909
2017/18	223	2,970	- 2,747	4,613,162
2018/19*	292	107	+ 185	4,613,347
Total	**3,118**	**13,059**	**-9,942**	**4,613,347**

*indicates a partial count for 2018/19

- These figures reflect data from the ALC database and include changes in the ALR as a result of exclusion application decisions of the Commission and ALR boundary changes made by Government.
- The ALR area at designation was calculated using manual methods (Dot Matrix or Electronic Planimeter).
- In 2012, the ALR was digitized using GIS. The change to GIS resulted in a 136,649 ha decrease in the ALR as noted below:
    - ALR reported as of March 31, 2012 was 4,759,938 ha.
    - ALR reported as of April 1, 2012 was 4,623,289 ha.
- In April 2015, Order in Council No. 148 permanently excluded 2,775 ha and temporarily excluded an additional 941 ha of land from the ALR for Site C Dam.
- Effective April 5, 2016, the *Tla'amin Final Agreement Act* excluded 935.8 ha of land were excluded from the ALR.
- In 2017/18, the ALC initiated two block exclusions in the Regional District of East Kootenay that excluded a total of 2,813 ha from the ALR.

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Issue: Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) Application Processing Timelines

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **The ALC was ordered, by the Minister of the day to process applications within 60 business days, effective April 1, 2016.**
- **The ALC has and continues to meet the 90 day timeline on average 94% of the time.**
- **If a decision was not released within 90 business days that ALC was also required to refund applicants the ALC portion of the application fee; referred to as the "money back guarantee".**
- **In January 2019, Treasury Board agreed to rescind the directive requiring the ALC to refund application fees for decisions that took more than 90 business days to decide.**
- **The ALC is an administrative tribunal, not a permitting agency. The nature of an administrative tribunal is first to ensure procedural fairness. While the ALC agrees that decisions must be delivered in a timely manner, it should not be done at the expense of sound procedure and fairness; some applications just take more time given statutory requirements, and the scope and complexity of applications.**
- **For this reason, the ALC continues to strive to decide applications within 90 business days.**
- **To date in 2018/19, 96% of applications were released within 90 business days.**
- **In 2017/18, 95% of applications were released within 90 business days.**

BACKGROUND:

- Ministerial Order M072 expired April 1, 2017 but the ALC continues to strive to process applications in 90 business days.
- Business days may not be consecutive given the specifics of an application; the ALC may "pause" the business day 'timeline" if more information is requested or if applicant meetings or site visits are requested or required.

2018/2019 APPLICATION PROCESSING TIMELINE STATISTICS (AS OF FEBRUARY 15):

- 297 new applications were received in 2018/2019 fiscal, to date.
- 96% of deficient applications and 97% of complete applications were acknowledged within five business days of receipt of the application.
- 48% of the decisions were released within 60 business days of acknowledgement of the application.
- **96% of the decisions were released within 90 business days.**
- 100% of decisions were provided to applicants within five business days of a decision being released.
- The reasons for applications exceeding 60 and 90 days varies (e.g. number of complicated applications, land use planner vacancies)

2017/2018 APPLICATION PROCESSING TIMELINE STATISTICS:

- 310 new applications were received in 2017/2018 fiscal.
- 72% of the decisions were released within 60 business days of acknowledgement of the application.
- **95% of decisions were released within 90 business days.**
- 100% of decisions were provided to applicants within five business days of a decision being released.

2016/2017 APPLICATION PROCESSING TIMELINE STATISTICS:

- In 2016/2017 - 65% of decisions were released within 60 business days.
- In 2016/2017 - **92% of decisions were released within 90 business days.**

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ISSUE: Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) – Application Types and Volumes by Fiscal Year

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **A landowner may submit an application to the ALC to conduct a land use that is not expressly permitted by the ALC Act and Agricultural Land Reserve Use, Subdivision and Procedure Regulation.**
- **The ALC reviews applications for: inclusion, exclusion, subdivision, non-farm use, soil (extraction and fill) and transportation, utility, recreational corridor uses.**
- **On average, the ALC decided on 395 applications annually over the past five fiscal years (2013/2014 to 2017/2018).**
- **Over the past five fiscal years, the greatest number of applications have been received, in descending order, by the North, South Coast and Okanagan panel regions.**
- **Over the past five fiscal years, the top three applications types have been (in descending order): Subdivision (37%), Non-Farm Use (28%), Exclusion (13%).**
- **Subdivision has historically been the most common application type and pressure on the ALR.**
- **The ALC must review each application individually based on its merits, which can make it difficult to predict whether an application will be approved or refused. Approval or refusal of an application depends on the individual proposal and its relationship to agriculture.**
- **A list of what the Commission typically considers when deciding on applications is available on the ALC's website.**
- **As of February 11, 2019, the ALC has decided on 303 applications this fiscal:**
    - **174 applications (~60%) were approved.**
    - **129 applications (~40%) were refused.**

BACKGROUND:

- The ALC Act and Agricultural Land Reserve Use, Subdivision and Procedure Regulation (ALR Regulation) outline the permitted uses within the ALR. A landowner may make an application to the ALC to conduct a use that is not permitted by the ALC Act and ALR Regulations
- A proposed land use may or may not be compatible in the ALR – but only the ALC has the discretion to decide this by way of an application.
- The ALC has received approximately 45,000 applications for uses that are not permitted by the ALC Act and ALR Regulation since the establishment of the ALR (1972).
- Applications are submitted electronically through the ALC's Application Portal.
- Applications made to the ALC may be decided by the Executive Committee, Regional Panel or CEO. The majority of applications are decided by Regional Panels.
- The ALC may decide to refuse, approve, or approve an alternate proposal for each application.
- Non-farm use applications can include institutional, residential, commercial, industrial and/or recreational uses such as places of worship, second dwellings, warehouses, processing facilities and sports facilities.
- For the 2017/2018 fiscal year, the ALC decided on 391 applications.
    - 263 applications (~70%) were approved.
    - 128 applications (~30%) were refused.
- Over the past five fiscal years (2013/2014 to 2017/2018), on average, the ALC decided on 394.6 applications.
    - On average, 285.2 applications (~70%) were approved.
    - On average, 109.4 applications (~30%) were refused.
- The breakdown of applications over the past five fiscal years is Subdivision (~37%), Non-Farm Use (~28%), Exclusion (~13%), Soil (Extraction and fill) (~9%), Transportation, Utility and Recreational Corridor (~8%), and Inclusion (~5%).

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ISSUE: Compliance and Enforcement at the Agriculture Land Commission (ALC)

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **The ALC Compliance and Enforcement (C&E) Program was established in 2007 in response to increasing complaints of non-compliant activities in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR).**
- **In 2016, the C&E contingent was increased from 2 officers to:**
  - **5 officers, including 1 C&E Coordinator/Officer; and**
  - **a program assistant dedicated to the processing of incoming complaints and referrals from local government.**
- **The 2019/20 budget includes funding for 2 additional C&E officers.**
- **In 2019 the C&E contingent will be increased to:**
  - **7 officers, including 1 C&E Coordinator/Officer; and**
  - **a program assistant dedicated to the processing of incoming complaints and referrals from local government.**

In Fiscal 2018/19:

- **The C&E Program receives an average of 22 new C&E files per month and has 537 current C&E files.**
- **Each officer is managing more than a 100 C&E files annually.**
- **To date, C&E activities by officers have resulted in the the closure of 192 C&E files (i.e. gained compliance), an increase of over 40% from last fiscal. Despite this, the number of new complaints received continues to exceed the number of files closed.**
- **$77,500 has been collected in administrative penalties for non-compliance this fiscal. These are the first penalities ever issued by the ALC.**
- **To date, 32 enforcement actions have been issued this fiscal, including stop work, remediation and penalty orders.**
- **All enforcement actions going back to January 1, 2016 are publicly posted on the Provincial Natural Resource Compliance and Enforcement Database https://a100.gov.bc.ca/pub/ocers/searchApproved.do?submitType=menu**

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BACKGROUND:

- The purpose of the program is to strengthen delivery of the ALC's legislative mandate to ensure that activities taking place within the ALR are consistent with the ALCA. This is achieved by using a combination of education, promotional information and enforcement.
- From 2007-2016, C&E was comprised of two C&E officers.
- The C&E team conducted a number of outreach, education and support meetings with local government staff and other agencies including the following:
    - Spring 2018 meeting with a group of local government staff representing Metro Vancouver municipalities;
    - Forest, Land and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development permitting and C&E staff in Cranbrook
    - Attendance and presentation at the Licensed Inspectors and Bylaw Officers of BC conference in Victoria
- 52% of all new C&E files are referrals from government agencies and 48% are complaints from the public.
- In fiscal 2018/19, the categories of C&E files include: commercial activity (42%); illegal fill activity (40%); multiple dwellings (8%); extraction (6%); breach of conditions (2%); and other (2%) .
- Percentage of C&E files by region: 50% South Coast; 23% Okanagan; 17% Island; 4% Kootenay; 4% North; and 2% Interior.
- From the beginning of fiscal to date, 192 C&E files have been closed after gaining compliance with ALC legislation. The C&E team significantly surpassed their 135 file closures achieved in 2017/18!
- 32 stop work, remediation and penalty orders were issued. In total $77,500 was collected in administrative penalties.
- Enforcement actions since January 2016 are published on the Provincial Natural Resource Compliance and Enforcement Database. The publication of this information, including the names of businesses, is considered to be an additional deterrence (beyond monetary fines) to ensure better compliance with regulatory requirements.
- Increasing C&E activities has increased legal fees and appeal costs.

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AGR-2019-95524

ISSUE: Reconsideration of Panel Decisions Directed by the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) Chair

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **The Chair of the ALC may direct the Executive Committee (Chair and six Vice-chairs) to reconsider an application decision made by a Regional Panel if the Chair considers the decision may not fulfill the purposes of the *Agricultural Land Commission Act (*ALCA), or does not adequately weigh the Zone 2 considerations.**
- **The purposes of the ALC (s. 6 ALCA)**

  (a) to preserve agricultural land;

  (b) to encourage farming on agricultural land in collaboration with other communities of interest;

  (c) to encourage local governments, first nations, the government and its agents to enable and accommodate farm use of agricultural land and uses compatible with agriculture in their plans, bylaws and policies.

- **Zone 2 considerations, in descending order of priority:**

  (a) the purposes of the ALC in s. 6;

  (b) economic, cultural and social values;

  (c) regional and community planning objectives;

- **The Chair's oversight of Panel decisions and reconsideration by the Executive Committee ensures agricultural considerations are at the forefront when applications are considered.**
- **The Chair exercised this authority 15 times in 2018/2019. The Executive Committee overturned nine decisions, upheld two decisions, and varied two decisions.**
- **Subdivision and Exclusion decisions were the most common decisions directed to the Executive Committee for reconsideration in 2018/2019.**

BACKGROUND:

- The authority for the ALC Chair to direct a reconsideration of a Panel decision to the ALC's Executive Committee was established by Bill 19 – 2011, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act* (No. 3), 2011. Chair provided the history and context essential to understanding the issue.
- Section 33.1(1) was further amended by Bill 24 – 2014 ALCA 2014.

2018/2019 YEAR STATISTICS (AS OF FEBRUARY 15, 2019):

- In 2018/2019, the ALC chair directed 15 decisions to the Executive Committee for reconsideration:
    - Nine (9) decisions were overturned
    - Two (2) decisions were upheld
    - Two (2) decisions were varied
    - Two (2) decisions are pending

BY ZONE & PANEL REGION:

- Seven decisions directed to the Executive Committee were from Zone 1
    - South Coast (3) - One decision was overturned, and two were varied
    - Island (1) - One decision is pending
    - Okanagan (3) - Three decisions were overturned
- Eight decisions directed to the Executive Committee were from Zone 2
    - Interior (1) - One decision is pending
    - North (7) -Five decisions were overturned, and two were confirmed
- In 2018/2019, there were no Chair directed reconsiderations involving decisions of the Kootenay Panel.
- In 2018/2019, of the 15 decisions directed by the chair to the Executive Committee for reconsideration, 7(47%) were Exclusions and 4(27%) were Subdivisions.

PREVIOUS YEARS STATISTICS:

- In 2017/2018, the ALC Chair exercised his authority and directed 19 decisions to the Executive Committee for reconsideration.
- In 2016/2017, the ALC Chair directed 9 decisions to the Executive Committee for reconsideration.
- In 2015/2016, the ALC Chair directed 10 decisions to the Executive Committee for reconsideration.

TRENDS - OCTOBER 2015 TO FEBRUARY 2019:

- Of the decsions directed to the Executive Committee for reconsideration, 24% were from Zone 1 and 76% were from Zone 2
- For Zone 1 decisions, 46% were over overturned, 31% were upheld and 15% were varied.
- For Zone 2 decisions, 55% were overturned, 31% were upheld and 12% were varied
- Since October 2015, of all decisions directed by the chair to the Executive Committee for reconsideration , 56% were Subdivisions and 27% were Exclusions.
- Subdivision and Exclusion decisions have consistently been the most common decisions directedby the Chair to the Executive Committee for reconsideration.

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Key messages

Revitalizing the ALR

- Our government is making it clear that farmland is for farming in B.C.
- Over the last 15 years pressures on our farmland has continued to grow – driving the cost of land out of reach for farmers, and allowing valuable farmland to be damaged.
- We're fixing that. In November we passed a bill that
    - Addresses mega-mansions and speculation in the ALR
        - …so that farmers can afford to get onto the land and bring it into production.
    - Cracks down on dumping construction waste and fill in the ALR
        - …to protect our valuable, arable soil.
    - Re-instates one zone for all ALR land in B.C.
        - …to make it clear that the whole ALR benefits from the same strong protections.
- We're protecting farmland:
    - to support prosperity in farming communities,
    - and so that people in B.C. can count on fresh, local food on their tables for years to come.

- The legislation is one step in our government's work to revitalize the ALR and ALC.
- I anticipate more changes coming that focus on strengthening governance and decision making for the ALC.
- It's important that the ALC is able to fulfil its mandate to protect and encourage farming and farmland in B.C. so that local communities can prosper, and we can continue to count on fresh, locally grown food on our tables for years to come.
- Agriculture is a $3 billion industry in B.C.
- For our agriculture sector to be successful, our farmers and ranchers need to have access to the province's most productive farmland.
- We need to ensure the agriculture land continues to be there to support our 17,500 farms that produce over 200 agricultural products.
- These actions will support the agriculture sector to continue to grow and prosper with good paying jobs in every community across the province with a strong, sustainable economy that works for everyone.

ADVICE TO MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE Ministry of Agriculture Date: Jan 18, 2019 Minister Responsible: Minister Lana Popham	**ALC Revitalize Committee Report**

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **I want to thank the committee members for their significant work engaging British Columbians in the development of this report and its recommendations.**

- **The ALR was an incredible, innovative idea when it was enacted in the 1970's, but at that time, no one could have foreseen some of the current pressures that the reserve is facing.**

- **As an administrative tribunal, arm's length from government, their mandate is to preserve agricultural land while encouraging farming.**

- **British Columbians are passionate about the ALR. I've heard from many people over the past year about how we can revitalize the ALR and ALC and protect farming as a livelihood for future generations.**

- **This independent report is another important contribution to the conversation and staff are reviewing the recommendations.**

- **By revitalizing the ALR and the ALC, we are making it easier and more efficient for the ALC to fulfill their mandate of preserving agriculture land in B.C. and encouraging farming and ranching.**

- **The B.C. government has already taken action to revitalize the ALR with 2018 legislation that:**

    - **Restored the integrity of the ALR by reinstating one zone for all ALR land in B.C., making it clear that all land in the ALR benefits from the same strong protections.**
    - **Addressed mega-mansions and speculation in the ALR by limiting new house sizes**
    - **Cracked down on the dumping of construction debris, toxic waste and other fill**

OIL AND GAS

- **The B.C. Government is not considering changes related to oil and gas at this time.**

KEY FACTS:

The Ministry of Agriculture announced the members of the ALR Review Committee, and the high-level expectations of that committee in a news release on Jan. 4, 2018.

The committee, formed in January 2018, is made up of eight British Columbians with diverse agricultural backgrounds and experience who were tasked with leading both the revitalization of the ALR and the ALC and an authentic and meaningful consultation process.

The committee travelled to nine communities around B.C. to hear from regional stakeholders. There were also over 280 written submissions made as part of the engagement process, and over 2,300 British Columbians completed the committee's online survey.

The committee's final report was received by the Ministry on December 4, 2018.

ALR FACTS

The ALR includes 46,159 square kilometres of B.C. that are preserved for agricultural use, which is equivalent to just 5 per cent of B.C.'s total land base.

Land in the ALR falls into one of seven soil classes, ranging from Class 1 (wide range of crops can be grown without difficulty) to Class 7 (unsuitable for soil-based agriculture or sustained grazing, suitable for barns, greenhouses and processing facilities).

Currently, 10% of the land in the ALR produces 85% of B.C.'s farm receipts (and 3% of ALR land in the South Coast region produces 65% of the province's farm receipts.

By Agricultural Land Reserve region:

Island region - 2% of ALR, 6% of farm receipts
South Coast region - 3% of ALR, 65% of farm receipts
Okanagan region - 5% of ALR, 14% of farm receipts
Kootenay region - 8% of ALR, 2.5% of farm receipts
Interior region - 31% of ALR, 4.5% of farm receipts
North region - 50% of ALR, 8% of farm receipts

Communications:	Meghan McRae	250 952-0622
Program:	Wes Shoemaker	250 XXX-XXXX

Revitalization of the Agricultural Land Reserve and the Agricultural Land Comission

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **One of my key initiatives is the revitalizing of the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) and the Agriculture Land Commission (ALC).**
- **In January 2018, I created an Independent Advisory Committee (Committee) that was tasked at providing strategic advice to inform how to proceed on this important initiative.**
- **I received an interim report in July 2018, and the final report from the Committee in December 2018, that included the comprehensive cumulative suite of recommendations from the Interim Report.**
- **Based on the Committee's recommendations, through Bill 52, action has already been taken to amend the *Agricultural Land Commmission Act* (ALCA) to:**
    - **Restore the integrity of the ALR by reinstating one zone for all ALR land in B.C., making it clear that all land in the ALR benefits from the same strong protections.**
    - **Address mega-mansions and speculation in the ALR by limiting new house sizes**
    - **Crack down on the dumping of construction debris, toxic waste and other fill**
- **These amendments to the ALCA were brought into law on February 22, 2019.**
- **More work is needed. A spring bill is being introduced to strengthen the governance and independence of the ALC, mandated to preserve the ALR and to encourage farming and ranching through their work with local governments and First Nations Governments.**
- **Ministry staff are working with their provincial colleagues and the ALC to review the recommendations in the final report that have not already advanced.**

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BACKGROUND:

- On January 4, 2018 the Minister of Agriculture created the Minister's Advisory Committee for the Revitalization of the ALR and ALC.
- The committee members included, Vicki Huntington (Chair), Chief Byron Louis, Lenore Newman, Arzeena Hamir, Shaundehl Runka, Brian Underhill, Chris Kloot and Irmi Critcher. The members have diverse agricultural backgrounds and experience and were tasked with leading both the revitalization of the ALR and the ALC and an authentic and meaningful consultation process (see attached bios).
- The committee travelled to nine communities around B.C. to hear from regional stakeholders. There were also over 280 written submissions made as part of the engagement process, and over 2,300 British Columbians completed the committee's online survey.
- As per the Advisory Committee's Terms of Reference (see attached), the Advisory Committee provided strategic advice and policy guidance to the minister, and was responsible for delivering recommendations on how to best achieve the mandate commitment of "Revitalizing the ALR and ALC" based on the outcome of a broad engagement process with stakeholders across the province.
- The Advisory Committee provided recommendations to the Minister on matters related to revitalization of ALR and ALC; specifically, to inform potential changes to the current legislative, regulatory, and administrative framework. The Advisory Committee is not a decision-making body, all decisions rest with the Minister and the government.
- The guiding principles for the Advisory Committee's work included:
    1. Focusing on the future of the ALR and ALC
    2. Evaluating policy issues that inhibit the purposes of the ALR and ALC
    3. Evaluating what is working well
    4. Developing recommendations that:
        - work toward improving the purposes of the ALR and ALC;
        - clearly identify the issues, goals and objectives that will strengthen the ALR and ALC in pursuing the purposes;
        - suggest a strategy on how to achieve the goals and objectives;
        - include, where possible, data/information that validates the issue as defined; and,
        - are legally sound and are achievable.
- The committee's final report was received by the Minister on December 4, 2018
- In the final report, the Advisory Committee has identified three strategic shifts:
    1. 'Agriculture First' ALR Governance;
    2. A protected, productive ALR; and,
    3. Farmer & Rancher Relience in the ALR.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- In addition to B.C., two Canadian provinces have developed agriculture "districts" where agriculture is recognized as the priority use: Quebec (1979) and Ontario (2005).
- Quebec's Commission de Protection du Territoire Agricole (the Commission) is similar to the ALC, operating under the Law on Protection of Agricultural Land and Agricultural Activities to protect farmland for agriculture, and restrict its use for non-agricultural purposes. Quebec's agriculture zone encompasses 6.3 million hectares (ALR = 4.7 million hectares).
- The Ontario Greenbelt Plan is broader than B.C.'s ALR, providing protection for

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agricultural and environmental values and a wide range of recreational and tourism uses.

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Minister's Advisory Committee Members: Biographies

Jennifer Dyson (First Chair)

Jennifer Dyson has been involved in many aspects of agriculture; as a producer, consultant, chair, commissioner and industry member. Dyson has participated in the Partnership Committee on Agriculture and the Environment, Environmental Farm Plan Working Group, and Island Agri-Food Initiative. She was appointed to the Agricultural Land Commission in 2008 and served as chair of the Island Panel until 2017. Dyson served the agriculture industry, province and federal government as the executive director of the Agricultural Workforce Policy Board formed to respond to human resources challenges. Dyson was one of a handful of people who formed the Island Farmers Alliance and served as the Western Women's representative appointed by the BC Agriculture Council to the Canadian Federation of Agriculture. Dyson and her family operate an innovative water buffalo dairy and direct farm market in the Alberni Valley.

Vicki Huntington (Second chair)

Victoria Huntington is a native of Vancouver and has a degree in political science. She spent much of her early career in the RCMP security service and subsequently working with ministers of the Crown in Ottawa. She served five terms as an elected councillor in the municipality of Delta. Huntington was elected as an Independent MLA for Delta South in May 2009 and re-elected in May 2013. She was the first Independent elected to the BC Legislature in over 60 years and her re-election as an Independent is a first in modern BC political history. She recently retired in 2017. Huntington served as band manager for the Gitanmaax Indian Reserve in Hazelton, subsequently becoming a policy assistant to the federal Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. She was vice-chair of the Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee (LMTAC) and its representative on the Provincial Treaty Negotiating Team. Huntington has shown a particular interest in environmental and agricultural matters.

Chief Byron Louis

Chief Byron Louis has over 25 years of knowledge and experience, at various levels of the political spectrum. First, elected to Council in 1991, then designated as chair of the Okanagan Nation Fisheries Commission in 1995 and as a title and rights advisor at the Tribal Council and regional level, and political liaison designate with U.S.-based tribal, public and private utilities (hydroelectric generation) and state and federal authorities. Over the course of his career he has served in various facets of political office involving natural resource management, economic development, public works, community planning, liaison and strategic development and negotiation with various levels of senior government and the private sector. Louis continues to work extensively on First Nations social and economic issues and interests and is currently Ministry of Agriculture serving his fourth term as Chief of the Okanagan Indian Band. In 2015, he took on the role of director with the New Relationship Trust, an independent non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening First Nations in BC through capacity building.

Lenore Newman

Lenore Newman holds a Canada Research chair in Food Security and Environment at the University of the Fraser Valley, where she is an associate professor in the department of geography and the environment and the director of the Centre for Food and Farmland Innovation. She runs a research program focused on farmland preservation, agriculture on the rural/urban fringe, culinary development, and food innovation, and consults widely on how to protect the world's farmland while growing the agricultural industry. Her opinion pieces on the future of farmland use and other food-related issues have been published in the Globe and Mail, the Vancouver Sun, and the Georgia Straight. Her first book, Speaking in Cod Tongues: A Canadian Culinary Journey, was published in 2017. She holds a PhD in environmental studies from York University. Newman is a member of the Royal Society of Canada's New College, and the patron of the Newman Heritage Farm. She splits her time between Vancouver and the Sunshine Coast.

Chris Kloot

Chris Kloot was born and raised on a dairy farm in Chilliwack. Today, with his wife and sons, he owns and operates a poultry farm in Rosedale, just east of Chilliwack. Recently, the pair became partners in the purchase of a vacant dairy farm with the intent to branch into dairy farming, as all three of their sons work on dairy farms and display a natural affinity for the industry. Kloot is also a real estate agent, and is serving his first term on Chilliwack City Council. His tremendous passion for agriculture has been recognized by the council. Kloot is the chair of the city's Agricultural and Rural Advisory Committee and was instrumental in the implementation of the Farm Home Plate bylaw in 2017. He is a member of the Chilliwack Agricultural Commission and devoted to the promotion and success of agriculture and agri-business in Chilliwack. You may recognize him as one of the lead roles in the flashy humorous action trailer of the "Chicken Squad", a savvy innovative online marketing campaign to promote BC Chicken and share accurate facts to educate consumers about Canadian chicken growing practices. This was produced in 2014 by the BC Chicken Marketing Board and BC Chicken Growers Association.

Shaundehl Runka

Shaundehl Runka has worked in land-use planning and resource management in British Columbia since the early 1990s. With a background in geography, Runka operated as a consultant dealing with a broad range of land- and water-use issues, across all regions of the province. In 2001, Runka joined the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) as a policy analyst, ending her career there in early 2017 in the policy planner position. Runka gained extensive experience interpreting the *Agricultural Land Commission Act*, regulation and policies and in working with Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) stakeholders throughout the province on a day-to-day basis. During her tenure at the ALC, she participated in legislative and regulatory reviews and carried out an extensive re-write of ALC policies to reflect government direction and the commission mandate. Runka was raised in in the Okanagan Valley, has lived in Vancouver for 30 years and is co-owner of a family farm in Baldonnel in the Peace region. Her professional life has taken her to all regions of the province.

Irmi Critcher

Irmi Critcher and her husband Barry own and operate a first generation grain and oilseed farm. The 1,600 hectare farm is located near Taylor, in the Peace River District. Critcher has always taken a very active role on the farm and jointly manages it with her husband. They have been farming for over 25 years and grow wheat, barley, oats, canola, peas and grass seeds. Critcher has been the past president of the BC Grain Producer's Association and has held director positions on provincial and federal agriculture Industry boards including the BC Grain Industry Development Council, Investment Ag Foundation and Grain Growers of Canada. She has chaired numerous committees within these associations including Localized Crop Research, Environment and Climate Action Initiatives.

Arzeena Hamir

Arzeena Hamir is a farmer and agronomist from the Comox Valley. She earned her bachelor's degree in crop science from the University of Guelph and her master's degree in Sustainable Agriculture from the University of London, England. In 2007, she spoke at her first city council meeting to save the Garden City Lands in Richmond. Since then, she has advocated for community food security, farmland conservation and supports for new farmers. She is currently president of the Mid Island Farmers Institute and a director of the Investment Agriculture Foundation.

Brian Underhill

Brian Underhill worked in varying capacities at the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) since 1980 and most recently, he was the ALC's deputy chief executive officer, before retiring in 2015. In his leadership role, Underhill was responsible for the management and administration of the ALC staff secretariat which included functions related to land-use planning, policy development and interpretation, as well as compliance and enforcement and land information services. Underhill worked closely with the chair of the ALC and its appointed commissioners, providing strategic advice and recommended courses of action. He also performed statutory land-use decision-making duties, consultation and co-ordination with local governments throughout the province and collaboration with provincial government ministries, agencies and other administrative tribunals to ensure consistency between policies and legislation and community and regional planning and the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* and regulations. By way of his experience at the Agricultural Land Commission, his background in geography and resource management studies and extensive travel throughout the province, Underhill has developed considerable knowledge of land-use issues in relation to community planning and the agriculture industry. Underhill resides in Vancouver and has a special interest in promoting education and awareness of farmland protection and how it is related to the provincial policy to preserve agricultural land and encourage farming throughout British Columbia.

Minister of Agriculture's Advisory Committee

Terms of Reference

Purpose:

The Minister of Agriculture's Advisory Committee for the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) (Advisory Committee) will provide strategic advice and policy guidance to the minister, and will be responsible for delivering recommendations on how to best achieve the mandate commitment of "Revitalizing the ALR and ALC" based on the outcome of a broad engagement process with stakeholders across the province.

Outcomes:

The Advisory Committee will provide recommendations to the Minister on matters related to revitalization of ALR and ALC; specifically, to inform potential changes to the current legislative, regulatory, and administrative framework. The Advisory Committee is not a decision-making body, all decisions rest with the Minister and the government.

Principles:

To ensure a focussed review, the following principles provide additional parameters:

- Work will be forward looking, and focus on the future of the ALR and ALC;
- Recommendations will work towards improving the purposes of the ALR and ALC;
- Establish fair and unbiased evaluations of policy issues that are challenging the purposes of the ALR and ALC and also evaluate what is working well;
- Recommendations will come with clear identification of the problem, goals (desired end state), objectives (end-results that contribute to goals, rationale and a proposed solution or strategy (how to achieve and objective).
- Where possible, data/information to validate magnitude and the impacts (both positive and negative) will be included with recommendations.
- Recommendations need to be legally sound, and achievable.

Membership and Governance:

The Advisory Committee will report directly to the Minister and will have an appointed Chair to provide neutral and unencumbered leadership.

Membership is determined by the Minister, and includes representatives from across the province that has knowledge and experience of the ALR and understands the ALC.

Deliverables:

- Detailed work plan, budget and engagement plan to be approved by Minister;
- Monthly reports on progress to implement work plan and achievement of expected deliverables;
- Provide input on a discussion paper to be used to guide broad public engagement;
- Conduct regional engagement in seven communities across the province;
- Early recommendation report on proposed legislative amendments to be considered by the Minister based on consultations and research findings (due in April 2018); and,
- Final recommendation report.

Term:

Advisory Committee members are requested to commit for a one year term from the date of the initiation meeting.

Confidentiality:

The Advisory Committee members are expected to hold their conversations in confidence. Members must not discuss or disclose the nature or content of these conversations with the public or the media as Cabinet confidentiality applies to advice and recommendations to be considered by a Minister or by the Executive Council (Cabinet). Similarly, written submissions and background materials prepared to inform discussions must not be disclosed publically, without prior permission. All draft deliverables must be submitted to the Minister for approval on a schedule of check-in points up to the final deliverable due dates.

Meetings:

The Advisory Committee is expected to meet at least once per month, and organize face to face meetings to coincide with engagement face to face sessions in seven communities across the province.

Roles and Responsibilities:

Chair

- Responsible for ensuring all deliverables are fully completed on time and presented to the Minister according to the timelines.
- Responsible for ensuring that all deliverables are: of good quality, clear, based on verified information, unbiased and address the purpose of the Advisory Committee.
- Sets agenda for meetings and ensures meetings achieve their purposes.
- Makes decisions on allocating specific work to the members.
- Requests advice from Ministry staff on aspects of the work that relate to government processes to ensure that recommendations can be implemented.
- Attends and participates in meetings.
- Provides policy and strategic advice to guide the initiative.
- Participate and/or lead regional engagement sessions.
- Contribute to the development of early and final recommendations for the minister.
- Identifies issues or conflicts as they arise for the minister.
- Works with the ministry staff to support coordination of the overall initiative.

Members

- Attend and participates in meetings.
- Provides policy and strategic advice to guide the initiative.
- Participate in regional engagement sessions.
- Contribute to the development of early and final recommendations for the minister.

Remuneration:

Members will volunteer their time, and be reimbursed travel expenses as per the provincial government guidelines for public servant travel.

Secretariat Support:

The Advisory Committee will be supported by ministry staff, which will be responsible for secretariat support.

Ministry Involvement:

The Ministry will be responsible for, and will need input from the Advisory Committee on the following items:

- Creating the final, overall engagement strategy and plan.
- The discussion paper for January 2018 that will launch engagement.

- Conducting targeted stakeholder and the online portions of the engagement process.
- Preparing any documents related to legislative changes, program changes or policy changes.

The Ministry may also provide a representative to accompany the Advisory Committee at the regional meetings as needed.

Advisory Committee Membership List:

Name	Role	Email	Phone 1	Phone 2
Jennifer Dyson	Chair	awpb@island.net	s.22 (Mobile)	(250)724-0876 (home)
Arzeena Hamir	Member	ArzeenaHamir@shaw.ca	(250) 702-5657	
Chris Kloot	Member	Ckloot@sutton.com	(604) 703-4335	
Dr. Lenore Newman	Member	Lenore.newman@ufv.ca	(604) 754-0569	(604) 504-7441 x4805 new
Vicky Huntington	Member	Vhuntington@dccnet.com	(604) 817-2129	
Chief Byron Louis	Member	Byron.Louis@okanagan.org	(250) 306-8883	
Shaundehl Runka	Member	srunka@sfu.ca	(604) 868-1552	
Brian Underhill	Member	s.22		
Irmi Critcher	Member	s.22		

New Requirements for Large Homes on the ALR

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **The building of mansions and lifestyle estates on ALR land in urban areas has steadily increased in recent years, inflating farmland prices and preventing new, often younger farmers from being able to purchase farmland. We are fixing that.**
- **In November 2018, amendments to the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* (ALCA) were introduced to limit new house sizes to less than 500m^2, [~5400 sq. ft], except through application to the ALC in cases where it would support farming.**
- **The legislation addresses mega-mansions and speculation in the ALR.**
- **For those landowners that want a larger house size than 500m^2, they can apply to the ALC for this consideration if they have support from their local governments.**
- **Local governments will have the authority to set lower house limits in their respective jurisdictions. Many already have including Richmond and Kelowna.**
- **To ensure fairness, those landowners will be grandfathered to continue to build their larger homes if all their authorizations to construct or alter a primary residence granted when the ALCA comes into force by regulation, and if construction of the foundation has been substantially begun by November 5, 2019.**
- **The amendments under ALCA became law on February 22, 2019.**
- **The revitalization of the ALR and the ALC will ensure the province's best farmland is protected and available for farming and ranching, so that British Columbians can have a safe, secure supply of locally grown food on their table, and communities can prosper.**

BACKGROUND:
Bill 52 introduced in November 2018, placed a maximum house size on all land within the ALR of 500m^2, which is about 5,400 square feet.

For private landowners who want a larger house than the provincial maximum house size, and that is not limited by local government bylaws, they can apply to the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) for consideration of the larger house size. Important to note, that as per the current ALC application process, the local government will need to review and forward the application to the ALC before it can be considered.

Local governments are currently responsible for planning and zoning matters, including approving and issuing permits for primary residential and related uses in the ALR. Official Community Plans (OCP) must identify agriculture on lands in the ALR and may have additional policies to support the maintenance and enhancement of farming.

Local governments are able to set lower maximum house sizes in their respective jurisdictions, based on their community's needs. The maximum house size measurement was taken from the Minister of Agriculture's Bylaw Standards that was developed through extensive consultation involving local governments. Some local governments have bylaws restricting house size well below this maximum, while others exceed it or have no restrictions at all.

When Bill 52 was introduced, it was recognized that there were landowners in the process of building a house larger than the provincial maximum of 500m2. Grandfathering was extended to landowners to continue to finish the larger house if:

- all authorizations from local governments were in place when the new regulation became law; and,
- had their foundation substantially constructed by November 5, 2019.

This means that landowners who had all authorizations in place when the regulation became law on February 22, 2019 AND will begins substantial construction of their foundation by November 5, 2019, will be grandfathered to proceed to finish their larger house size.

Those landowners who did not yet have all authorizations from local governments in place when the regulation becomes law will not be eligible for grandfathering to proceed to build a larger house size. These landowners will require an approval by the ALC on a case-by-case basis if their local government forwards the application for consideration.

The authority to develop housing in the ALR flows from local governments' official community plans, zoning bylaws and building permits under the *Local Government Act* and *Community Charter* and is influenced by limits on specific types of housing as found in the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* (ALCA). The Ministry of Agriculture provides guidance to local governments through the Guide for Bylaw Development in Farming Areas, which contains the Minister's Bylaw Standards.

The provincial maximum house size was set based on the Minister's Bylaw Standard in 2011, 'Residential Uses in the ALR Bylaw Standard' that provides local governments with a model that restricts building large residential homes in the centre of ALR lots and ensures the majority of the land is preserved for agricultural use.

The Minister's bylaw standards offer guidance to local governments on many subjects, including development of bylaws to regulate the size and siting of residential uses in the ALR. Local governments are encouraged, but not required, to adopt these standards to promote consistency amongst local governments for the benefit of the farming community.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:
B.C.'s decision making framework for residential uses on agricultural land is consistent with other provinces across Canada. Quebec, B.C. and Ontario have the strongest protections for agricultural land. The ALR is unique to B.C.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

The ALC has an annual operating budget of $4.873M in 2019/20. The ALC will administer and implement legislative changes arising from the legislative reform to "revitalization of the Agricultural Land Reserve and the Agricultural Land Commission". The Ministry is committed to resource the ALC to enable it to meet its increased administrative responsibilities (e.g., staffing, legal and policy development) and will work with the Ministry of Finance to do so.

Approved by:	**Prepared by:**	**Alternate Contact:**
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ADVICE TO MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL ISSUE NOTE Date: Jan 14, 2019 Minister Responsible: Popham	**Large homes on ALR**

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- The B.C. government is protecting the ALR so that communities can prosper, and people can count on a safe, secure supply of locally grown food on their tables for years to come.
- The ALR was not preserved to be a land bank for development; its primary use is for farming.
- The highest and best use for land in the ALR is farming.
- The building of mansions and lifestyle estates on ALR land in urban areas has steadily increased in recent years, inflating farmland prices and preventing new, often younger farmers from growing food. We are fixing that.
- The legislation addresses mega-mansions and speculation in the ALR so farmers can get onto the land and bring it into production, while ensuring that all farming families who need the extra space can apply to the Agricultural Land Commission.

Multi-Generational Farming Families

- To ensure fairness, landowners who have all their authorizations to construct or alter a residence granted when the Act comes into force by regulation, will be grandfathered to continue if construction of the foundation has been substantially begun by November 5, 2019.
- Farmers know that we need to protect farmland in a way that also supports larger farming families. That's what we're doing.
- We recognize that large farming families may need greater living space to support farming. Those families will be able to apply to the ALC for a primary residence larger than 500 m^2, as well as additional residences for farm help.
- We're going to keep listening to people, and if there are challenges with implementation, we will certainly look at these.

BACKGROUND:

In November 2018, legislation to revitalize the ALR and ALC received royal assent. The legislation focused on three key changes:

1. Addressing mega-mansions and speculation in the ALR so that farmers can get onto the land and bring it into production.
2. Cracking down on dumping construction waste and fill to protect our valuable, arable soil.
3. Re-instating one zone for all ALR land in B.C. to make it clear that the whole ALR benefits from the same strong protections.

The legislation requires landowners in the ALR to seek ALC approval if they wish to build a home larger than 500 m^2. The size was taken from a bylaw standard the Ministry of Agriculture developed and adopted in 2011.

For larger farming families, there is an application process to apply to the ALC for a larger house size than the provincial maximum standard. Important to note, that as per the current ALC application process, the local government will need to review and forward the application to the ALC before it can be considered.

To ensure fairness, landowners who have all their authorizations to construct a residence in place when the Act comes into force by regulation, will be grandfathered to continue if construction of the foundation has been substantially has begun by November 5, 2019.

The legislation was in response to pressures on farmland that had accumulated over the last 15 years which had increased the cost of farmland to be out of reach for many farmers and led to farmland being damaged by other uses.

ISSUE: RESIDENTIAL USES IN THE ALR

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **Landowners must now apply for a "non-adhering residential use" for:**
  - **A principal residence larger than 500 m^2**
  - **An additional residence**
- **The ALC has considered residential uses under non-farm use applications for the past 45 years so this is not new.**
- **The ALC has consistently considered residential uses based on:**
  - **current level of agriculture on the property (i.e. intensive agricultural operations)**
  - **number of people involved in agriculture on the property (i.e. most or all of the people in the residences are involved with agriculture on the property)**
  - **minimizing the loss of arable land (i.e. size and siting of residence)**
- **In the past five years (April 2013 – Present) the ALC has decided on approximately 120 applications for additional residential uses**
- **45% of additional residential uses were approved. 55% of additional residential uses were refused.**
- **The primary reason for approving additional residential uses is a demonstration of the necessity for additional farm labor - seasonal or permanent.**
- **The primary reason for refusing additional residential uses in the ALR is that the current agricultural need was not demonstrated.**
- **The ALCA now states that the Commission must not approve an additional residence unless it is necessary for farm use. This is consistent with the Commission's current and past considerations.**
- **It is expected that the Commission will apply a similar agricultural lens to applications for residences larger than 500 m^2.**

BACKGROUND:

- The ALC has been considering non-farm use applications for over 45 years.
- Non-farm uses have included a variety of residential uses such as: additional dwellings for farm help, additional dwellings for rental/vacation purposes, duplexes, apartments, suites, mobile homes, etc.
- Bill 52 has created a new application type called "non-adhering residential uses". Landowners must now apply to the ALC for:
  - A principal residence larger than 500 m^2
  - An additional dwelling for farm help
- Prior to Bill 52, a local government could allow an additional dwelling in the ALR if the local government deemed it to be necessary for farm use.
- Local governments were not required to notify the ALC when accommodation for farm help was approved. The ALC does not know how many additional dwellings for farm help have been approved by local government across the province.
- The ALC is aware of several local governments whose zoning bylaws allow additional dwellings not for farm help accommodation. The ALC has consistently informed local governments, land owners and stakeholders that zoning bylaws that are not consistent with the ALCA are of no force and effect and allowing additional dwellings could create enforcement issues for land owners.
- In a survey of local governments conducted by the ALC in December 2016, local governments identified the regulation and enforcement of multiple dwellings in the ALR as one of their top three planning and enforcement issues/challenges in the ALR.
- The majority of residential use applications are from the South Coast, Island, and Okanagan.

Approved by:	**Prepared by:**	**Alternate Contact:**
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One Zone Changes

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **Returning to 'one zone' recognizes the value of protected farmland throughout B.C. and reinstates a consistent decision-making approach on the ALR.**
- **Having two zones led to a lack of clarity around the protections in place for farmland in B.C. and caused an administrative burden for the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC).**
- **We've fixed that. All land in the ALR is valuable and it is critical that we eliminate the perception that there is greater and lesser agricultural land in B.C. This perception arose because of the two-zone approach.**
- **We now have one provincial Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR).**
- **We also took a more thoughtful approach and created regulation-making powers in the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* that allows government to tailor the allowed uses of the ALR based on the region, geography and other considerations.**
- **This flexibility will allow government to recognize the unique needs of farmers in different areas across the province rather than just dividing the ALR into two zones.**

BACKGROUND:
Over 90 percent of ALR land is currently in zone 2. There are over 2 million hectares of the most easily farmed soil classes (classes 1-4) for agricultural land in zone 2, and only 350,000 hectares of class 1-4 soil in zone 1.

In 2014, two ALC-administered zones were created with different criteria for decision making in each zone. One zone included the Okanagan, Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island, while Zone2 included the Interior, Kootenay and North regions.

With the two zones, the ALC was obligated for all applications, including in zone 2, to first and foremost consider the purposes of the commission in section 6, preserve the ALR and to encourage farming and ranching first, and then the considerations in s. 4.3 related to zone 2 including any additional:

b) economic, cultural and social values;
c) regional and community planning objectives; and,
c) other prescribed conditions.

Bill 52 brought forth an amendment to the ALCA to remove the two zones and create one provincial ALR with consistent provincial decision making across the province. With the removal of two zones, removing the two-zone system ensures better equity in decision-making across the province for farmers and their businesses. The new regulations brought the amendments in Bill 52 under the ALCA into law on February 22, 2019.

The regulations were also amended to remove the different rules that applied to ALR land in zone 2. They permit farmers in zone 2 owning 50 hectares or more to build a second residence on that parcel and permit a retired farmer to stay on the land in their own house by leasing back the small portion land that includes the residence. Landowners will not have to apply to the ALC like all other landowners on the ALR if they wish to proceed on building a second residence or if they would like to lease back a portion of their land to a family member.

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ADVICE TO MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL ISSUE NOTE Date: Jan 14, 2019 Minister Responsible: Popham	One zone in the ALR

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- The B.C. government is protecting the ALRso communities can prosper and people can count on a safe and secure supply of locally grown food on their tables for years to come.
- The B.C. government is making it clear that all land in the ALR needs, deserves and will have the same strong protections.
- Returning to 'one zone' recognizes the value of protected farmland throughout B.C. and reinstates a consistent decision-making approach on the ALR.
- Having two zones led to a lack of clarity around the protections in place for farmland in B.C. and caused an administrative burden for the ALC. We've fixed that.
- We took a more thoughtful approach and created regulation-making powers that allow government to tailor the allowed uses of the ALR based on the region, geography and other considerations.
- This flexibility will allow government to recognize the unique needs of farmers in different areas across the province without use of the blunt instrument of dividing the ALR into two zones.
- The new ALCA provisions include opportunities to clarify uses of the ALR, and streamline the ALC approval process. This will provide farmers with much greater clarity about their applications to the ALC.
- All land in the ALR is valuable and it is critical that we eliminate the perception that there is greater and lesser agricultural land in BC. This perception arose because of the two-zone approach.

BACKGROUND:

In November 2018, legislation to revitalize the ALR received royal assent. The legislation focused on three key changes:

1. Addressing mega-mansions and speculation in the ALR so that farmers can get onto the land and bring it into production.
2. Cracking down on dumping construction waste and fill to protect our valuable, arable soil.
3. Re-instating one zone for all ALR land in B.C. to make it clear that the whole ALR benefits from the same strong protections.

The legislation was in response to pressures on farmland that had accumulated over the last 15 years which had increased the cost of farmland to be out of reach for many farmers and led to farmland being damaged by other uses. Further regulations are expected in the Spring 2019.

In 2014, two ALC-administered zones were created with different criteria for decision making in each zone. One zone included the Okanagan, Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island, while Zone 2 included the Interior, Kootenay and North regions.

Over 90% of ALR land is currently in zone 2. There are over 2 million hectares of the most easily farmed soil classes (classes 1-4) for agricultural land in zone 2, and only 350,000 hectares of class 1-4 soil in zone 1. There are over 200 agriculture crops farmed in B.C. Most ALR properties in the province contain a combination of soil classes and this diversity of soil types provides benefits to farmers and ranchers.

New Limits on Soil/ Fill on the ALR

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **Because of the serious concerns on the placement of unauthorized fill in the ALR as a significant threat to the short and long-term viability of farming in B.C., the Province is addressing this issue.**
- **Recent amendments to the *Agricultural Land Commission Act (*ALCA) and Regulation is cracking down on dumping construction or demolition waste and unauthorized fill in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), to protect B.C.'s valuable, arable farmland.**
- **Greater oversight by the ALC is being put into place including the requirement of a Notice of Intent for the placement of fill for any farm or non-farm use not specified in the Regulation, such as fill used to prepare farm structure foundations.**
- **As was previously exempted in the Regulation, the new amendments have allowed the placement of fill for certain farm and non-farm uses, such as constructing a berm for cranberries, without a Notice of Intent to the ALC.**
- **The CEO will have 60 days to review and provide a decision on the Notice of Intent to either proceed, have conditions placed on the soil/fill activity, or apply to the full Commission for the decision.**
- **This notification will serve as a record to assist the ALC with monitoring, compliance and if necessary, enforcement.**
- **New offences for dumping unauthorized fill have been created which include maximum penalties of $1 million or six months imprisonment for a first offence.**

BACKGROUND:
In November 2018, legislation to revitalize the ALR received royal assent. The legislation focused on three key changes:

1. Addressing mega-mansions and speculation in the ALR so that farmers can get onto the land and bring it into production.
2. Restoring the integrity of the ALR by reinstating one zone for all ALR land in B.C., making it clear that all land in the ALR benefits from robust protection.
3. Cracking down on the dumping of construction debris and unauthorized fill in the ALR that can irreparably damage arable soil on valuable farmland through increased oversight and penalties

The change in legislation was in response to pressures on farmland that had accumulated over the last 15 years which had increased the cost of farmland to be out of reach for many farmers and led to farmland being damaged by other uses. Further regulations are expected in the Spring 2019.

Primarily due to a significant increase in construction activity in urban areas, there has been a substantial increase in the amount of unauthorized fill, including construction and demolition waste, being placed on ALR land. In many cases, ALR property owners are accepting large quantities of fill in exchange for substantial sums of money. The average tipping fee for accepting fill ranges between $50 to $200 a load depending on the location. For an average fill site of 6000 loads this works out to $300,000 to $1,200,000.

Dumping fill onto land in the ALR significantly degrades the productive capacity of the land and in certain cases, can permanently destroy the land for future agricultural production. Unauthorized fill material such as construction, or demolition waste, including masonry rubble, concrete, cement, rebar, drywall, wood waste, asphalt, glass, synthetic polymers, treated wood or unchipped lumber are strictly prohibited.

In 2018, the ALC had 191 compliance and enforcement files related to fill, representing 45 percent of all total compliance and enforcement files. The majority of complaints are in the South Coast panel region, where the ALR is threatened by rapid urban development.

Changes to the ALC Act ensure that dumping construction waste and other types of unauthorized fill on farmland will be prohibited, with strong penalties for enforcement. New offences for illegal fill and soil removal have been created with maximum penalties of $1 million or six months imprisonment for a first offence.

The new legislative requires that landowners provide notification to the ALC and that approval is obtained prior to depositing any fill in the ALR. This enhanced oversight will be balanced with exemptions for farmers and ranchers that bring fill onto their parcel(s) as part of their regular maintenance and farm operations.

Following the announcement of Bill 52 and the requirement to submit a notice to place fill in the ALR, the ALC has seen a dramatic increase in the number of notices to place fill and remove soil in the last 5 months; up from an average of 30 per year to just over 100 notices year to date.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- Not applicable.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

The ALC has an annual operating budget of $4.599M. To administer and implement anticipated legislative changes arising from the legislative reform to "revitalization of the Agricultural Land Reserve and the Agricultural Land Commission", a Treasury Board submission was put forward for consideration in Budget 2019 process to resource the ALC for the increased administrative responsibilities to provide staffing, and support increase legal and policy development costs. The request was to increase operating costs to $5.324M, a budget lift of $.0885M.

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FOREIGN OWNERSHIP OF AGRICULTURAL LAND

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **In Canada, owners of farmland are required to follow all relevant federal, provincial and local government laws and regulations, regardless of their country of residence.**
- **In 2018, the B.C. Government announced an increase to the additional property purchase tax rate (foreign buyers' tax) to 20 per cent which had previously only applied to Metro Vancouver, but has now been extended to the Fraser Valley, Nanaimo, Victoria and Central Okanagan Regional District.**
- **This will help address housing affordability in B.C. by reducing foreign demand and curb speculation in the residential property market.**
- **B.C. protects farmland for agricultural use through the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* and the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), rather than through controlling ownership.**
- **In January 2018, I created an Independent Advisory Committee (Committee) that was tasked at providing strategic advice to consider for the Revitalization of the ALR and the Agricutural Land Commission (ALC).**
- **I received the final report from the Committee that included a recommendation to adopt policies on foreign ownership of ALR land – similar to those of other Canadian jurisdictions.**
-
- **We are reviewing that report and intend to make it public soon.**

AGR-2019-95524

Background:

- British Columbia does not have legislation regulating foreign ownership of farmland.
- B.C. protects farmland for agricultural use through the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* and the ALR, rather than through controlling ownership.
- The B.C. Government has committed to taxing foreign and domestic speculators that push the price of housing in B.C. beyond the reach of many residents.
- In budget 2018 it was announced that the Province's examination of the property tax treatment of residential property in the ALR was part of a broader review of the ALR to ensure land in the ALR is being used for farming.
- Changes to the *Property Transfer Tax Act* in 2016 authorize the collection of information from owners when they register their property. Concurrently, B.C. resumed collecting data that specifically identifies foreign purchasers.
- Data from the Ministry of Finance collected from September 1, 2017 to December 31, 2018:
    - A total of 164,501 property transfer transactions (PTT) occurred in BC during this time.
    - Of the total PTT in the province, 3% were foreign-involved.
    - The provincial average price of foreign-involved PTT was 66% higher than the Canadian-involved PTT.
    - Farm PTT made up 0.7% (1,175) of the total PTT for the period.
    - Of the 1,175 farm transfers only 87 (7%) were foreign-involved transactions.
- Comparing farm property values:
    - The average price of foreign-involved farm properties was $461,371 that is 53% lower than the average price of Canadian-involved farm properties at $974,322.
- B.C.'s ALR preserves B.C.'s farmland for future generations and was established in 1973. Several other provinces have similar farmland protection zones: Ontario and Quebec.
- B.C. protects farmland for agricultural use through the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* and the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), not by regulating ownership.
- B.C. recognizes the importance of land use and affordability in the ALR, and that land in the ALR should be used for farming.
- In addition, any and all owners of land in B.C.'s ALR must abide by all regulations and decisions of the Agricultural Land Commission.
- The ALR is managed by an independent Agricultural Land Commission with a clear mandate: to preserve agricultural land and encourage farming and ranching in B.C.
- Local governments are responsible for housing and building permit decisions.
- The Ministry of Agriculture created a bylaw standard in November 2011 guiding local governments in developing bylaws for siting and size of residential uses in the ALR. This helps to ensure that the majority of the land is preserved for agricultural use.
- The Minister's Advisory Committee on the Revitalization of the ALR and the ALC travelled across the province and met with stakeholders and received submissions seeking feedback and opinions on the ALR.
- The results from the online feedback form, written submissions and face-to-face meetings have been complined and can be found in the What the Committee Heard Report.
- An Interim Report to the Minister of Agriculture has also been posted.
- The Advisory Committee's interim report noted the key issues under consideration by the Committee for its Final Report to the Minister. The Minister received the Committee's Final Report in December 2018 and has directed Ministry staff to review and advise on the recommendations.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- Several provinces have enacted legislation to regulate foreign ownership of farmland: Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Quebec, and Prince Edward Island.

Alberta:

- The *Agricultural and Recreational Land Ownership Act* monitors and controls acquisition of prime agricultural and recreational land by non-Canadians.
- The Act restricts ownership by non-Canadians to no more than 2 parcels totaling no more than 20 acres in total.

Saskatchewan:

- *The Saskatchewan Farm Ownership Act* was passed in 1974. It has since become part of *The Saskatchewan Farm Security Act*.
- Canadian residents or citizens, entities (corporations or membership-based organizations) which are 100% Canadian-owned and are not publicly traded, and designated relatives acquiring land from eligible Canadian residents, are not affected. Ineligible individuals/entities must apply to the Farm Land Security Board for an exemption to acquire an interest in more than 10 acres of farm land.

Manitoba:

- The *Farm Lands Ownership Act* limits foreign interest in farm land to 40 acres.
- Non-Canadian individuals and corporations may apply for an exemption (administered by the Manitoba Farm Industry Board) to acquire an interest in more than 40 acres of farm land.

Quebec:

- *An Act Respecting the Acquisition of Farm Land by Non-Residents* is in place.
- Non-residents and foreign-controlled entities must get permission to buy more than four hectares (or about 10 acres) of agricultural land from the Commission de la Protection du Territoire Agricole du Quebec (their equivalent to the ALC)

Prince Edward Island (PEI)

- The *Lands Protection Act* prevents non-resident persons or corporations from owning, renting or leasing an aggregate of more than 5 acres of land.
- PEI's Regulatory and Appeals Commission issues exemptions to a maximum of 1,000 acres per person, and 3,000 acres per corporation.

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ISSUE/PROGRAM: Agricultural Land Use Inventory (ALUI)

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **Agricultural Land Use Inventories (ALUIs) collect consistent, credible and comprehensive data about land use and land cover on agricultural lands.**
- **This data describes how B.C.'s designated farmland within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) is being used, including non-agricultural uses.**
- **Since 2007, 3.7 million hectares of agricultural land and 70 percent of the ALR has been inventoried in B.C.**
- **The goal is to complete the remainder of the province by 2022 as reflected in the Ministry's current Service Plan.**
- **The work generates a wealth of information for the sector, local governments and the Province. Without ALUI, the question of how ALR land is being used would be largely unknown.**
- **The data:**
    - **Measures farmland utilization, farmland vacancy, and non-agricultural uses on designated farmland within the ALR.**
    - **Informs emergency response for environmental disasters and animal health events, such as wildfire or Avian Influenza.**
    - **Contributes to our understanding of climate change impacts, associated risks and adaptation opportunities.**
    - **Informs a wide array of research on topics such as wildlife habitat, species at risk, water quality, and any other area-based work on agricultural lands.**
- **Several climate related predictive models rely on ALUI data, including the Agricultural Water Demand Model and Agricultural Air Emissions Model.**
- **ALUIs are a key tool for developing agriculturally supportive local government bylaws and policies, which contribute to the economic success of the sector.**

BACKGROUND:

- ALUIs show how B.C.'s agricultural land is being used on designated farmland within the ALR. Since 2007, 3.7 million hectares of farmland (and 70 per cent of the ALR) has been inventoried, with a goal of completing the remainder of the province by 2022.
- Updating an ALUI captures land use changes in the ALR over time. Updates have been completed in the Okanagan and Metro Vancouver and are underway in the Pemberton Valley.
- New remote sensing technologies have been developed to inventory larger more remote areas in the North. The Peace has been completed and 1 million hectares in the Cariboo are underway.
- Results are now being published as comprehensive online mapping applications that allow users to view the data and generate custom summarizations.
- The Ministry of Agriculture continually collaborates with GeoBC, National Research Council, and Agriculture and Agrifood Canada to improve ALUI methods.
- Each ALUI project utilizes a unique mix of partnerships and resources, including local governments, nonprofit organizations, and community interest groups.
- ALUIs have informed numerous key provincial strategies/projects. Some examples are:
    - Supported policy decisions for changes to the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* (ALCA) and the Agricultural Land Reserve Use, Subdivision and Procedure Regulation (ALRUSPR), including siting and size of residential uses in the ALR.
    - Supported emergency responders during the 2017 and 2018 wildfires, 2017 flooding, 2015 Oliver rock slide, 2015 drought, and 2014 avian influenza. ALUI data can be overlaid with flood or fire hazard areas to give localized estimations of impact.
    - Informed regional land use decisions including Official Community Plans and Zoning Bylaw updates; most local governments will undertake an ALUI as a prerequisite to an Agricultural Area Plan.
    - Provided agricultural land cover data for climate adaptation strategies completed by B.C,'s Climate Action Initiative.
    - Provided agricultural land cover data for innovative resource management tools including the Agricultural Water Demand Model and Agricultural Air Emissions Model; both important tools to understand the effects of Climate Change and adaptation strategies.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- ALUIs are unique to B.C. Agriculture and Agrifood Canada use ALUIs for their National Crop Inventory to more accurately describe B.C.'s unique small lot agriculture in a national context.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- AGRI has two FTEs allocated to ALUIs.

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ISSUE/PROGRAM: Agritech

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **B.C. is globally recognized for its diverse agriculture landscape, thriving tech sector and strong research community. These conditions have propelled emerging opportunities for development and commercialization of agriculture technology (agritech).**

- **B.C.'s agritech sector is a vital and expanding network of investors, researchers and businesses that are developing and adopting technology for and in the agrifood and seafood sector.**

- **The B.C. agritech cluster has grown to more than 150 companies.**

- **Agritech solutions have the potential to address climate change and production issues in the face of a growing global population with shifting demands and expectations regarding food traceability and sustainability.**

- **Agritech also has significant benefits for domestic application. Increased adoption leads to competitiveness and enhanced production for the sector, enhances provincial food security and fosters a culture of innovation to transform traditional sectors across the province.**

- **B.C. is well positioned to build on its competitive advantages, cement its reputation as a leading jurisdiction for agritech and encourage transformative technology development in other natural resource sectors.**

- **The Ministry is committed to providing opportunities to innovators and technology providers to create market opportunities for and enhance the competitiveness of B.C. agritech companies and to further grow and develop the agritech sector.**

AGR-2019-95524

BACKGROUND:

- B.C. is home to a growing cohort of over 150 agritech companies that are producing world-class innovations with domestic and global market application.
- Innovation that supports agrifood sector improvements and growth is a focus of the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a five year (2018/19-2022/23) Federal/Provincial/Territorial agreement. Through its Innovation CAP programming the Ministry has been able to provide cost shared funding to projects that utilize tech to solve real-life agricultural challenges.
- In March at the 2019 #BCTECH Summit, in collaboration with Innovate BC, the ministry launched an Agritech Challenge that will focus on innovative technology solutions for the food processing, food traceability, precision agriculture and bioproducts sectors. Proponents will be invited to apply to the Challenge in the coming weeks and have access of up to a total of $150,000 in seed funding. The Ministry is looking forward to highlighting the results of the challenge at a future Summit.
- This will be the Ministry's second agritech challenge opportunity. In 2016 the Ministry challenged innovators and technology providers to create market opportunities and ehance the competitiveness of the agriculture and agrifoods sector. The outcomes from that challenge's six winners included 22 new jobs created, 21 new or prospective customers identified, $125,000 new revenue generated (projected to reach $1,200,000) and $800,000 in new investments secured.
- At the 2019 #BCTECH Summit the ministry showcased high growth potential companies (at least four) in the agritech sector and facilitated conversations around the future of the sector.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- s.17

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AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **African Swine Fever (ASF) is a very lethal, contagious viral disease that very recently (since August 2018) has been spreading and killing pigs in parts of Europe, and China to an extent never seen before.**
- **ASF does not affect humans.**
- **African Swine Fever has never been detected in Canada, but is present in: China, *African countries, Georgia*, Armenia, *Russia*, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, Belarus, Lithuania, Poland, Latvia, Estonia, Romania, Czech Republic, Belgium. The italicized countries are where it was a year ago.**
- **On February 19th 2019 it was announced that ASF has spread into Vietnam with 3 farms reported positive.**
- **The first outbreak of ASF in China was confirmed on August 3, 2018. Since then the virus has spread into most provinces in China with multiple and repeated outbreaks reported. Containing the virus is a serious challenge in a country that owns almost half of the world's domestic pigs. Their current pig production system ranges from modern, large-scale units to backyard farms, which contribute to 27 percent of the national production.**
- **Work previously done to enhance biosecurity on BC pig farms for Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea remains our best protection against ASF**
- **The Animal Health Centre Lab in Abbotsford has been accredited by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to perform the accepted test for ASF and has trained multiple lab scientists to that end.**

BACKGROUND:

- ASF is caused by an Arbovirus that affects all species of swine and also soft ticks (Ornithodoros spp.) . It is quite hardy and lives for prolonged periods in protein rich environments such as blood, feces, and uncooked or undercooked pork. It is inactivated by heating to 60C for 20 mins. It is unaffected by freezing, curing and drying.
- This is one of the most important viral diseases of pigs. It causes a severe hemorrhagic disease with up to 100% mortality in many cases. All age classes of pigs are affected.
- There is no vaccine and there are no treatments.
- Prevention is completely reliant on biosecurity
- Spread is most often through direct oral-nasal contact, and wild boar can become reservoirs
- Indirect contact is possible through uncooked garbage containing infected pork fed to pigs, contaminated feed sources, fomites (vehicles, equipment), feces, bedding, infected ticks (Ornithodoros spp), biting flies, contaminated water supplies
- Incubation period 5 days to 2 weeks
- Introduction and spread of ASF is largely attributed to human activities – feeding garbage with infected pork products, moving sick pigs, and inadequate biosecurity measures
- Protections steps in place in Canada
    - Legal imports are very well controlled. Import controls were already in place due to presence of other foreign animal diseases in China.
    - Canada does not import live pigs or pork products/by-products from China, with the exception of Chinese dumplings. These are produced and cooked in Chinese plants that have been approved by CFIA, and the pork used does not originate from China
    - Canada imports frozen pork from regions of Poland and Hungary that are free of ASF. Pork from any affected zone or any region bordering an affected zone is banned
    - The EU zoning map is being used to avoid importing from contaminated or high-risk zones
    - The Canadian Food Inspection Agency has reviewed, and it is confident in the EU's zoning system for ASF
    - International waste controls are in place to prevent feeding of garbage from foreign countries to livestock
    - Enhanced screening of luggage from ASF positive countries is being carried out by Canadian Border Patrol agents with increased numbers of specially trained sniffer dogs. Multiple countries have reported finding infected pork products in luggage of travelers returning from positive countries.
- Preparedness steps in place in Canada
    - USA and Canada CVO's tasked staff at the North American Animal Health Committee meeting in August 2018 to work together to harmonize prevention, diagnostic and response measures
    - The National FAD Laboratories of the USA, Mexico and Canada are working together to harmonize diagnostic testing. Will verify that correct reagents are available that equivalent results are occurring between the countries.
    - Canadian laboratory specialists are working with Mexican authorities for technology transfer and training.
    - A collaborative research project is currently underway with USDA-APHIS for detection of ASF and FMD
    - Canada's laboratory capacity is currently based at NCFAD in Winnipeg. Currently using the serology ELISA kit from Spain (ASF-OIE reference lab), but developing an

in-house ELISA. RT-PCR from NCFAD has been deployed to CAHSN labs including the Animal Health Centre lab in Abbotsford.

- Possible legal routes of disease introduction
  - Feed ingredients not of animal origin imported from China originating directly or indirectly pose an unknown risk. Recent studies concluded ASF was one of several swine viruses able to survive long distance shipping in common swine feed ingredients. (Dee at al 2018)
  - People and products (visitors to Canadian farms, returning farm workers, hunters, student exchange) coming from any ASF positive country with contaminated clothing, footwear or equipment, packaging, etc. and coming in contact with domestic pigs.
- Possible illegal routes of disease introduction
  - Pork products from ASF affected countries entering Canada in passenger luggage and then being discarded in areas where domestic pigs or wild boars are present; or purposefully feed to pigs
  - Feed ingredients of animal-origin from China
  - Garbage feeding of international waste (via airlines and ships) originating from ASF affected countries and illegally fed to domestic pigs

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- Canada is working in close partnership with the United States and Mexico to keep this disease out of North America
- Wild Boar in infected countries has proven to be a significant obstacle to eradication and controlling spread. BC does not have a significant wild boar population
- The disease has been diagnosed in Belgium very close to the border with France.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- The Animal Health Centre has brought the accredited test for ASF and has had several Laboratory Scientists trained to support delivering this test in BC.

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ANTHRAX

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **The BC Ministry of Agriculture Animal Health Centre Lab in Abbotsford received tissues from dead farmed bison in the Fort St John area on October 19 2018. The history did not indicate that anthrax was suspected. A diagnosis of Anthrax was confirmed on October 21, 2018. This was the first confirmed diagnosis of Anthrax in BC.**
- **BCCDC and Northern Health Region were informed and all messaging was coordinated with all three parties (Agri, BCCDC, and Northern Health). Risk assessments were carried out on all persons with any level of possible exposure by Health.**
- **Anthrax is a very old disease caused by Bacillus anthracis bacteria that primarily affects animals that graze plants. Anthrax is an environmental disease that is not contagious. The disease is contracted from spores in soil. Certain alkali soil types preserve the spores better than others, and certain environmental conditions cause higher levels of spores to be on the surface of the soil. In this case the soil type and the environmental conditions were present.**
- **A diagnosis of Anthrax results in no international trade barriers, and no orders for animals to be destroyed.**
- **An economical, effective vaccine can prevent the disease in bison and cattle.**
- **Anthrax will continue to be rare in BC. The disease can be controlled through carcass disposal and vaccination. The risk to human health is small and easily controlled**

BACKGROUND:

- On Friday Oct 19th the Animal Health Centre (AHC) received tissues from dead bison with a tentative diagnosis of a non-infectious respiratory disease.
- Oct 20, 2018 the head of microbiology reported to Chief Veterinary Officer her suspicion of Anthrax in lab submissions from a bison farm
- Date of confirmed diagnosis: October 22, 2018. This was the first confirmed diagnosis of Anthrax in BC.
- History at Bison form in Fort St John: Number of animals in group: 160 Number sick was eventually over 20 and all died. Bison were on pasture but due to increased stocking density the farm had to feed hay for the last few years as pastures were eaten down to the soil. This with spring summer conditions of heavy rains then high heat brought dormant spores to the surface then concentrated them in dried puddle areas. Close grazing due to poor pastures resulted in high levels of soil exposure.
- This is mainly a disease of herbivores with Bison being the most sensitive animal to Anthrax exposure, followed by Cattle, Deer, Sheep, Horses, Goats, and Pigs in that order. Carnivores and birds are basically unaffected, Humans can get anthrax but only under specific circumstances
- There are essentially three types of disease caused by anthrax and they depend on how the bacteria enter the body; Ingested (eaten / intestines), Cutaneous (via a skin wound), Inhalational (breathed in / lungs
- The most recent cases of human anthrax were in Saskatchewan in 2006 and were people with skin infections that recovered fully. There has never been a case of the digestive or lung form of Anthrax in a person in Canada.
- Weaponized anthrax is very different from natural anthrax spores found soil. In order for anthrax to work as a weapon it needs to be in the air. Natural anthrax does not disperse in the air and needs to be modified for use as a weapon.
- A meeting was hosted in Fort St John to share information on Anthrax and its prevention.
- A follow-up meeting is planned for the spring to make sure everyone knows how to handle a dead animal and make sure the right samples are collected safely.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- In 2006: the last outbreak in Canada was in Saskatchewan from June 26- September 51. It involved 153 premises, in 43 Rural Municipalities, and resulted in 806 livestock deaths
  - Cattle-493 (cattle and bison represent 92%)
  - Bison -254
  - Horse-6
  - Swine -3
  - Ovine -33
  - White Tailed Deer/Elk-13
  - Caprine -2
- In 2005: 12 premises in south west Manitoba. 26 cattle and 10 horses died.
- In 2004: 1 premise, in west central Saskatchewan was affected with 14 cattle deaths
- In 2003: 3 premises in south east Manitoba were affected.
- In 2002: – no cases were reported
- Anthrax was introduced into North America in the late 1600's by French settlers landing in Louisiana. It moved north along a corridor where weather and soil types favor the survival of

anthrax spores. BC is not within that corridor but has pockets of soil types that allow the spores to survive. Anthrax will remain rare in BC.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- The AHC will continue to have the capability to support a diagnosis of Anthrax with final testing being carried out at BCCDC. A full evaluation of the containment and procedures at the AHC for dealing with samples contaminated with Anthrax was carried out by multiple agencies following this incident and no errors were found.

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ADVICE TO MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL ISSUE NOTE **Date: Jan 11, 2019** **Minister Responsible: Lana Popham**	**BOVINE TB Diagnosis**

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- While the public are not at risk, this is devastating news for the rancher involved. It is heartbreaking for a rancher to receive this information, and my thoughts are with them.
- The infected animals did not enter the food chain, so there is no risk to the food supply or to human health.
- Responding to disease outbreaks requires teamwork, and that's what we're seeing here. As a federally reportable disease, the CFIA is continuing their investigation and response into the finding, and the B.C. government is supporting those efforts.
- We continue to be in contact with the rancher involved, and share information with local and indigenous governments and stakeholders.
- The B.C. government continues to support our joint agency response and CFIA's investigation. For more information on the status of the investigation, please contact the CFIA.

BACKGROUND:

- On Oct. 26, 2018 a mature beef cow from the Southern Interior of BC was slaughtered in Alberta that was found to have symptoms of bovine *tuberculosis.* (lesions in lymph nodes, lungs and liver). The diagnosis was confirmed November 8
- The carcass was condemned and no portions of the animal entered the food chain
- CFIA and BC Ministry of Agriculture established a Joint Emergency Operations Centre at the CFIA office in Burnaby to manage the incident
- Over a dozen Ministry of Agriculture staff drawn from across the ministry are currently supporting the response in a variety of different roles at the Joint Emergency Operations Centre, at the Animal Health Center in Abbotsford, remotely, or as part of the field level response
    - AGRI support includes: incident management, epidemiology, laboratory services, mapping and GIS, communications, and recovery
- On January 9, CFIA provided a public update:

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    - A total of four confirmed cases of bovine TB have been found in one herd in the Southern Interior of British Columbia, including the cow that was confirmed to have the disease when it was slaughtered in October 2018.
    - These animals did not enter the food chain and pose no risk to the food supply or to human health. As testing of the index herd continues, additional cases may be detected.
    - Animals from the infected herd have been traced to parts of British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan, and movement controls have been placed on approximately 18,000 animals, which includes 25 premises.
    - The CFIA's Ottawa Laboratory—Fallowfield has completed culture testing of the tissue samples collected from the original infected animal. Test results of the infected herd have identified the strain of bovine TB to be distinct from any cases previously detected in Canadian wildlife or domestic livestock. This strain is not related to past cases of bovine TB in Alberta or British Columbia or anywhere else in Canada.
- Canada has maintained a tuberculosis control program in domestic livestock for decades
    - This control program helps maintain human health, as well as facilitating the ongoing access of Canadian livestock and meat products to many international markets thanks to the very low prevalence of the disease in Canada
    - A corner stone of the program is the identification and rapid investigation of rare instances of the disease in farmed livestock by the CFIA
    - While Canada is considered to be officially free of bovine TB today, isolated cases may occur

Bovine Tuberculosis Information

- Bovine tuberculosis (TB) is a chronic contagious bacterial disease of livestock, and occasionally other species of mammals, resulting from infection with Mycobacterium bovis (M. bovis)
- The bacteria associated with the disease may lie dormant in an infected animal for years without causing clinical signs or progressive disease symptoms
    - It can reactivate during periods of stress or in older animals
- Infected animals with progressive disease shed the bacteria in respiratory secretions and aerosols, feces, milk, and sometimes in urine, vaginal secretions, or semen
    - As a result, disease may be spread in a variety of ways, most commonly through the inhalation of micro-droplets in aerosols from already infected animals and from the ingestion of contaminated food and water
- Certain scenarios can create considerable risk of transmission and introduction of bovine TB into other herds
    - The movement of infected animals from one herd to another with subsequent extended close contact can increase this risk
    - In addition, where infected wildlife are a reservoir of disease, there is the potential for ongoing transmission to livestock.
- Bovine TB can be transmitted from affected animals to people, causing a condition similar to human TB
    - People are most commonly infected through the ingestion of unpasteurized dairy products derived from infected animals
    - Currently the risk to the general population in Canada is considered to be very low due to pasteurization of milk and livestock surveillance and testing programs
- CFIA website provides information on Bovine Tuberculosis including fact sheets, infographics, videos, info for producers, prior outbreaks, and additional information

Bovine Tuberculosis Response

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **The Ministry of Agriculture (AGRI) is actively engaged in the current Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) response working in Unified Command with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to support the impacted producers and manage the disease.**

- **Bovine TB is a chronic contagious bacterial disease of livestock, and occasionally other species of mammals, resulting from infection with *Mycobacterium bovis* (*M. bovis*).**

- **Bovine TB is an infection that can be transmitted from affected animals to people, causing a condition similar to human TB. People are most commonly infected through the ingestion of unpasteurized dairy products derived from infected animals.**

- **Currently the risk to the general population in Canada is considered to be very low due to legislated pasteurization of milk and livestock surveillance and testing programs.**

- **Bovine TB is a reportable disease in Canada. When bovine TB is confirmed on a premises, the CFIA implements strict disease eradication measures to eliminate the infection and prevent further spread to livestock, humans, and wildlife.**

- **Through the implementation of a rapid response the Ministry works with the CFIA to prevent the re-emergence of bovine TB in the domestic livestock population to maintain Canada's reputation as a supplier of safe and high quality livestock and livestock products.**

- **Industry, public health agencies, and key stakeholders in British Colombia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba are being regularly updated on the response.**

- **AGRI has initiated a formal AgriRecovery assessment with the Federal government to determine what financial supports may be required to assist with extraordinary costs incurred by producers as a result of the bovine TB outbreak in B.C.**

BACKGROUND:

- On Oct 26, 2018 a mature beef cow was presented for slaughter at a federal meat establishment in Alberta where a post mortem examination of the animal revealed the presence of granulomatous lesions in the mediastinal lymph nodes, lungs and liver. The carcass was condemned.
- Samples were submitted to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's (CFIA) Ottawa Fallowfield Laboratory as part of the Granuloma Submission Program, where a histological examination and positive diagnosis for Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex was made. The infected animal was traced to a herd of origin in B.C.
- The index premises is a commercial beef operation of approximately 500 head. The farm is in a remote location in the Southern Interior of B.C., adjacent to other cattle ranches. Through testing, three more animals have been confirmed infected on the index premises for a total of four, including the index cow.
- Test results of the index cow have identified the strain of bovine TB to be distinct from any cases previously detected in Canadian wildlife or domestic livestock. This strain is not related to past cases of bovine TB in Alberta or B.C. or anywhere else in Canada.
- All of the cattle at the index ranch have been destroyed (360 animals) with the exception of 100 female calves that are being held pending a determination of exceptional herd status (which would allow these animal to be retained under strict protocols).
- Cattle from the neighbouring contact and associated trace-out herds that were tested and who failed preliminary testing were also destroyed and sent for enhanced post-mortem examination (41 and 151 animals respectively).
- Technical background documents have been created and can be found on the CFIA website: http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/terrestrial-animals/diseases/reportable/bovine-tuberculosis/investigation-british-columbia/eng/1544220226249/1544220226495

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- The Ministry of Agriculture works with other provinces regarding emergency management and is considered a leader in natural disaster and disease response.
- The Ministry of Agriculture works in partnership with the CFIA to ensure the concerns and needs of ranchers are addressed.
- The Ministry of Agriculture and the CFIA recently completed an update to the Federal – Provincial Foreign Animal Disease Emergency Support Plan that has been activated in response to this incident.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION:

- CFIA provides compensation to impacted producers for those cattle that are required to be destroyed during the investigation and response.
- AGRI's Business Risk Management Branch staff are engaged and are actively coordinating with staff from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in assessing potential eligibility of affected producers for additional financial support through the AgriRecovery program.
- Over 12 AGRI staff have been directly involved in the management and response with additional support from various offices.

- AGRI response costs are being tracked under an Emergency Management BC Task Number with the province having the ability to recover some operational costs from the CFIA. Ministry expenditures to date have been limited to some overtime and travel related costs for response staff.

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ADVICE TO MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL ISSUE NOTE Date: Jan 11, 2019 Minister Responsible: Popham	**Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea in Alberta**

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

Alberta Finding

- The B.C. Ministry of Agriculture will continue to work with national and provincial governments, and B.C. and Canadian industry groups to monitor and be prepared for any diagnosis of Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea
- B.C.'s Chief Veterinary Officer notified BC pork producers and processors following the confirmation of a PED finding in a commercial pig in Alberta on January 8.
- She also asked all pork producers and processors to apply and enforce strict biosecurity measures on all farms with any swine and at all plants where any swine are processed to prevent the entry of PED into BC.
- There is no risk to people or to the health of other species.

Helping BC pork sector prepare

- In 2014 and 2015 B.C. pork producers and processors obtained biosecurity equipment and developed protocols to reduce the risk of PED entering their operations.
- As the disease is commonly spread by transport vehicles, the B.C. government supported the upgrading of truck-washing facilities at the two main hog processing plants in the province (both in the Fraser Valley) and invested in on-farm equipment for each registered producer in B.C. to disinfect their transport vehicles after each use.
- Funding also supported the development of response and containment plans at each pork farm in the province. (Background below)

BACKGROUND

Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea is a very contagious and serious disease of swine. PED is usually fatal to piglets, while older animals tend to survive with treatment.

A case of PED was confirmed in Alberta on January 7, 2019, and had been confirmed in Manitoba, Ontario and the USA previously. No cases of PED have been diagnosed in B.C.

The disease can be carried on clothing, boots, transport vehicles, and hands as well as feed, manure and animals.

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The BC Ministry of Agriculture's Animal Health Centre is able to test for the disease's presence with a 24 hour turnaround time on diagnostic samples. (fee is $35) Producers should contact the Ministry's Animal Health Centre in Abbotsford to arrange for samples to be tested.

Under the federal-provincially funded Growing Forward 2 framework, over $600,000 was invested to implement controls at B.C.'s (two) pork processing facilities and the development of response and containment plans at each pork farm in the province. (2014)

PORCINE EPIDEMIC DIARRHEA (PED)

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **PED is relatively new viral diseases of pigs in North America that was recently diagnosed for the first time in Alberta on a single swine farm. To date no other farms have been found through their enhanced surveillance program for PED following the detection.**
- **PED has had important economic impacts to the sector in Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and Newfoundland but has not been diagnosed in British Columbia.**
- **Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea does not pose a risk to human health or other animals. It is not a food safety risk.**
- **BC supported a strong program of enhancing biosecurity on swine farms and processing plants in an effort to prevent the introduction of this disease in2015. ($613,050 supported through Growing Forward 2)**
- **The Animal Health Centre has had a test for PED virus in place well before the first diagnoses in Canada, with same day results possible.**
- **The Ministry has offered support to the BC Pork producers to safeguard our sector from this disease.**

BACKGROUND:

- Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea (PED) is a relatively new disease to swine in North America. The disease is caused by a distinct Corona virus
- PED causes widespread diarrhea in all ages of pigs with high (up to 100%) mortality in baby pigs, and lower (15 to 20%) mortality through to only subtle signs of disease in older pigs.
- The viruses are shed in large numbers in manure and spread through movement of even very small amounts of manure. This is a very hardy virus that survives for weeks in water and months in manure slurries. It is most easily spread in winter.
- PED does not cause disease in other livestock and does not transmit to people either directly or through food, posing no public health risk.
- PED entered the United States in spring of 2013 and quickly spread to other states causing the death of millions of baby pigs and the economic losses associated with this.
- In 2015 testing by CFIA confirmed that two feed ingredients for baby pigs may be capable of spreading the disease.
- On January 7th 2019 Alberta confirmed one 400 head farrow to finish swine farm with positive PED animals. No other locations have been found, despite intensive sampling. Alberta reports that no other swine operations have been exposed.
- BC has a relatively small swine industry with approximately 20 significant producers.
- This disease will not significantly affect trade, as most of Canada's trading partners (including the US) already has the disease.
-

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- BC has a relatively small swine industry with approximately 20 significant producers.
- PED has not been diagnosed in the province.
- BC processing plants receive several shipments of hogs daily from Alberta and also receive shipments of hogs from Saskatchewan occasionally.
- The first case of PED in Canada was confirmed on a farm in Ontario on January 22, 2014. Since then Ontario has confirmed 117 farms, with the most recent one in December 2018. Ontario has managed to clear the infections from the majority of these positive premises.
- Manitoba has had a continuous outbreak for 2 years in the swine dense SE part of the province with 107 premises confirmed as positive, some reported as clear now.
- Saskatchewan has reported low numbers of positive environmental positive tests but no positive animals.
- Quebec has reported 16 positive farms most clear now, and PEI had only the one positive farm which is clear now.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- Since February 2014 the Animal Health Centre has performed 446 tests for PED. Costs to the province for this service to date are approximately $150,000.
- 2015 GF2 programs administered through the BC Pork Producers spent $613,050 for enhancing on farm biosecurity to producers, as well as increasing biosecurity and surveillance for transporters and processors.

Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus Testing

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
Submissions	150	76	3	1	1	1	**232**
Samples Tested	347	91	5	1	1	1	**446**

•

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Avian Influenza (AI) Response - Continuous Improvement

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **The BC Ministry of Agriculture (AGRI) working with the poultry industry and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has incorporated lessons learned from previous outbreaks of Avian Influenza to update the Foreign Animal Disease Emergency Support (FADES) plan. This work was completed in early 2019 and is ready for signatures from partners.**

- **In 2004 BC experienced an outbreak of AI that resulted in depopulation of 62 million birds on 53 premises. In the 2014 outbreak of AI, 240,000 birds were depopulated on 13 premises.**

- **A Rapid Response working group was formed through the 2014 recovery process. It is made up of the poultry industry, CFIA and AGRI. Their task is to improve the coordinated response following initial detection. The target time for humane depopulation of an infected flock is 48 hours from confirmed diagnosis. In 2014, this process took 4 days.**

- **The Rapid Response working group has delivered 1 complete training exercise in 2016 (funded with BC GF2 Biosecurity & Surveillance funds) and CFIA has supported additional training exercises in 2017 and 2018.**

- **In 2018 the Industry has had quarterly meetings of their Emergency Operations Committee, a two day table top in Abbotsford, a one day table top exercise in the Interior, and a one day follow-up meeting with interior poultry association leads.**

- **The 2014 response to the AI outbreak was significantly improved over 2004. If there were to be another outbreak, the commitment is to demonstrate a significant improvement in preparedness, communication and focused practice involving all stakeholders, and reflecting a much stronger role for industry.**

BACKGROUND:

- The response to a detection of an H5 or H7 strain of Avian Influenza is defined by the BC Foreign Animal Disease Emergency Support (FADES) plan.
- The Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Public Safety Canada, the BC Ministry of Agriculture, the BC Ministry of Justice, the BC Ministry of Health and the BC Ministry of Environment cosign the FADES plan. The revised FADES plan has been completed and is ready for signatures.
- BC has experienced significant outbreaks of highly pathogenic Avian Influenza in poultry in 2004 and in 2014. Smaller outbreaks of low pathogenic Avian Influenza occurred in 2006 and 2009.
- BC has a high concentration of poultry production in the Fraser Valley, which is located on pathways for natural wild waterfowl migration and popular overwintering grounds. Wild waterfowl may carry many strains of Avian Influenza.
- Two proteins on the surface of the AI virus, the H or hemagglutinin and the N or neuraminidase classify influenza viruses. H5 and H7 strains are known to have the potential to be able to cross to humans and are dealt with most aggressively.
- The 2014 AI outbreak began with the disease confirmation on December 1, 2014. There were 11 affected commercial premises and 2 non-commercial. BC was declared AI free on June 3, 2015.
- Affected producers, industry associations, provincial and federal government staff, all worked very hard together in very trying circumstances, to contain, and eradicate the outbreak.
- BC's poultry sector practiced a high level of bio security and they initially enforced a voluntary quarantine and stop movement to contain the virus while the responders started their work. Their efforts were instrumental to minimizing the number of farms that were directly impacted.
- Improvements to biosecurity to prevent the AI virus from having access to the birds are imperative to prevent future outbreaks. Industry is very committed to this.
- AGRI staff support the CFIA with liaison, mapping, laboratory diagnostic services and logistical support in an outbreak, industry and AGRI support the rapid response with Biosecurity, and Destruction capacity with the goal of the first farm being depopulated within 48 hours of detection.
- The veterinary diagnostic laboratory is one of three labs in Canada accredited by the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) and the Standards Council of Canada with International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 17025 designation. Both accreditations recognize the lab's excellence in veterinary diagnostic testing. Both require stringent quality control programs and frequent audits.
- AGRI's Animal Health Centre was front and centre in the response – diagnosing samples, and providing science-based guidance and advice to those leading the response and the public.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- The incident in 2014/2015 in BC was handled quickly and efficiently, compared to other jurisdictions.
- The U.S. was faced with a multi-state outbreak in 2015 with the same virus spread by wild waterfowl that required destruction of 49 million birds.
- Ontario was faced with an outbreak in 2015 with the same virus, likely spread by wild waterfowl, in 3 premises, beginning on April 5, 2015, was declared AI free on October 8,

2015 and required destruction of 80,000 birds. They faced many of the challenges BC had in past incidences, largely around communication challenges and response preparedness.

- BC had 11 affected commercial premises and 2 non-commercial premises and required destruction of 240,000 birds. BC's first diagnosis was on December 1, 2014 and was declared AI free on June 3, 2015.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- In 2014 a $1.25 million Agri-Recovery initiative reimbursed producers for extra cleaning and disinfection expenses that had to be incurred in order to eradicate the disease and return to production.
- CFIA compensated the province for all costs for materials and supplies AGRI's Animal Health Centre used for testing and for overtime for all AGRI staff dedicated to responding to the outbreak.
- In 2015-16, AGRI purchased 2 sets of gas destruction manifolds and supporting response and biocontainment equipment. This ensures adequate access to the necessary equipment to support the early stages of a response if CFIA does not have access to theirs, or it is being utilized elsewhere in the country.
- AGRI continues to be actively committed to supporting the Rapid Response initiative, committing staff to various response teams and providing administrative support to ensure all the stakeholders are engaged in preparedness planning.

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ADVICE TO MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE Ministry of Agriculture Date: January 15, 2019 Minister Responsible: Minister Lana Popham	**Recommendations of Animal Health Centre Review**

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **Last spring, Don Wright, Deputy Minister to Premier John Horgan concluded a review of the Animal Health Centre after some of the services performed were called into question.**
- **Deputy Minister Wright found that nothing in the review, conducted by Deloitte, shows any evidence of "dubious data or conflict of interest".**
- **The Deloitte Report did identify a number of areas in which improvements could be made.**
- **The Director of the AHC and my Deputy Minister have accepted these recommendations, and the Ministry is working to implement all of them.**
- **The Animal Health Centre makes science-based decisions and it is important that the public trusts the information that is used to instruct policy decisions.**
- **Our priority with undertaking the review was to ensure that the public and the DFO could trust the information that the Animal Health Centre provides as part of the fish health audit.**
- **I am pleased that the review found that the Centre is working well on behalf of British Columbians, without any conflicts of interest.**
- **As a former farmer, I know how important the AHC is to our province's Agriculture sector.**

If asked about scientific debate regarding the impacts of salmon farming on wild salmon:

- **Scientists will continue to discuss and debate different interpretations they may have.**
- **That is the basis for the advancement of science.**

KEY FACTS:

Deloitte Recommendations + status:

1) Conduct conflict of interest assessments - Complete
   a. *The AAVLD audit conducted in May 2018 assessed conflict of interest policies and procedures and found no issues or areas for improvement.*
   b. *The AHC will continue to request from each accrediting body that a specific section of their audit report be dedicated to addressing conflict of interest.*

2) Develop an industry expense reimbursement - Complete
   a. *A policy is in place to ensure the AHC does not receive any industry support for travel. These travel costs will be covered by the Ministry.*

3) Strengthen contracts with key stakeholders – In Progress
   a. *The AHC will initiate a process with legal counsel to review MOUs to develop appropriate language with respect to protecting Ministry staff from perceived or real conflict of interest situations.*

4) Develop AHC-specific conflict of interest guidelines – In Progress
   a. *To foster an ethical culture in the BC Public Service, a new corporate requirement has been introduced for all employees to annually review the Standards of Conduct and Oath of Employment.*
   b. *In consultation with the PSA, the Ministry will develop materials which are tailored to the AHC and more broadly to the Plant and Animal Health Branch.*

5) Consider stronger separation of roles – In Progress
   a. *A recently hired Fish Pathologist is being assigned the regulatory (FHASP) audit submissions.*
   b. *The AHC has approval to proceed with hiring an additional Fish Pathologist.*

6) Seek to expedite fish disease case definitions – In Progress
   a. *The AHC will work with DFO to define Case Definitions.*

7) Enforce marine biosecurity measures – In Progress
   a. The Minister's Advisory Committee on Finfish Aquaculture released its recommendations to government in January 2018. The province has relayed relevant recommendations n these areas to Fisheries and Oceans Canada and is working on their implementation.

8) Ensure external communications are supported – Complete
   a. *GCPE AGRI has hired 1.0 FTE communications position, allowing for further AHC support in developing external communications.*

9) Improve the level of education and awareness- In Progress
   a. *GCPE AGRI has hired 1.0 FTE communications position, allowing for further AHC support in developing external communications to improve the level of education and awareness.*

Media Interest: Significant coverage by Press Gallery, some coverage in Majors such as Globe and Mail & Vancouver Sun/Province.

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Deloitte Report Implementation

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **In March 2018, Don Wright, Deputy Minister to Premier John Horgan concluded a review of the Animal Health Centre after some of the services performed were called into question.**
- **Deputy Minister Wright found that nothing in the review, conducted by Deloitte, shows any evidence of "dubious data or conflict of interest".**
- **The Deloitte Report did identify a number of areas in which improvements could be made.**
- **All recommendations have been accepted and the Ministry is working to implement all of them.**
- **The priority with undertaking the review was to ensure that the public and the DFO could trust the information that the Animal Health Centre provides as part of the fish health audit.**
- **The review found that the Centre is working well on behalf of British Columbians, without any conflicts of interest.**
- **The Animal Health Centre makes science-based decisions and it is important that the public trusts the information that is used to instruct policy decisions.**
- **Scientists will continue to discuss and debate different interpretations they may have. This is a normal part of the scientific discovery.**

BACKGROUND:

- The Deloitte Review provided a number of recommendations for the provincial government's consideration to address the potential for a real or perceived conflict of interest.
- The Deloitte Review also provided a number of related recommendations that would improve the communication and collaboration amongst those stakeholders working to research and understand the risk and impacts of fish health within the province.

Deloitte Recommendations and status:

- Conduct conflict of interest assessments – Complete - The AAVLD audit conducted in May 2018 assessed conflict of interest policies and procedures and found no issues or areas for improvement. The Animal Health Centre (AHC) will continue to request from each accrediting body that a specific section of their audit report be dedicated to addressing conflict of interest.

- Develop an industry expense reimbursement – Complete - A policy is in place to ensure the AHC does not receive any industry support for travel. These travel costs will be covered by the Ministry.

- Strengthen contracts with key stakeholders – In Progress -s.14
s.14

- Develop AHC-specific conflict of interest guidelines – In Progress - To foster an ethical culture in the BC Public Service, a new corporate requirement has been introduced for all employees to annually review the Standards of Conduct and Oath of Employment. In consultation with the PSA, the Ministry will develop materials which are tailored to the AHC and more broadly to the Plant and Animal Health Branch.

- Consider stronger separation of roles – In Progress - A recently hired Fish Pathologist has been assigned the regulatory audit submissions. The AHC is in the process of hiring two additional Fish Pathologists.

- Seek to expedite fish disease case definitions – In Progress - The AHC will work with DFO to define Case Definitions.

- Enforce marine biosecurity measures – In Progress - The Minister's Advisory Committee on Finfish Aquaculture released its recommendations to government in January 2018. The province has relayed relevant recommendations in these areas to Fisheries and Oceans Canada and is working on their implementation.

- Ensure external communications are supported – Complete - GCPE AGRI has hired 1.0 FTE communications position, allowing for further AHC support in developing external communications.

- Improve the level of education and awareness- In Progress - GCPE AGRI has hired 1.0 FTE communications position, allowing for further AHC support in developing external

communications to improve the level of education and awareness.

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ANIMAL WELFARE OVERVIEW

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **Animal welfare is a priority in British Columbia and the B.C. Government expects all British Columbians to treat their animals with care and respect.**
- **B.C. has the strongest penalties in Canada for causing suffering or distress to an animal, up to $75,000 and 24 months in prison.**
- **The Province is taking on-going action to strengthen animal welfare in B.C.**
- **This includes the development of a regulatory framework for commercial breeders and sellers of dogs and cats.**
- **Ministry staff have worked with key stakeholders including breeders, veterinarians, and the BCSPCA to develop standards of care and inform the framework to ensure that it achieves the outcome of targeting irresponsible breeders and puppy mills.**
- **The Province is also referencing in regulation the National Farm Animal Care Codes of Practice as generally accepted animal management practices for owners of farm animals in B.C. to further strengthen animal welfare in the province.**
- **The Codes address practices that include animal handling, feed & water, housing, health and welfare management, and other husbandry practices.**
- **Our livestock operators are among the best in Canada and the Codes support their good work. Building the Codes into regulation provides consumers with confidence.**
- **Ministry staff continue to work with animal welfare stakeholders to identify future opportunities and monitor potential issues to ensure the necessary animal welfare policies and regulatory frameworks are in place.**

AGR-2019-95524

BACKGROUND:

- The *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* (PCAA) is the primary provincial animal welfare legislation and falls under the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture (the Ministry).
- The PCAA provides a legislative mandate for the British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (BCSPCA).
- In March 2017, amendments to the PCAA enabled the creation of a licensing/or registration system for commercial breeders and sellers of dogs and cats.
- As part of the new system, commercial breeders and sellers of dogs and cats will be required to follow minimum standards of care with accompanying inspections against these standards.
- Ministry staff consulted with key stakeholders to develop the minimum standards of care for commercial dog and cat breeders in B.C.
- This commitment is to target irresponsible commercial breeders of dogs and cats following two high-profile seizures at suspected puppy mills in the Lower Mainland.
- In July - September 2018, Ministry staff engaged with 20 livestock/farm animal associations and representatives of the BCSPCA, RCMP and Ag-Safe BC to determine the best way to implement the National Farm Animal Care Council's (NFACC) of Practice.
- In February 2019 the Ministry of Agriculture referenced in regulation the National Farm Animal Care Council's Codes of Practice.
- Ministry staff conducted an in-person Working Session February 15/2019 with industry associations on the Codes of Practice project discussing next steps which include BC SPCA special constable Codes of Practice training to take place in the Spring of 2019.
- By referencing the Codes of Practice in regulation the Province strengthens animal welfare in B.C. by providing clear expectations of producers, while also providing them with a defence from prosecution if following these codes.
- s.12; s.13

- Other Ministry legislation supports positive animal welfare outcomes through the promotion and management of animal health and disease management, including the *Animal Health Act* to encourage compliance with mandatory biosecurity programs (e.g. animal welfare) in the supply managed sector.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- B.C.'s PCAA was updated in 2011 to have the toughest penalties in Canada.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- Animal welfare responsibilities within the Ministry are spread across the branches and cover many work areas including policy, legislation, diagnostics and inspections. There is the equivalent of approximately one full-time Ministry staff person working on animal welfare.

- Funding is available through Canadian Agricultural Partnership Agreement to further advance the work on animal welfare through the animal welfare stream.
- B.C. committed $5 million to the BCSPCA in 2015 and another $5 million in 2017 to help replace or renovate aging BCSPCA facilities in 10 B.C. communities (Vancouver, Nanaimo, Kamloops, Kelowna, Prince George, Dawson Creek and the Kootenays).
- B.C. provided BCSPCA with a $100,000 grant in 2011 to defray the costs of investigating sled dog cruelty allegations.
- B.C. provided a $250,000 grant in 2010/2011 from the B.C. Gaming Commission for spay/neuter programs.
- The Province has provided sponsored Crown leases for many of BCSPCA facilities.

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ISSUE/PROGRAM: Livestock carcass disposal options

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **Depending on the number of mortalities, location of mortalities and the ability to recover and transport those mortalities, there are a number of recommended disposal options for livestock carcasses.**

- **These include on-farm disposal (burial, composting, natural disposal), Regional District landfills, rendering and disposal at mass carcass disposal sites.**

- **Since 2005, government has provided over $3.5M through the Livestock Waste Tissue Initiative to support preparedness and response capacity for local governments and the province to respond to a mass carcass event.**

- **Ministry staff are available to provide advice and support producers in identifying the most appropriate disposal options.**

- **Government continues to do advance planning to ensure we have suitable disposal options in place for a livestock mass carcass disposal event.**

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BACKGROUND:

- A priority for the Ministry of Agriculture has been to identify suitable centralized burial sites in BC. This allows communities, industry and local governments to improve preparedness for events that may trigger the need to dispose of a large number of animal carcasses (e.g., Foot and Mouth Disease, natural disasters).
- Centralized burial sites are specific to each regional district (RD). Hence, one RD may not automatically use another RD's burial site; negotiations must take place prior to disposal.
- Many local governments have completed plans for mass carcass disposal; however, the majority of plans cite the lack of disposal options for large carcasses (i.e. cattle) as one of the main gaps to achieving emergency preparedness for large scale disasters.
- AGRI provided the Investment Agriculture Foundation with $5 M in 2005 to deliver the Livestock Waste Tissue Initiative (LWTI) which provides funding opportunities to improve mass carcass disposal preparedness throughout BC. Funding is available to local governments, industry and provincial agencies. Approximately $1.5 M of this fund is remaining.
- The majority of the remaining funds will be allocated towards ground-truthing and permitting identified sites in two RD's previously identified through GIS studies.
- The most suitable mass carcass disposal option for large carcasses in many areas of BC is burial on Crown land, although burying on-farm may also provide some additional disposal capacity.
- There have been 24 confirmed livestock mortalities as a result of the 2018 wildfires; there may be an additional 20 mortalities which have yet to be confirmed.
- Methods other than burial, such as composting and incineration, have limited potential for large carcass disposal in a large scale emergency.
- Provincial and federal agencies (AGRI, Ministries of Environment and Health & the Canadian Food Inspection Agency) have developed livestock disposal protocols that facilitate a coordinated and approved approach for the disposal of infected and non-infected livestock.
    - Protocol #1 outlines the requirements and procedures for burial of mass mortalities.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- Since 2005, government has provided over $3.5 M through the LWTI to support preparedness and response capacity for local governments and the province to respond to a mass carcass event.
- There are no expenditure/revenue implications for 2019/20.

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ADVICE TO MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL ISSUE NOTE Date: Jan 21, 2019 Minister Responsible: Popham	**Livestock Codes of Practice**

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- The B.C. Government expects all livestock and farm operators in the agriculture sector to follow best practices and handle their animals with appropriate care, and we know the vast majority of our farmers practice this every day.
- We reached out to our livestock and poultry associations to work with them and the SPCA on effectively building the National Farm Animal Care Council's Codes of Practice into B.C. regulation.
- The Dairy Code of Practice is already part of B.C. law, and others, including beef, chicken, turkey and pork will be adopted in future.
- The Codes outline accepted management practices for livestock and farm operators, including their employees, and include areas such as animal handling, feed & water, housing, health and welfare management, and other husbandry practices.
- We know our livestock operators are among the best in Canada and the Codes support their good work. Building the Codes into regulation provides consumers with confidence around these management practices.
- The B.C. government is supporting the SPCA's capacity to address animal welfare in the livestock sector by funding training specific to poultry, beef and pork operations.
- B.C. has among the strongest penalties in Canada for animal distress. Charges under B.C.'s Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act can be laid against anyone who causes suffering or distress to an animal in B.C., including owners, managers and employees in the agriculture sector.
- Maximum penalties under B.C. legislation for those convicted of causing animal distress is $75,000 and up to 24 months imprisonment.

FOI 2019-95524

BACKGROUND:

The Ministry of Agriculture is in the process of implementing he National Farm Animal Care Council Codes of Practice under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. The Codes outlines standards of care and accepted management practices for owners and employees and include areas such as animal handling, feed & water, housing, health and welfare management, and husbandry practices.

Ministry staff consulted with the livestock and poultry sector and the BC Society of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and will continue to work closely with them to develop resources to support the implementation of the codes. The consultation findings included the need for industry-focused education materials on why the codes are important, training opportunities for SPCA staff that are inspecting farms against the codes, and education for the public on what animal welfare is and the purpose of the codes.

Currently, there are 12 codes including: Beef (2013); Bison (2017); Hatching Eggs, Breeders, Chickens, and Turkeys (2016); Dairy Cattle (2009); Equines (2013); Farmed Fox (2013); Farmed Mink (2013); Pigs (2014); Pullets and Laying Hens (2017); Rabbits (2018); Sheep (2013); and Veal Cattle (2017).

The B.C. government adopted the National Dairy Code of Practice in 2015, and is working to implement the remaining 11.

Codes of Practice for Animal Welfare

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **Animal welfare is a priority in British Columbia and the B.C. Government expects all British Columbians to treat their animals with care and respect.**
- **The Province is taking on-going action to strengthen animal welfare in B.C.**
- **On February 28, 2019, I announced the National Farm Animal Care Council's (NFACC) Codes of Practice would be referenced in regulation as generally accepted animal management practices for owners of farm animals in B.C. to further strengthen animal welfare in the province.**
- **The Codes of Practice include areas such as animal handling, feed and water, housing, health and welfare management, and husbandry practices.**
- **The NFACC Codes of Practice will come into force June 1st, 2019.**
- **Ministry staff engaged with key industry stakeholders to understand how best to implement the Codes of Practice initiative which will include education and training on the Codes in Spring 2019.**
- **We continue working with the industry and stakeholders to monitor potential issues and ensure the necessary animal welfare policies and regulatory frameworks are in place.**

BACKGROUND:

- The *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* (PCAA) is the primary provincial animal welfare legislation and falls under the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture (the Ministry).
- The PCAA provides a legislative mandate for the British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (BCSPCA).
- In 2015, the NFACC Codes of Practice for Dairy Cattle was referenced in regulation.
- The NFACC who develops the Codes is a collaborative partnership of a diverse range of Canadian agriculture stakeholders including industry associations, the federal and provincial governments, enforcement agencies, and animal welfare groups.
- The NFACC develops the Codes based on both science and consensus. Industry stakeholders are active participants during each Code development process, which typically takes approximately 3 years to complete.
- Under the PCAA, the codes are considered a defence if a case of distress to an animal is brought forth.
- In the Summer and early Fall of 2018, Ministry staff engaged with 20 livestock/farm animal associations and representatives of the BCSPCA, RCMP and Ag-Safe BC to determine the best way to implement the National Farm Animal Care Council's (NFACC) of Practice.
- In February 2019 another 11 Codes of Practice were included in regulation covering:
    - Beef
    - Bison
    - Hatching Eggs, Breeders, Chickens, and Turkeys
    - Equines
    - Farmed Fox
    - Farmed Mink
    - Pigs
    - Pullets and Laying Hens
    - Rabbits
    - Sheep
    - Veal Cattle
- Weather issues caused a delay in facilitating with industry associations, an in-person Working Session February 15/2019 with industry associations on the Codes of Practice initative discussing next steps which include BC SPCA special constable Codes of Practice training to take place in the Spring of 2019. The session will be rescheduled to March 15th.
- The Codes of Practice working session was held on March 15, 2019 and was well represented by all of the industry associations that took part in earlier consultations.
    - Reception of the Codes of Practice was welcomed by industry as the majority of farmers and ranchers already follow them.
    - Concerns were raised about the BC SPCA as industry is worried the organization would use these as an enforcement tool.
    - Ministry staff and a speaker from BC Dairy subdued much of the concerns about the Codes implementation by re-iterating the implementation is to act as a defense from prosecution of distress/cruelty if the producer can show they followed the codes
    - The Codes of Practice trainer spoke to the industry associations about what the special constable training would look like and found volunteers for on-site visits.

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- The Codes of Practice will come into force June 1st, 2019 to allow for a more fulsome and positive implementation that includes ongoing face-to-face dialogue, training sessions, and on-site farm and ranch visits.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- Several other provinces include NFACC Codes of Practice in regulation, although there is variation among provinces in how this is done.
    - For example, some provinces such as Ontario create a regulation that makes the requirements contained in a particular Code as legally enforceable standards.
    - Other provinces such as Saskatchewan take an approach similar to BC's, with the Codes functioning as a defence for those accused of causing distress.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- Animal welfare responsibilities within the Ministry are spread across the branches and cover many work areas including policy, legislation, diagnostics and inspections. There is the equivalent of approximately one full-time Ministry staff person working on animal welfare.
- B.C. committed $5 million to the BCSPCA in 2015 and another $5 million in 2017 to help replace or renovate aging BCSPCA facilities in 10 B.C. communities (Vancouver, Nanaimo, Kamloops, Kelowna, Prince George, Dawson Creek and the Kootenays).
- B.C. provided BCSPCA with a $100,000 grant in 2011 to defray the costs of investigating sled dog cruelty allegations.
- B.C. provided a $250,000 grant in 2010/2011 from the B.C. Gaming Commission for spay/neuter programs.
- The Province has provided sponsored Crown leases for many of BCSPCA facilities.

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Disease Risk between Domestic and Wild Sheep

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- ***Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* (Movi) has been identified as the most likely causative agent in wild sheep pneumonia outbreaks. Research has shown Movi can be transferred from domestic sheep to bighorn sheep and conclusions have been made that wild and domestic sheep and goats must be separated in order to control the disease.**
- **The presence of Movi alone though does not translate to a pneumonia outbreak. As with all infectious diseases, there are three factors that are responsible for the spread of a disease (agent, host, and environment).**
- **Pneumonia in wild/domestic sheep is considered a complex multifactorial disease as there are multiple knowledge gaps within the three factors that, if filled, could assist with providing control measures to stop its spread.**
- **Evidence based prevention policies for pneumonia need to look broadly at all contributing factors such as stress and population density, not just reservoir sources.**
- **Work is on-going to determine the MOVI disease status of BC's domestic and wild sheep flocks. Voluntary surveillance testing of domestic and wild species for MOVI continues to be the focus.**
- **Ministry of Agriculture (AGRI) and the Ministry of Forest, Lands, Natural Resources Operations and Rural Development (FLNRO) staff have been meeting regularly with stakeholders to provide updates on testing and address remaining knowledge gaps.**
- **BC's overall goal is to find a solution that protects wild sheep from the disease threat while still enabling sustainable domestic sheep production.**

BACKGROUND:

- In the fall of 2013, a decline in the population of bighorn sheep in the Chasm area was reported. Samples from sheep in this flock came back 50% seropositive (indicating exposure, but not necessarily infection) for the bacteria Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae (MOVI), however the results were inconclusive due to the small size of the sample. No autopsies were completed as no carcasses were recovered.
- AGRI has been working with FLNRO since 2014 to: scope the issue; look at options for separation of wild sheep from domestic sheep; and, gather data to determine what the actual risk of disease transmission is, including geographically locating where those risks would be most serious in B.C.
- The general components of any disease control framework are surveillance, preparedness and response, evidence based prevention polices and a communication plan with surveillance being the foundation of the framework.
    - An effective surveillance system provides guidance on priorities and targets for which tools will work best for applying interventions. Surveillance systems should define the strains of the agent to guide control of the disease.
    - In the case of MOVI, the agent's strain movement, ability to cause the disease, and components that induce immunity are not known. Also, knowledge gaps with the other two factors (host and environment) and availability of technical tools make control of pneumonia at a targeted prevalence level difficult.
- AGRI Animal Health Centre (AHC) has brought in the Washington State (WA) Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test for MOVI. The serological test is not available to bring in and the AHC is supporting that test being carried out in WA.
- Work is being carried out to test the domestic sheep flocks in the areas close to wild sheep ranges, and to test wild sheep as available.
    - Initial sampling to date indicates that just under a third of domestic sheep flocks (9/30) in wild sheep ranges are positive for MOVI. Less than 2 per cent of B.C.'s 59,000 sheep and lambs have been tested. This is a significantly lower prevalence than in the USA and Ontario.
    - Work to determine the dynamics of MOVI within domestic sheep flocks and the best ways to eradicate MOVI from a flock are ongoing.
    - There is some evidence for exposure in some wild sheep herds, and two herds (Chasm herd and Battle Creek herd) had males that tested positive on PCR (indicating they were carrying MOVI) within the past five years.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- B.C. appears to have less MOVI endemic in our domestic sheep flock based on initial results and may be able to support creating MOVI free domestic sheep in the risk range cross-over areas.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- The AHC developed and is the process of final validation of the WA test for MOVI bacteria. Approximately $35,000 per year is budgeted for testing. Tests are $35 per sample.
- Number of tests for MOVI carried out at the AHC to date: 329 Bighorn Sheep, 110 thinhorn sheep, 4 mountain goat, 43 moose, 75 caribou, 14 elk, 6 deer, 982 domestic sheep, 11 llamas and 219 domestic goats in B.C. and the Yukon.
- 10 per cent of one FTE in Plant and Animal Health Branch and 10 per cent of two FTE's in Sector Development Branch

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POULTRY SECTOR - CURRENT POULTRY ANIMAL WELFARE ISSUES

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **The Ministry of Agriculture supports the humane treatment of birds along the entire poultry supply chain and continues to support further improvements in poultry welfare in all sectors.**
- **All commercial poultry producers are obliged to follow the appropriate welfare standards and requirements established in the National Farm Animal Care Council of Canada's (NFACC) Codes of Practice.**
- **The Ministry supports the table egg industry in removing hens from conventional cages with a target of 100% of hens in either furnished (enriched) group housing or cage-free housing by 2036 in alignment with the 2017 NFACC Code of Practice for laying hens and poults.**
- **With regard to the broiler chicken industry, recent allegations of abuse by poultry catching crews based on video evidence are currently under investigation by the BC Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), who is mandated to enforce the BC Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.**
- **The BC Chicken Marketing Board governs the standards of production of the broiler chickens in these videos. They have taken measuires to increase the oversight of catching crews and now require licencing of the catching crews.**
- **The Ministry supports sector-wide improvements to welfare and development of innovative and modernized production systems to ensure all poultry have an acceptable quality of life.**
- **The Ministry also supports the SPCA investigation into all allegations of abuse of all animals, including poultry, and enforcement of penalties when abuse is found to have taken place.**

BACKGROUND:

- The BC table egg industry has been dealing with the issue of housing laying hens for several years. Removal of hens from "battery cages" was an issue that was settled in 2017 with the release of the NFACC Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pullets and Laying Hens. The code details the requirements for the industry in making the change to either cage-less environments or enhanced furnished cages.
- The B.C. egg industry is leading Canada for the proportion of hens housed in specialty systems, at just below 20% of provincial production. New facilities are being built, and old facilities are retrofitting to accommodate the new welfare standards and national timelines.
- The BC broiler chicken industry was brought under criticism with the recent release of videos by Mercy for Animals of obvious horrific abuse of chickens by catching crews at a location in the Fraser Valley.
- BC Chicken Marketing Board recently implemented mandatory licencing chicken of catching crews and establishing an inspection and audit process related to catching crews. AGRI has expressed willingness to engage in designing the program and offered potential support to the industry to develop a program including verification and an audit process.
- Sofina Foods Inc, who contracted the catching crew, and the BC Chicken Marketing Board immediately condemned the actions of the subjects of the videos and both are investigating the incident.
- The BC Chicken Marketing Board has issued a reminder notice to growers of their responsibility to support catching crews throughout the catching and loading process and their requirements in the catching process.
- BC Hatching Egg Commission requires meeting the NFACC Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Hatching Eggs, Breeders, Chickens and Turkeys as released in 2016 under their Consolidated orders and their programs. –Licenses and quota are subject to compliance with these audited programs.
- BC Egg Marketing Board requires meeting the NFACC Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pullets and Laying Hens. The standards are enforced through the BC consolidated orders and their Start Clean Stay Clean, BC Biosecurity, and Animal Care Programs which are established using the Code of Practice. These are aligned with Egg Farmers of Canada. This Code was recently revised and just released in March 2017. The Egg Farmers of Canada is currently updating their assessment program to meet the new Code, and they have committed to following NFACC's Animal Care Assessment Framework. The Code was recently revised and just came out in March 2017. Egg Farmers of Canada are reported to be moving along at a good pace towards this goal.
- The BC Turkey Marketing Board administers the Turkey Farmers of Canada's Flock Care Program through the on-farm auditing process. The Code for the Care and Handling of Hatching Eggs, Breeders, Chickens and Turkeys as released in 2016 is referenced as providing requirements in a number of key areas, including density, farm personnel training, production monitoring and flock and farm management, to identify a few. The BC Turkey Marketing Board requires all growers to comply with TFC's Flock Care Program, On-Farm Food Safety Program and the BC Poultry Biosecurity Protocols. All grower are subject to audits of these programs, regardless of class of licence.
- The BC Chicken Marketing Board administers the Chicken Farmers of Canada's Animal Care Program (ACP), which is based on the requirements in the NFACC Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Hatching Eggs, Breeders, Chickens and Turkeys

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as released in 2016. The requirements of the ACP meet the minimum recommendations of the Code and may go further in some areas. Participation in this program is a mandatory condition of licencing according to Part 6 of the Marketing Board General Orders, and further clarified in Part 32 On-Farm Food Safety Assurance Program (OFFSAP), Animal Care Program (ACP) and Mandatory BC Bio-Security Program. Producers are required to be initially certified and then undergo annual recertification in all 3 programs.

- The Canadian Food Inspection Agency recently has been working on new humane animal transport regulations, which bring significant improvements to the requirements for the welfare of animals in transport. These will go to the Canadian Gazette II in June of 2018.
- In 2017, there were 4 structural issues on poultry farms in British Columbia which impacted animal welfare. The first incident was a barn collapse due to snow load, in which the Ministry provided humane euthanasia devices to the impacted producer to facilitate the timely euthanasia of affected birds. The other 3 incidents were barn fires in which all the birds in the barns were lost as a direct result of the fire. Between 40,000 and 50,000 birds were implicated in the four incidents and the Ministry supported the industry as best it could to quickly and humanely euthanize injured birds when required. No incidents to date in 2018.
- Under Canadian Agriculture Partnership (CAP), the Ministry will be exploring the development of training programs and standards for catching crews, similar to the standards developed for BC Specialty Egg Producers in 2016-17 under GF2.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- BC egg producers lead Canada in specialty production, at about 19%. The Ministry recently supported the egg industry in developing BC-specific production standards to ensure consumers that BC eggs labelled as a specialty product are produced in an auditable program.
- Other provinces have experienced similar challenges with welfare associated with production chains. Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario have all faced similar challenges as BC.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- Staffing: One Poultry Industry Specialist, and two Avian Pathologists work closely with the industry in both health and welfare areas.
- CAP Funding: project-driven funding opportunities with decisions made in consultation with the industry will follow the GF2 projects.

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POULTRY SECTOR - CURRENT POULTRY ANIMAL WELFARE ISSUES (BATTERY CAGES)

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **The Ministry of Agriculture (AGRI) supports the humane treatment of birds along the poultry supply chain and continues to support further improvements to animal welfare in all sectors.**
- **The BC Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) is mandated to enforce the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.***
- **The Ministry supports sector-wide improvements to welfare and development of innovative and modernized production systems to ensure all poultry have an acceptable quality of life.**
- **All commercial poultry producers are obliged to follow the appropriate welfare standards and requirements established in the National Farm Animal Care Council of Canada's (NFACC) Codes of Practice.**
- **The Ministry supports the table egg industry in removing hens from conventional cages with a target of 100 per cent of hens in either furnished (enriched) group housing or cage-free housing by 2036, which is consistent with the 2017 NFACC Code of Practice for laying hens and poults.**
- **Recent allegations of abuse by poultry catching crews (based on video surveillance of the Broiler industry) are currently under investigation by the SPCA.**
- **The BC Chicken Marketing Board governs the standards of production of broiler chickens. The Chicken Marketing Board has taken measures to increase oversight of catching crews and catching crews now require a license to operate.**
- **The Ministry supports the SPCA's investigations into allegations of abuse of all animals, including poultry, and enforcement when abuse is found to have taken place.**

BACKGROUND:

- The B.C. egg industry is leading Canada for the proportion of hens housed in specialty systems, at just below 20 per cent of provincial production. New facilities are being built, and old facilities are retrofitting to accommodate the new welfare standards and national timelines.
- Removal of hens from “battery cages” was an issue that was settled in 2017 with the release of the NFACC Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pullets and Laying Hens. The code details the requirements for the industry in making the change to either cage-less environments or enhanced furnished cages.
- The B.C. broiler chicken industry was recently criticized with the recent release of videos by Mercy for Animals of obvious abuse of chickens by catching crews at a location in the Fraser Valley.
- Sofina Foods Inc., who contracted the catching crew, and the British Columbia Chicken Marketing Board (BCCMB) immediately condemned the actions of the subjects of the videos and both are investigating the incident.
- The BCCMB recently implemented mandatory licensing of chicken catching crews and establishing an inspection and audit process related to catching crews. AGRI has expressed willingness to engage in designing the program and offered potential support to the industry to develop a program including verification and an audit process.
- The BCCMB has issued a reminder notice to growers of their responsibility to support catching crews throughout the catching and loading process and their requirements in the catching process.
- BC Egg Marketing Board requires its members meet the standards under the NFACC Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pullets and Laying Hens. These standards are enforced through the BC Consolidated Orders and their Start Clean Stay Clean, BC Biosecurity, and Animal Care Programs which are established using the Code of Practice.
- The Egg Farmers of Canada are currently updating their assessment program to meet the new Code and they have committed to following NFACC's Animal Care Assessment Framework. Egg Farmers of Canada are reported to be moving along at a good pace towards this goal.
- The CFIA is working on new humane animal transport regulations, which bring significant improvements to the requirements for the welfare of animals in transport.
- Under Canadian Agriculture Partnership (CAP), the Ministry will be exploring the development of training programs and standards for catching crews, similar to the standards developed for BC Specialty Egg Producers in 2016-17 under GF2.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- BC egg producers lead Canada in specialty production, at about 19 per cent. The Ministry recently supported the egg industry in developing B.C.-specific production standards to ensure consumers that B.C. eggs labelled as a specialty product are produced in an auditable program.
- Other provinces have experienced similar challenges with welfare associated with production chains. Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario have all faced similar challenges as BC.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- Staffing: One Poultry Industry Specialist and two Avian Pathologists work closely with the industry in both health and welfare areas.
- Animal welfare project opportunities are eligible and are being explored with CAP funding.

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ISSUE/PROGRAM: Impact on Agriculture of Changes to Agricultural Waste Control Regulation (AWCR)

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **During the review of the Agricultural Waste Control Regulation, AGRI helped estimate the financial impacts of the proposed changes to the regulation that were announced in January 2019.**
- **The financial impacts are estimated at $81.5 million over the first 10 years of implementation of the new regulation.**
- **Within the $81.5 million total, the dairy sector is expected to bear $44 million of the costs. Manure storage expansion costs incurred in the first 4 years of implementation are the largest cost component.**

Background:

- **Breakdown of the $81.5 million cost to industry due to new code (regulation) requirements.**

Code Requirement	Cost to Industry
Soil Testing All farms that apply nutrient sources (e.g., manures or fertilizers) to 2 ha or more will need to do soil testing.	s.17
Nutrient Management Plans (NMPs) Preparation of the plan	
Manure Storage Restrictions on timing of manure application will effectively require producers to have 6 months of manure storage capacity in High Precipitation Areas by October 1, 2022.	
Leak Assessment of Earthen Manure Storage Leak assessments by QPs on existing earthen manure storage lagoons over vulnerable aquifers and subsequent installation of protective bases	

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ADVICE TO MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL ISSUE NOTE Date: Jan 15, 2019 Minister Responsible: Popham	**Supporting B.C.'s Aquaculture Producers**

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- Local and international markets for sustainably produced seafood continue to grow, and the B.C. government is investing to companies in our coastal communities take advantage of the demand.
- The B.C. government has programs to help aquaculture companies develop new technology, reduce their environmental footprint, and market their products to consumers in B.C. and around the world.
- Many British Columbians enjoy the fresh and local seafood farmed in B.C. and the B.C. government is supporting local producers reach BC customers through the Buy BC campaign
- In addition, the governments of Canada and B.C. are supporting B.C. seafood processors reach new customers and improve their sales with market support in Asia, Europe and the USA. (Canadian Fish and Seafood Opportunities Fund and CAP)
- We've partnered with the federal government to help seafood producers (wild and farmed) to incorporate existing clean technology in their operations, and build on their reputation for sustainable practices. (FACTAP)
- We've partnered with universities, environmental groups and the shellfish industry to support the development of shellfish seed that is better adapted to climate change to ensure the long-term competitiveness of the industry.
- We work with B.C. producers to ensure their products can be enjoyed safely here at home and around the world. We're supporting B.C. shellfish growers through oyster stock re-seeding efforts, a marine virus pilot research study to initiate research on the potential development of an early-warning system to ensure harvested seafood does not pose a health risk.

FOI-2019-95524

BACKGROUND:

Buy BC
The Buy BC program is a $2M fund developed by the Government of BC to increase competitiveness of BC's agrifood and seafood industry, including aquaculture within the domestic market.

Canadian Fish and Seafood Opportunities Fund
The federally managed fund is cost-shared with the province (70% federal and 30% provincial/territorial) to promote market access and development for the fish and seafood industry. The $43M national program will support the fish and seafood sectors in all participating provinces and territories by encouraging industry collaboration to promote high quality products.

CAP: BC Agrifood & Seafood Market Development Program
The B.C. Agrifood and Seafood Market Development Program provides Federal and Provincial Government cost-shared funding support for B.C.'s agriculture, food and seafood sectors to undertake eligible domestic and export market development projects and activities.

CAP: BC Traceability Adoptions and Traceability Value Chain Programs
The Traceability Adoption (TA) program provides cost-shared funding to seafood producers and processors to implement or improve facility-based traceability systems and practices. The Traceability Value Chain (TVC) program offers financial assistance to agrifood and seafood industry associations and groups of two or more agrifood and seafood businesses along a value chain to put sector-wide or value chain traceability systems and technologies in place.

Fisheries and Aquaculture Clean Technology Adoption Program (FACTAP)
FACTAP supports Canada's fisheries and aquaculture industries to incorporate existing clean technologies into their day-to-day operations. The program provides up to $20M nationally over 4 years. To date, about 20 B.C. projects have received $1.4Mfrom the program, $215K from B.C.

BC Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund
Announced on November 30, 2018, this federally managed fund is proposed as a cost share with the Province (70% federal and 30% provincial) and will target salmon habitat protection and restoration as well as ensuring the fish and seafood sector in British Columbia is positioned for long-term environmental and economic sustainability. The fund will benefit BC aquaculture producers by supporting science partnerships, innovation, clean technology adoption, and green infrastructure investments that improve productivity, sustainability and safety. the province is exploring whether it will be able to provide cost-share funding.

Seed Supply and Climate Change Adaptation
The B.C. government provided $200,000 to partner with the BC Shellfish Growers Association (BCSGA), Vancouver Island University, and the Hakai Institute, to create the OASISS (Ocean Acidification Shellfish Industry Seed Supply) and BaSEIC (Baynes Sound Environmental Intelligence Collaboration) projects to address local seed supply and climate change monitoring and adaption to increase the long term stability and competitiveness of BC shellfish aquaculture producers.

BC Oyster Recovery Fund
The $1.3M BC Oyster Recovery Fund, announced in June 2018, supports the stability of the sector through oyster stock re-seeding efforts. Additionally, the funding will support a marine norovirus pilot

research survey that will monitor the travel patterns of pathogens through Baynes Sound and initiate research for the potential development of an early-warning system for pathogen transfer. Since June, 73 applications submitted by B.C. oyster farmers have been approved and a total of $605,800 in funding has been processed.

Animal Health Centre, Abbotsford

The Animal Health Centre is the leading accredited full-service veterinary laboratory in Western Canada, offering more than 400 laboratory diagnostic tests for agents that may be found in wild and domestic birds, mammals, fish, reptiles and amphibians. The laboratory is accredited by the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians and ISO 17025 accredited by the Standards Council of Canada. It is the only institution in North America with two board-certified veterinary pathologists who work exclusively with fish and provides diagnostic services for the salmon farming sector.

AQUACULTURE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **Local and international markets for sustainably produced seafood continue to grow, and the B.C. government is investing in companies in our coastal communities to take advantage of the demand.**
- **The B.C. government has programs to help aquaculture companies develop new technology, reduce their environmental footprint, and market their products to consumers in B.C. and around the world.**
- **Many British Columbians enjoy the fresh and local seafood farmed in B.C. and the B.C. government is supporting local producers to reach B.C. customers through the Buy BC campaign**
- **In addition, the governments of Canada and B.C. are supporting B.C. seafood processors reach new customers and improve their sales with market support in Asia, Europe and the USA. (Canadian Fish and Seafood Opportunities Fund and Canadian Agricultural Partnership)**
- **We've partnered with the federal government to help seafood producers (wild and farmed) to incorporate existing clean technology in their operations, and build on their reputation for sustainable practices. (Fisheries and Aquaculture Clean Technology Adoption Program and the B.C. Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund)**
- **We've partnered with universities, environmental groups and the shellfish industry to support the development of shellfish seed that is better adapted to climate change to ensure the long-term competitiveness of the industry.**
- **We work with B.C. producers to ensure their products can be enjoyed safely here at home and around the world. We're supporting B.C. shellfish growers through oyster stock re-seeding efforts, and a research study on the potential development of an early-warning system to ensure harvested seafood does not pose a health risk.**

BACKGROUND:

- In 2017, B.C. fisheries and aquaculture harvested over 100 different species of fish, shellfish and marine plants (279,000 tonnes) with a wholesale value of $1.749 billion. Aquaculture contributed 35 per cent of the harvest (97,000 tonnes) and 50 per cent of the wholesale value ($870 million) of B.C. seafood. Farmed salmon are the dominant aquaculture species group representing 89 per cent of both the harvest (86,000 tonnes) and the wholesale value ($778 million) and is B.C.'s top agrifood and seafood export.

- The landed value of aquacultured seafood in 2017 was $768 million representing a 2 per cent decrease over last year; however, over the last ten years (2007, landed value: $410 million) the landed value, on average, has increased by more than 7 per cent per year.

- Key farmed species included: Atlantic salmon, chinook salmon, oysters, mussels and clams.

- The aquaculture sector is an important contributor to the economies of rural coastal communities and employer of women and First Nations.

- Through several programs that are provincially funded or cost shared with the federal government, the Ministry supports industry economic development. These include:
    - **Buy BC Program:** A $2 million fund developed by the Government of B.C. to increase competitiveness of B.C.'s agrifood and seafood industry (including aquaculture) within the domestic market.
    - **Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP): BC Agrifood & Seafood Market Development Program:** Provides Federal and Provincial Government cost-shared funding support for B.C.'s agriculture, food and seafood sectors to undertake eligible domestic and export market development projects and activities.
    - **Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP): BC Traceability Adoption (TA) Program and the Traceability Value Chain (TVC) Program:** TA program provides cost-shared funding to seafood producers and processors to implement or improve facility-based traceability systems and practices. TVC program offers financial assistance to agrifood and seafood industry associations and groups of two or more agrifood and seafood businesses along a value chain to put sector-wide or value chain traceability systems and technologies in place.
    - **Fisheries and Aquaculture Clean Technology Adoption Program (FACTAP):** FACTAP supports Canada's fisheries and aquaculture industries to incorporate existing clean technologies into their day-to-day operations. The program provides up to $20 million nationally over four years. To date (17/18 and 18/19 fiscals), 15 aquaculture sector projects have received $218,000 in funds to support total project costs of $2.02 million.
    - **Canadian Fish and Seafood Opportunities Fund (CFSOF):** The federally managed fund, announced in December 2018, is cost-shared with the provinces (70 per cent federal and 30 per cent provincial/territorial) to promote market access and development for the fish and seafood industry for initiatives that are national in scope. The $43 million national program will support the fish and seafood sectors by encouraging industry collaboration to promote high quality products. Program runs until March 31, 2024.

- **BC Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (BCSRIF):** Announced on November 30, 2018, this federally managed fund is proposed as a cost share with the Province (70 per cent federal and 30 per cent provincial) and will target salmon habitat protection and restoration as well as ensuring the fish and seafood sector in B.C. is positioned for long-term environmental and economic sustainability. The fund is valued at $105 million over five years, including a $5 million grant to the Pacific Salmon Foundation Endowment Fund in 2018/19. The fund will benefit B.C. aquaculture producers by supporting science partnerships, innovation, clean technology adoption, and green infrastructure investments that improve productivity, sustainability and safety.s.12; s.13

s.12; s.13

- **Seed Supply and Climate Change Adaptation:** The B.C. government provided $200,000 to partner with the BC Shellfish Growers Association (BCSGA), Vancouver Island University, and the Hakai Institute, to create the Ocean Acidification Shellfish Industry Seed Supply (OASISS) and Baynes Sound Environmental Intelligence Collaboration (BaSEIC) projects to address local seed supply and climate change monitoring and adaption to increase the long term stability and competitiveness of B.C. shellfish aquaculture producers.
- **BC Oyster Recovery Fund:** The $1.3 million Fund, announced in June 2018, supports the stability of the sector through oyster stock re-seeding efforts. Additionally, the funding will support a pilot research survey that will monitor the travel patterns of pathogens of public health concern through Baynes Sound and initiate research for the potential development of an early-warning system for pathogen transfer and a shellfish communication plan to raise awareness about B.C. oysters and educate the public and stakeholders along the value chain about oyster handling as well as real and perceived risks from shellfish food-borne illness to build food literacy. Since June, 73 applications submitted by B.C. oyster farmers have been approved and a total of $605,800 in funding has been processed.
- **Pacific Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative (PICFI):** This is a federal fund managed by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) that provides direct support to eligible First Nations to develop commercial fisheries capacity and increase access to commercial fishing in the Pacific Region. The PICFI Aquaculture Development Source was created to provide direct support to First Nations to develop sustainable aquaculture operations. A total of $600,000 is available in 2018/19.
- **Animal Health Centre, Abbotsford:** The Animal Health Centre is the leading accredited full-service veterinary laboratory in Western Canada, offering more than 400 laboratory diagnostic tests for agents that may be found in wild and domestic birds, mammals, fish, reptiles and amphibians. The laboratory is accredited by the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians and ISO 17025 accredited by the Standards Council of Canada. It is the only institution in North America with two board-certified veterinary pathologists who work exclusively with fish and provides diagnostic services for the salmon farming sector.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- Nationally, there are 23 federally administer programs that provide financial support for the fish and seafood sector. Of these, six are specific to certain provinces (Quebec) or regions (Atlantic Fisheries Fund; several Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) funds that are specific to the Atlantic Region). In addition, there are three funds specific to First Nations capacity building, including one that is specific to B.C. The remaining 15 funds support a range of activities from basic science research, innovation, marketing and financing.

- Each province manages provincially funded programs in concert with the federal programs. The number of program developed by each province ranges: Newfoundland (1); Nova Scotia (13); Prince Edward Island (9); New Brunswick (7), Quebec (10); Ontario (10), Manitoba (1); B.C. (3). However, these numbers include federal-provincial cost-shared programs, for example B.C.'s Agrifood and Seafood Market Development Program.

- Similar to the federal programs, provincial programs support a range of activities but focus on financial assistance, market development, and labour and skill development..

- Of particular note, all provinces have funding programs for loans, loan guarantees or access to capital for business development. B.C. does not have a program to provide access to capital for business development with the exception of the Pacific Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative (PICFI) Aquaculture Development Source fund for First Nations aquaculture business development.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- **Buy BC**: Current expenditures fall within current Buy BC budget allocations.

- **CAP**: (B.C. Agrifood & Seafood Market Development Program; B.C. TA and TVC Programs) currently fall within current CAP budget allocations.

- **FACTAP**: 17/18 total expended was $25,000, all allocated to aquaculture; 18/19 total expended was $340.000, 60 per cent allocated to aquaculture; s.12; s.13
s.12; s.13

- s.12; s.13

- s.12; s.13
s.12; s.13

- **Seed Supply Climate Change Adaptation**: Program is fully funded with no further expenditures.

- **BC Oyster Recover Fund**: Currently maintaining a surplus of $394,000 from seed reimbursements, but still processing applications until the end of the 2018/19 fiscal. It is likely all available funds of $1 million will not be claimed. Additional expenditures from the Fund: 2018/19: $75,000 for the Shellfish Communications Plan; s.12; s.13
s.12; s.13

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
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Date approved:	Branch: Sector Development	Branch: Sector Development
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ADVICE TO MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE Ministry of Agriculture Date: January 15, 2018 Minister Responsible: Minister Lana Popham	**Broughton Recommendations**

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- Our historic, government-to-government talks with First Nations in the Broughton have produced important recommendations to address Nations' longstanding concerns and protect and restore wild salmon stocks.
- The talks were grounded in the shared responsibility of reconciliation.
- Their success demonstrates that when we work government-to-government with First Nations, we can deliver results that work for industry, and make life better for everyone in B.C. – Indigenous and non-Indigenous people alike.
- Our government endorses the recommendations. We are committed – along with First Nations and industry – to working together with the federal government to implement them.
- The recommendations will help protect and restore wild salmon stocks, allow an orderly transition of open-pen finfish aquaculture from the Broughton and create a more sustainable future for local communities
- All parties came to the table ready to work collaboratively to develop shared recommendations that everyone was able to support.
- The MAACFA report also recommended a requirement for agreements with First Nations - a council that was appointed under the previous government.
- The two companies operating in the Broughton Archipelago were part of this process, and are supportive of the recommendations it produced.
- They have told us that there will be minimal to no job impacts at the sites as a result of the orderly transition outline in the recommendation.

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s.13; s.16

ADVICE TO MINISTER

Communications:	Meghan McRae	250 952-0622
Program:	Wes Shoemaker	250 XXX-XXXX

ISSUE: Broughton Agreement Implementation

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **Our historic, government-to-government talks with First Nations in the Broughton have produced important recommendations to address Nations' longstanding concerns and protect and restore wild salmon stocks.**
- **The talks were grounded in the shared responsibility of reconciliation.**
- **All parties came to the table ready to work collaboratively to develop shared recommendations that everyone was able to support.**
- **The recommendations will help protect and restore wild salmon stocks, allow an orderly transition of open-pen finfish aquaculture from the Broughton and create a more sustainable future for local communities**
- **Their success demonstrates that when we work government-to-government with First Nations, we can deliver results that work for industry, and make life better for everyone in B.C. – Indigenous and non-Indigenous people alike.**
- **The two companies operating in the Broughton Archipelago were part of this process, and are supportive of the recommendations it produced.**
- **The companies have told us that there will be minimal to no job impacts at the sites as a result of the orderly transition outline in the recommendation.**
- **Our government endorses the recommendations. We are committed – along with First Nations and industry – to working together with the federal government to implement them.**

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s.13; s.16

Minister of Agriculture's Advisory Council on Finfish Aquaculture (MAACFA) Overview

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **In June 2015, the B.C. government announced a Minister of Agriculture's Advisory Council on Finfish Aquaculture (MAACFA).**
- **MAACFA was tasked to examine the salmon aquaculture application and approval framework to ensure the operations are socially and ecologically sustainable, and could coexist with B.C.'s wild fishery resources through**
- **Members including those from the aquaculture industry, academia, environmental non-governmental organizations, First Nations, and federal and provincial government officials.**
- **The Council met between July 2016 and January 2018 during which it was provided background on salmon farming (regulatory regime, operational arrangements, and research and health developments) and diverse presentations on finfish aquaculture issues.**
- **The final report was provided to the Province on February 1, 2018, and in coordination with DFO and other provincial agencies, progress has been made on many of the strategic recommendations and associated actions.**
- **We are encouraged by the Federal Government's recent aquaculture announcements that show positive progress on responding to MAACFA recommendations.**
- **These include moving towards an area-based approach to aquaculture management and developing a framework for aquaculture risk management based on the precautionary approach.**

BACKGROUND:

- In July 2015, the Minister of Agriculture announced the initiation of the Minister of Agriculture's Advisory Council on Finfish Aquaculture (MAACFA) "to examine the rules and restrictions that guide the application and approval process for finfish aquaculture to ensure that aquaculture operations are socially and ecologically sustainable and can co-exist with British Columbia's wild fishery resource". The Minister officially launched MAACFA on a conference call May 17, 2016.
- A Terms of Reference was developed that outlined the roles and responsibilities to fulfill the Minister's expectations (see Appendix 1 - Terms of Reference).
- The members of MAACFA included representation from the aquaculture industry, academia, non-governmental organizations, First Nations and senior government officials including the Deputy Ministers of Agriculture (AGRI) and Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. The Regional Director General of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) participated as an observer in an advisory capacity (see Appendix 2 - Membership list).
- MAACFA was chaired by Paul Sprout (former Regional Director General of DFO and currently B.C.'s representative on the Pacific Salmon Commission) and facilitated under contract to AGRI by Paul Macgillivray (former Regional Director, DFO). The Assistant Deputy Minister and staff from the Agriculture Science and Policy Division served as a secretariat.
- MAACFA members heard from experts on a wide range of related topics including: the existing federal and provincial regulatory frameworks related to finfish aquaculture; fish health and disease risks associated with farmed and wild salmon; First Nation perspectives; concerns of environmental non-government organizations; the economic benefits of the industry; land-based aquaculture; and Aquaculture Stewardship Council certification
- On February 1 2018, MAACFA submitted its final report to the Minister of Agriculture. The report reflects three divergent perspectives on the risk levels of salmon farming to wild salmon stocks:
    1) The current risk is too great to allow the continuation of marine net-pen industry.
    2) The current risk can be managed through best practices and more considerate siting guidelines.
    3) There is no evidence that serious risk to wild salmon populations exists or is greater than any number of other natural risk factors.
- MAACFA members were able to reach consensus on six overarching themes with associated strategic recommendations and immediate and long term actions (see Appendices 3 & 4).
- In coordination with DFO and other provincial agencies, progress has been made on many of the strategic recommendations and associated actions contained in the

AGR-2019-95524

MAACFA report. Highlights include:

- On February 2, 2018: Minister LeBlanc announced Independent Expert Panel on Aquaculture Science. The Panel was formally established in May 2018 with a mandate to providing DFO with advice and recommendations on three areas of concern: 1) the appropriate use of scientific evidence in risk-based aquaculture decision-making, 2) the priority-setting process for aquaculture science at DFO, and 3) the communication of aquaculture science and resulting decisions to Canadians. The final report was released on December 13, 2018 and contained 10 recommendations.
- On June 20, 2018, the Province announced a new provincial approach to issuing salmon farm tenures. Effective June 2022, the Province will grant *Land Act* tenures only to fish farm operators who have satisfied 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.
- On June 27, 2018 the Province established joint decision-making process with First Nations for Broughton Archipelago fish farm tenures. The 'Namgis, Kwikwasutinuxw Haxwa'mis and Mamalilikulla First Nations and the Province of British Columbia executed a letter of understanding (LOU), formalizing ongoing talks.
- In July, 2018 the Aquaculture Activities Regulations (AAR) Monitoring Standard was released to support industry to meet the monitoring and sampling requirements of the AAR and produce consistent and high quality data annually. Site-level data is now made public on the DFO website and over the longer-term could form the basis of an online tool similar to the BarentsWatch site in Norway.
- On December 10, 2018 the Government of Canada announced new way forward on aquaculture management and the protection of wild salmon, with a suite of aquaculture-related initiatives including:
  - A study on the alternative technologies for aquaculture (B.C. is co-funding and managing this study in partnership with DFO and Sustainable Development Technology Canada).
  - Moving towards an area-based approach to aquaculture management.
  - Developing a framework for aquaculture risk management, based on the precautionary approach.
  - Creating a single comprehensive set of regulations, the General Aquaculture Regulations.
- On December 14, 2018 the Province and the three signatory First Nations announced endorsement of the recommendations resulting from the LOU process. Work is ongoing on the development of an Indigenous Monitoring and Inspection Program for the region. DFO is participating and this work is aligned with their development of area-based management for aquaculture in the Pacific region.
- On January 14, 2019 the Province announced an investment of $215,000 for The Centre for Innovation in Fish Health at Vancouver Island University. These funds were provided by the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training to aid the development of a laboratory that meets the federal regulations of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency for Aquatic Animal

Pathogen Level 2.

- On November 30, 2018 the federal government announced the British Columbia Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (BCSRIF). This federally managed fund is proposed as a cost-share with the Province (70% federal and 30% provincial) and will target salmon habitat protection and restoration as well as ensuring the fish and seafood sector in British Columbia is positioned for long-term environmental and economic sustainability.
  - s.12; s.13

    - The fund could benefit B.C. aquaculture producers by supporting science partnerships, innovation, clean technology adoption, and green infrastructure investments that improve productivity, sustainability and safety.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- Not applicable.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- Not applicable.

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
ADM James Mack	Name: David Travia	Name: Larry Neilson
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Appendix 1 - Minister of Agriculture's Advisory Council on Finfish Aquaculture Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference

Background:

In July, 2015, the Province announced that it will examine the rules and restrictions that guide the application and approval process to ensure that aquaculture operations are socially and ecologically sustainable and can co-exist with British Columbia's wild fishery resource. Specifically, the government will:

1. Strike a Minister of Agriculture's Advisory Council on Finfish Aquaculture that will include members from the aquaculture industry, non-governmental organizations and First Nations, as well as the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Forest, Lands and Natural Resource Operations.
2. Examine establishing a protocol for receiving advice from the Aquaculture Stewardship Council in regard to tenures for new aquaculture sites.
3. Examine the feasibility of improved microbe detection at aquaculture sites arising from the work being undertaken by Genome BC in tandem with the other scientific evidence already available to the Province.

Recognizing the nature of the work to be undertaken by the Minister of Agriculture's Advisory Council on Finfish Aquaculture (MAACFA), the Province also stated in July 2015, that while these actions are being undertaken, the Province will not consider any further approvals for new salmon aquaculture tenures.

Scope and Purpose

MAACFA will provide strategic advice and policy guidance to the Minister of Agriculture (Minister) about the future of, and issuance of new Crown land tenures for, marine-based salmon aquaculture in BC.

MAACFA's deliberations may include whether or not the Province should pursue development of marine-based salmon aquaculture in BC and if so, should yield recommendations to guide the application and approval process to ensure that aquaculture operations are socially and ecologically sustainable and can co-exist with British Columbia's wild fishery resource.

Principles

MAACFA will seek to provide a balanced and reasoned approach, mindful of divergent views, supported by staff and subject matter experts.

MAACFA is expected to reach consensus in providing recommendations. If not possible, MAACFA should reflect the different views of the members. MAACFA is not a decision-making body.

Operation

MAACFA may receive presentations from interested parties. MAAFCA may be asked to review and comment on proposals and will have the ability to request briefings from the industry or other experts.

Confidentiality

Conversations within MAACFA must be held in confidence. MAACFA members must not discuss or disclose the nature or content of these conversations with the public or the media as Cabinet confidentiality applies to advice and recommendations to be considered by a Minister or by the Executive Council (Cabinet). Similarly, written submissions and background materials prepared to

inform MAACFA discussions must not be disclosed publically.

Membership

MAACFA will report directly to the Minister. MAACFA will have an appointed Chair and Vice-Chair to provide neutral and unencumbered leadership. The Ministry of Agriculture (AGRI) will provide the supporting secretariat. Officials from AGRI, the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNR) and the Ministry of Environment (ENV) will support the secretariat as required.
MAACFA will be comprised of representatives from:

- First Nations (1 or more members, 1 alternate)
- Marine-based finfish aquaculture producers (1 or more members, 1 alternate)
- Non-governmental organizations (1 or more members, 1 alternate)
- Academia (1 or more members, 1 alternate)
- Marine planning (1 member, 1 alternate)
- Seafood industry/wild salmon harvest and processing (1 member, 1 alternate)
- The Deputy Minister of Agriculture or designate (1 ex officio member and advisor)
- The Deputy Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations or designate (1 ex officio member and advisor)

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) will participate as an observer and provide advice as appropriate.
In addition, other representatives with technical and academic expertise in the BC agrifoods and seafood sectors may be involved in short-term, task-focussed working groups.

Term

MAACFA will sunset 18 months after endorsement of the Terms of Reference.

Immediately prior to dissolution, MAACFA will deliver a final report to the Minister.

Expenses

The Ministry will be responsible for travel costs, subject to government travel guidelines and requirements.

Secretariat Support

- James Mack, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture (AGRI), and Executive lead for the BC Seafood Secretariat
- David Travia, Director, Director of Intergovernmental Relations (AGRI)
- Officials from AGRI, FLNR and ENV as required.

The Ministry will provide meeting space, teleconferencing access and logistical organization.

Meeting schedule

MAACFA will report to the Minister on progress, within 100 days of establishment and subsequently as directed by the Minister.
Meetings will be convened at least once per quarter or more often as required.

Appendix 2 - Minister of Agriculture's Advisory Council on Finfish Aquaculture Membership List

Member	Organization
Tony Allard	Chairman, Wild Salmon Forever
Keith Atleo	Operations Manager, Ahousaht First Nation and the Ahous Business Corporation
John Bones	Principal, J.B. Consulting (Land Use Planner)
Dr. Christina Burridge	Executive Director, BC Seafood Alliance
Ernie Crey	Chief, Cheam First Nation
Bill Cranmer	President, Kuterra
Jeremey Dunn	Executive Director, BC Salmon Farmers Association
Dr. Anthony Farrell	Canada Research Chair, Faculty of Land and Food Systems & Department of Zoology, University of British Columbia
Larry Greba	Director, Kitasoo Economic Development Corporation
Saya Masso	Natural Resource Director Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation
Dr. Don Noakes	Dean , Faculty of Science and Technology, Vancouver Island University
Rebecca Reid	Regional Director General, Fisheries and Ocean Canada
Brian Riddell	President and CEO, Pacific Salmon Foundation
Tim Sheldon	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations
Lee Spahan	Chief, Coldwater First Nation
Paul Sprout	B.C. Commissioner, Pacific Salmon Commission
Wes Shoemaker	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture
John Werring	Senior Science and Policy Advisor, David Suzuki Foundation
Tessa Terbasket	Individual First Nation member

Appendix 3 – MAACFA Report Strategic Recommendations

1. Strengthen the precautionary approach to regulating salmon farming in B.C. to reduce the potential risk of serious harm to wild salmon.

2. Acknowledge and incorporate First Nations' rights, title and stewardship responsibilities in all aspects of fish farm governance, including tenuring, licensing, management and monitoring in a manner consistent with the United Nations Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

3. Increase community, stakeholder and local government engagement and marine spatial planning to improve public trust in aquaculture siting and operations.

4. Move expeditiously to better understand the risk salmon farming poses to wild salmon from the transfer of pathogens (including sea lice) as well as the actual consequences of pathogen infection on wild salmon.

5. Provide incentives for the continued research, development and adoption of salmon farming technologies that reduce the risk to wild salmon, including land-based closed containment.

6. Improve the timeliness and accessibility of information on finfish aquaculture.

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s.16; s.13

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s.13; s.16

FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE OUTLOOK

ISSUE: A 2019 outlook for major B.C. fisheries, aquaculture and seafood sectors

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **B.C.'s extensive coastline and unique geography provide for a significant fisheries and seafood industry. The fisheries and aquaculture sectors provide thousands of jobs to British Columbians.**
- **Most wild Pacific salmon runs are expected to once again experience record low returns and most likely limited economic opportunities for all salmon fisheries as a result.**
- **Concerns and conservation actions to assist with Southern Resident Killer Whale (SRKW) protection and recovery will also likely negatively impact salmon harvest for all salmon fisheries.**
- **Thompson and Chilcotin River steelhead populations have reached critical lows and have been recommended for emergency listing as endangered which could impact Fraser River salmon fisheries, Aboriginal fishing, and recreational fishing opportunities.**
- **Pacific hake harvests were some of the largest on record in 2017 and 2018, and are expected to continue in 2019.**
- **Halibut harvest, which had been reduced by 14% down to 6.22 million lbs in 2018, will see a slight increase to 6.83 million lbs for 2019 after successful negotiations at the recent International Pacific Halibut Commission meetings.**
- **Most other wild fisheries are expected to remain stable in 2019, but will continue to be affected by factors such as climate change, stock variability, and conservation measures (e.g., marine protected areas).**
- **Farmed salmon remains the largest contributor to B.C. seafood revenues. Further work is required to ensure that that aquaculture operations are socially and ecologically sustainable and can co-exist with B.C.'s wild fishery resource.**
- **Fisheries and Oceans Canada has released a Draft National Fisheries Monitoring Policy which will set guidelines for monitoring requirements for all fisheries including First Nations fisheries, and**

AGR-2019-95524

expects to begin evaluating new fisheries monitoring programs by the end of 2019.

AGR-2019-95524

BACKGROUND:

B.C.'s extensive coastline and unique geography provide for a significant fisheries and seafood industry. In 2017, fisheries and aquaculture in B.C. harvested over 100 different species of fish, shellfish and marine plants with a wholesale value of $1.749 billion. The aquaculture and fisheries sectors provide thousands of jobs to British Columbians. Continued, increasing demand for seafood globally, population growth, and climate change will likely increase the importance and value of fisheries and seafood to B.C. moving forward.

Wild fisheries are managed by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), but B.C. plays a key role in representing provincial interests at both domestic and international fisheries tables.

First Nations Considerations: First Nations have traditionally been significant participants in B.C. commercial fisheries, primarily in the fishing fleet and as employees in the processing sector. One third of fish harvesting jobs are in First Nation communities. Some First Nations have also established or acquired processing companies with mixed success. The recent Ahousaht decision, that grants a Constitutional right to sell fish for five Nuu-Chal-Nuuth First Nations, and other fisheries Indigeneous Reconciliation initiatives, will likely change the current market and allocation formulas.

1. Aquaculture

Salmon and finfish: The farmed Atlantic salmon industry saw near record sales highs in 2017 but saw a decrease in harvest by 7.7 per cent but only a 2.7 per cent decrease in total wholesale value due to a strong market. The outlook for the farmed salmon market remains excellent; however, growth of the industry has "paused" in B.C. over the last 10 years due to concerns and uncertainty over perceived environmental impacts, allocation of Crown land tenures and First Nations' interests.Farmed salmon remains the single most significant contributor to B.C. seafood sector revenues. Minor finfish species including trout/steelhead, Arctic char, tilapia, sturgeon (including caviar) and sablefish, primarily grown in land-based systems continue to show growth. Land-based systems have also been evaluated for the production of Atlantic salmon, but are not economically competitive at this time. There is involvement of First Nations in finfish aquaculture with over 20 economic and social partnerships in place. It is expected that continued involvement of First Nations in the salmon farming sector will facilitate growth of the sector.

Shellfish: The dominant farmed species is oysters, followed by modest production of clams, mussels and scallops. The release of the federal Integrated Geoduck Management Framework was expected to contribute to the expansion of B.C. production of geoduck and significant economic opportunities, but is facing implementation delays dues to First Nations' concerns. This framework could allow for operationalization of pending geoduck aquaculture ventures poised to realize marketable harvests in five to nine years. The oyster industry is facing some challenges currently, most notably illness from the consumption of raw oysters due to norovirus. Harvests of oysters are expected to be stable in 2019 due to closures directly linked to norovirus illness. In 2017, a successful collaborative project between the Ministry, Vancouver Island University, BC Shellfish Growers and the Hakai institutes is working to reduce reliance on imported oyster seed while developing climate change adaptation strategies for oyster production. The industry's constraints and reliance on imported seed stock have improved with the availability of local seed stock while the research being done will hopefully lessen the impacts and uncertainties due to climate change, in particular ocean acidification.

2. Sardine

Preliminary data from International Sardine Forums suggests the biomass in U.S. spawning waters is low again and it is unlikely there will be a sardine fishery in B.C. Due to the lack of a fishery for its fifth year there is some question as to the continuation of the Canadian Pacific Sardine Association. The fishermen wish this to continue so that should sardine once again show up in B.C., the infrastructure will be in place to re-enter the fishery.

3. Wild Shellfish

Shrimp: Due to a split in 2016 of representatives of shrimp trawl vessel sizes into two industry associations, the 2017 Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP) was delayed, which delayed the opening of the fishery by two months. The 2017 and 2018 fishery was also hindered by low biomass and lack of fishing opportunity. If the survey outcomes from the West Coast of Vancouver Island result in that area being closed, the landings will most likely be greatly reduced again in 2019.

Crab: Dungeness crab stocks are expected to remain stable in 2019.

4. Wild Pacific Salmon

The overall outlook for most stocks in 2019 is similar to that of 2018. Salmon returns will likely be highly variable, with an overall continued trend of reduced productivity, especially for southern salmon populations and chinook in all areas.

Sockeye: Sockeye returns are expected to remain below historical averages in both north and south coastal regions. Despite the strong Adam's brood year in 2014 that translated to higher returns in 2018, below average returns are expected for many Fraser River sockeye runs in 2019. There remains significant uncertainty with these runs. There will likely be limited economic opportunities for salmon fishermen as a result.

Chinook: Northern and southern populations of Chinook salmon are expected to produce poor returns. Conservation efforts, and plans for Southern Resident Killer Whale recovery efforts being considered by the DFO may also further limit commercial and recreational harvest opportunities in 2019.

Pink: 2019 is an odd year and therefore a 'pink year'. Fraser River pink returns are expected to be below average for the odd year dominant run. Some Central Coast pink runs could see better than average returns in 2019.

Coho: Abundance will remain uncertain and depend on marine survival. Southern coho populations will mostly remain at historic lows for 2019. Harvest restrictions will likely continue. Northern coho populations are expected to be more variable but will likely show declines.

Chum: Forecasts are highly uncertain. 2019 is not expected to be as productive as the banner 2016 chum salmon fishery. Poor chum returns are expected in northern systems, while southern inside populations are expected to yield some fisheries opportunities, despite high stock variability, and conservation concerns for other species.

5. Tuna

The USA-Canada Albacore Tuna Treaty fishing arrangement was renewed for three years beginning in 2017, providing stability for B.C.'s tuna fishermen for that duration. 2017 saw decreased catch levels, a slight upswing in 2018, and a similar outlook for 2019. Tuna markets and prices remain strong, partially offsetting reduced harvest levels.

6. Herring

In 2019, the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) has been set lower than the 2018 TAC by approximately 3,000 tonnes. In 2017 the roe herring fishery was not opened in the central coast region and 2019 will be the first year where the roe herring fishery will not be open in the North Coast region leaving only the Strait of Georgia open. Spawn on Kelp, food and bait, and special use herring are harvested at lower volumes. Of the five main stocks that are managed in BC, three of five appear to still be recovering well from a low in 2010. The Strait of Georgia stock is the largest and its current biomass is close to unfished levels. Markets for various roe products are expected to show little change this coming year. First Nations conservation concerns in some areas may limit harvest opportunities.

7. Groundfish

Hake: Hake catch in 2018 was the second highest on record behind 2017 in which 86,000 tonnes were harvested. Stocks are near record levels and the TAC in 2019 is expected to be similar to, or slightly lower than last year's TAC. Hake has seen moderate increases in landed and wholesale values since 2015 which are expected to continue in 2019 as companies manage to find more diverse markets for hake. However, the ability of the B.C. industry to land more than just over half of its TAC remains a challenge.

Halibut: Halibut stocks, which have been stable up until 2017, were thought to be in decline so the coastwide TAC was reduced significantly in 2018 down to 27.9 million lbs. but increased in 2019 to 38.6 million lbs. An agreement was reached at the 2019 International Pacific Halibut Commission negotiation sessions, which gives B.C. 6.83 million lbs. of halibut. In 2018, the commercial fleet harvested their full share of the TAC, while the recreational fishery only harvested 86 per cent of its 928,000 lbs TAC. The commercial fishery has been very strong in recent years in B.C. – prices are high, as is consumer demand.

Other Groundfish: Groundfish hook and line harvests will show a small decrease in 2019 due to rockfish conservation concerns, mostly around yelloweye rockfish. The groundfish trawl outlook is good, however with similar conservation concerns for some rockfish, including bocaccio rockfish. Opportunities for lingcod and other minor species should be similar to last year. Sablefish markets and prices remain strong, and harvest should remain stable through 2019.

Snapshot of 2019 Seafood Trends

Species	Harvest	Landed Value	Wholesale Value)
Wild Salmon	↓	↓	↓
Farmed Salmon	↔	↑	↑
Herring	↓	↔	↔
Halibut	↔	↑	↑
Groundfish	↔	↔	↔
Wild Shellfish	↔	↔	↔
Farmed Shellfish	↔	↔	↔
Other Species	↔	↔	↔
Total BC	↓	↔	↑

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- All jurisdictions that manage wild fisheries are experiencing the effects of high variability and uncertainty with fish returns. For example, while B.C. has been experiencing record low salmon returns, now Alaska and the Southern US have also been reporting conservation concerns in 2018 and for 2019.
- There has been more significant investment recently in Atlantic Canada by large aquaculture companies due to more certainty in the industry.

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Cohen Commission Follow-Up

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **On October 31, 2012, the Federal Commission of Inquiry into the Decline of Sockeye Salmon in the Fraser River released its final report.**
- **The report includes 75 recommendations regarding the policies, practices and procedures of the federal agency, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), eight of which directly or indirectly reference the Province of British Columbia.**
- **On March 22, 2013, the B.C. government accepted the intent of each of the eight Cohen Commission recommendations that directly reference the Province and has taken action on each.**
- **In addition, the Province indicated it will not issue new salmon aquaculture tenures in the Discovery Islands until September 30, 2020.**
- **The August 28, 2018 mandate letter for federal fisheries Minister includes acting on recommendations of the Cohen Commission on restoring sockeye salmon stocks in the Fraser River.**
- **In October 2018, DFO released its final Cohen Commission update, announcing they have acted on all 75 recommendations and that implementation will continue into the future.**
- **The Province continues to encourage DFO to move forward with their responses to the Cohen recommendations and present our views on how to prioritize their implementation.**
- **The Province also continues its work in support of wild Pacific salmon and the Cohen Commission recommendations by coordinating with DFO on their Implementation Plan for the Wild Salmon Policy and developing a Provincial Wild Salmon Strategy.**

BACKGROUND:

- The Premier's June 10, 2013, mandate letter asked that the Minister of Agriculture implement Cohen Commission recommendations pertaining to B.C.
- No single cause for Fraser River sockeye decline was identified, although climate change and the cumulative impacts of human activities were found to be significant.
- The report was not critical of B.C. provincial resource management.
- On March 22, 2013, the B.C. government accepted, or accepted the intent of, the following recommendations:
  - **#14**: In the Discovery Islands Area until 2020, DFO should issue: one-year licenses maximum (existing farms); no new salmon farm licenses; no increased production for existing salmon farms.

    ACTION: B.C. has not issued any new tenures in the Discovery Islands Area.
  - **#43**: DFO should encourage B.C. to ensure legislation defines "High Water Mark" consistently.

    ACTION: The definition of "High Water Mark" in the Riparian Areas Regulation under the *Fish Protection Act* will be maintained under the new *Water Sustainability Act.*
  - **#44**: Encourage B.C. to continue monitoring compliance with and effectiveness of the B.C. Riparian Areas Regulation (RAR) and consider DFO input on variances.

    ACTION: FLNR reviews all RAR assessments, conducts annual field audits and reports results publicly, and is implementing an effectiveness monitoring strategy for the RAR. DFO has input via inter-agency committee.
  - **#45**: DFO should work with B.C. to achieve RAR compliance targets.

    ACTION: FLNR has ongoing avenues to assess compliance, and to achieve 90 percent compliance with 90 percent confidence levels.
  - **#46**: Amend RAR to require B.C. approval of setback variances.

    ACTION: B.C. sent a letter to DFO Minister on January 28, 2014 (Appendix 1) requesting discussion about the recommendation and the roles and responsibilities of the parties involved. Work continues through the recently implemented B.C.-DFO Fish Habitat Committee.
  - **#47**: DFO should encourage B.C. to complete modernization of the *Water Act*.

    ACTION: B.C. intends to bring the new Water Sustainability Act into force in early 2016.
  - **#52**: DFO should identify marine spill liaison officer to coordinate marine habitat spill response.

    ACTION: DFO has committed to act on the advice from the Expert Panel of Tanker Safety to create a world class tanker safety system.
  - **#54**: DFO should encourage B.C. to require pesticide users to record and report the areas and amounts of pesticides used. The Province should maintain a database.

    ACTION: B.C. has a system to monitor, report and disseminate pesticide use (but no database). The Province requires users to report pesticide use, and has the ability to provide information on total use. Standards of use are consistent with Health Canada requirements.
  - **#55**: DFO and Environment Canada should work with B.C. and local governments to coordinate environmental monitoring work and on a public education campaign.

    ACTION: Letter sent to federal Ministers (DFO, Environment Canada) on January 28,

2014 requesting discussion on monitoring and plan for public education campaign. Work continues through the recently implemented B.C.-DFO Fish Habitat Committee.

- In some instances, implementation of these recommendations will cost additional dollars, but these costs were anticipated and accounted for in ministry budgets.
- Despite finding no evidence of impact on Fraser River sockeye from aquaculture, the Commissioner recommended that DFO not issue any new licenses for salmon farms or allow increases in existing farm production in the Discovery Islands until 2020, unless sufficient evidence can be assembled to verify that the disease risk to Fraser River sockeye is minimal.
- Although it did not directly reference the Province, the Provincial Government chose to respond to the recommendation for the Discovery Islands area by announcing that it will not issue any new tenure agreements for net-pen salmon farms in the area until September 30, 2020.
- Minister LeBlanc's mandate letter includes direction to act on recommendations of the Cohen Commission for restoring sockeye salmon stocks in the Fraser River and to support sustainable aquaculture.
- In August 2016 the Minister of DFO issued a progress report on implementation of the Cohen Commission recommendations. http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/cohen/report-rapport-eng.htm
- In brief the progress report stated that:
  - 32 Recommendations were implemented in whole or in part.
  - 22 Recommendations implementation supported in principle but require additional work or resources to implement.
  - 6 Recommendations were out of date.
  - 15 Recommendations directed primarily at others (Government of Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada, or Province of B.C.).
- With respect to Canada's Wild Salmon Policy, DFO has decided to take a strategic and consultative approach, as they require the co-operation and engagement of many different agencies and stakeholders.
- The goal of the Wild Salmon Policy is to '*restore and maintain healthy and diverse salmon populations and their habitats for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of Canada in perpetuity'*, and B.C. is a key participant in this policy implementation.
- On Feb 2, 2018 Minister Leblanc announced the creation of an expert panel to provide recommendations on the appropriate use and consideration of scientific evidence in protecting the marine environment in decision-making on aquaculture.
- On October 11, 2018, new DFO Minister, Jonathan Wilkinson, provided a final Cohen Commission update announcing that DFO had acted on all 75 Cohen Commission recommendations.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- All jurisdictions managing fisheries are experiencing challenges related to extreme environmental variability and uncertainty with respect to stock abundance.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- There are no direct expenditures related to Cohen Commission recommendations as the Province has completed its actions relating to this inquiry.

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HERRING/SHELLFISH INDUSTRY

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **B.C.'s seafood and shellfish producers face challenging conditions that are often out of their control.**
- **In recent years, consumption of raw oysters and herring eggs from B.C. resulted in outbreaks of illness linked to pathogens that can be found in the marine environment under certain conditions.**
- **Although concerning, these are not unusual events given the known risks of eating raw or undercooked seafood.**
- **These outbreaks also had a negative effect on sales for B.C. oyster growers.**
- **The Ministry of Agriculture works with federal and provincial agencies, shellfish growers, and the seafood and restaurant industries to investigate outbreaks, support research, raise awareness of the importance of food safety and the handling of oysters, develop recommendations to improve food safety systems, and provide financial relief.**
- **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.**
- **I encourage all British Columbians to enjoy B.C. seafood products as high quality, sustainably produced choices, and support local food producers year round.**
- **By supporting local producers year round, British Columbians can help build local businesses and local economies, and make them more resilient.**
- **In 2017, B.C. produced 7,700 metric tonnes of oysters with a landed value to growers of $13.9 million, making it B.C.'s most valuable cultured shellfish commodity and fourth most valuable shellfish commodity.**

BACKGROUND:

- Shellfish processing is federally regulated by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).
- All shellfish landed in BC must be processed by a federally registered processor before entering the food system.
- Two naturally occurring bacteria (Vibrio cholera and Vibrio parahaemolyticus) found in marine waters have caused illnesses in recent years.
- In 2018, a small number of First Nations people were confirmed to have rare Vibrio cholerae (cholera) infections associated with consumption of herring eggs. This was the first cholera outbreak in BC as the disease is typically found in tropical waters. The outbreak was isolated and contained after Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) ordered an emergency closure in the area.
- In previous years, illnesses due to Vibrio parahaemolyticus have resulted in public advisories warning against the consumption of raw oysters. However, reported illnesses from 2016-2018 were substantially lower with no advisories being issued.
- Norovirus can also be present in raw oysters. Norovirus is a highly contagious virus that can be contracted from contaminated food or water, including raw oysters.
- The source of norovirus is feces and vomit of infected people. The virus can be present in marine water indirectly through boat discharges, failing septic systems, malfunctioning wastewater treatment plants, or directly from an infected person. Because shellfish are filter feeders, they can concentrate the virus and infect individuals that consume them raw or undercooked.
- In early 2017, illnesses were reported linked to norovirus as a result of people consuming raw oysters from various locations in BC. 344 norovirus illnesses in BC, Alberta and Ontario were reported in the winter of 2016/17. A comprehensive investigation by BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) concluded that commercial fishing vessels incorrectly disposing of sewage was the most likely source of contamination.
- A second norovirus outbreak from raw oysters occurred in 2018 with fewer cases (176) in BC, Alberta, Ontario and the US, and shorter duration. A small cluster of oysters farms in Baynes Sound were temporarily closed thereby preventing further illness.
- Although the norovirus outbreak is a concern from multiple perspectives (public health, economic and environmental), it is not unusual given the known risks of consuming raw shellfish. The number of norovirus outbreaks reported to the BCCDC in 2016/17 was within the historical range.
- The prolonged nature of the 2016/17 outbreak and the cumulative effect of successive outbreaks have resulted in a greater than normal reduction in consumption and a concurrent negative impact on sales for oyster growers in BC. The 2016/2017 norovirus outbreak was estimated to have cost the industry $9.1 million in sales. Currently, sales of BC oysters are estimated to be down by approximately 50%.
- The BCCDC, Regional Health Authorities, CFIA, DFO, and Public Health Agency of Canada address public health concerns by conducting investigations, initiating recalls, and issuing on-going public health warnings about the increased risk of illness from consuming raw oysters originating from BC waters.
- In response to recent outbreaks of norovirus, Ministry of Agriculture has taken the following actions to support the industry:
    - Developed the $1.325 M BC Oyster Recovery Fund to provide stability within the province's oyster aquaculture sector, and ensure oyster farmers continue to add to their local economies. The fund will:
        - assist the industry to re-seed oyster farms;
        - support norovirus research that will monitor travel patterns of pathogens in

Baynes Sound, assess potential development of an early warning system, and improved diagnostic methods; and
- develop educational and communication materials to raise awareness about BC oysters and educate the public and stakeholder along the value chain about oyster handling as well as the real and perceived risks from shellfish foodborne illness to build food literacy.

- Contributed $6,300 for a collaborative project between the BC Centre of Aquatic Health Science, North Island College and the BC Shellfish Growers Association to carry out research on the development of a DNA test for norovirus.
- Ministry staff remains actively engaged in providing food safety and industry expertise that will assist in identifying research and strategies to reduce the likelihood of infections in BC oysters in the future. These initiatives include:
  - Provincial Norovirus Action Plan
  - National Vibrio Working Group
  - Shellfish Aquaculture Industry Advisory Panel
  - Shellfish Aquaculture Management Advisory Committee
  - GenomeBC Sector Innovation Program.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- BC Oyster Recovery Fund: $1,325,000
- BC Centre of Aquatic Health Science Proficiency Test: $6,300
- Three Ministry staff continue to support the food safety initiatives mentioned above.

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Salmon Aquaculture Policy

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **Wild salmon have a unique role in the lives, culture and history of Indigenous people and are critical to our economy and the prosperity of coastal communities.**
- **The Province is taking steps to transition to a sustainable salmon aquaculture industry that respects wild salmon, embraces reconciliation with First Nations and protects jobs.**
- **Open net salmon farming is unique. There are particular concerns with this industry around fish health and impacts on our wild salmon stocks.**
- **This past June, we announced a new policy for issuing salmon farm tenures that will come into effect in June, 2022. This transition date - four years from now – will ensure that the salmon farming industry has the time it needs to address environmental concerns and build full partnerships with First Nations.**
- **As of June 2022, the Province will only grant *Land Act* tenures to fish farm operators who have satisfied Fisheries and Oceans Canada that their operations will not adversely impact wild salmon stocks, and who have negotiated agreements with the First Nations in whose territory they propose to operate.**
- **We are encouraging stronger action from our federal partners to make sure salmon farming operations do not put our wild salmon stocks at risk.**
- **Our new approach will create clarity for salmon farming by bringing industry and First Nations together in full partnership.**
- **Thousands of jobs depend on maintaining a healthy marine environment in B.C., along with the livelihoods and economic prosperity of coastal communities and First Nations.**
- **A number of operators already have agreements with First Nations. Those types of partnerships will grow and lead to more predictability over the long term as First Nations and industry work together.**
- **The 2022 deadline set within the new Provincial policy aligns with the 2022 expiry of federal (DFO) licences for 95 of the 120 finfish aquaculture tenures.**

BACKGROUND:

- The B.C. salmon farming industry has been operating in since the mid-1970s, and due to rapid expansion and the high profit margins, the industry is now B.C.'s highest valued seafood product and a significant economic contributor in rural coastal communities.
- Prior to 2010, the management of finfish aquaculture was under provincial jurisdiction. Management of finfish aquaculture and shellfish aquaculture fisheries transferred back to the federal government in 2010 as part of a B.C. Supreme Court ruling, often referred to as the Hinkson decision.
- Currently in B.C., aquaculture companies must operate in a multi-jurisdictional space where provincial and federal roles and responsibilities are clearly defined through legislation.
    - The provincial government sets the overall policies regarding economic development, regulates processing and transportation and disposes the use of crown land for the purposes of aquaculture through tenure administration. These roles are divided between the Ministry of Agriculture (AGRI) and the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNR) respectively.
    - The federal government regulates the actual culture or rearing of fish, fish health, marine environmental effects and monitors and mitigates potential implications to wild fish stocks.
- Since salmon aquaculture began in B.C., it has always been a controversial topic. Concerns range from potential environmental impacts and fish health (especially wild Pacific salmon) to social preference and First Nations impacts regarding their asserted rights and title in their territories.
- Over the years, the province has attempted to mitigate these concerns by two formal moratoria on new finfish aquaculture tenures in the Pacific:
    1. On March 27, 2008, a moratorium north of 52 degrees 50 (Klemtu area) was established through a Provincial Order in Council under the Environmental and Land Use Act.
    2. On March 22, 2013, a moratorium in the Discovery Islands area until September 30, 2020 in response to recommendations directed to the Province by the Cohen Commission.
- In addition the Province announced a "pause" on approvals for any new salmon aquaculture tenures and restrictions on amendments to existing tenures in 2015.
- Despite these actions, escalating civil disobedience, concerns of potential impacts to wild salmon and mounting First Nations opposition towards the industry, compelled the Province to address this situation in a way that provides more certainty and clarity for the industry and for British Columbians.
- In April 2018, AGRI released the Ministry of Agriculture's Advisory Council on Finfish Aquaculture's (MAACFA) final report with recommendations on salmon aquaculture which included a recommendation to: "establish policy requiring industry to have agreements with First Nations affected by a net-pen aquaculture site as a condition of

any new or replacement site tenure and provide guidelines to industry for developing these agreements."

- On June 20, 2018, the Province announced new conditions for the disposition of crown land for salmon aquaculture that replaced the "pause" announced in the 2015 bulletin. These new conditions come into effect for new and replacement tenures as of June, 2022 and require that operators:
    1) Meet all existing and future federal aquaculture license conditions that assures protection of the health of wild salmon;
    2) Demonstrate support from relevant First Nation(s) in whose territory they propose to operate via industry / First Nations agreements; and,
    3) Meet all provincial *Land Act* policies related to the siting of finfish aquaculture sites.

- Of the 120 finfish aquaculture tenures 79% (95 farm sites) have federal (DFO) licences with an expiry date of 2022 with the exception of those in the Discovery area which are on an annual licensing regime.
- There are currently 120 finfish aquaculture tenures across British Columbia with tenure terms as follows:
    - 20 tenures up for renewal in 2018 (17%)
    - 5 tenures up for renewal between 2019-2022 (4%)
    - 26 tenures up for renewal between 2023-2030 (26%)
    - 38 tenures up for renewal between 2031-2035 (32%)
    - 5 tenures up for renewal between 2035-2046 (4%)
    - 26 tenures are currently on month-to-month (22%)

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- In British Columbia, the Province issues the lease and DFO issues aquaculture licences and monitors licence conditions. In all other provinces and territories the provincial authorities issue both the lease and the licence. Prince Edward Island is the only other exception, where a management board with members from DFO, the Province and industry issue leases which have a licence attached.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- Not applicable.

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SEAFOOD INSPECTION PROGRAM OVERVIEW

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **Seafood is a major contributor to our economy with more than 4,500 British Columbians working directly in this sector, many of them in rural and remote communities.**
- **In 2017, provincial production from wild and farmed harvests totaled 279,400 tonnes with a landed value of $1.178 billion.**
- **The *Fish and Seafood Act* (FSA) was brought into force in 2017, and replaced the *Fisheries Act* and *Fish Inspection Act* which were last significantly updated in the 1960s.**
- **The FSA provides a modern framework that streamlines the licensing model and sets out higher levels of food safety accountability for those engaged in the seafood industry to better protect public health.**
- **The FSA is a cornerstone of the ministry's commitment to growth and development of this sector, and the production of safe seafood.**
- **The Ministry of Agriculture has 3 seafood inspectors, and other staff to provide information.**
- **The seafood inspection program issued 425 licences last year, a 2.4 percent increase over 2017.**

BACKGROUND:

- Based out of Courtenay and Abbotsford, the Seafood Safety and Quality Unit (SSQU) is responsible for administering and enforcing BC's *Fish and Seafood Act*, except the portions related to aquaculture and wild aquatic plant harvesting.
- The *Fish and Seafood Act* (FSA) was brought into force in 2017 to replace the *Fisheries Act* and *Fish Inspection Act* with a modern framework that streamlines licensing and sets out higher levels of food safety accountability for those engaged in the seafood industry.
- The primary objective of this regulatory framework is to ensure that fish and seafood are safe for consumption by the public.
- To ensure food safety, individuals and businesses conducting certain activities in the seafood industry must be licensed and meet regulatory requirements.
- SSQU issues three types of licences:
    1. Seafood Processor
        - required by any person who operates a:
            - seafood processing facility; or
            - seafood cold-storage facility.
    2. Fish Receiver
        - required by any person who operates a:
            - shore-based facility for the purposes of receiving fish directly from a commercially licensed fisher or a licensed packing vessel;
            - vehicle for the purposes of receiving fish directly from a commercially licensed fisher or a licensed packing vessel; or
            - vessel for the purposes of receiving fish directly from a commercially licensed fisher or a licensed packing vessel that does not hold a federal commercial fishing or packing licence.
    3. Fisher Vendor
        - required by any commercial fisher who sells catch to:
            - the general public for their own consumption, directly from the harvest vessel; or
            - restaurants or retail stores regulated under Food Premises Regulation.
- SSQU issued 425 licences in 2018, an increase of 2.4% from 2017.
- In 2018, SSQU conducted 335 inspections (up 3.7% from 2017) and 47 investigations. Inspectors conducted approximately 2.5 times more investigations in 2018 compared to 2017.
- Recognizing that the legislative framework is still relatively new to industry, throughout the year, SSQU conducted 64 targeted outreach activities to 1,269 regulated parties to promote food safety and encourage voluntary compliance with the new framework.
- Outreach activities will continue throughout 2019 as an important and necessary supplement to traditional enforcement methods.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

Program Revenue

2017	2018
$108,150	$105,710

Budget

2017	2018

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Protecting Wild Salmon

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **B.C. recognizes the values of wild Pacific salmon stocks, including steelhead and the commercial, recreational and First Nations fisheries and communities that depend on them, they are the main source of food for the southern resident orcas, and are one of our province's most emblematic animals.**
- **The freshwater habitat that sustains wild salmon is provincial jurisdiction and we work across all agencies and with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) to ensure this important habitat is protected.**
- **B.C. has a long history of programs that support or benefit salmon and their habitats and is actively working towards new initiatives to assist salmon recovery.**
- **On June 15, 2018 B.C. announced the formation of a Wild Salmon Advisory Council. The Council is expected to provide advice on a broad range of policy issues affecting wild salmon that will inform a made-in-B.C. Wild Salmon Strategy.**
- **B.C. also announced a new policy on salmon farms tenures in June 2018, which included assurances from DFO that the risk to wild salmon stocks was minimal.**
- **The BC Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (BCSRIF) was jointly announced by DFO Minister Jonathan Wilkinson and the Province on November 30th.**
- **The fund will be used to support the fish and seafood sector in British Columbia to ensure long-term environmental and economic sustainability, with a focus on salmon stock protection and habitat restoration.**
- **B.C. is also a supporter of the International Year of the Salmon, a focused year of events promoting the protection and stewardship of wild Pacific salmon, led by North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission.**

BACKGROUND:

Wild Salmon: 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 they generated $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.

On June 15, 2018 B.C. launched the Wild Salmon Advisory Council (WSAC), a multi-stakeholder advisory council that is assisting in the development 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 initial report from WSAC has been released and formed the basis of public consultations led by WSAC. The Final report with recommendations is expected in early 2019.

On November 30, 2018 the federal government announced the British Columbia Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (BCSRIF). This federally managed fund is proposed as a cost-share with the Province (70% federal and 30% provincial) and will target salmon habitat protection and restoration as well as ensuring the fish and seafood sector in British Columbia is positioned for long-term environmental and economic sustainability.

International Year of the Salmon: At the recent launch of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission's International Year of the Salmon (IYS), Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) Minister Jonathan Wilkinson highlighted the federal government's commitment to salmon preservation. Specifically, he named addressing the recommendations in the Cohen Commission and implementation of the 2018-2022 Wild Salmon Policy as initiatives that will help bolster salmon in the Fraser River. The Premier also spoke at the event, highlighting the importance of salmon to all British Columbians and the need for ongoing collaboration with DFO on conservation initiatives, including salmon enhancement and habitat restoration.

Fisheries Act: The management of fish habitat is a shared federal and provincial responsibility. In September 2016, the DFO Minister tasked Parliament's Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans (SCOFO) to review and study changes made to the Fisheries Act in 2012. B.C. made a SCOFO submission and has participated in the CCFAM Fisheries Act Review Task Group (FATG), to ensure consideration of the Province's interests. SCOFO tabled its final report on February 24, 2017 and most of B.C.'s feedback was incorporated. Bill C-68, containing the amendments to the Fisheries Act, was tabled in January 2018. The Bill has moved through the House and Senate as of January, 2019. It is expected to move through the Senate by early 2019 and attain Royal Assent by June 2019.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

All jurisdictions managing fisheries are experiencing challenges related to extreme environmental variability and uncertainty with respect to stock abundance. However, B.C. is unique with having 6 species of wild salmon within its water. All jurisdictions within Canada are subject to the federal *Fisheries Act,* which provides protection to fish habitat and limitations on allowable harm when utilizing adjacent natural resources.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):
FLNR has an existing mandate within its Fish and Aquatic Habitat Branch to manage freshwater habitat for all fish, including federally-managed salmon.

Implementation of WSAC recommendations and the B.C. Wild Salmon Strategy is expected to require funding to implement.

s.12; s.13

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Steelhead

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **B.C. recognizes the values of wild Pacific salmon stocks, including steelhead and the commercial, recreational and First Nations fisheries and communities that depend on them.**
- **The Interior Fraser Steelhead (Steelhead), commonly called the Thompson Chilcotin Steelhead, have declined from over 8,000 spawners in 1978, to under 300 today.**
- **We need to preserve all the associated cultural, social, economic and environmental benefits of steelhead and all salmon species for future generations.**
- **Steelhead are managed under provincial jurisdiction until they migrate into the ocean when the management then becomes cross-jurisdictional.**
- **First Nations have a constitutionally protected aboriginal right to fish for food, social and ceremonial purposes. We recognize the significance of First Nations acting under their own jurisdictional authorities for conservation.**
- **We are working with First Nations, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), sport fishers, the B.C. Wildlife Federation, and other steelhead organizations on how to recover this species.**
- **We were pleased to continue to support DFO as they restore habitat protection requirements under the federal *Fisheries Act*.**
- **B.C. has been active in working with the federal government on the potential Species At Risk Listing of Steelhead. The significance and potential fallout of such a listing is not being taken lightly.**
- **The Province, through the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, continues to take targeted management and recovery actions including establishing legal protections on habitat, improving fish access, and closing of all recreational fisheries during steelhead spawning periods.**

Background:

- Steelhead populations across the south coast of B.C. have been declining in productivity and abundance for the past few decades. Warming oceans, capture in commercial salmon fisheries, degradation of marine and freshwater habitat, marine mammal predation and competition with enhanced salmon populations in offshore environments are the key factors in the decline.
- Interior Fraser River steelhead (IFS, commonly called Thompson Chilcotin Steelhead) are a high profile conservation concern. Combined, IFS have declined from approximately 8,000 total fish in 1978 to less than 300 today.
- 2018 and 2019 represent the two worst years for returning IFS spawners. With a five-year life-cycle, another three years of low numbers will result in a full generation at extreme risk of extinction and recovery becomes improbable.
- In February 2018, COSEWIC concluded the species was at imminent risk of extinction and stated that there are several contributing factors including bycatch in commercial chum fisheries managed by DFO.
- On March 20, 2018, the Tsilhqot'in National Government announced a full closure of steelhead fisheries on the Chilcotin River, including foregoing their Constitutional rights for food, social and ceremonial purposes (FSC). This is in addition to other Interior Nations also closing or reducing their FSC fisheries.
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is leading an emergency *Species at Risk Act* review on IFS. The process is moving into the public and First Nations consultation phase. Differences of opinion between DFO and the Province will become public and due to provincial stakeholders' active engagement, will likely catch media attention.
- The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNR) has worked on habitat protection and already closed all Interior Fraser recreational fisheries due to conservation concerns.
- On January 10, 2019, Minister Donaldson met with Federal Minister Jonathan Wilkinson. There was agreement that IFS requires urgent action, that Minister Wilkinson would direct his staff to look at all options including the commercial fishery, and that the two ministers required a follow up discussion specific to IFS. Transition to selective harvest methods was of interest, as was establishing a joint task-team.
- B.C. is exploring additional emergency actions for 2019 including selective harvesting, fish passage remediation and kelt reconditioning. If proven viable and endorsed, these will require funding.
- On November 30, 2018 the federal government announced the British Columbia Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (BCSRIF). This federally managed fund is proposed as a cost-share with the Province (70% federal and 30% provincial) and will target salmon habitat protection and restoration as well as ensuring the fish and seafood sector in British Columbia is positioned for long-term environmental and economic sustainability. BCSRIF may provide opportunities for projects in support of steelhead recovery.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- Steelhead are a species subject to management measure by both the provincial government (FLNR) and federal government. DFO manages steelhead in their marine phase, as well as salmon fisheries that impact steelhead stocks. Environment Canada is the decision-making agency for Species at Risk legislation.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- If steelhead are listed as a Species At Risk, there will be implications for FLNR as they will be required by law to undertake a certain set of actions in collaboration with DFO and Environment Canada.

s.12; s.13

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Seafood Processing Capacity

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **The Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is responsible for the conservation and management of wild fisheries in B.C. and for making decisions on licensing for off shore seafood processing.**
- **B.C. remains supportive and committed to its long-standing policy of prioritizing shoreside access to fisheries resources and recognizes that both shore-based processors and freezer trawlers contribute greatly to the economic viability of the hake fishery.**
- **A new economic study, cost shared by AGRI, was completed in 2018 that found that both shore based processing and at-sea freezer vessels contribute significantly to the provincial economy.**
- **Some in the groundfish trawl industry are lobbying to have the rules changed to allocate a dedicated portion of Pacific hake quota to shoreside processing.**
- **This is not supported by a majority of the seafood industry on the west coast, even though it is a long-standing policy in the Atlantic region.**
- **Staff are working through the Groundfish Trawl Advisory Committee (GTAC), to find a workable solution that ensures on-shore processing is supported.**
- **This will ensure that the discussions are conducted at the table in partnership with DFO, where all hake processors, fishermen, and stakeholders, including coastal communities, can engage meaningfully.**

IF ASKED ABOUT THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT'S FISH PLANT EFFLUENT REVIEW:

- **ENV is taking steps to ensure the environment is protected. We are reviewing, and strengthening where necessary, every discharge permit for fish processing facilities in the province.**
- **We will continue to work with the fish processing industry, Indigenous communities, the federal government and other organizations to implement the recommendations in the audit report.**
- **Encourage to speak to Environment colleague for further information.**

BACKGROUND:

- The B.C. seafood processing sector faces a range of challenges which vary by species, abundance and concentration, and by fish processing economics.
- Pacific hake are a high volume, relatively low unit value fish that must be preserved quickly to maintain flesh quality and value.
- The majority of highly migratory Pacific hake biomass occurs in United States (U.S.) and typically fish older than four years migrate into Canadian waters.
- Pacific hake stocks are currently near record biomass levels in B.C. waters and they are concentrated in traditional harvest areas off Ucluelet.
- The Canadian (B.C.) Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of Pacific hake is negotiated annually under treaty with the U.S.
- The Ukraine/Russia conflict resulted in a collapse of the main market for B.C. hake. This situation continues to affect the entire groundfish fleet and potentially the entire industry given the linkages with other fisheries and supporting infrastructure.
- Hake landings in 2018 turned out to be the second largest on record. At that rate it was clear that the catch would exceed the processing capacity of both the shore based plants and the B.C. freezer trawler fleet.
- The outlook for 2019 suggests another large TAC, which will once again raise the question of whether there is sufficient fishing, and processing, capacity in B.C.
- In previous years Pacific hake stocks in B.C. have been more widely dispersed and mainly accessible to the freezer trawler fleet as they are able to preserve fish quickly. Trawlers operated by the shore based processing plants are restricted in range because they store and deliver their catch fresh.
- This history has created concerns for the shore based plants who are asking for a fixed share of the TAC for shore based plants.
- Provincial Government policy has historically limited processing-at-sea in order to protect shore-side processors. B.C. still operates under our formal 1981 policy that limited processing-at-sea in order to protect shore-side processors. Both the Province and DFO have reviewed the processing-at-sea policy numerous times.
- A shift in policy or reallocation/division of the hake TAC could have sweeping implications for not only the hake fishery, but also B.C.'s many other commercial fisheries.

<u>Fish Plant Effluent Review:</u>

- The Ministry of Environment (ENV) is undertaking an effluent and fish processing review. As part of the review, industry has been required to provide an estimate on their fish processing effluent outflow. Industry is concerned that ENV is pushing through with a schedule for this review that won't collect real data from the plants; rather, it will rely on estimates only. This is due to the plants being closed or not operating at full capacity through the winter (hence reduced effluent flow).
- Industry's view is that the review has serious implications for processing plants, particularly the smaller plants in the coastal regions (e.g., Port Hardy, Prince Rupert). They have identified two risks:

1. Given it will be based on an estimate, the eventual ENV discharge permit will not accurately reflect the actual operations of the plant; therefore, plants may fall out of compliance.
2. The requirements for the new permits are so cost-prohibitive that it will be simpler to close the plants (e.g., Canfisco's remaining plants in Prince Rupert) and consolidate in the lower mainland.

- Despite continued lobbying, industry claims that ENV does not seem open to delaying implementation of the new requirements. In addition, industry is displeased this is being pushed through with no representation from AGRI to offer the wider B.C. seafood perspective. They claim ENV is not considering the value of the industry or the potential impacts to operations and jobs, particularly for the plants that process wild fish.
- Industry understood that they had reached an agreement with ENV on the new requirements, timelines, and the submission of new information from their Qualified Professional, but on December 29, 2018 those arrangements fell apart. As a result, Canfisco has indicated that they may have to consider closing all their remaining operations in Prince Rupert. They continue to work with ENV officials.
- These concerns do not apply as much to facilities that process farmed salmon, as they have year round supply to keep them open and the money to buy new equipment to meet standards. However, the plants that process wild fish (which don't have the same perceived or potential risks of disease in their effluent) are going to be subject to the same ENV regulations, and likely can't afford to meet the potential new requirements both operationally and financially, especially in this short timeline.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- All jurisdictions managing fisheries are experiencing challenges related to extreme environmental variability and uncertainty with respect to stock abundance, as well as labour challenges.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- Not applicable.

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ADVICE TO MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL ISSUE NOTE Date: Jan 15, 2019 Minister Responsible: Popham	**SUPPORT FOR WILD SALMON**

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- We've introduced a new coast-wide aquaculture policy with rigorous new requirements to protect wild salmon.
- B.C. is actively working towards new initiatives to assist salmon recovery, specifically through the development of a made-in-B.C. Wild Salmon Strategy.
- The Wild Salmon Advisory Council will soon submit its final report and recommendations to government, as a step within this strategy development process.
- The Council recently met with residents in several communities, as well as running an online engagement process aimed at gathering ideas from all British Columbians.
- Our historic, government-to-government talks with First Nations in the Broughton have produced important recommendations to address Nations' longstanding concerns and protect and restore wild salmon stocks.
- The recommendations will help protect and restore wild salmon stocks, allow an orderly transition of open-pen finfish aquaculture from the Broughton and create a more sustainable future for local communities
- We're working collaboratively to develop a First Nation's guardian and monitoring plan in the Broughton, which includes:
    - Testing fish for diseases, disease agents, pathogens and sea lice before fish are transferred into the ocean and while the fish are in open-net pens
    - Compliance monitoring;
    - Ensuring open and transparent public reporting;
    - Providing trusted information to First Nations community members;

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- Taking steps to avoid and mitigate the impacts of fish farms on wild fish; and,
- Monitoring and testing of the operator's integrated sea lice management programs

- The B.C. government also supports sustainable management of wild fisheries by:

  - Participating in international negotiations that result in responsible, science-based fishery management and sharing arrangements

  - Delivering diagnostic and research support services that improve the understanding of fish populations and the risks they face

  - Operating the provincial veterinary diagnostic laboratory which supports a comprehensive fish health management program for salmon aquaculture including the federal government's fish health auditing and surveillance program

BACKGROUND:

Federal and Provincial Roles and Responsibilities

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)	• Responsible for the conservation and protection of fish and fish habitat and for management of marine fisheries. • Lead for aquaculture management including: ○ Licensing industry consistent with harmonized process with B.C. ○ Proper management and control of aquaculture including management of pollution measures and conservation and protection of wild fish and fish habitat • Aquatic animal health including disease prevention, detection and control; feed, medication, and biologics • Scientific research and monitoring, data collection on industry performance
Ministry of Agriculture	• B.C.'s lead for seafood industry development • B.C.'s lead for strategic aquaculture policy • Maintains Plant Animal Health Laboratory that supports DFO's aquaculture audit program
Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development	• Issues tenures authorizing the use of the land, foreshore and marine areas for finfish and shellfish aquaculture *(Land Act)* • Issues freshwater licences *(Water Sustainability Act)* • Marine use planning
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy	• Issues permits for sewage discharge *(Environmental Management Act)* • Issues permits for pesticide use *(Integrated Pest Management Act)*

Federal Funding Supports:

In January, 2019 DFO announced $12.6M over four years to Ocean Networks Canada, a national network of ocean observation systems based at the University of Victoria. This investment will strengthen high-quality, real-time data on our marine environment.

In November, 2018 Canada announced funding of:

- $107.4M over five years for stock assessment and rebuilding efforts for priority Pacific salmon stocks, as well as other priority fish stocks across Canada.
- A one-time $5M contribution to the Pacific Salmon Endowment Fund (as managed by the Pacific Salmon Foundation).
- $105M over six years for a new British Columbia Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund. This fund was announced along with a similar new program for Quebec and is based on the success of the Atlantic Fisheries Fund previously announced in 2018.

In October, 2018 Canada announced funding of:

- $164.7M over five years to protect, preserve and recover endangered whales, which includes research on salmon populations.

- $61.5M over five years to implement a suite of measures to protect and recover the Southern Resident Killer Whale, including funding that will support the conservation of wild pacific salmon.

In May 2017, the Government of Canada announced the $75M Coastal Restoration Fund to help rehabilitate some of our most vulnerable coastlines and protect marine life and ecosystems.

In November 2016 Canada announced funding of:

- $1.5B over five years to launch the Oceans Protection Plan.
- $197.1M over five years of incremental funding for ocean and freshwater science.
- $284.2M over five years to restore lost protections and incorporate modern safeguards into the *Fisheries Act*.

Provincial Funding Supports:

In November, 2018 the federal government announced a $105M investment to create the British Columbia Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (BCSRIF). The shared funding model allows the federal and provincial governments to cost-share strategic initiatives aimed at preserving and strengthening the fisheries and seafood economies and communities in B.C. The province is exploring whether it will be able to provide cost-share funding

The B.C. government promotes the conservation and enhancement of wild fish populations and freshwater habitat through ongoing investments including:

- Supporting the Freshwater Fisheries Society of B.C. with approximately $3M per year raised through provincially issued freshwater fishing licenses. The society stocks about 800 lakes and streams throughout B.C. annually, and conducts research and conservation projects.
- Establishing the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation to invest in projects that maintain and enhance the health and biological diversity of B.C.'s fish, wildlife and habitats. The foundation receives on-going funding through the purchase of provincial hunting and angling licenses and has invested over $140M in over 2000 projects.
- Establishing policies and systems such as the Riparian Areas Regulation to ensure any development projects near riparian areas undergo a science-based assessment, and the Fisheries Information Summary System be used as a resource to safeguard fisheries in waterbodies throughout B.C.

Other past provincial investments include:

- B.C. Hydro investing $8.9M between 2015-16 in 124 fish and wildlife conservation projects.
- Establishing the $21M Living Rivers Trust fund in 2006 to create a legacy for the province based on healthy watersheds, sustainable ecosystems and thriving communities. Since the Trust was started, more than 300 projects have been funded. The B.C. government provided an additional $1M in core funding in 2012.
- Supporting the Pacific Salmon Foundation, a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to the conservation and restoration of wild Pacific salmon and their natural habitats. B.C. has provided over $12M to the foundation through the Living Rivers Trust.
- Providing the B.C. commercial fishing industry with $100,000 to help them achieve Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification of sockeye salmon and other fisheries.

B.C. SALMON RESTRATION AND INNOVATION FUND

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **The protection of wild salmon is critically important to B.C.'s environment, history, economy and way of life.**
- **On March 15, 2019, the province of British Columbia and the Federal Government announced a joint commitment of $142 million dollars over the next five years to protect wild salmon.**
- **Our government's $42 million investment in the B.C. Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (BCSRIF) is the largest provincial financial commitment to protect wild salmon in the past 20 years.**
- **We are committed to helping restore abundant wild salmon stocks, while we develop sustainable wild fisheries and support communities around B.C. and on our coast.**
- **The B.C Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund will provide support for many wild salmon initiatives in B.C. with immediate focus on high impact areas including:**
    - **Habitat protection and restoration for rivers and streams that are crucial for salmon reproduction.**
    - **Maintenance of healthy and diverse salmon populations, with focus on existing community-based hatcheries and community education**
    - **Supporting the implementation of the recommendations from the Government-to-Government process in the Broughton Archipelago.**
- **These priorities align with the report from the B.C. Wild Salmon Advisory Council, and the province's work with First Nations, industry and the federal government in the Broughton Archipelago.**
- **We will continue to take steps forward to protect and restore wild salmon stocks, and create a more sustainable future for local communities and workers.**
- **Most importantly, we will work to make sure strong, healthy wild salmon stocks are available for future generations of British Columbians.**

BACKGROUND:

Wild Salmon: 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 they generated $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.

Wild Salmon Advisory Council (WSAC): On June 15, 2018, B.C. launched the Wild Salmon Advisory Council (WSAC), a multi-stakeholder advisory council that contributed to the development 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 initial report from the WSAC formed the basis of public consultations, and was followed by the release of the final report on March 8th, 2019, that outlined 13 recommendations.

B.C. Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (BCSRIF): B.C. has had a longstanding, and unsuccessful, request of Canada through Agriculture and Agrifood Canada, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), for seafood sector funding (fisheries, aquaculture and processing) to support competitiveness, innovation, and food safety for West Coast Fisheries programs, equivocal to the long running Atlantic Fisheries Fund on the East Coast. On March 15th, the Premier and Minister Wilkinson jointly announced the new B.C. Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (See attached News Release). This fund is a federal-provincial collaboration that will help restore the habitat of our wild fish stocks in communities across B.C., and protect our vulnerable wild Pacific salmon species. Canada is investing $100 million over five years, and B.C. is investing $42.85 million over five years.

AGRI has a limited role in the administration of BCSRIF and the agreement identifies DFO as the implementing party for the fund. DFO is assigned activities including:

- financial administration of federal and provincial funding;
- project information collection and reporting;
- development and management of project funding agreements with proponents; and,
- secretariat for the associated federal-provincial committees.

Conversely, AGRI's role in BCSRIF is focused on:

- strategic oversight of the initiative, such annual priority-setting, in partnership with DFO;
- cross-Ministry collaboration to represent provincial interests in BCSRIF;
- sector and industry engagement on provincial priorities and project concept development, in cooperation with DFO; and,
- collaboration with DFO in the adjudication of project applications.

In alignment with the Recommendations for a Made-in-B.C. Wild Salmon Strategy provided by the WSAC, the BCSRIF will resource initiatives that strive to increase the abundance of wild salmon. The fund is now open to proposals from Indigenous groups, conservation groups, commercial organizations in the wild fisheries and industry sectors, recreational fisheries, as well as non-commercial organizations such as universities and academia, industry associations and research institutions. The fund will support projects that leverage local knowledge such as

local Indigenous monitoring and guardianship programs and community-led habitat restoration, among other innovative projects aimed at protecting and restoring wild fish stocks.

To be eligible, projects must focus on one or more of the following three areas:

- Innovation – to encourage the development of new technologies to increase productivity and help meet conservation and sustainability objectives, including the protection and restoration of wild B.C. stocks, including Pacific salmon;
- Infrastructure – to encourage capital investments in new products, processes or technologies to support the advancement of sustainable fishing practices and to support the protection and restoration of wild B.C. stocks, including Pacific salmon;
- Science partnerships – to support collaborations with academia and other research institutions to improve our knowledge and understanding of impacts to wild stocks and to develop sustainable fishing practices.

The investments from the BCSRIF will ensure B.C.'s wild fisheries are environmentally and economically sustainable for the long-term and that jobs in the fishery are resilient to the challenges of climate change and evolving economic conditions. The fund will help protect and restore priority wild B.C. fish stocks, including Pacific salmon. Consumers will also benefit from high-quality, sustainably sourced, Canadian fish and seafood products.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:
All jurisdictions managing fisheries are experiencing challenges related to extreme environmental variability and uncertainty with respect to stock abundance.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):
Implementation of WSAC recommendations and the B.C. Wild Salmon Strategy is expected to require funding to implement.

s.17

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Wild Salmon Advisory Council

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **B.C. recognizes the values of wild Pacific salmon stocks, including steelhead and the commercial, recreational and First Nations fisheries and communities that depend on them.**
- **Wild salmon are the main source of food for the southern resident orcas and are one of our province's most emblematic animals.**
- **The freshwater habitat that sustains wild salmon is provincial jurisdiction and we work across all agencies and with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) to ensure this important habitat is protected.**
- **B.C. has a long history of programs that support or benefit salmon and their habitats and is actively working towards new initiatives to assist salmon recovery.**
- **On June 15, 2018, B.C. announced the formation of a Wild Salmon Advisory Council expected to provide advice on a broad range of policy issues affecting wild salmon that will inform a made in B.C. Wild Salmon Strategy.**
- **The Council's Report with final recommendations was released on March 8th, 2019.**
- **The BC Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (BCSRIF) was jointly announced by DFO Minister Jonathan Wilkinson and the Province on November 30th**
- **The five-year fund will support the fish and seafood sector in B.C to ensure long-term environmental and economic sustainability, with a focus on salmon stock protection and habitat restoration, and incenting innovation in aquaculture.**

BACKGROUND:

Wild Salmon: 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 they generated $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.

On June 15, 2018 B.C. launched the Wild Salmon Advisory Council (WSAC), a multi-stakeholder advisory council that is assisting in the development 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 initial report from WSAC has been released and formed the basis of public consultations led by WSAC. The Final report with recommendations was received on March 8th, 2019.

On November 30, 2018 the federal government announced the British Columbia Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (BCSRIF). This federally managed fund is proposed as a cost-share with the Province (70% federal and 30% provincial) and will target salmon habitat protection and restoration as well as ensuring the fish and seafood sector in British Columbia is positioned for long-term environmental and economic sustainability.

International Year of the Salmon: At the recent launch of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission's International Year of the Salmon (IYS), Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) Minister Jonathan Wilkinson highlighted the federal government's commitment to salmon preservation. Specifically, he named addressing the recommendations in the Cohen Commission and implementation of the 2018-2022 Wild Salmon Policy as initiatives that will help bolster salmon in the Fraser River. The Premier also spoke at the event, highlighting the importance of salmon to all British Columbians and the need for ongoing collaboration with DFO on conservation initiatives, including salmon enhancement and habitat restoration.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

All jurisdictions managing fisheries are experiencing challenges related to extreme environmental variability and uncertainty with respect to stock abundance.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

Implementation of WSAC recommendations and the B.C. Wild Salmon Strategy is expected to require funding to implement.

s.12; s.13

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BCFIRB'S ROLE IN ANIMAL WELFARE AND BIOSECURITY PROGRAMS

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **Effective and strategic management of animal welfare and disease prevention is a key part of maintaining a competitive and ethical BC regulated agriculture sector.**
- **To help ensure orderly marketing of regulated agricultural products, BC's commodity boards have the authority to adopt and enforce appropriate animal welfare and biosecurity standards.**
- **BCFIRB is responsible for seeing that commodity boards fulfill their responsibilities appropriately and in the public interest.**
- **BCFIRB also hears appeals of specific animal seizure and/or cost decisions of the BC Society for the Protection of Animals (BC SPCA). BCFIRB's priority under this mandate is the welfare of the animals.**

BACKGROUND:

- Overarching responsibility for BC's biosecurity and animal welfare legislation rests with the Ministry of Agriculture.
- BCFIRB has legislated oversight and appeal responsibilities in relation to biosecurity and animal welfare.
- BC's agricultural commodity boards and commissions (commodity boards) have legislated authorities to establish and enforce biosecurity and animal welfare standards.

Animal Welfare – BCFIRB Oversight Role

- BCFIRB is responsible for ensuring the commodity boards establish and enforce appropriate animal welfare standards effectively, strategically and accountably to maintain orderly marketing in their sectors.
- Commodity boards are expected to demonstrate informed and proactive risk management approaches by adopting enforceable standards to fulfill their statutory responsibilities and that measures are in place to enable them to respond quickly, effectively and appropriately to critical and emerging issues.

Animal Welfare – Commodity Boards

- Animal welfare incidents in dairy, eggs and chicken had serious impacts to these industries and their value chains, highlighting the importance of effectively ensuring appropriate animal welfare standards are followed and enforced.
- The National Farm Animal Care Council Codes of Practice are science based and industry informed guidelines for the care and handling of farm animals.
- BC commodity boards have either made the relevant Codes of Practice mandatory for licensed producers; or, made national agency animal-care programs, that are based on the Codes of Practice mandatory for licensed producers.

Animal Welfare – Chicken Catching and Layer Housing

- Following the Mercy for Animals video showing chicken abuse during catching in June 2017, the BC Chicken Marketing Board made it mandatory in September 2017 for the producer, or a producer's delegate, to demonstrate presence during catching. The Chicken Board also licensed catching companies and implemented a catching and loading audit.
- Following the People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) video showing poor egg layer housing conditions in July 2018, the BC Egg Marketing Board immediately followed up with the farms in question and then all farms in BC, removed layers from the barn of most concern, and implemented improved communication and follow-up on corrective actions arising from Egg Farmers of Canada Animal Care audits.

Animal Welfare – BCFIRB Appeal Role

- BCFIRB became responsible for hearing appeals of certain BCSPCA animal seizure and cost decisions under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (PCAA*) in late 2012 in order to improve timely resolution to disputes. These appeals were previously heard by the courts.
- Timely dispute resolution is an important consideration when animal welfare is the primary consideration. BCFIRB developed a timely and procedurally fair process for hearing these appeals.
- As of January 31, 2019, BCFIRB has managed 6 appeals under the PCAA mandate in 2018/19, compared to 11 in 2017/18, 16 in 2016/17, 15 in 2015/16, 11 in 2014/15 and 8 in 2013/14.

Biosecurity – BCFIRB Oversight Role

- As the supervisory body, BCFIRB is responsible for ensuring all of the regulated commodity boards use biosecurity authorities effectively, strategically and accountably to maintain orderly marketing in their sectors.
- Amendments to the *Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act* provided the regulated commodity boards with authority to make insurance related to disease loss mandatory, and clarified authority over biosecurity programs intended to ensure the safety of regulated products.

Biosecurity – Commodity Boards

- Previous high pathogenic avian influenza (AI) outbreaks were devastating to BC's poultry industries and associated value chains.
- The BC hog industry currently faces the risk of a Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea (PED) or African Swine Fever (ASF) outbreak. Both PED and ASF are highly contagious, spread quickly and result in hog herd mortality.
- PED outbreaks were reported in several provinces (PEI, ON, QC, PEI) and the United States. It is typically spread by direct contact between infected and non-infected pigs as well as through people's clothing, boots, vehicles, equipment, and other items contaminated with the feces of infected animals.
- ASF is not treatable. As a highly contagious, reportable disease, any outbreak in Canada would likely have significant economic impact on the pork industry and Canada. It is spread through both direct and indirect contact with infected pigs or pig products. ASF has never been detected in Canada but it is present in at least 15 African, Asian, and European countries.
- The highest risk factor for ASF transmission is travelers coming in contact with the virus and bringing it back to Canada on their clothes and footwear, and people smuggling in infected pork and pork products.
- Disease risks and outbreaks highlight the importance of effective on-farm biosecurity programs.
- Poultry boards continue to pursue, with BCFIRB support, what an effective, strategic tool would be to address the financial impacts of AI on producers. BCFIRB anticipates this project will conclude in 2019.
- BCFIRB continues to work with other government authorities (e.g., Provincial Chief Veterinarian) and the commodity boards on managing industry issues (e.g. disease, food safety or animal welfare) as they arise to minimize impacts on orderly marketing.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON

- All provinces have some form of regulation related to animal welfare and biosecurity.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- NA

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BCFIRB APPEALS AND COMPLAINTS OVERVIEW

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **Tribunals, such as the BC Farm Industry Review Board (BCFIRB), allow for a more flexible, timely and affordable approach to fair dispute resolution than the courts.**
- **BCFIRB was one of the first tribunals in BC to use Alternate Dispute Resolution (e.g., facilitated settlements and negotiations) and continues to use such methods whenever possible.**
- **As appeals and complaints are within the independent, exclusive jurisdiction of BCFIRB, it is inappropriate for the Minister to intervene or comment on any specific complaint that is before BCFIRB.**
- **BCFIRB routinely posts its decisions on its website.**

BACKGROUND:

- Under its statutory mandates, BCFIRB hears appeals and complaints under:
  - Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act (NPMA)--Appeals of regulated marketing board and commission orders, decisions and determinations;
  - Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act (FPPA)--Complaints about farm practices from persons disturbed by odour, noise, dust or other disturbances arising from agriculture or aquaculture operations;
  - Protection of Cruelty to Animals Act (PCAA)--Appeals of certain animal custody and cost decisions of the BC Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA).
- BCFIRB is accountable to the courts for its decisions (Judicial Review) and the Ombudsperson for its practices and procedures.
- BCFIRB must follow the principles of natural justice, administrative law and due process in proceedings as set out in its rules of practice and procedure.
- BCFIRB supports resolution of cases through Alternative Dispute Resolution which seeks to bring parties together to settle disputes without the need for a hearing.
- For 2018/19, as of January 31, 2019, BCFIRB has administered 56 cases. Of these, 32 have been resolved; 6 decided through a hearing, 26 either dismissed or withdrawn, and 24 are still in process.
- There was one Judicial Review of a PCAA case that carried over into 2018/19 from 2017/18. The case was concluded in May 2018 and the BC Supreme Court decided in favour of the BCFIRB decision and the Judicial Review was dismissed.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- There are 13 federal and provincial regulated marketing supervisory bodies in Canada. Other provinces have tribunals that deal with animal welfare appeals. Most provinces have a "farm practices board" or equivalent body.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- Case costs are subject to the number of parties and particular complexities associated with individual cases.
- While there is considerable variability from case to case, approximate average costs are

s.14

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BCFIRB – FARM PRACTICES COMPLAINTS

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **The Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act (FPPA) balances community interests by both protecting farmers from disturbance complaints (e.g., noise, dust, odour), and by giving neighbors of a specific farm business the right to formal conflict resolution through BCFIRB.**
- **Farmers using normal farm practices are protected from certain local government bylaw enforcement, court injunctions and lawsuits related to nuisance complaints.**
- **BCFIRB determines whether a farm practice causing the disturbance is a "normal farm practice".**
- **Complaints may arise from pressure on a limited land-base that places farming and non-farming communities in close proximity or can be the result of the changing nature of farming or on-farm activities. Conflicts increase as urban encroachment grows.**
- **While the FPPA allows complaints to be filed, BCFIRB encourages or mandates farmers and their neighbors to work together to resolve disputes in the first instance.**
- **It is not appropriate for the Minister to comment on any specific complaint that is before BCFIRB.**

BACKGROUND:

- BCFIRB, under the FPPA, hears complaints from people aggrieved by a site specific disturbance arising from a farm practice, as well as studying and reporting on any matter related to farm practices (e.g., propane cannon use to protect crops against bird predation).
- BCFIRB can decide the practice is normal and dismiss the complaint or decide the practice is not normal and then order the farmer to modify or cease the practice.
- BCFIRB complaint decisions can be appealed to the Supreme Court on a question of law or jurisdiction. They are enforceable by a party to the complaint by filing them with the BC Supreme Court.
- BCFIRB's complaints role has been defined by the courts as, where possible, balancing the interests of the farming and non-farming communities. BCFIRB uses alternative dispute resolution processes whenever possible.
- Both local governments and the Ministry have planning and regulatory roles in managing farm practices regarding disturbance complaints.
- If a farmer meets all the criteria in the FPPA, local governments are not legally entitled to enforce bylaws passed under the Local Government Act or the Community Charter Act for dealing with animal control, noise control, nuisance control or fireworks.
- Under the Local Government Act, local governments can apply to Cabinet to be designated the power to enact farm bylaws (a form of land use regulation). Farm bylaws related to disturbance override the protection of the FPPA and can be enforced by local governments. Currently, Langley, Abbotsford, Delta and Kelowna have been designated the ability to enact, and hence enforce, farm bylaws.

<u>Cannabis and Aquaculture</u>

- In 2018/19, BCFIRB received 13 complaints involving 3 different cannabis operations (primarily odour). Ten complaints against one operation in Chilliwack were eventually resolved and withdrawn. The other two operations (one is located in Adergrove, the other in Abbotsford) are currently working with their neighbours to resolve the concerns and none have yet been scheduled for a hearing.
- BCFIRB held its first hearing on two complaints filed against an aquaculture operation in the northern Vancouver Island area in January 2019. A BCFIRB decision is pending.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- Most provinces have a "farm practices board" or equivalent body.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- Where possible, Ministry staff support BCFIRB as knowledgeable persons retained to provide advice around "normal farm practices" in various agricultural sectors.

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BC CHICKEN PRICING

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **The current pricing dispute between the BC Chicken Marketing Board, the Primary Poultry Processors Association and the BC Chicken Growers' Association is before the BC Farm Industry Review Board (BCFIRB).**
- **It would not be appropriate to make statements or intervene in any fashion with respect to the issues under active appeal before BCFIRB.**
- **BCFIRB is an administrative tribunal and independent decision maker.**
- **BCFIRB's decision, once it is made, will be distributed to the parties and be made public on its website.**

BACKGROUND:

- There are currently two active appeals before BCFIRB about the Chicken Board's June 27, 2018 live chicken pricing decision. One appeal was filed by the Primary Poultry Processors' Association of British Columbia (Processors) and the second appeal was filed by the Chicken Growers' Association.
- A five day hearing was held in October 2018, with extensive evidence and multiple parties heard. A decision is pending.
- BC is the third largest producer of chicken in Canada but is a higher production cost province when compared to Ontario and the other western provinces.
- Constitutionally, and under provincial legislation, provincial chicken marketing boards are responsible for setting the price a producer is paid for their chicken. Pricing is historically, and remains, very contentious between BC producers and processors.
- Many factors can go into setting producer price. For example, cost considerations may include: feed price, chick price, labour, stocking densities, bird size and catching costs. How these costs are calculated adds an additional layer of complexity and dispute.
- In addition to these cost considerations, while production has generally remained in the provinces, processor (and retailer) growth and consolidation along with better transportation systems means processing and further processing is no longer tied to the province of production.
- There is certainly risk that processors with operations in different provinces may, over time, choose to focus investments and growth outside of BC. Some level of primary processing would remain in the province despite relatively high costs as there are limits on how far a live chicken can be transported. However national processors could adapt their business model to slaughtering in other provinces and ship fresh and further processed product to BC.
- That said, these risks need to be balanced with setting a fair producer price.
- The fundamental tension between producer price and processor competitiveness remains and may be exacerbated by BC's high cost of production and Ontario's increasingly competitive price position and high volume of production.
- If stakeholders disagree with the producer price set by the Chicken Board, they have the right of appeal with BCFIRB. BCFIRB, in turn, can address stakeholder concerns through either or both its (reactive) appeal and (proactive) supervisory authorities.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON

- All provinces have a chicken marketing board that sets the live price of chicken.
- BC chicken production is higher cost compared to most other provinces, primarily due to the high cost of feed. Other costs such as land may have some influence, but feed is considered the major factor.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- NA

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CANADA – UNITED STATES – MEXICO (CUSMA) TRADE AGREEMENT UPDATE – BC DAIRY AND POULTRY

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **Supply managed commodities (dairy and poultry sectors) are significant contributors to BC agriculture, the related value chain and communities.**
- **Supply management is a trade compliant system and operates without requiring direct government supports or subsidies.**
- **Supply management continues to buffer farmers and consumers from global market fluctuations in a trade compliant manner.**
- **The US is one of the major importers of dairy and poultry to Canada. Implementation of CUSMA may see additional US imports displacing domestic production.**
- **The federal government, led by Agriculture and Agrifood Canada (AAFC), has committed to compensation for recent trade concessions in dairy and poultry with the goal of supporting innovation and growth.**
- **As this is a federal process any outcomes are up to the federal government to determine and implement.**
- **BC's supply managed commodity boards continue to work with provincial and national stakeholders, the BC Farm Industry Review Board, and the Ministry of Agriculture to build producer flexibility and adaptability in the face of increasing imports.**

BACKGROUND:

- BC's supply managed dairy, egg, hatching eggs, chicken, and turkey sectors contribute significantly to BC's economy. In 2017, total farm cash receipts came to $1.193 billion.
- Supply management is a legislated, a self-funded, trade compliant agriculture support system that helps buffer Canadian farmers and consumers from price and production fluctuations both nationally and globally.
- Canada restricts imports of specific dairy and poultry products, primarily through use of volume controls and tariffs. However, if a processor/business can demonstrate that the supply-managed product they need is not available in Canada, they can receive a permit enabling them to import additional product from outside of Canada without paying the higher import tariff
- CUSMA, alongside other recent international trade agreements such as the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA) and the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) allow increasing amounts of dairy and poultry products to enter Canada. These increasing imports may negatively impact domestic production volumes and in turn, related support industries (e.g. feed suppliers, equipment manufacturers) and the processing sector.
- CUSMA is of particular concern to the dairy sector as, unlike CETA and CPTPP, it opens up additional US access to the Canadian market and requires removal of a diary ingredient pricing system originally established to support the competitive position of Canada's processors.
- The US is the largest importer of dairy and poultry products to Canada due to its geographic proximity and production scale. For example, Canada has about 12,000 dairy farms with about 950,000 cows. In comparison, the US has about 49,000 dairy farms with approximately 9.3 million cows.
- A number of actions led by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and industry are underway to evaluate the potential impacts of CUSMA on Canada's dairy and poultry production, to determine an effective approach to compensation and establish a vision for Canada's dairy and poultry sectors with an overall focus on innovation and growth.
- BC's supply-managed commodity boards continue to work with key partners and stakeholders to develop producer flexibility and adaptability in the face of increasing imports and changing market demands. For example, continued support for producers looking to fill niche, value added and growing markets such as free range eggs, organic turkey, Asian breed chickens, grass fed milk and local "farm gate" markets.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON

- All provinces participate in the dairy and poultry supply management system.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- NA

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BCFIRB GOVERNANCE

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **BCFIRB regularly and publically reports on its service and strategic objectives.**
- **While government recognizes BCFIRB's independence as an administrative tribunal in executing its statutory mandates, BCFIRB is accountable to the Minister concerning its budget and administrative mandate.**
- **BCFIRB is accountable to the courts for its decisions and the Ombudsperson for its practices and procedures.**

BACKGROUND:

- Use of appropriate governance and fiscal procedures demonstrates accountability for legislative authorities and supports good industry outcomes.
- BCFIRB reports on actions through annual reports. The last annual report for 2017/18 was published in December 2018.
- Continued work on a method to refine average cost-of-service for appeals and complaints. This includes a database tool that accurately tracks and reports case status and cost of service data for BCFIRB on a quarterly and annual basis.
- Continued use of a user experience survey that was implemented in June 2017, focusing on areas such as staff response times, transparency and ease of use of using website and finding information.
- Implemented improvements to the BCFIRB website including appeals and complaints process diagrams and a more user friendly navigational format.
- Published updated guidelines on procedures for appeals and complaints and enhanced information available about active appeals and complaints.

Next Steps

- BCFIRB will be working with all commodity boards and commissions in 2019/10 to review performance measures for annual reporting. Measures will be reviewed to determine best indictors to demonstrate effective governance and sound leadership of the regulated agricultural sectors.
- Review methods to increase use of Alternative Dispute Resolution methods to resolve disputes, saving costs and enhancing outcomes for citizens where possible.
- Report on actions taken to address issues identified through BCFIRB's user experience survey, to enhance services where appropriate.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- These governance considerations apply in all provinces and are the subject of a National Association of Agri-food Supervisory Agencies principles document.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- N/A

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BCFIRB Governance - BC's Regulated Marketing Sector
Commodity Boards and Commissions

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **BC's agricultural commodity boards are created by regulations of Cabinet under provincial legislation and are required to carry out their statutory mandates in a legal, accountable, strategic and transparent way.**

- **Citizens must have confidence that these boards are exercising their powers appropriately. While commodity boards are expected to ensure producers earn a fair return, they must also consider the whole industry value chain (e.g., processors, retailers and consumers) in their decisions and determinations, and operate in the public interest using sound processes.**

- **Public expectations of the regulated agricultural system continue to expand as a result of biosecurity, food safety, animal welfare and other concerns. This reinforces the need for good governance by the commodity boards.**

- **As the Provincial supervisory board, the BC Farm Industry Review Board (BCFIRB) expects commodity boards will fulfill their responsibilities as first instance regulators through strategic and accountable governance using a principles-based approach to regulation.**

- **BCFIRB requires commodity boards to continue to:**
  - **monitor industry challenges and apply principle based regulation;**
  - **implement strategies to address these challenges; and,**
  - **integrate the resulting achievements and lessons learned into reporting.**

BACKGROUND:

- BCFIRB is established under the *Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act (NPMA)*, with the statutory responsibility for evaluating whether board and commission activities and decisions maintain orderly marketing in the public interest, and accord with sound marketing policy.
- BC's regulated commodity boards and commissions, supervised by BCFIRB:
  - BC Broiler Hatching Egg Commission
  - BC Chicken Marketing Board
  - BC Egg Marketing Board
  - BC Milk Marketing Board
  - BC Turkey Marketing Board
  - BC Hog Marketing Commission
  - BC Cranberry Marketing Commission
  - BC Vegetable Marketing Commission

- BCFIRB 2018/19 supervisory records demonstrated that basic expectations were met. All boards and commissions published annual reports, provided audited financial statements, have up to date election rules and published their General Orders to their websites.
- BCFIRB continues to work with the boards and commissions on the use of a principles-based approach to regulation.

Upcoming Priorities

- Continue supervision and oversight of regulatory issues as needed to ensure sound marketing policy is carried out by the boards and commissions in the public interest.
- Continue consultations with the commodity boards and commissions, to develop updated objective performance measures for their annual reporting of industry accomplishments, governance activities, quota management and fiscal procedures to BCFIRB. The first reports based on new performance measures are due to BCFIRB from all of the boards in June 2019.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- There are 13 federal and provincial agricultural regulated marketing supervisory bodies in Canada, with eight having the same dual supervisory/appellate role as BCFIRB.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION:

- Not applicable

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BCFIRB – FEDERAL PROVINCIAL AGREEMENTS

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **Supply management in Canada is based on both federal and provincial legislation and operates under various Federal Provincial Agreements (FPAs).**
- **FPAs enable the cooperative application of legislation in managing the production and marketing of the supply managed commodities.**
- **FPAs ensure BC's interests are included and accounted for in the national system, and that BC shares in production opportunities and benefits.**
- **The Minister, BCFIRB and the regulated agricultural boards and commissions have various signatory roles in relation to FPAs.**
- **While often joint signatories to the same agreements, it is not appropriate for the Minister and BCFIRB to intervene in each other's respective signatory roles.**

BACKGROUND:

- Supply management is a national system intended to provide a stable supply of domestic food while ensuring a fair return for efficient farmers, in the following sectors: broiler hatching eggs, chicken, dairy, eggs and turkey.
- Federal Provincial Agreements (FPA's) establish how federal and provincial legislation and regulations work in coordination to deliver the policy intent of supply management.
- The BC Milk Board is the only BC signatory to the FPA in the dairy industry, which is called the National Milk Marketing Agreement (BCFIRB and the Minister are not signatories).
- BCFIRB approval is required however before the BC Milk Marketing Board may enter into federal or inter-provincial agreements.
- BCFIRB, the Minister and the four BC poultry commodity boards are all signatories to the poultry FPAs. Other signatories include the federal Minister, national agencies (e.g., Chicken Farmers of Canada), Farm Products Council of Canada (FPCC), and other provincial ministers, supervisory agencies and commodity boards.

<u>Egg FPA</u>

- BCFIRB representatives, along with Ministry staff and the BC Egg Marketing Board, are currently engaged provincially and nationally with possible future updates to the Egg FPA.
- No information is currently available on when a draft updated Egg FPA will be presented to all signatories for review and potential sign-off. Once Egg Farmers of Canada is satisfied with the draft updated FPA, Egg Farmers of Canada will share it with all signatories.
- Each signatory must make its own independent, informed decisions as part of any FPA signatory process.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON

- All provinces and the Northwest Territories participate in supply management in Canada, with all being signatories to various FPAs.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- NA

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BCFIRB NEW ENTRANTS PROGRAM OVERVIEW

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **New Entrant Programs and small lot production opportunities are essential to the strength, viability and credibility of the regulated marketing sectors.**
- **Providing quota at no cost to new producers encourages market and production innovation, supports regional development and brings diversity, new ideas and new voices to the supply management system.**
- **All of BC's supply managed commodity boards operate effective New Entrant Programs.**
- **All supply managed boards also provide opportunities for smaller scale producers through permits or related programs.**
- **Entry requirements and applicant interest varies between sectors.**
- **New Entrant Programs are administered in accordance with BCFIRB criteria to help ensure fairness, and transparency.**
- **Persons aggrieved by or dissatisfied with the process or outcome of a new entrant selection have the right to appeal to BCFIRB.**

BACKGROUND:

- Making quota available to new producers and providing opportunities for smaller-scale producers/producer-vendors supports regional development and encourages innovation, diversity, new ideas and new voices in the supply management system.
- Under New Entrant Programs (NEPs), commodity boards select successful applicants through their new entrant process and issue them quota at no cost.
- Under small-lot type programs, commodity boards issue permits or provide exemptions (poultry) for smaller scale producers/producer vendors; or in dairy, offer quota for niche small scale production/processing ventures.
- Basic NEP eligibility criteria established by BCFIRB require that prospective participants are residents, have not previously held quota, and are committed to farming.
- In BCFIRB's view, with the exception of spouses, family members of quota holders cannot legally be excluded from applying for new entrant quota where they genuinely plan to develop a farm operation independent from that of an existing quota holder.
- Commodity boards can use new entrant programs and small-lot programs to help address regional and niche marketing demands. For example, the Egg Board selected 2 new entrants to be drawn for the Creston Valley region in 2018, and the Turkey Board gives priority status to applicants interested in organic production.

Summary of Programs:

- The Milk Marketing Board implemented a new lottery based NEP at the beginning of 2019 that will place a minimum of 3 new entrants per year. Under their previous NEP, they invited 34 new entrants over the past 6 years. There is no waitlist.
- The Chicken Marketing Board operates a lottery based NEP with 3 different lists: the Interior, the Lower Mainland, and Vancouver Island. Applicants can apply for either specialty or mainstream quota. They have invited 19 new entrants in the past 6 years. There are currently 12 on the Lower Mainland waitlist, and 7 on the Interior waitlist. The Vancouver Island list is currently closed. The Chicken Board will be reviewing their NEP in 2019.
- The Egg Marketing Board runs a lottery based program, and have invited 17 new entrants over the past 6 years. There is no waitlist.
- The Turkey Marketing Board operates a waitlist based NEP with priority given first to organic, and then regional applicants. They have invited 8 new entrants in the past 6 years. There are currently 8 on the waitlist.
- The Broiler Egg Hatching Commission operates a waitlist based NEP. Their last draw was in 2011 and they have been inviting entrants from that list since. In the past 6 years they have invited 4 new entrants. There are currently 4 on the waitlist.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- Most provinces have NEPs for milk, chicken and eggs. Hatching eggs and turkey are rare.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- NA

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BCFIRB RESPONSIBILITIES, PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **The BC Farm Industry Review Board (BCFIRB) is an independent administrative tribunal that operates at arm's length from government.**
- **Over 25 tribunals in BC provide less formal, less expensive and timely access to expert decision making as an alternative to the courts.**
- **As a tribunal, BCFIRB must observe the principles of natural justice and administrative law and have expertise in its statutory mandates.**
- **BCFIRB's statutory mandates include hearing appeals and complaints as well as supervising BC's regulated agricultural commodity boards and commissions.**

AGR-2019-95524

BACKGROUND:

- BCFIRB's statutorily mandated responsibilities are established in *the Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act*, the *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act*, the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* and are supported by the *Administrative Tribunals Act*. These responsibilities include:
    - Supervising BC's regulated commodity boards and commissions
    - Being a signatory to formal federal-provincial agreements in regulated marketing
    - Hearing appeals of regulated marketing board and commission orders and decisions
    - Hearing appeals of certain animal custody and cost decisions of the BC Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA)
    - Hearing farm practices complaints from persons disturbed by odour, noise, dust and other disturbances arising from agriculture and aquaculture operations
    - Conducting farm practices studies

- BC's regulated commodity boards and commissions, supervised by BCFIRB:
    - BC Broiler Hatching Egg Commission
    - BC Chicken Marketing Board
    - BC Egg Marketing Board
    - BC Milk Marketing Board
    - BC Turkey Marketing Board
    - BC Hog Marketing Commission
    - BC Cranberry Marketing Commission
    - BC Vegetable Marketing Commission

- Members are appointed to BCFIRB by Cabinet.
- BCFIRB is one of BC's senior tribunals, established in 1934. BCFIRB was one of the first tribunals in BC to use Alternate Dispute Resolution methods to improve its capacity and effectiveness (e.g., negotiated agreements and settlements).
- Tribunals need not follow court-like procedures. Instead they can adopt practices and procedures – which must be fair – that enable them to resolve disputes within their jurisdiction in ways that are appropriate to that sector.
- BCFIRB has published detailed policy and procedure documents that set out the process, steps and timeframes associated with the filing and hearing of appeals and complaints under its different statutory mandates, consistent with the *Administrative Tribunals Act.*
- The time to render a decision will vary, depending on the issue and characteristics of an individual case, ranging from a few weeks to several months or longer in some instances.
- BCFIRB posts all decisions on its website as well as a listing of all active appeals and complaints. BCFIRB decisions can be appealed to the BC Supreme Court on point of law or jurisdiction, known as Judicial Review (JR).

- Complaints about BCFIRB practices and procedures can be investigated by the Ombudsperson.
- BCFIRB regularly reports on service performance.
- While government recognizes BCFIRB's independence as an administrative tribunal in executing its statutory mandates, BCFIRB is accountable to the Minister concerning its budget and administrative mandate.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- There are 13 federal and provincial agricultural regulated marketing supervisory bodies in Canada, with eight having the same dual supervisory/appellate role as BCFIRB.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- Not applicable

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BEE BC PROGRAM

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **Honey bees contribute an estimated $470 million to the economy in British Columbia.**
- **The Bee BC Program was launched in May 2018 to support our beekeepers and honey producers to have healthy colonies and to share their experience, knowledge and research in bee health practices.**
- **The program provides up to $5,000 to assist regional or community-based organizations, beekeeping associations and/or beekeepers to research, explore, field-test and share information about best management practices associated with bee health.**
- **I am very proud that the Bee BC Program has funded 23 projects throughout the Province worth over $96,000 to date.**
- **The program will continue in 2019-20 with over $50,000 in funding.**

BACKGROUND:

- The Bee BC Program was launched on May 29, 2018.
- The objective of the Bee BC Program is to enhance bee health throughout the province.
- The program supports small scale regional/community-based projects to research, explore, field-test and share information about best management practices associated with bee health.
- Up to $5,000 per project is available through the program to assist regional or community-based organizations, beekeeping associations and/or beekeepers with project costs.
- A funding agreement was established with BC Investment Agriculture Foundation to deliver the program, including activities such as program promotion and applicant recruitment, application processing and adjudication, liaison with project proponents, financial management, and management and delivery of an information sharing event.
- The first application intake was completed in July 2018.
    - 13 projects were approved for funding for a total cost of $50,845.
    - All projects are scheduled to be completed in March 2019.
- The second application intake was completed in December 2018.
    - 10 projects were approved for funding for a total cost of $45,263.
- A third application intake closed in February 2019. Details for this intake are not available yet.
    - The intention is to fully commit the project funds available upon completion of this application intake.
- Examples of funded projects to date include:
    - In the Fraser Valley, a local beekeeper is focusing on bee diet as an integrated disease management tool for beekeepers. Multiple test hives are being supplemented with a diet of different treatments. After the test period is over, the beekeeper will submit the findings to local beekeeping associations with the goal of discovering a natural solution to reduce disease among honey bees and other pollinators and improve overall health.
    - Beekeepers from across Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands are working together on a project called *Ethical Bees* that involves the development of a locally-raised bee resistant to the parasitic mite, Varroa destructor. The Varroa mite has proven to be one of the most destructive honey bee pests. Developing a mite-resistant honey bee will help to reduce colony losses and eliminate the need for mite control products.
    - An association in the Cariboo-Chilcotin is undertaking a project to monitor their group's collective colonies for desirable attributes that can be selected for the best performing bees in the Cariboo Chilcotin as breeding prospects. They will graft eggs from established healthy colonies, then see that virgin queens are well mated in the open to strong, acclimatized male drones.
    - A group in the Kootenay region is working to make hive equipment sterilization transportation services available to beekeepers in Cranbrook, Creston and Castlegar and the surrounding areas. While beekeepers will be responsible for the sterilization costs of their own equipment, the costs of transport to and from the sterilization facility will be supported through this project.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- Most provinces include beekeepers and beekeeping as eligible applicants or activities for funding programs related to research, biosecurity, and/or animal health. However, few have specific funding programs specifically designed for bees and bee health.

- Ontario funds a Tech-Transfer program focused on developing a current Integrated Pest Management approach to beekeeping. Direct funding is not available through the program; instead, it provides workshops and courses.
- Funding programs in the Maritime Provinces are generally focused on expanding the number of honeybee colonies in their respective jurisdictions (e.g. New Brunswick Honey Bee Expansion Program offers up to $10,000 for beekeepers to expand their colonies).
- Nova Scotia offers beekeepers up to $9,500 to implement bee biosecurity Best Management Practices.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- The total budget for the Bee BC program is $150,000 over two fiscal years (2018-19 and 2019-20).
    - The provincial contribution to the Bee BC program is $100,000.
        - $42,500 in 2018-19
        - $57,500 in 2019-20
    - BC Investment Agriculture Foundation contributed $50,000 in 2018-19.
- At February 2019, a total of $96,108 has been paid and/or committed to projects.
- The provincial contribution includes $8,000 for information sharing activities.
- BC Investment Agriculture Foundation receives $10,000 to support program administration and delivery costs.

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HONEY BEE IMPORTS AND THE THREAT TO BEE HEALTH

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **The import ban of US bee packages has been a contentious issue in the Canadian beekeeping industry since its implementation in 1987.**
- **The majority of Canadian beekeepers remain opposed to lifting the import restriction of US bee packages.**
- **The import of US honeybee queens from selected Californian breeders has been permitted under CFIA permit but the ongoing spread of Africanized Honeybees (AHB) into California has demanded a review of inspection standards and import conditions of honeybee queens.**
- **The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) completed a risk assessment in October 2013 and recommended a continuation of the import restriction of US bee packages. The Ministry of Agriculture continues to support this recommendation.**
- **The Ministry of Agriculture is in discussion with CFIA and other provinces to prevent the import US honeybee queens exposed to AHB genes.**

BACKGROUND:

- After initial discovery of the Varroa mite in the USA in 1987, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) restricted the importation of honeybees from the US to protect Canadian honeybee colonies from Varroa and other exotic bee pathogens. The import ban has been in place ever since.
- Since the early 2000s, honeybee queens imported from selected California breeders have been permitted.
- In response to industry requests, CFIA completed a Risk Assessment (RA) of the import of US bee packages in October 2013. It recommended continuation of the import restriction of US bee packages.
- Some commercial interests have continued to oppose the import ban.
- The RA identified four key risks factors. Based on current conditions in BC and expert opinion, the following should be noted:
    - **Africanized Honey Bees (AHB) have a negligible risk of establishing themselves in Canada due to climatic conditions. However, the import of honeybee queens with AHB genes in the spring may pose a public health risk and legal liability during the summer season.**
    - Antibiotic-resistant AFB (r-AFB) was first diagnosed in BC in 1997, and has been widely reported in Alberta. This antibiotic-resistant bacterial strain has not resulted in disease increase in British Columbia. **US bee packages would pose no additional risk of r-AFB introduction to BC.**
    - Amitraz-resistant Varroa (r-VAR) has been reported in the US in recent years. r-VAR has not been reported in BC at this time. **Since honeybee queens are currently imported from California under CFIA permit, it is difficult to assess the risk of introduction r-VAR through US bee package imports.** Amitraz has been widely used in Canada and the development of mite resistance to amitraz is viewed as inevitable.
    - Small Hive Beetle (SHB) has only been reported in a few Fraser Valley locations since 2015. Even though SHB is viewed as a minor pest that may cause incidental economic damage, **US bee package imports would quickly introduce SHB to different parts of the province.**

CROSS-JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- The import restriction of US bee packages has been the most polarizing issue ever faced by the Canadian beekeeping industry. The majority of Canadian beekeepers, of which most are non-commercial, have been in support of the import ban while a sizable group of commercial beekeepers from Prairie Provinces has been opposed.
- The BC Honey Producers Association has historically been in support of the import restriction.
- Some commercial beekeepers continue to oppose import restrictions because they claim that the economic impact far exceeds the threat posed by diseases.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- Bees play a major role in agriculture as pollinators of crops, contributing an estimated $550 Million to the economy in British Columbia, and over $2 Billion in Canada.
- Honeybees are involved in the production of over $250 Million worth of fruit and field crops, while bumblebees are used in the greenhouse industry representing a value of near $300 Million per year.
- British Columbians preferred to buy their honey straight from beekeepers in 2018, with estimated farm receipts for the retail sales of honey in B.C. to almost $14.2 million.
- Crop pollination services have become a key component of the viability of commercial beekeeping. In 2018, pollination contracts accounted for nearly $3.5 Million of earnings.
- The Ministry of Agriculture provides the beekeeping industry with a comprehensive extension and inspection program.

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MINISTRY STAFF ADDRESSING BEES (FTES)

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **The B.C. government's apiary inspectors' peak hive-inspection period is from March until late June each year. The Ministry adjusted its inspection delivery model to improve the quality of services to beekeepers while reducing operating expenses.**
- **In 2018, two new Apiary Inspectors were appointed to cover north-western regions of the province. For the 2019 season, two additional appointments have been made, for a current total of 11 Apiary Inspectors, to ensure that apiary inspection and extension services are available to beekeepers across the province of British Columbia:**
    - **Vancouver Island & Gulf Islands – South**
    - **Vancouver Island & Gulf Islands – North**
    - **Powell River & Sunshine Coast (covered by the inspector of Vancouver Island & Gulf Islands - North).**
    - **Fraser Valley & Pemberton Valley**
    - **West Kootenays - Boundary**
    - **East Kootenays**
    - **South Okanagan**
    - **North Okanagan & Shuswap**
    - **Thompson – Cariboo**
    - **Prince George - Vanderhoof**
    - **Smithers – Terrace**
    - **Peace**
- **When there is an indication of a disease outbreak anywhere in the province, inspection, extension and diagnostic services are offered to the beekeeper(s).**
- **The BC government's apiculture program has delivered free support to BC's beekeepers for over 60 years, including apiary inspections, extension services, education through webinars, courses, seminars and field days, and laboratory diagnostic services.**

BACKGROUND:

- The Apiculture Program's core business is to address bee health issues by assisting the beekeeping industry in the prevention of disease introduction and mitigate the impact of bee diseases.
- As of 2019, inspection and extension services are offered to beekeepers in all beekeeping areas of the province.
- Inspection services are complemented with courses and free extension materials through the Internet.
- The Animal Health Centre provides a comprehensive range of diagnostic services of suspect bee diseases at no cost to BC beekeepers.
- The Apiculture Program carries out annual spring and fall surveys to determine winter losses and production estimates at the end of the season.
- Both surveys are carried out on-line, comply with the *Personal Information Protection Act* and results are posted on the Ministry website.
- To promote Best Management Practices the Apiculture Program has placed emphasis on the delivery of courses and educational services;
    - The free 'Introduction to Beekeeping' webinar series attracts hundreds of participants each year and plays a key role in the delivery of education and extension services to beekeepers in isolated regions.
    - The 'Introduction to Beekeeping' course is also offered in a classroom format in collaboration with Kwantlen Polytechnic University.
    - The Ministry introduced the biennial Bee Master Course in 1955 and is the oldest advanced bee course in North America. The course is presented in collaboration with UBC.
- All courses are self-funded.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- Other western provinces offer different services for apiculture and inspections.
    - Alberta:
        - A number of inspectors are contracted in mid to late summer that will enable producers to move bees to BC. Nominal/incidental inspections are carried out during the beekeeping season. Beekeepers are expected to do their own inspections and disease controls. (Most Alberta beekeeping operations are commercial).

- Saskatchewan:
    - The Provincial Apiarist is primarily involved in the administration of regulations and provision of extension services. Inspections are carried out on a case-by-case basis.
- Manitoba:
    - A recent expansion of the Apiculture Inspection program increased staff from one to two persons. There are nominal inspections carried out for issuing permits to move bees to other provinces. There is some limited surveillance. In collaboration with the University of Manitoba and other national entities, Manitoba has been able to collaborate and receive resources for disease surveys.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- The Bee Program runs with 3 FTE's. One FTE for the Bee Program Manager and 2 FTE equivalents with auxiliary 'as and when' inspectors at the technical enforcement officer Step 1 level for inspections.
- Expenses for bee inspection, separate from salaries average approximately $30,000 a year.

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NEONICOTINOID INSECTICIDES AND THEIR IMPACT ON HONEY BEES

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **The debate about the impact of neonicotinoid insecticides on non-target organisms including honeybees and native pollinators remains polarized.**
- **The use of pesticides falls under federal authority and is administered by Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA).**
- **Health Canada released a Proposed Re-evaluation Decision (December 2017) assessing the potential risk of three most commonly used neonicotinoid formulations to bees.**
- **Numerous studies in Canada, USA and Europe have so far failed to provide evidence that systemic neonicotinoid insecticides are directly responsible for pollinator population declines when correctly applied. However, there is an increasing body of evidence that frequent and widespread use of these insecticides may contribute to pollinator population declines.**
- **In 2018, Health Canada announced its intention to face out systemic insecticides because of their impact on aquatic invertebrates.**
- **Prior to the introduction of neonicotinoids, insect pests were treated with organo-phosphates, organo-chlorines and carbamates that were highly toxic to many non-target organisms and persistent in the environment**

BACKGROUND:

- Neonicotinoids, first introduced in the 1990's, belong to a class of insecticidal nerve toxins that mimic the action of nicotine. They are highly hazardous to insects, while being moderately toxic to mammals.
- Neonicotinoids have been applied as a foliar spray, soil drench or seed coating.
- Neonicotinoids are most widely used in Canada as seed treatments that are incorporated into the plant tissue and become systemic, effectively controlling plant-feeding insect pests. This allows for a single application during the growing season at ultra-low volume.
- Neonicotinoids may persist in the environment and cause exposure to non-target insect populations including bees. Recent studies have confirmed their significant impact on aquatic invertebrates.
- The widespread prophylactic use of neonicotinoids in major field crops has contributed to the polarization of the issue.
- Neonicotinoid insecticides had not been used on Vancouver Island when Island beekeepers reported losses as high as 60% in 2008, indicating that causes other than neonicotinoids were involved.
- PMRA initiated a reassessment of the three most common neonicotinoid formulations in 2012. In 2017 PMRA concluded that neonicotinoids are not solely responsible for pollinator declines but their widespread use is suspected to contribute to these declines.
- It also concluded that the universal practice of prophylactic use in some crops is unsustainable.
- A Ministry supported project tested for neonicotinoid residues in selected watersheds in the Okanagan and Fraser Valley in 2017. No neonicotinoid residues were detected in any watershed except one instance which was subsequently traced to a single farming operation.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- BC Bee industry has so far not supported a ban of neonicotinoids unlike the Ontario bee industry.
- Ministry staff will continue to liaise closely with PMRA and other provinces on future strategies to promote the judicious use of neonicotinoids.

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Livestock Protection Program

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **The B.C. government is partnering with the BC Cattlemen's Association (BCCA) to deliver a Livestock Protection Program (LPP).**
- **LPP is part of the Ministry's larger Wildlife Damage Mitigation Initiative which objective is to prevent and reduce adverse interactions between wildlife and agriculture in the first place.**
- **BCCA has been reporting increased cattle losses due to wolf predation.**
- **The goal of the program is to protect livestock. This is done by promoting prevention techniques (best management practices) and by providing mitigation services (control) when verified predator attacks occur. The program also facilitates compensation payments.**
- **For some ranchers, the loss of cattle to wolves puts the viability of their business at risk. LPP is designed to protect the viability of those ranching families.**
- **The program will only target coyotes and wolves that have preyed on livestock. As the B.C. government is responsible for wildlife management, including wolves, we also have a role to play in programs that mitigate the damage or impact they have on British Columbians.**
- **The program is consistent with the direction provided in the 2014 Management Plan for the Grey Wolf in B.C., which ensures that wolf populations are self-sustaining but recognizes that wolf attacks on cattle can be addressed in a timely manner.**
- **Under this program trapping only takes place in the immediate vicinity of verified livestock losses or attacks due to wolves or coyotes.**
- **About 200 wolves being trapped per year, out of the approximately 8,500 wolves in B.C.**

BACKGROUND:

- The Conservation Officer Service (COS) within the Ministry of Environment has the responsibility for mitigating verified livestock predation and attacks caused by wolves. The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNR) has the responsibility for the management of wolf populations including the setting of regulations and the issuance of permits.
- The Ministry of Agriculture (AGRI) delivers wildlife compensation and mitigation initiatives on private land to agriculture businesses and undertakes programs to promote best management practices.
- In the fall of 2015, the Province supported the creation of a wolf and coyote mitigation program called the Livestock Protection Program (LPP), delivered by the BC Cattlemen's Association (BCCA). The expected result of LPP is fewer attacks and reduced harm on livestock, reduced AGRI compensation from predation losses, and reduced production costs for producers allowing them to expand or invest in other areas of their enterprise.
- LPP provides for registration, verification (determines and documents causes of death), and mitigation services (trapping of wolves and/or coyotes) to producers of cattle and/or sheep. The program is guided by strict program protocols and *Wildlife Act* permit conditions. Verifications are approved through the COS and inform AGRI compensation payments. Mitigation services are provided only after verification services confirm a wolf and/or coyote attack and the registrant is confirmed to be using best management practices.
- LPP provides mitigation services that had previously been delivered by the COS. LPP now responds to livestock losses in a timely manner and frees up COS staffing resources for other priorities.
- In 2016/17 and 2017/18 the LPP was considered a pilot project and approximately 200 wolves were trapped per year out of the estimated 8,500 wolves in B.C. In 2018/19 approximately 110 wolves have been trapped to date which is down from previous years of the program.
- The proposed program is a continuation of the successful pilot project.
- The program is jointly managed with FLNR, COS, AGRI and BCCA through an Oversight Committee. The Oversight Committee also has representation from the B.C. Trappers Association and the B.C. Sheep Federation.
- The program provides opportunities for indigenous people to work with trained wildlife specialists and/or become wildlife specialists in their traditional territories.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- Other jurisdictions include more classes of animals as eligible livestock when compared to B.C., but designated wildlife are similar.
- B.C. is unique in that it is one of the only provinces working together with industry to administer support to impacted agriculture producers, resulting in higher client satisfaction and success in B.C.
- Other jurisdictions look at both verified and probable predator losses, while B.C. currently is focusing on only verified losses.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- The proposed provincial budget is $300,000/year as a 60/40 split between FLNR/AGRI. An additional $50,000/year will be contributed by the BCCA.
- 0.2 FTE is allocated to the Program for the AGRI Qualified Receiver as well as FLNR and COS oversight and verification.

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Mobile Abattoir

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **Owned by the Investment Agriculture Foundation of British Columbia (IAF), a Mobile Abattoir was originally leased to Findlay Meats in 100 Mile House. The five year agreement expired at the end of 2017.**
- **The Ministry coordinated and posted two Requests for Proposal and there were no submissions from potential operators of the mobile abattoir in the Cariboo. The Ministry's intention and efforts were focused on having the abattoir remain in the Cariboo if possible.**
- **MLA Barnett was given the opportunity to try to identity a local operator in January 2018. The Ministry received a number of inquiries as a result, but no proposal submissions were received.**
- **An application from Falkland, B.C. was received and approved but was withdrawn after complications with land use and personal reasons.**
- **The Ministry and the B.C. Association of Abattoirs worked to secure another opportunity in Lillooet, B.C.**
- **The Abattoir has been moved to Lillooet (Spray Creek Ranch) under a five year lease with IAF and is proposing to open for operation in May/June 2019.**

BACKGROUND:

- The mobile red meat slaughter unit was delivered to 100 Mile House (Findlay Meats – Mr. Morrison) on August 23, 2013. The total cost of the unit was $381,746.
- The Investment Agriculture Foundation of British Columbia (IAF) owns the mobile unit and leases it for five year terms.
- The docking station, which is required to operate a mobile unit, typically costs $20,000 to $30,000. Additional moving costs and set up may be incurred.
- On December 31, 2016, Mr. Morrison gave notice to IAF that Findlay Meats would relinquish the mobile slaughter unit on January 31, 2018.
- Mr. Morrison notified clients of his intention by email on January 16, 2017, noting that, "The government is critically aware of the need for slaughter services in the area, and over the next year will be working closely with stakeholders."
- Mr. Morrison continues to operate Findlay Meats as a cut-and-wrap business.
- Two RFP's were posted to BC Bid in 2017 to find a new operator for the abattoir.
- It was identified by local Regional Agrologists and Meat Inspectors that it would be beneficial to keep the abattoir in the Cariboo, however, there were no submissions from within the region.
- Cariboo Region stakeholders cited market uncertainty issues such as low labour inventory and possible competition with a federal beef plant in Prince George as reasons why there were no local submissions.
- Ministry staff put considerable effort into finding an option to keep the abattoir in the Cariboo, including:
    - Early coordination with IAF and stakeholders on release of abattoir;
    - Informal and formal circulation of the RFPs including outreach to regional sector groups;
    - AGRI staff were available and responsive to provide appropriate guidance to interested individuals;
    - Provided information to the local MLA's (Barnett) office;
    - Provided the local MLA (Barnett) with time to seek a local operator;
    - Followed up with individuals identified by the local MLA's (Barnett) office.
- An application was received from ArenBrook Acres in Falkland, B.C., but was withdrawn after complications with land use and personal reasons (Moved in April 2018).
- Spray Creek Ranch has signed the lease and operator agreement with IAF, effective October 1, 2018.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION:

- There are no additional provincial expenditure commitments at this time.
- The Food Processing Manager and other Ministry staff (Regional Agrologist, Food Safety and Inspection) monitor progress and communicate opportunities.

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Cattle industry exploring feasibility of slaughter facility in Prince George

KEY MESSAGES

- **We are supporting B.C. producers, not only for the fresh and healthy foods they provide us, but because the agrifoods industry is a job-creator and an integral part of B.C.'s economy.**
- **I look forward to the next step - seeing a full business plan and commercialization strategy for this project.**

BACKGROUND:

- The British Columbia Cattlemen's Association (BCCA) believes there is a feasible market opportunity for a federally inspected beef processing facility in the Central Interior region.
- Slaughter in provincially regulated facilities represents 13 per cent of total cattle marketed from B.C. (2015).
- With funding from the Investment Agriculture Foundation of B.C. (IAF), the BCCA commissioned a two-phase viability initiative. The Viability Initiative report was completed in April 2015.
- The commercialization project was designed with three phases and the current funding commitment is for the first two phases.
- In Fiscal Year 2018/19, the Ministry funded the BCCA $450K to complete broad industry consultation and a feasibility study.

Phase 1 of the project was completed on schedule which included the following:

- Project Management team formed.
- Steering Committee formed. Committee members include B.C. beef producers, B.C. cattle feeders, representatives from the processing and packing industry.
- Initial Steering Committee meeting held to review plan and process.
- Review of critical success factors and working groups formed to address key factors for structure and supply, marketing and sales, facility and financial.
- Calls of working groups were held and critical success factors addressed.
- Vision for project created: *BC Beef Plant will provide branded, differentiated high quality beef products to serve the specific needs of domestic and select international customers.*
- Go/No Go Decision. Committee agreed to move forward to Phase 2 of the commercialization strategy.

Phase 2 of the project is currently being implemented including the following:

- Business Plan and Financial Plan Solidification.
- Adjustments are being made based on steering committee and industry input. Key changes include:
  - BC Beef Plant built to process 500 head/week with the ability to expand.
  - Supply loop concepts developed to allow for partnerships to include the cow/calf sector and cattle feeders/feedlot sector for greater participation and alignment within the beef industry.

- Location of BC Beef Plant to remain undetermined until additional information regarding regions is obtained, including expression of interest from producers.

The Steering Committee last met on January 22, 2019. The Committee determined the next step to complete an economic analysis of Prince George as the preferred location of a meat plant.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- B.C. has a well-distributed network of small provincially inspected abattoirs. The majority of B.C. livestock are currently sold to feedlots in Alberta for finishing and packing. Alberta has two large federally inspected packing facilities.
- The proposed facility in Prince George would have about 10 per cent of the capacity of the Cargill Plant in Southern Alberta.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- IAF allocation for *Viability Initiative: Federally Inspected Beef Packing Plant in BC (AO760)* was $124,000.
- The Ministry has funded the BCCA $450K for the completion of a business plan and feasibility study ($450K expended by end of fiscal year 18/19)

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Extending Prescribed Areas

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **A prescribed area is a mandatory livestock inspection zone to protect cattle owners against animal theft, straying or fraud and is regulated by the Livestock Identification Regulation (LIR).**
- **The prescribed area in British Columbia (B.C.) covers all land east of the Cascade Mountains to the Alberta border where livestock and livestock manifests must be inspected prior to livestock being sold or moved.**
- **Currently, livestock sold or moved outside the prescribed area are not subject to mandatory inspections unless they are moved through or into the prescribed area.**
- **Inspection can be used to augment tracing the movement of cattle and horses in the event of disease outbreak. The LIR applies equally to dairy and beef cattle.**
- **Alberta and Saskatchewan have province-wide inspection requirements. In 2018, the federal government introduced mandatory traceability requirements for both dairy and beef cattle.**

BACKGROUND:

- In 2016, Ministry of Agriculture formed a working group consisting of AGRI staff and beef and dairy industry representatives to better understand the issues for each commodity and develop next steps.
- The working group identified four priorities: a cost analysis of LIR inspections to determine impacts on individual producers; an investigation of harmonization between proposed federal traceability systems and LIR; clarification on the impact of theft within the province; and an investigation of current regulatory compliance outside the prescribed area.
- Currently, inspection is required by B.C. Law in the following instances:
    - cattle leaving the prescribed area of the province i.e. to Alberta, the States or the Fraser Valley.
    - cattle leaving the non-prescribed area of the Province to the prescribed area or through the prescribed area.
    - cattle being shipped from one brand inspection area to another and not going immediately to a sale at an outlet. Exempt from this are producers who without change in ownership move cattle to grazing between brand inspection areas in the prescribed area.
    - cattle consigned to an outlet (sale yard or slaughterhouse) in the prescribed area will be inspected at the outlet.
    - cattle entering a feedlot (as defined in the regulation) in the same brand inspection area of the Province.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- Alberta and Saskatchewan have province-wide inspection requirements.
- In 2018, the federal government introduced mandatory traceability requirements for both dairy and beef cattle.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- 0.25 FTE/year of various subject matter experts within AGRI work on this file.
- Ownership Identification Inc. (OII) is designated as the third-party verifier responsible for inspections. OII is self-funded by charging fees for brand registration and inspections.
- OII receives funding from AGRI ($12,000) for providing quarterly statistics on livestock inspected for use.

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CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL PARTNERSHIP (CAP)
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- The success of farmers and food processors is strongly linked to their ability to understand their costs of production and develop effective business plans and strategies to mitigate risks, strengthen their business and expand their products into new markets.
- In April 2018, CAP came into effect with a five-year investment of $115 million in B.C. programs.
- Under the Markets and Trade priority of CAP, the business development programs are designed to support Grow BC by expanding local food production, building the capacity and improving the competitiveness of B.C.'s farmers and processors.
- The B.C. Agri-Business Planning Program launched in October 2018 and provides specialized business and disaster recovery planning funding to enable farmers and food processors to make informed business decisions.
- The Knowledge Transfer Events Program also provides funding for industry groups to host speakers and events to support farmers and food processors to learn about best management practices, production topics or host field days and demonstrations.
- Other Business Development programs include support for:
    - Self-directed online resources such as commodity specific cost of production, how-to-guides and AgriServiceBC webinars,
    - Agri-Skills workshops and training courses help educate on business management and production practices,
    - Research and planning guide industry as it moves forward to sustainable growth and increased competitiveness.
- The programs support increasing the participation of under-represented groups such as indigenous peoples, women, and youth.

BACKGROUND:

- In April 2018, the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) came into effect with a five-year investment of $115 million in B.C. programs. One of the six priority areas in CAP is Markets and Trade which focuses on opening new markets and helping farmers and food processors improve their competitiveness.
- Under CAP, the Business Development programs include:
  - B.C. Agri-Business Planning Program (BCABPP) for producers and process to access up to $5000 in specialized business consulting services through two streams:
    - Specialized business planning to complete strategic, financial, risk, value add, human resource and succession planning; and
    - Disaster recovery planning to help producers impacted by wildfire or flooding to implement an immediate and long-term disaster recovery business plan.
    - In 2018/19, BCABPP funded 42 projects with a total program budget of $215,000.
  - B.C. Lean for Food Processors Program provides up to $8000 for specialized business skill development to enable food processors to make more informed decisions, improve production capacity, labour productivity and strengthen their businesses.
    - In fiscal 2018/19, 14 projects were completed with a total program budget of $112,000.
  - Agri-Skills workshops and self-directed online resources, the Ministry helps improve business management skills and capacity.
    - In 2018/19, business development programming supported more than 20 workshops for producers and food processors throughout B.C. The focus of these workshops included succession planning, financial planning, business growth opportunities and introduction to food processing.
    - Tools and resources being developed and updated include the *New Farm Start-up Guide; Taking Stock: Self-Assessment tool; Farm Diversification Through Agri-Tourism Manual; BC Farmland Lease Workbook* and Crop Production Guides.
  - Knowledge Transfer Events Program provides up to $5000 in funding for industry groups to host speakers and events to improve the adoption of best management practices and address barriers to growth.
    - The program has funded 52 events in 30 cities across B.C. Total program budget of $180,000.
  - Strategic Sector Projects Program for applied research, strategic planning, and capacity building to address competitiveness issues, improve collaboration and guide industry as it moves forward to sustainable growth. Projects include:
    - In 2018/19 business development programming supported over 15 projects in collaboration with industry associations to increase each sector's competitiveness.
    - Projects included Opportunities Analysis: Plant Based Proteins in B.C. with BCFPA, Strategic Planning for the new Small Scale Meat Producers Association, Strategic Planning for the new B.C. Artisan Cheese Association, development and implementation of a Certification Program for grape growers and wineries in B.C, and Scaling Up Organic Vegetable Seed Production in B.C. with Farm Folk City Folk.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- B.C. provides a similar suite of agri-business management programs and services to

those offered by other provinces.
- Staff participate in Federal-Provincial-Territorial working groups to share information, learn from other jurisdictions and improve the effectiveness of programs.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION:
- Under CAP, the Business Development Programs have a budget of $1.2 million per year with a total of $6 million over the five-year period in programs and services to individual producers and processors as well as industry associations, Indigenous communities and new entrant groups.
- Three FTE's (Two Agrifoods Business Management Specialists and one Program Analyst) from the Partnerships and Outreach Unit support the delivery of the Business Development programs.

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ISSUE/PROGRAM: Buy BC Marketing Program

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **Last summer we relaunched the Buy BC program to connect people to made-in-B.C. products.**
- **Bringing back the brand power of this marketing program - popular with B.C. growers and producers, but cancelled in the early 2000s – is making it easier for British Columbians to explore new and different products from around the province.**
- **The Buy BC Partnership Program is providing $2 million in funding per year to help eligible applicants with their marketing efforts using the Buy BC logo on their products or promotional materials.**
- **Since the launch of the Buy BC Partnership Program, we have funded 84 producers, processors, agricultural fairs, farmers' markets and industry associations to undertake Buy BC marketing campaigns.**
- **We've also successfully launched a comprehensive Buy BC advertising and promotional campaign, including:**
  - **A summer and fall Buy BC advertising campaign;**
  - **A new Buy BC website which was visited approximately 80,000 times during the summer and fall advertising campaigns; and,**
  - **A local dining promotion called Buy BC: EAT DRINK LOCAL that includes participation by over 300 restaurants and food service establishments in 48 communities across the province.**
- **We also delivered the first Every Chef Needs a Farmer, Every Farmer Needs a Chef event that attracted over 300 farmers, chefs and food service professionals.**
- **In February, we conducted a survey of 5,000 BC consumers from across the province to meaure Buy BC brand recognition. 85% of respondents acknowledged the importance of the Buy BC brand and 74% recognized the Buy BC logo.**
- **As British Columbians continue to increase their demand for local products, our farmers, producers and processors wil be able to produce more, which will in turn, help provide a safe and secure food supply for all British Columbians.**

BACKGROUND:

- Buy BC currently includes the following key components:
    - ***Buy BC Partnership Program:*** Includes logo licensing and cost-shared funding to support industry-led Buy BC marketing campaigns.
    - ***Buy BC: EAT DRINK LOCAL***: Delivered the first Buy BC: EAT DRINK LOCAL promotion in May 2018, including an integrated social media campaign with over 300 participating restaurants in 48 communities across the province offering local-food focused menus.
    - ***Buy BC Advertising***: Delivered a Buy BC brand strategy and modernized the Buy BC logo in addition to a summer and fall Buy BC advertising campaign.
    - ***Buy BC website***: Developed and launched a Buy BC website which generated over 39,500 visits during the summer Buy BC advertising campaign and 40,000 visits during the fall/winter advertising campaign.
    - ***Buy BC Promotional Materials***: Distributed Buy BC-branded materials such as aprons, shopping bags, buttons and stickers to consumers and industry partners, and displayed Buy BC-branded banners at industry events supported under Buy BC.
- **Every Chef Needs a Farmer, Every Farmer Needs a Chef:** The first event focusing on connections between chefs/farmers that attracted nearly 300 industry participants(See separate estimates note for Every Chef Needs a Farmer, Every Farmer Needs a Chef for more details).
- **BC Fairs**: The Ministry partnered with BC Fairs to deliver social media contests at various fairs across the B.C.
- **BC Farmers' Markets**: The Ministry partnered with the BC Farmers' Markets to promote Buy BC through the 2019 Farmers' Markets Directory and a Buy BC launch event with Minister Popham in attendance.
- **Buy BC Brand Recognition Survey**: At the end of FY 2018/19 the Ministry conducted a survey with 5,000 B.C. consumers from across the province to measure consumer recognition of the Buy BC brand. 74% of consumers recognized the logo.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- $4 million is committed to all Buy BC programming in FY2019/20.

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AGR-2019-95524

ISSUE/PROGRAM: Every Chef Needs a Farmer, Every Farmer Needs a Chef

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **The connection between chefs and farmers is incredibly important for the continued success of B.C.'s agriculture sector.**
- **Our government is committed to providing opportunities for farmers, chefs and food service professionals to network and build business relationships around growing and serving B.C.'s agricultural and seafood products.**
- **The 2018 Every Chef Needs a Farmer, Every Farmer Needs a Chef event connected nearly 300 farmers, chefs and food service professionals from around the province.**
- **This one-day crop- and menu-planning session helped educate the restaurant industry on the types of products being produced in different regions of the Province and to establish direct sales routes from the farm to the restauarant.**
- **When chefs and farmers are able to connect like this, they're better able to plan both their menus and their crops for the coming season.**
- **Chefs are often the greatest cheerleaders for B.C.'s farmers and ranchers, championing the local food system and showcasing B.C.'s amazing products in imaginative and delicious ways.**
- **I am pleased to say that the 2018 event was a great success and we have heard from several attending companies that connections from the event have led to new business opportunities.**
- **One of them is Fraser Valley Hazelnuts Ltd., a receiving station that provides washing, drying and shipping services for hazelnut growers. The company sold 70% of last year's hazelnut production from the entire province through contacts made at the event.**
- **Another company, Top Tier Foods which produces quinoa sushi has received several new sushi restaurant listings from contacts made at the event.**
- **Based on positive feedback from industry participants, the Ministry is currently organizing another similar event for November 2019.**

BACKGROUND:

- Every Chef Needs a Farmer, Every Farmer Needs a Chef (ECNF EFNC) was delivered by the Ministry of Agriculture as part of the Ministry of Agriculture's Buy BC program.
- The 2018 ECNF EFNC event took place on November 13, 2018 at the Sheraton Wall Centre Hotel in Vancouver.
- Nearly 300 farmers, chefs, food processors, and other members of food and beverage industry from across B.C. attended the event. The break-down of attendees is as follows: 116 farmers, 53 chefs and restauranteurs, 28 non-profit organizations, 26 government organizations, 21 food processors, 13 industry associations, 8 culinary schools and universities, 6 distributors, 3 meal kit delivery companies, 2 retailers, 1 brewery, and 5 others.
- The event consisted of three interactive panel sessions featuring B.C. chefs and farmers speaking to the successes they have experienced focusing on local products.
- The chef panel featured renowned chefs including Lisa Ahier of Sobo, Trevor Bird from Fable Kitchen, Ned Bell of Ocean Wise, Jesse McCleery of Pilgrimme Restaurant, Welbert Choi of Forage, David Speight of the University of British Columbia and Amanda Healey of Royal Dinette.
- The farmers panel featured Gemma McNeill and Doug Zaklan from Zaklan Heritage Farm, Kevin Klippenstein from Klippers Organics, Michelle Rattray and Mark Cormier from Glorious Organics, and Mark Roth from Uncle Mark's Custom Meat Cutting.
- 39 B.C. agrifood and seafood producers and processors exhibited their products such as hazelnuts, eggs, mushrooms, scallops, haskap berries, garlic, sea salt, beef, vegetables, apples, blueberries, pork, seaweed and vegan meat in the Agriculture Showcase.
- The event was augmented by short video vignettes profiling B.C. farmers and B.C. chefs who have developed and leveraged local products to increase their competitiveness in B.C.'s local food system.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

s.17

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ADVICE TO MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE Ministry of Agriculture January 18, 2019 s.15; s.19	**Cannabis production in the ALR**

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **Our government has taken action, by making this regulatory change that gives municipalities more decision-making power regarding cannabis production methods on the ALR.**

- **They are able to prohibit concrete, bunker-style cannabis facilities in the ALR, but not able to prohibit commercial cannabis production in open fields, or in soil-based greenhouses.**

- **The point of this is to ensure we aren't losing access to agricultural soil. Cannabis grown in open fields is like any other agricultural crop, and does not impact the soil quality.**

- **Municipalities have been asking for action on this, and they now have it. UBCM was very supportive of this empowering regulatory change.**

KEY FACTS:

Some people have called for a provincial ban on cannabis production in the ALR, suggesting it will reduce food security as farmers of food crops transition to cannabis for greater profits.

In July 2018, a regulatory change gave authority to local and First Nation governments to prohibit certain methods of cannabis production on ALR land in their communities, while clarifying that cannabis production in the ALR cannot be prohibited if grown lawfully in an open field; in a structure that is entirely soil based; in a structure that was either fully constructed or under construction, with required permits in place, prior to July 13, 2018; or in an existing licensed operation.

The regulatory change pertains only to land in the ALR. Local and First Nations governments can regulate or prohibit cannabis production on lands outside of the ALR

Once the federal Cannabis Act comes into force on Oct. 17, 2018, the federal government has announced it will allow cannabis producers to grow cannabis in open fields, greenhouses and industrial bunkers.

Media Interest: Consistent media attention to the topic, including talk shows, covering differing opinions on the topic, from farmer, community, business and legal perspectives.

Communications:	s.15; s.19
Program:	

ISSUE: Cannabis Production in the ALR

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **The Cannabis Regulation confirmed that Cannabis is an agricultural crop permitted to be grown in the ALR in the soil, either in the field or in a structure with a base entirely of soil, to preserve and protect agricultural soil.**
- **The Cannabis Regulation allows local government to influence how cannabis is produced in the ALR within their communities.**
- **Local governments are able to prohibit concerte based cannabis production in the ALR by bylaw or by refusing to forward an application for non-farm use to the ALC.**
- **Although some frustration has been expressed by cannabis proponents and producers about the regulation, many are in the process of submitting a ALC non-farm use application through the relevant local government.**
- **While no decisions have been made to date, the ALC has received 5 non-farm use applications (as of March 1, 2019) for concrete-based cannabis production in the ALR.**
- **According to media sources, 9 million square feet (205 acres) of greenhouse cannabis production has been announced in BC; in structures previously used for vegetable production.**

BACKGROUND:

- The Province adopted a regulation July 13, 2018 which confirmed what type of cannabis growing is a farm use. Facilities (structures) deemed a permitted cannabis farm use:
  - Have a base consisting entirely of soil; or are
  - constructed for the purposes of growing crops, including lawful cannabis

  All other cannabis growing structures require the ALC's review and approval through an application process.
- Prior to July 13, 2018 medical marihuana was a permitted farm use regardless of its method of production.

- It is estimated that prior to July 2018 there were approximately 25 medical marihuana growing facilities in British Columbia.
- As the proposed October 2018 legalization of cannabis approached, many communities and citizens expressed concerns to the provincial government about the anticipated construction of very large buildings (and attendant filling) for cannabis growing within the Agricultural Land Reserve and were asking for regulatory change.
- Based on media announcements and discussions with greenhouse vegetable producers it appears that the vast majority of large scale greenhouse vegetable operations in southwestern BC are being purchased by cannabis producers and are in the process of conversion to cannabis production. The most recent example is BeVo Farm's 2,100,000 sq ft of greenhouse lettuce production in Langley that is in the process of converting to cannabis production.
- The economic value of cannabis production in a greenhouse is vastly more valuable than vegetable production in a greenhouse.
- Most proposed commercial Cannabis production facilities which are being requested through ALC application are non-greenhouse structures with concrete floors, containing extensive processing facilities (~25% of floor space).
- Since the adoption of the new cannabis regulations, the ALC has responded to approximately 13 facilities wanting a determination that they were "under construction" under the new regulation. Most of these facilities were found not to be under construction and were directed to submit an ALC non-farm use application. Several of these facilities have or are in the processing of submitted non-farm use applications.

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LEGALIZATION OF RECREATIONAL CANNABIS AND AGRICULTURE

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **In October 2018, the federal government brought into force new legislation, the *Cannabis Act,* which legalized non-medical cannabis.**
- **The federal government is responsible for licensing cultivators and processors and setting industry standards for both medical and non-medical cannabis.**
- **Provinces including B.C., are responsible to licence and oversee distribution and retail of non-medical cannabis.**
- **In July 2018, the Province implemented a regulatory change to give more authority to local and First Nation governments to prohibit certain methods of cannabis production on ALR land in their communities.**
- **Municipalities have been asking for action on this, and they now have it to prohibit concrete, bunker-style cannabis facilities in the ALR, but not commercial cannabis production in open fields, or in soil-based greenhouses.**
- **Cannabis grown in open fields is like any other agricultural crop. The preservation of the ALR and the high quality agricultural soil is a priority for farming now and into the future.**
- **Ministry staff is working with the federal government and other provincial ministries to ensure decisions on the upcoming legalization of edibles, extracts and topicals are made collaboratively and comprehensively.**

BACKGROUND:

- The *Cannabis Act* legalizes and regulates non-medical cannabis, continues the existing medical cannabis regulatory framework to non-medical cannabis production (Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes Regulation (ACMPR)) for at least the next five years, and updates and incorporates Industrial Hemp Regulations.
- The *Cannabis Act* gives federal government authority to regulate cannabis production, including licensing of producers, establishing product standards, and related inspection authority.
- The *Cannabis Act* makes the commitment to legalization of edibles, extracts and topicals no later than one year after the *Cannabis Act* came into force.

CANNABIS AND THE AGRICULTURAL LAND RESERVE (ALR)

- Within B.C., both the provincial government and local governments have powers to regulate land use, including agricultural land. Local governments regulate land use through their powers for community planning and zoning bylaws.
- The Medical Marihuana Access Regulations (MMAR) was the first regulation enacted with respect to medical cannabis in Canada. Producers of medical cannabis could be designated under MMAR, and were loosely regulated.
- The Marihuana for Medical Purposes Regulations (MMPR) repealed and replaced the MMAR in 2013. The MMPR introduced a new class of licences, known as Commercial Grower Licences. Federal requirements for licensing under the MMPR required producers to have substantial infrastructure, resulting in a sizable land footprint.
- In 2015 MMPR medical cannabis production was designated as a farm use under the Agricultural Land Reserve Use, Subdivision and Procedure Regulation and established that local governments in B.C. should not prohibit medical cannabis production within community boundaries if the cannabis production facility is located on the ALR.
- A Federal Court of Canada ruling in 2016 found that the MMPR was unconstitutional and that some MMAR licences issued to producers were still in effect and had no expiry date until the Court orders otherwise.
- The ACMPR repealed the MMPR in 2016. The ACMPR was enacted under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*. The ACMPR carried forward both the MMPR facility standards and the loosely regulated designated producer licences issued under the MMAR.
- In July 2018, an amendment was made to the Agricultural Land Reserve, Use Subdivision and Procedure Regulation which prevented Local and First Nations governments from prohibiting of cannabis production on the ALR under the following circumstances: in an open field; in a structure with a base made entirely of soil; in an pre-existing structure for the purpose of growing crops inside it; or a structure that was under construction prior to the amendment.
- The Ministry of Agriculture produced a Minister's Bylaw Standard for Regulating Medical Marijuana Production Facilities in the Agricultural Land Reserve ("Minister's Bylaw Standard"). The Minister's Bylaw Standard creates room for local governments to regulate medical cannabis production within their jurisdictions without enacting an outright prohibition. Compliance with the Minster's Bylaw Standard is not mandatory; rather, it provides guidance to local governments who wish to use them.
- There are 39 production facilities operating under the *Cannabis Act* in B.C.
- The federal government is in possession of data that includes specific details about cannabis production facilities in B.C. (e.g. location, size of cannabis production facilities and other business operations). This information has not been shared with B.C.

- Without provincial tracking, the current number and size of cannabis production facilities that have been built on the ALR is unknown.
- Currently there are three active cannabis complaints filed under the Farm Practices Protection Act. BCFIRB has not yet heard a complaint of a B.C. cannabis operation at a formal hearing.

CANNABIS AND MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE FUNDING PROGRAMS

- The majority of Ministry programs are funded through a bilateral agreement with the Federal government.
- Historically, the Ministry played a minor role in assisting the medical cannabis sector by addressing community complaints about medical cannabis operations, assisting with minor use pesticide registrations, and providing general diagnostic services for plant pests.
- The federal government previously advised that cannabis would not be eligible for bilateraly funded programs due to its classification as a narcotic. Under the *Cannabis Act*, cannabis was removed from the narcotics list leaving some latitude for economic development of cannabis to occur.
- The new Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) came into effect April 1, 2018. Under this five year framework cannabis is eligible for funding.
- In May 2018, s.15; s.19 decided that some but not all of the Ministry's programs would be available to the cannabis industry.
- Program staff are working through eligibility of cannabis under CAP based on earlier Minister direction.
- Industrial Hemp is eligible for many Ministry services and programs.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- The Secretariat is monitoring how other jurisdictions in Canada are implementing cannabis regulations and legislation.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- Unknown at this time

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Regulated Communities' Cannabis Bylaws

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **In July 2018, a provincial regulatory change gave authority to local and First Nation governments to prohibit certain methods of cannabis production on Agriculture Land Reserve (ALR) land in their communities.**
- **The new regulation allows individual local and First Nations Governments to make decisions regarding cannabis production that align with local planning priorities in their communities, including the preservation of farm land.**
- **They are able to prohibit concrete, bunker-style cannabis facilities in the ALR, but not able to prohibit commercial cannabis production in open fields, or in soil-based greenhouses.**
- **"Right to Farm" regulated communities are required to submit zoning bylaw amendments affecting agriculture, including cannabis, to the Minster of Agriculture for approval.**
- **They have special powers allowing them to restrict or prohibit farming areas if approved by the Minister.**
- **Two regulated communities, Delta and Kelowna, have both submitted cannabis bylaws for ministerial approval that further restrict cannabis production on the ALR.**
- **Both bylaws have been approved by** s.15; s.19 **who has been designated by** s.15; s.19 **as alternate Minister of Agriculture for cannabis related decisions.**

BACKGROUND:

- In July 2018, a provincial regulatory change gave authority to local and First Nation governments to prohibit certain methods of cannabis production on Agriculture Land Reserve (ALR) land in their communities, while clarifying that cannabis production in the ALR cannot be prohibited if grown lawfully in an open field; in a structure that is entirely soil based; in a structure that was either fully constructed or under construction, with required permits in place, prior to July 13, 2018; or in an existing licensed operation.
- The new regulation allows individual local and First Nations Governments to make decisions regarding cannabis production that align with local planning priorities in their communities, including the preservation of farm land.
- Cannabis was legalized by the Federal Government on October 17, 2018.This allows cannabis producers to grow cannabis in open fields, greenhouses and industrial bunkers.
- Communities regulated under s.481 (2), 552 and 553 under the *Local Government Act* and are required to submit zoning bylaw amendments affecting agriculture to the Minster of Agriculture for approval. There are four "Right to Farm" regulated communities in the province: the Cities of Delta, Kelowna, Abbotsford and the Township of Langley.
- Right to Farm regulated communities have special powers allowing them to restrict or prohibit farming areas if approved by the Minister.
- Delta and Kelowna have both submitted cannabis bylaws for ministerial approval that further restrict cannabis production on the ALR.
- Delta's cannabis bylaw aligns with the new provincial regulation but also prohibits cannabis processing and cannabis research and development facilities in the ALR.
- Kelowna's bylaw revises the definition of Farm Retail Sales Stand to specifically exclude the retail sale or dispensing of cannabis from the definition, which is consistent with the provincial *Cannabis Control and Licensing Act*, and includes a 60 metre lot-line setback from any lot outside of the ALR that has residential use as principle use for land, building or structure used for cannabis production. While setbacks for buildings and structures are consistent with ministry guidelines, this is the first instance of Ministerial statutory approval of a setback for a land-based crop.
- Both bylaws have been approved by s.15; s.19 who has been designated by s.15; s.19 as alternate Minister of Agriculture for cannabis related decisions.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):
The Ministry land use planning team include 3 FTE positions.

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
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Date approved by ADM: 02/21/19	Branch: Innovation & Adaptation Services	Branch: : Innovation & Adaptation Services
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ADVICE TO MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE Ministry of Agriculture Date: Month, Day, 2019 Minister Responsible: s.15; s.19	**Regulated Communities' Cannabis Bylaws**

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **Communities across the Province are richly diverse. A decision in one community may not make sense for another community.**

- **We support the autonomy of First Nations governments and local governments to make decisions about cannabis that best suits the needs of their communities.**

- **In July 2018 we demonstrated that support by announcing that, local and First Nations governments can prohibit cannabis production in new concrete-floored structures on ALR land if they so choose.**

- **In October 2018, the B.C. Government approved the City of Delta's bylaw request prohibiting cannabis processing on ALR land.**

- **With respect for the differing needs of communities and their own planning requirements, the cannabis bylaw that the city of Kelowna has put forward is currently in the approval process.**

IF ASKED ABOUT THE PROSPECT OF MORE CANNABIS BEING GROWN ON ALR LAND INSTEAD OF FOOD:

- **Cannabis is considered an agricultural product, as defined by Canada. While we believe access to arable agricultural land is necessary for the province's current and future food security, we recognize that having diversity in agricultural crops brings economic prosperity and opportunities to farmers, ranchers and communities throughout B.C.'s different regions.**

KEY FACTS:

Cannabis was legalized by the Federal Government on October 17, 2018.

This allows cannabis producers to grow cannabis in open fields, greenhouses and industrial bunkers.

On July 2018 we announced changes to the ALR regulations giving local governments control over cannabis production in their communities.

The new policy allows individual local and First Nations Governments to make decisions regarding cannabis production that align with local planning priorities in their communities, including the preservation of farm land.

Communities regulated under s.481 (2), 552 and 553 under the *Local Government Act* and are required to submit zoning bylaw amendments affecting agriculture to the Minster of Agriculture for approval.

There are four regulated communities in the province: City of Delta, Kelowna, Abbotsford and Township of Langley.

Right to Farm regulated communities have special powers allowing them to restrict or prohibit farming areas if approved by the Minister.

In October, the City of Delta submitted a cannabis bylaw, which aligns with the new regulation but also prohibits cannabis processing in the ALR. This was approved by s.15; s.19

Kelowna has also submitted a cannabis bylaw for approval.

Kelowna's proposed bylaw revises the definition of Farm Retail Sales Stand to specifically exclude the retail sale or dispensing of cannabis from the definition. This new restriction is consistent with the provincial *Cannabis Control and Licensing Act.*

The proposed bylaw also proposes that "land, or a building or structure used for cannabis production not be located within 60 metres of any lot outside of the ALR that has residential use as principle use, measured from closest lot line to closest lot line".

This setback is consistent with the Bylaw Guide and the Edge Guide, although neither guide identifies lot line setback bylaw standards for land-based agricultural crop production (i.e. not in a building or structure). There has been no previous Minister's statutory approval for a Right to Farm regulated local government farm bylaw that addresses a lot line setback restriction for a specific land-based crop.

Kelowna has demonstrated a shared responsibility approach consistent with the rules illustrated in the Edge Guide.

ADVICE TO MINISTER

Media Interest:

Fair media presence as recently as January 16, 2018, with CBC articles pertaining to the policy that the local governments can regulate cannabis growth while another article discusses the controversy between growing food and growing cannabis on prime farm land. CFAX had a discussion with Judy Brownoff who discussed her concerns that more cannabis will be grown than food.

Communications:	s.15; s.19		s.15; s.19	
Program: ADM:				

Canadian Agricultural Partnership Implementation

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **The first year of the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) has been launched successfully and is providing support and funding opportunities for B.C.'s farmers, ranchers and agricultural businesses.**
- **CAP is an outcomes-based agreement that represents a five-year, $3 billion investment in agriculture, agri-food and agri-businesses across Canada that was launched on April 1, 2018.**
- **This agreement represents $400.5 million to B.C.'s farmers, food processors and agri-businesses. For every 1$ the Province invests, it leverages, $1.5 from the federal government for our sector.**
- **CAP sets out the parameters and funding for a national set of business risk management programs.**
- **These BRM programs provide protection against severe loss situations helping to give farmers and ranchers the security needed to access capital and invest in their farm businesses.**
- **CAP also funds strategic initiatives (industry programs) focused on six priority areas:**
    - **Markets and Trade**
    - **Science Research and Innovation Capacity**
    - **Risk Management**
    - **Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change**
    - **Value-Added Agriculture and Agri-Food Processing**
    - **Public Trust**
- **Ministry staff worked have worked hard to launch initiatives and deliver programming under the CAP agreement to meet the needs of farmers, ranchers and agricultural businesses, big and small, across the entire province.**
- **CAP also enables us to fulfill commitments under the Grow B.C., Buy BC, Feed B.C., as well as to expand interprovincial and international markets for farmers, ranchers and agri-businesses in the province.**

BACKGROUND:

- B.C. signed the Canadian Agricultural Partnership agreement in January 2018.
- CAP is a multilateral framework agreement, which is the fourth in a series of FPT 60:40 cost shared funding agreements.
- CAP represents approximately $400.5 million over five years from April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2023.
- Eligibility to CAP programs is limited to the agriculture, agri-food, and agri-based products sector.
- Industry is consulted on various aspects of CAP through both national consultations lead by Canada and through B.C.'s Risk Management Advisory Committee and Strategic Initiatives Advisory Committee.
- CAP is an outcome based agreement that sets out an objective for Federal, Provinces and Territories (FPT) to "create the most modern, sustainable and prosperous agricultural sector in the world". The outcomes that are identified in CAP that will meet the objective are:
    - increase competitiveness; productivity; profitability;
    - Increase environmental sustainability;
    - Expand domestic and international markets; and,
    - Improve the anticipation, mitigation and response to risks.
- CAP strategic initiatives (industry programs) are focused on six priority areas:
    - Markets and Trade
    - Science Research and Innovation Capacity
    - Risk Management
    - Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change
    - Value-Added Agriculture and Agri-Food Processing
    - Public Trust

Business Risk Management (BRM):

- CAP sets out the parameters and funding for a national set of business risk management programs.
- BRM programs provide protection against severe loss situations helping to give farmers and ranchers the security needed to access capital and invest in their farm businesses.
- CAP provided modest improvements to BRM programs and a commitment to further review the effectiveness of programs.
- BC continues to work with Canada and our counterparts in other provinces to bring further improvements to programming through the BRM review process.

Strategic Initiatives:

- Program design under CAP is based on a principle of flexibility to accommodate provincial differences.
- Each province is able to further define program criteria, provided they meet the goals of the agreement and follow the eligibility parameters set out in the multilateral framework agreement. For example, industry programs cannot provide support for Provincial-Territorial (PT)-specific branding and promotion or marketing activities that are detrimental to another PT.
- B.C. has launched its suite of industry programs that are in alignment with the six key priorities of CAP.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- All provinces and territories participate in the CAP agreement.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE:

- The value of CAP is the same as the previous agreement (Growing Forward 2), approximately $400.5 million over five years. For each $1 BC contributes to CAP programing, Canada contributes approximately $1.49.
- Contributions by federal government and provincial government are estimated in table 1 below.

Table 1: CAP Funding by Program (in millions $)

Program	Federal Contribution	Provincial Contribution	Total
Business Risk Management	170.0	115.5	285.5
Strategic Initiatives	69.0	46.0	115.0
Total	239.0	161.5	400.5

- BRM program costs are only estimates. Payments are demand driven and determined by the frequency and severity of loss events occurring during the period of the agreement. Actual costs will vary depending on weather and market conditions.
- Strategic initiatives funding is allocated among PTs based on the agricultural market cash receipts and the number of farms in each jurisdiction, as well as other economic considerations (which only apply to the Atlantic Provinces and territories). See table 2 below for the strategic initiative funding targets by province and territory.

Table 2: CAP Strategic Initiative (SI) Funding Targets by Province and Territory (in millions $)

Province/Territory	Federal Funding Target	Provincial Funding Target	Total Fed/Prov Target
Ontario	s.17		
Alberta			
Saskatchewan			
Quebec			
Manitoba			
British Columbia			
New Brunswick			
Nova Scotia			
Prince Edward Island			
Newfoundland and Labrador			
Yukon			
Northwest Territories			
Nunavut			
TOTAL SI Contributions			

- The CAP Strategic Initiative program budget for fiscal year 2019/20 is outlined below in table 3.

Table 3: CAP Strategic Initiatives Annual Budget 2019/20 by Program

Program Area	Federal Contribution	Provincial Contribution	Total
Market Development	s.17		
Business Development			
Innovation			
Assurance			
Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change			
Total			

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ADVICE TO MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE Ministry of Agriculture Date: Jan 11, 2019 Minister Responsible: Minister Lana Popham	**Cat and Dog Breeders Regulations**

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **There have been too many times in recent years when the SPCA has seized animals from breeders because of the poor health and conditions the animals were in.**

- **That needs to change. We want to develop a system that supports the responsible breeders in B.C., and targets the ones that aren't.**

- **The Ministry continues to consult with key stakeholders, to inform the development of a registration system and regulatory approach that will help stop irresponsible breeders.**

- **Discussions continue with stakeholders, as we determine the type of system, the standards of care, and the implementation of the new system. There are many important things to consider in ensuring we get this right .**

- **Charges under B.C.'s Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act can be laid against anyone who causes suffering or distress to an animal in British Columbia, including dog and other domestic animal breeders.**

KEY FACTS:

In spring 2017, the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* was updated to establish a broad framework for licensing or registration of commercial dog and cat breeders and sellers of their offspring. This includes inspections against minimum Standards of Care. The goal of the regulatory system is to address puppy mills and other irresponsible breeders, and those that profit from selling these animals.
The details (the activity for which a license/registration is required, will all be defined by regulation, which is currently being developed.

Key stakeholders that the Ministry continues to consult include the B.C. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Canadian Kennel Club, Canadian Cat Association, individual breeders, veterinarians, and local governments.

Following extensive consultation, the Ministry is currently proposing a five-pronged approach to for the new registration system:

- Education and Awareness: Leading implementation with strong industry and public education and awareness, with implementation of penalties over time
- Registration: Requiring mandatory registration and requiring use of a registration number for all sales including advertising
- Standards of Care: Mandatory BC standards of care (built from Canadian Veterinary Medical Association Codes of Practice for kennels)
- Inspection: Some degree of mandatory inspection with penalties for non-compliance (for both registration and standards of care), starting with complaint-based to build database for mandatory inspections schedule
- Funding: Funding is required to 1) develop the online registration system, and 2) ongoing administration/implementation of the new system including education/awareness, inspections and enforcement

In Spring 2016, the B.C. government recognized the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association's Codes of Practice for both Kennel and Cattery operations as generally accepted management practices for cat and dog breeders in British Columbia. The Codes of Practice include areas such as housing, ventilation, food and water, care and supervision, record-keeping, behavioural needs, socialization and transportation.

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.

The Ministry is carefully considering implementing the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC) Codes of Practice (Codes of Practice) under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act to continue to advance the animal welfare framework in B.C. Ministry staff have undertaken consultation with key industry associations and the BC SPCA on the Codes of Practice to identify actions that will ensure strong Codes implementation, including education, training around compliance and enforcement, and program support.

B.C. has some of the toughest penalties across Canada. The maximum penalties under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals act include up to two years in prison and a $75,000 fine.

Commercial Dog and Cat Breeders – Registering and Licensing

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **Animal welfare is a priority in B.C. and the B.C. Government expects all British Columbians to treat their animals with care and respect.**
- **In March 2017, amendments to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act enabled the creation of a B.C. licensing and registration system for commercial breeders of dogs and cats.**
- **This is intended to target and address irresponsible commercial breeders of dogs and cats, following two high-profile seizures at suspected puppy mills in B.C.'s Lower Mainland in 2017.**
- **Ministry engaged with key stakeholders including breeders, veterinarians and the BCSPCA to consult on the overall scope of the system and then again to inform the development of the aspects of the new system.**
- **Ministry staff continue to work with key stakeholders to develop the framework, including the standards of care for when the new system is launched.**

BACKGROUND:

- On March 16, 2017, amendments to the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* (PCAA) received Royal Assent.
- The amendments enable the creation of a licensing and/or registration system for commercial breeders of dogs and cats and accompanying inspections against minimum standards of care.
- This is a significant milestone to target and address irresponsible commercial breeders of dogs and cats, following two high-profile seizures at suspected puppy mills in the Lower Mainland.
- The Ministry conducted initial consultations with stakeholders in 2016 to inform the scope of the overall approach.
- s.12; s.13
- We are working to fully flesh out the details of what the Designated Agency would need to do to administer the program, including the costs and other resources required to ensure the new system can adequately meet the intentions of this initiative.
- The Ministry is also considering concerns that recently arose related to operational funding, and transparency and accountability of the Designated Agency.
- The Ministry is pursuing an intermediary solution until such time as these issues are more clearly understood and addressed.
- s.12; s.13

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- The Province of New Brunswick requires all establishments that raise dogs for sale to undergo an annual inspection and obtain a Pet Establishment License through the New Brunswick SPCA by way of an on-line application and renewal form. The regulatory

system references the CVMA Codes of Practice which are applicable primarily to large kennel operations.

- Legislation in the Province of Manitoba allows for a licensing system however they have not been enforcing the licensing component because of a lack of resources. According to government staff, they are now considering a change from licensing to an on line registration system. Manitoba legislation covers 3 main categories for dogs and cats- retail, kennels, and breeders.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- Operational funding will not be available for this initiative in the next fiscal year. Staff is currently exploring alternative options to address the funding shortfall while still working within the approved framework.
- Staff is pursuing an intermediary approach to reduce the overall build and initial operation costs of the system while providing the Ministry time to further explore recent issues of transparency and accountability concerning the DA.
- While it is expected current staff could provide the registration function, long term resourcing of inspection staff would need to be determined

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ISSUE/PROGRAM: CLIMATE ADAPTATION PROGRAMMING

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **Climate change has serious implications for B.C. farmers.**
- **The Ministry is working with the agriculture industry, local governments and other partners to help farmers and ranchers across the province prepare and adapt to changing climate and weather conditions.**
- **The Ministry's programming for climate change adaptation over 2018 - 2023 is funded under the five-year federal-provincial-territorial Canadian Agricultural Partnership.**
- **Through this funding, the Ministry has increased its support for the implementation of regional agricultural adaptation strategies in four agricultural regions: Delta, Peace, Cariboo, Fraser Valley, and Okanagan**
- **New strategies are under development in Bulkley-Nechako & Fraser-Fort George and Kootenay & Boundary. A strategy for Vancouver Island will start in Fall 2019.**
- **These strategies address climate related risks such as wildfire, drought, flooding, pests and diseases.**
- **The Ministry is also funding projects to pilot and demonstrate innovative adaptation practices on B.C. farms and ranches.**
- **Since 2013, 56 climate adaptation projects have been funded, of which 41 address climate risks through regional planning and projects focused on wildfire, drought, flooding, pests and diseases.**
- **Ministry is actively supporting a comprehensive province-wide climate change risk assessment, which will inform development of an adaptation strategy for B.C. to be completed by 2020.**

AGR-2019-95524

BACKGROUND:

- Climate change adaptation is a priority for the agriculture sector. For B.C. producers, climate change implications include: increased management complexity, business costs, and uncertainty due to impacts from climate related risks such as wildfire, drought, flooding, pests and diseases.
- There will also be an increase in growing days and opportunities for new crops.
- Successful adaptation will be required for the industry to manage the risks and take advantage of the opportunities.
- The Ministry supports adaptation by providing funding and working in partnership with industry through the BC Agriculture & Food Climate Action Initiative (CAI).
- The programming focuses on working with industry, local governments and other partners on regional adaptation strategies addressing climate change. Strategies have been completed for Cowichan, Delta, the Peace, the Cariboo, the Fraser Valley, and the Okanagan. Strategies are under development in Bulkley-Nechako & Fraser-Fort George, and Kootenay & Boundary. A strategy for Vancouver Island will commence in fall 2019.
- In addition, the programming provides support for applied research of innovative adaptation practices on B.C. farms and ranches.
- The programming is funded with approximately $6.2 M for 2018 - 2023, through the federal-provincial-territorial Canadian Agricultural Partnership.
- The Ministry's programming was discussed favourably in the February 15, 2018 report of the B.C. Office of the Auditor General (OAG), assessing whether the B.C. government is adequately addressing the risks posed by climate change. .
- The Ministry is working collaboratively with Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy and other agencies on a comprehensive province-wide assessment of the risks posed by climate change, which will address one of the key recommendations of the audit report. The climate risk assessment will inform development of an adaptation strategy for B.C. to be completed by 2020.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- B.C. is a leader in agricultural climate action. The regional adaptation strategies are the most advanced work of this type in Canada.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

The Ministry anticipates that $1.7 million of Canadian Agricultural Partnership funding will be allocated to climate change adaptation programming in 2019/20. The Ministry has 4 FTE positions associated with the climate program.

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AGR-2019-95524

ADVICE TO MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE Ministry of Agriculture Date: Jan 28, 2019 Minister Responsible: Minister Lana Popham	**College of Vets**

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **There is no place in our society for discrimination.**
- **In April 2018, I met with several B.C. veterinarians and the College of Veterinarians separately to discuss the veterinarians' complaints about the College's practices following the ruling made by the Human Rights Tribunal.**
- **As the College operates independently of government, the understanding was that the veterinarians and the College were going to work together to resolve the concerns.**
- **I am troubled to learn that there are still concerns about the College's practices. I have asked staff to reach out to the College for an explanation, as well as to the veterinarians to get more information on their continued concerns.**
- **Individuals who have concerns about the College's compliance with their processes and bylaws are encouraged to contact the Ministry.**
- **Our government is clear that discrimination has no place in B.C. During the fall legislative session we passed a bill to re-establish a Human Rights Commission that will proactively and passionately uphold the rights of all British Columbians.**
- **We all have a responsibility to do our part to show that discrimination is unacceptable in our society.**

KEY FACTS:

Human Rights Tribunal Ruling
In 2015, the B.C. Human Rights Tribunal upheld a complaint of discrimination against the BC College of Veterinarians brought forward by a group of Indo-Canadian veterinarians, after ruling the College "engaged in systemic discrimination". In 2019, media reported a group of Indo-Canadian vets continue to have complaints with the College, accusing them of on-going discrimination.

Role of College of Veterinarians
The College of Veterinarians of British Columbia is the statutory body created to serve the interests of the public and animals through the regulation and advancement of the veterinary profession in B.C. The CVBC's mandate is to create, promote and enforce a high standard of qualification, conduct and competence by practitioners of veterinary medicine. Veterinarians are required to meet the standard of care, skill, knowledge and conduct expected of a competent and ethical professional in every aspect of the handling of a patient. They are also required to provide clients with a complete and understandable explanation of the treatment recommended and seek client consent for the treatment (unless there is an emergency and the client cannot be reached.

The college operates independently of the B.C. government, with a limited role of the Minister of Agriculture defined by legislation.

Role of Minister of Agriculture
Under the Veterinarians Act, the Minister of Agriculture may:

- appoint up to four Council members (see Appendix 1);
- by order, if the Minister considers it to be in the public interest, make a new bylaw or amend or repeal an existing bylaw, except for bylaws regarding the practice of veterinary medicine, and bylaws to establish services that certified technicians may provide; and,
- make regulations:
- requiring Council or a committee to open meetings to registrants, certified technicians, or the public;
- respecting the public register and public online registry of veterinarians, and require information to be included in addition to the information required by the Act; and,
- prescribing additional information to be included in notices to the public from the investigation or discipline committees.

Feed BC implementation (institutional procurement)

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **Feed B.C. is one of my mandate letter commitments to increase the use of B.C. grown and processed foods in hospitals, schools and other government facilities.**
- **Procurement of B.C. grown and processed foods is already happening in a range of B.C. government facilities, including hospitals and health care facilities, and post-secondary education institutions.**
- **We have an opportunity to expand on this through strategic coordinated actions like through our partnership with the Ministry of Health.**
- **Health authorities have been asked to annually track the amount spent on B.C. Food without violating trade agreement obligations, and to seek opportunities to purchase more BC foods.**
- **An implementation project in the Interior Health Authority was announced on March 8, 2019 with the goal to better understand and capitalize on health care related opportunities and address challenges to purchase more B.C. foods with the goal to expand to other health authorities.**
- **There is also dedicated work with the industry including producers, processors, distributors and food service providers to build their capacity along the B.C. food supply chain to capitalize on these opportunities.**
- **We are also exploring opportunities with our colleagues in Advanced Education and Skills Training to increase the use of B.C. foods in post-secondary institutions.**
- **Feed B.C. will create new opportunities for British Columbians to experience all that B.C.'s agrifood industry has to offer.**

AGR-2019-95524

BACKGROUND:

- The Minister's 2017 mandate letter provides direction to "initiate Feed B.C. to increase the use of B.C. grown and processed foods in hospitals, schools and other government facilities."
- Procurement and use of B.C. grown and processed foods is already happening in a range of B.C. government facilities, including hospitals and health care facilities, and post-secondary education institutions.
- Estimates from the Health Authorities suggest that most hospitals and health care facilities are close to the 30% aspirational target. The current baseline of purchases by post-secondary institutions is not readily available.
- Policies to increase institutional procurement of B.C. foods need to be informed by limitations in existing trade agreements which may include requirements that B.C. government procurement contracts above certain value thresholds be open to suppliers from all signatory jurisdictions, not just the local area. Through Feed BC, procurement specialist services are available to health authorities to review and advise on existing food-related contracts.
- An implementation project is underway with the Ministry of Health and Interior Health Authority to increase the use of B.C. foods in that region's healthcare facilities. The Ministry of Health has also directed health authorities to annually track the amount spent on BC Food and, without violating trade agreement obligations, seek opportunities to purchase more BC foods.
- A project has just been completed with post-secondary institutions to understand current practices, and the facilitators and barriers for increasing B.C. local foods in this sector. Staff are working closely with colleagues in Advanced Education and Skills Training on options to further advance Feed BC in post-secondary institutions.
- Staff are developing program supports to prepare agrifood businesses to sell to government-supported facilities. These include a new food processing specialist to support processors in meeting the product needs of government facilities, and new training for small-scale food producers and processors on how to become facility- ready.
- Staff are holding regular meetings with agrifood industry stakeholders and government facilities, to ground-truth current understandings and identify the gaps/opportunities that the agrifood industry sees in the government-facility market.
- These early regional projects identify solutions that can be implemented in future regional projects, and eventually BC wide.
- The most effective solutions implemented in regional projects will provide a model for expanding to all of BC.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- Many jurisdictions have initiatives which promote the use of regionally grown and processed foods. These include legislative initiatives, local food strategies, funding programs, workshops, and toolkits for institutions on how to create and implement procurement policies and programs. Most notably, Ontario and New Brunswick are undertaking initiatives that are in line with the goals of Feed B.C.

Ontario:

- Ontario has many initiatives in place including a Local Food Strategy which includes a *Local Food Act* as well as funding for various grants and programs.

AGR-2019-95524

New Brunswick:

- New Brunswick's main initiative around local foods in public institutions is focused on getting local foods in school cafeterias.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE:

BUDGET 2018:

- B.C. provided $438,000 for Feed BC initiatives in 2018/2019.
- B.C. provided funding for a project with post-secondary institutions to identify current practices, and the facilitators and barriers for increasing B.C. foods in post-secondary institutions. One time cost of $75,000.
- BC provided funding to develop a market development strategy that identifies the food product needs of BC's healthcare facilities, and how these can be met by BC industry. One time cost of $50,000.
- BC provided funding for pilot workshops for small producers and processors on how to access and sell to government facilities. One time cost $25,000.
- BC provided funding for a study to understand and identify the gaps/opportunities to developing more regional food aggregation initiatives in BC, to support small producers to meet the high-volume needs of institutions. One time cost $40,000.
- BC provided funding for new food processing specialist who will support B.C. processors in meeting the product needs of health-care facilities.
- BC provided funding for business skills training for food processors, including new curriculum on how to sell to government facilities. One time cost of $100,000.

The following has not yet been announced:

- BC provided funding for partnership project with Interior Health Authority and Ministry of Health to support the implementation of Feed BC in Interior Health facilities, including a project facilitator, patient information and supports to prepare BC producers and processors to become healthcare-ready. $350,000 over two years.

BUDGET 2019:

s.17

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SAFE FOOD FOR CANADIANS REGULATIONS COMING INTO FORCE

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **The federal *Safe Food for Canadians Act* was passed in 2012.**
- **The Safe Food for Canadians Regulations (SFCR) came into force January 15, 2019, replacing 14 existing regulations governing food in Canada.**
- **The SFCR applies internationally recognized standards for food safety to food that is imported into, or prepared in, Canada for interprovincial trade or for export.**
- **SFCR centers on three basic food safety elements: licensing, traceability and preventive controls.**
- **The SFCR introduces new licences for businesses, makes enhanced traceability requirements mandatory, and ensures preventive food safety plans and controls plans are in place for most businesses.**
- **Implementation will be staggered over the next 2.5 years to allow businesses to adapt to the new requirements.**
- **The Ministry of Agriculture is working with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and other stakeholders to ensure industry is aware of new requirements.**
- **The Ministry of Agriculture is ready to support B.C. businesses with funding programs and expert staff to answer questions.**
- **The Ministry of Agriculture will continue to monitor any impacts of the changes to federal requirements and work collaboratively with the CFIA to ensure positive outcomes.**

BACKGROUND:

- The federal Safe Food for Canadians Regulations (SFCR) came into force on January 15, 2019.
- The key objectives, and benefits, of the SFCR are to:
    - apply internationally recognized standards for food safety to food that is imported into, or prepared in, Canada for interprovincial trade or for export;
    - support market access for Canadian exporters by keeping pace with food safety modernization efforts in other countries; and
    - consolidate 14 existing regulations governing food into a single set of outcome-based requirements.
- New requirements focus on three key food safety elements: licensing, traceability and preventive controls.
- Licensing:
    - SFCR replaces existing Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) registrations with licences and introduces new licences for: importers, exporters, food processors, food packers and small to medium enterprises.
- Traceability:
    - Businesses must be able to trace their food commodity one step back (to the immediate supplier) and one step forward (to the immediate purchaser).
    - Traceability requirements extend to a broader scope of businesses than those that are licensed. (e.g. activities that do not require a licence, such as food additives and alcoholic beverages must still meet traceability requirements).
    - Traceability requirements do not apply to restaurants or similar businesses such as cafeterias.
    - It is expected that many businesses, namely those with 3rd party food safety certification, will already have this level of record-keeping in place.
- Preventive Controls:
    - All businesses subject to SFCR requirements must have preventive controls in place.
    - Preventive controls focus on: controlling food safety risks, consumer protection, and ensuring animal welfare during slaughter activities.
    - Most businesses will also need to have a written preventive control plan (PCP) that outlines how businesses will manage food safety risks.
    - Most BC businesses will have some form of PCP already in place, such as a food safety plans or other 3rd party certified food safety system. CFIA has stated that a separate PCP is not required as long as the existing plan meets the SFCR requirements.
    - Some businesses with less than $100,000 annual sales are exempt from being required to have a written PCP.
- There will be a staggered implementation for the elements of SFCR depending on the:
    - type of food,
    - size of business, and
    - level of trade (import/export vs. inter-provincial).
- The implementation schedule allows small or medium enterprises time to adapt and meet the new requirements.
- The Ministry of Agriculture (Ministry) is working with the CFIA to ensure government and industry are prepared for implementation of the SFCR.
- The Ministry established an internal working group to review readiness; identify gaps; and ensure a coordinated approach to addressing any gaps in readiness for the SFCR.

- The Ministry will also participate in a Team BC working group with representatives from Ministry of Heath, Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Health Authorities, BC Centre for Disease Control and CFIA regional staff to: discuss policy/SFCR interpretation; clarify operational roles; and work collaboratively with CFIA to resolve issues.
- In addition to the extensive CFIA resources and support available, the Ministry is well positioned to aid businesses as they transition to the SFCR requirements:
    - Food Safety and Inspection Branch and Innovation and Adaptation Services Branch will provide funding support through 2018-2023 Canadian Agriculture Partnership programs (on-farm food safety $2M, post-farm food safety $3.4M, and traceability $4.4M) to eligible BC agrifood businesses.
    - Sector Development Branch will: communicate best practices to industry through workshops and webinars; continue to liaise with industry associations to discuss and propose actions to mitigate perceived impacts; provide business planning support related to regulatory impacts and/or competitive advantages of SFCR through the BC Agri-Business planning program; and provide food safety specialist support for businesses needing to develop PCPs.

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ISSUE/PROGRAM: B.C. Food Hub Network

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **The Food Innovation Centre mandate letter commitment has evolved into a Food Hub Network that will consist of a core Food and Beverage Innovation Centre at UBC Vancouver and a series of virtually connected Regional Food Hub sites across the Province**
- **The objective of the Food Hub Network is to foster growth and innovation in the processing sector through improved access to facilities, equipment, and business and innovation services.**
- **The Ministry is working closely with industry associations, post-Secondaries, local governments, and regional organizations to develop and implement the Food Hub Network.**
- **The core Food Innovation Centre at UBC will focus on innovative research and development and the Regional sites will provide regionally tailored and scalable shared processing facilities and business support services to foster the growth of local food processing sectors**
- **This Food Hub Network approach provides strong support for rural economic development, regional partnerships, and increased connectivity across regions.**
- **To date the Ministry has funded and supported:**
  - **The launch of the first regional food hub located in Metro Vancouver, which is serving as a Pilot and Demonstration site to support the establishment of other nodes and inform the development of the Network.**
  - **The creation of an endowed professorship at the University of British Columbia, Faculty of Land and Systems to support food and beverage processing innovation and the Food Innovation Centre.**
  - **A provincial food processing industry needs assessment to inform the development of the Network.**
  - **A food and beverage processing map which outlines physical assets across the province.**
  - **The completion of four regionally led feasibility studies/business plans for regional food hub sites.**
- **An application and selection process for future Regional Food Hub selection is currently under development.**

BACKGROUND:

- The BC Food Hub Network is an evolution of the Minister's Mandate Letter commitment to "Work with growers, processors, colleges and universities, as well as the Minister of Advanced Education and the Minister of State for Trade, to develop a B.C. Food Innovation Centre to innovate in the processing, packaging and marketing of BC food products, linking local food producers with new technology, and expanding exports and access to world markets."
- The BC Food Hub Network model is being developed with support from industry, communities and post-secondaries. It is an innovative approach, unique to BC, and intended to build provincial food and beverage processing while serving the regional and agri-food sector diversity of the Province.
- The model consists of a physical core centre at UBC Vancouver and 4-5 regional Food Hubs which will be virtually connected through a shared technology platform; the technology that will be used is to be determined.
- The Budget 2018 provided a budget uplift to AGRI to deliver the Grow BC, Feed BC, Buy BC Strategy and this uplift included $8.3 million over a three year period for the development of the BC Food Hub Network. Of those funds $2.8M were committed to the core centre at UBC and $5.5M to the regional sites.
- The majority of funding allocated to the UBC Core Centre will create an endowed Food and Beverage Innovation Research professorship at UBC, which will provide leadership for the Innovation Centre.
- The 2018/19 regional funding has been used to:
  - Create the first Regional Food Hub at Commissary Connect's Metro Vancouver Laurel Street location. Funded at $250K per year for three years, the first Regional Food Hub will serve as a Pilot and Demonsration site to inform and support the development of subsequent regional Hubs and the Network.
  - Fund three feasibility/business plan studies for potential regional nodes. (The first study for the District of Summerland for South Okanagan was completed in 2017/18). The three studies funded in 2018/19 are:
    - City of Quesnel for the South Cariboo;
    - Columbia Basin Trust for Columbia Basin Region;
    - Vancouver Island University for a Seafood Innovation Centre.
  - Fund a provincial food processing industry needs assessment and a food and beverage processing asset map to help inform the development of the Network.
  - Create a Food Hub Network situational analysis and implementation strategy.
- The goal for 2019/20 is to support the development and establishing of two additional regional sites.
- The location of the next Regional Hubs have yet to be determined.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATIONS:

- The initiative has three years of funding due to the Budget 2018 uplift.
- 2018/19 expenditures totaled $1.467M.

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Budget	2018/19 Budget	2018/19 Expenditures
Core	$1.0M	**$1.0M**
Regional	$1.02M	**$0.467M**
Total	$2.02M	**$1.467M**

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Food Processing Strategy and Supports

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **British Columbia's food processing sector continues to grow.**
- **Revenue in the food and beverage processing sector supported over 32,600 jobs and reached $9.8 billion in products for 2017; representing 69 per cent of total agrifood revenues.**
- **The Ministry is working with industry and other agencies to grow processing capacity, encourage local inputs, and promote industry growth through increased investment and exports.**
- **As part of the Ministry's Food Processing Action Plan a number of projects were undertaken in 2018/19 including:**
    - **Supporting 27 companies in increasing their process efficiency through the BC LEAN Program for Food Processors;**
    - **Funding support to the B.C. Food Processing Association's Breakfast Speaker Series and FoodPro West events; and**
    - **The assessment of plant-based protein opportunities in B.C.**
- **The Province is helping build the domestic and export markets for B.C. foods.**
- **The Ministry has a full time Food Processing Manager to work with industry, associations and across ministries to support the food and beverage sector. This position is supported by a full time Analyst.**
- **The food and beverage sector is an essential part of the development and implementation of Feed BC.**
- **Canadian Agricultural Partnership funding will continue to provide Provincial support to the sector through business development, marketing, innovation and food safety programming.**

BACKGROUND:

- The B.C. food and beverage (food processing) industry is one of the largest manufacturing sectors in the Province based on revenues.
- The sector supported over 32,600 jobs and shipped $9.8 billion in products in 2017. A broad range of B.C. companies have products derived from both local and imported sources.
- The Ministry of Agriculture (AGRI) works closely with the B.C. Food Processing Association (BCFPA) and the Small Scale Food Processing Association (SSFPA).
- The B.C. food processing industry includes, but is not limited to, processed meats, vegetables, fruit, seafood, spirits, beverages and nutraceutical ingredients.
- The Lower Mainland, Okanagan and Vancouver Island have the largest concentration of food processing facilities.
- B.C. agrifood and seafood exports has grown in value an average of 7 per cent a year since 2010.
- Over 85 per cent of processing establishments employ less than 20 staff. Over half (57 per cent) of B.C.'s food processing firms are run by owner/operators and have no employees and 50 per cent of these firms earn less than $30,000 a year in revenue.
- Achievements for 2018/19 include:
    - $411,250 in programming support for Food and Beverage sector
    - Subject matter and strategic support for industry and Grow BC, Feed BC and Buy BC programming and activities;

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- From Alberta to Ontario, the range of provincially funded FTEs used to support the food processing industry is between five (Saskatchewan) and 25 (Ontario). The roles are most often focused on innovation, improving profitability, growth opportunities, and commercialization.
- From Alberta to Ontario, all provinces either support directly or indirectly some form of food development centre.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE:

- Two FTE's; Manger Food Processing; Food Processing Analyst; additional support from IASB, CGPL, FSIB and across SDB
- BC Lean Program for Food Processors; 27 companies; $216,000
- Strategic Planning for the Small Scale Meat Producers Association; $10,000
- BCFPA Breakfast Speakers Series events (four); $25,250
- FoodPro West annual conference and speakers; $10,000
- Value Chain development and business planning support for Goodly Foods; $10,000
- Market intelligence report for institutional procurement in B.C.; $50,000
- Food processor tradeshow support and workshops for institutional procurement; $30,000
- Plant Based Proteins opportunities report; $35,000
- Hemp Processing Feasibility Study; $25,000

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FPT MINISTERS' MEETING 2018 VANCOUVER (BUDGET AND OUTCOMES)

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **In July 18-20, 2018, B.C. hosted the annual Federal/Provincial/Territorial (FPT) Ministers and Deputy Ministers of Agriculture Conference in Vancouver at the Westin Bayshore.**
- **It was our turn to co-chair the annual meetings with Agriculture and Agrifood Canada and an opportunity to highlight the diversity of B.C.'s agriculture sector to the other agriculture ministers and staff across Canada.**
- **After cost-share and revenue recovery, the total paid by the Ministry of Agriculture to host the three day Conference of 82 delegates, and 113 industry guests at the Conference opening reception was $48,483.**
- **The outcomes of the conference were substantial:**
    - **reaffirmed our support for the supply managed sector and discussed the CUSMA trade negotiations and market development opportunities.**
    - **recognized labour as a critical issue for our agriculture sector and approved a FPT work plan to make collective progress on this common issue.**
    - **final recommendations were received from the Business Risk Management Review External Panel and directed officials to make progress on the findings and report back in 2019.**
    - **recognized that regulations place a significant burden on businesses and directed the FPT Regulatory ADMs to prioritize work on reducing duplication, streamlining processes, and addressing emergency management.**
    - **agreed that provinces and territories have the discretion to determine eligibility for cannabis in cost shared programs. under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership agreement.**
    - **BRM income from cannabis (including both medicinal and recreational) are not eligible for support under AgriStability and AgriInvest with a plan to monitor decision outcome as the cannabis industry matures and stabilizes.**

BACKGROUND:

- Federal/Provincial/Territorial (FPT) relations in agriculture stem from the shared jurisdiction over agriculture which is articulated in our constitution.
- Relations have evolved over time and are now expressed formally through annual FPT meetings at the minister, deputy minister (DM) and assistant deputy minister (ADM) levels.
- The FPT ADM's have two areas of focus, Policy and Regulatory. These two areas report up through the DMs and ministers.
- Agriculture and Agrifood Canada (AAFC) is co-chair of the FPT Policy ADMs, DMs and ministers meetings.
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency is co-chair of the FPT Regulatory ADMs and sits at the DM meetings represented by the CFIA vice president, and at minister meetings, represented by the CFIA president.
- Ministers set general direction for FPT topics in July of each year at the FPT Ministers and Deputy Ministers of Agriculture Conference.
- The role of provincial co-chair rotates each year, and in 2018 it was B.C.'s turn, which meant B.C. would host the FPT Ministers and Deputy Ministers of Agriculture Conference.
- After discussions with AAFC, it was decided that the event would take place in Vancouver at the Westin Bayshore on July 18-20, 2018.
- The event is cost shared with AAFC, and the participants (government delegates and industry guests) pay a registration fee to off-set the cost of the event.
- A total of 82 government delegates registered to the conference, and 113 industry guests attended the opening reception of the conference.

Tour information:

- Highlighted the Asia/Pacific link to Canada through hosting a Port of Vancouver tour through Burrard Inlet.
- Semios is an ag-tech company that focuses on high value tree crops (e.g., apples, almonds, etc.) and tree farmer concerns, including pests, diseases, frost and irrigation. Using a scalable, data analytics platform for growers, pest and disease pressure can be predicted, identified and prevented.
- Commissary Connect offers shared-use commercial kitchen space. With three locations in Vancouver, the company's heath authority-approved facilities feature professional management, scale-up and mentorship opportunities for clients, commercial grade kitchen equipment (available on a pay-per-use model to help reduce overhead), a non-competitive, collaborative environment to encourage entrepreneurship and innovation and a network of like-minded entrepreneurs and food business professionals.

Meeting outcomes:

- Reaffirmed support for supply management in Canada and discussed the status of trade negotiations and market access initiatives in key export markets, and the importance of diversifying our trading markets.
- Discussed the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) modernization negotiations, and noted that Canada remains optimistic that a good deal will be reached for Canada and Canadian producers.
- Discussed current short- and longer-term challenges in agricultural labour markets, including the use of temporary foreign workers through the Temporary Foreign Workers Program and future labour and skills needs of the sector.

- Approved a work plan to further develop strategies and engage industry on labour issues, recognized the opportunity to collaborate under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership to address labour challenges and Ministers agreed to continue to monitor the situation.
- Ministers agreed to undertake a review of BRM programs to assess their effectiveness and impact on growth and innovation. An expert panel consisting of producers, academics and other experts was established to provide feedback and guidance.
- The panel presented its recommendations to Ministers on July 20, 2018. Ministers directed officials to move forward with additional work required on the panel's recommendations and to report back on progress to Ministers in 2019.
- Ministers acknowledged that the sector is changing rapidly and the need to address regulatory challenges, including the importance of collaboration with other regulatory bodies outside of agriculture, and of federal, provincial and territorial alignment.
- Committed to increase FPT collaboration to address the regulatory burden within their respective provincial and territorial authorities. In the short term, significant initiatives will be advanced: establishing a Canadian Plant Health Council under the Plant and Animal Health Strategy for Canada, finalizing a national traceability system, and implementing the new Safe Food for Canadians Regulations and the importance of putting measures in place to support the sector in dealing with animal health emergency issues.
- Ministers reviewed how cannabis will be treated under federal and cost-shared agricultural programs. The cannabis industry is eligible to apply for federal programs under the Partnership. Provinces and territories have the discretion to determine eligibility for cannabis production for cost shared programs.
- For BRM programs, income from cannabis (including both medicinal and recreational) are not eligible for support under AgriStability and AgriInvest. Governments agree to monitor this over the coming years as the cannabis industry matures and stabilizes.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- Not applicable.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

Expenses	
Hotel Meeting rooms (Tues 17 - Fri 20, 2018)	45,275
Transportation Shuttle bus	1,220
Opening Reception (Wed, July 18, 2018)	18,870
Delegate Dinner (Thurs, July 19, 2018)	7,408
Conference food Breakfast/Lunch/Breaks	27,280
Registration platform	3,404
Delegates bags and miscellaneous	1,240
Total Expenses	**104,697**
Revenue	
Registration	32,825
AAFC Cost Share	23,389
Total Revenue	**56,214**
Total Cost to Ministry of Agriculture	**48,483**

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GRAND FORKS

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **The May 2018 flooding that affected Grand Forks and the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary (RDKB) impacted some agriculture producers particularly hard. The primary impacts were in the form of capital losses (e.g. irrigation systems), standing and future crop loss, and loss and damage to valuable agricultural land.**
  - **Evaluation of farms impacted by the Granby and Kettle River floods in the Grand Forks area identified damaged flood mitigation works (e.g. Diking/Rip Rap) and permanent loss of soils as the most common and most expensive losses.**

- **The Ministry's evaluation of the regional agricultural flood losses determined the losses/impacts would not meet the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) Agreement defined criteria required to initiate an AgriRecovery program as:**
  - **Less than 15 percent of the region's producers or value of production in the region was affected;**
  - **Most of the farms affected have not lost 30 percent of their productive capacity; and**
  - **A majority of the income and expenditure losses are eligible for coverage under AgriStability, Production Insurance, AgriInvest or Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA). AgriRecovery may complement but not substitute existing programs.**

- **The Ministry of Agriculture continues to work with the cross-ministry Provincial Recovery Team lead by Emergency Management BC (EMBC) on post-flood recovery support for the RDKB agriculture sector and for similar future disaster events.**

BACKGROUND:

- Ministry of Agriculture (AGRI) staff working directly with flood affected agricultural producers found that impacts ranged from production infrastructure, animal welfare, environmental restoration and crop loss; the most significant costs required are for the restoration of on-farm flood mitigation works.
    - Preliminary cost estimates to rebuild riparian protective works (flood mitigation) are up to $6 million.
    - There is an estimated 1,500 acres of Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) land that requires mitigation to protect from future flood damage. Hazard assessment and mapping planning is underway to highlight mitigation needs.

- AGRI's evaluation of agricultural losses determined the extent of losses/impacts would not meet the CAP defined criteria (see Appendices for BRMB program criteria) required to initiate an AgriRecovery initiative as:
    - Less than 15 percent of the producers or the value of production in the region affected;
    - Most of the farms affected have not lost 30 percent of their productive capacity; and
    - A majority of the income and expenditure losses are eligible for coverage under AgriStability, AgriInvest, Production Insurance or DFA. (see Appendices for program criteria)
        - BRM participation by the flood impacted producers is low. However, those farms that have experienced the largest losses are in enrolled in some BRM programs.

- The DFA which is administered by EMBC, provides support to eligible Farm Operations for a majority of the types of losses caused by flooding (e.g. fencing, clean-up, restoring fields). However, a majority of impacted farmers are reporting that they are being deemed ineligible because 1) either the farm income is not the owner's major source of income or 2) farms whom are incorporated are being considered as small businesses and may be ineligible if they have gross sales of greater than $1 million.

- The Province is still considering the degree to which it provides additional support to the agriculture sector within the RDKB.
    - Any decision to support the agriculture sector within the RDKB will need to be carefully assessed considering precedents set for current impacts or future events in the Province. Flood-impacted agriculture producers outside of the RDKB are not receiving any support beyond existing programs.
    - The E*mergency Program Act* is not a likely funding source for agriculture support. Any supports will need to be drawn from existing program budgets or take the form of a new funding request to Treasury Board from contingency funds.

- An environmental knowledge gap exists with regard to appropriate agricultural flood mitigation activities. Flood hazard assessments have not been completed to identify the regional impacts of flood mitigation projects designed to protect agriculture producers on other values/properties/infrastructure.
    - The City of Grand Forks and the RDKB are preparing a 2019 flood response plan that will cover agricultural properties in the region and highlight agriculture mitigation needs for high risk properties. Additionally, region-wide flood hazard mapping will be complete in 2020.

CROSS-JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- All provinces offer the same suite of agricultural Business Risk Management programs to their farmers.
- All provinces and territories are signators to the federal Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangement (DFAA); which is a federal cost recovery arrangement that is designed to assist provinces with the costs of dealing with a disaster where those costs would otherwise place a significant burden on the provincial economy and would exceed what provinces might reasonably be expected to fully bear on their own.
    - **British Columbia's DFA is unique from others provinces** as it limits eligibility only to farm owners that make more than 50 percent of their income from the farm and have a maximum of $1 million in gross sales.

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Appendices:

Agricultural Business Risk Management (BRM) programs and policy frameworks :

- AgriStability is designed to provide income stability to agricultural producers who will experience large margin declines caused by production loss, increased costs or marketing disruptions. It provides a tool to help manage margin declines greater than 30 percent at the whole farm level. Producers must have proactively enrolled in the program by April 30.
- Production Insurance offers protection against crop losses due to naturally occurring perils such as this flood event. Producers must proactively enroll by deadlines specified for each crop type.
- AgriInvest is a savings account program with a matching government contribution for the first one percent of Allowable Net Sales. Producers that have proactively participated are able to use the funds to cover flood recovery costs.
- AgriRecovery is a disaster relief framework that enables federal and provincial governments to respond to severe loss events in a coordinated way. The purpose of AgriRecovery is to provide assistance to affected producers to help offset extraordinary costs required to return to production.
    - Like any consideration for reasonable shared burden, certain degrees of loss criteria must be met:
        - Collective Experience: The disaster event must impact at least 15 percent of the producers or the value of production of the affected region. A region can be no smaller than a previously defined region (e.g. rural municipality, county, census district, geographical region, etc.).
        - Significant Negative Impact: The event results in, or has the potential to result in, at least a 30 percent reduction in the affected producers' capacity to produce or market agricultural commodities.
        - Significant Extraordinary Costs: To be considered significant, the extraordinary costs related to the disaster must be equivalent to at least 10 percent of the producer's average gross revenue.
    - AgriRecovery is only able to cover extraordinary costs that are not covered under existing programs such as Production Insurance, AgriStability, Disaster Financial Assistance and private insurance.

Existing Federal and Provincial disaster assistance:

- Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangement (DFAA) (overview provided by EMBC):
    - The federal cost recovery arrangement that is designed to assist provinces with the costs of dealing with a disaster where those costs would otherwise place a significant burden on the provincial economy and would exceed what provinces might reasonably be expected to fully bear on their own.
- Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) (overview provided by EMBC):
    - The provincial program that provides support to local governments and individuals (home owners/tenants, small business owners, farm owners and charitable organizations) impacted by disasters cope with the cost of recovery from property damage for those events specifically designated as eligible for DFA.
    - The purpose is to provide assistance to individuals for their principal residence and to help farmers and small business owners when their livelihood is at risk.
    - Insurable losses in the private sector are not eligible for DFA. DFA is not insurance.
    - It is delivered under the *Emergency Program Act* and the ensuing Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation.

AGR-2019-95524

ISSUE/PROGRAM: Greenhouse Carbon Tax Relief Grant Program

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **The Greenhouse Carbon Tax Relief Grant Program (GCTRGP) provides eligible B.C. commercial greenhouse operators with a grant of 80 per cent of the carbon tax paid (in the previous calendar year) on natural gas and propane used for heating and carbon dioxide production.**
- **The GCTRGP benefits over 190 B.C. commercial greenhouse vegetable, floriculture, wholesale landscape nurseries and forest seedling operations. Cannabis is not an eligible crop at any phase of production, including propagation.**
- **The budget for the program is $7.55M per year.**
- **Applications for the 2019 program intake closed on March 29, 2019.**

BACKGROUND:

- The Greenhouse Carbon Tax Relief Grant Program (GCTRGP) supports the Province's commercial greenhouse industry, which requires carbon dioxide and purposefully produces it for plant growth. The program enables B.C. producers to remain competitive with producers in other jurisdictions not subject to a carbon tax.
- The GCTRGP returns 80 per cent of the carbon tax paid (in the previous calendar year – as an estimate of the current year usage) on propane and natural gas utilized for heating and carbon dioxide production to eligible producers.
- To qualify for a grant, an applicant must be an eligible British Columbia commercial greenhouse operator during the 2019 production year, submit a completed application form and submit required documentation to the Ministry of Agriculture. Applicants must also have had sales exceeding $20,000 in the previous calendar year; used natural gas or propane to heat their greenhouses or produce carbon dioxide; and had a production area greater than 455 square metres.
- The 2019 intake of the program closed on March 29, 2019. The Ministry of Agriculture expects the processing of applications to be completed and relief grants issued by June 2019.
- The 2017 Confidence and Supply Agreement committed an increase of the carbon tax by $5 per tonne per year, beginning April 1, 2018:

Year	Carbon tax rate
2017	$30/ tonne
April 1, 2018	$35/ tonne
April 1, 2019	$40/ tonne
April 1, 2020	$45/ tonne
April 1, 2021	$50/ tonne

- However, the coverage rate (80 per cent) for the GCTRGP is not changing this year, which reflects government's strong commitment to agriculture and the commercial greenhouse industry.
- If required, the Ministry has authority to access contingency funding for the expected $0.9 million increase in grant requests associated with the $5 increase.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- The GCTRGP returned approximately $8.1 million to commercial greenhouse operators in 2018/19. This represents an increase of approximately $0.6 million over the previous year, which is attributable to a colder than normal spring and fall in 2017. The Ministry has addressed this cost pressure internally.
- The Ministry estimates the 2019/20 program disbursement to be the same as last year, at $8.1 million.

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Grow BC

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **Grow BC is about building sustainable food production, supporting producers and helping B.C. producers expand local food production.**
- **Grow BC includes programs and supports that will help new entrants and young people getting into farming.**
- **Agriculture and food production is a major source of economic activity and community strength across the Province.**
- **To encourage agriculture we need secure farmers and secure farmland that is sustainably managed. This means encouraging people who have a vision and passion to try agriculture.**
- **Grow BC offers targeted programs to make sure the people who are passionate about working on the farm, are there on the land, doing just that.**
- **Grow BC also offers programming targeted at ensuring the environmental sustainability of the sector including better nutrient management.**
- **Revitalization of the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) and the Agricutural Land Commission (ALC) is part of the Grow BC strategy.**
- s.12; s.13
- **The revitalization of the ALR and the ALC will ensure the province's best farmland is protected and available for farming and ranching, so that British Columbians can have a safe, secure supply of locally grown food on their table, and communities can prosper.**

BACKGROUND:

- Grow BC is a pillar of the Ministry's Grow BC, Feed BC and Buy BC strategy.

- The objective of Grow BC is to build sustainable production and help B.C. producers expand local food production.

- Two mandate commitments are part of Grow BC:
    - Help young farmers access land, and support fruit and nut growers and processors to expand local food production (see separate note: New Entrants – Support for New Beginning Farmers).
    - Revitalize the Agriculture Land Reserve and the Agricultural Land Commission (see separate notes: ALR/ALC Revitalization).

- Key Grow BC initiatives include:
    - New Entrant- Support for New Beginning Farmers. This initiative includes providing incentives that encourage young people to enter farming and new farmers to have access to land (see separate note: New Entrants – Support for New Beginning Farmers).
    - Improving support services for industry / producers / processors, including those who are Indigenous, and supporting replanting (see separate notes: First Nations; Replant Program).
    - Revitalizing the ALR (see separate notes: ALR/ALC Revitalization).
    - Enhancing seafood and aquaculture – including by leveraging the Federal Fisheries and Aquaculture Clean Technology Adoption Program (FACTAP) to support sector projects.
    - Mitigating climate change – through enhanced nutrient management and regional climate adaptation activities (see separate notes: Nutrient Management; Climate Adaptation).
    - Protecting animal, plant and human health.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- Approximately $2 million was targeted towards Grow BC initiatives in 2018/19.

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AGR-2019-95524

Nitrate Contamination of Hullcar Aquifer

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **The government is taking all necessary actions to ensure residents using Hullcar aquifer 103 have safe drinking water, while preserving the region's agriculture economy.**
- **In partnership with the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and Splatsin First Nation, I have signed onto the Memorandum of Understanding to work collaboratively to support improved water quality in the Hullcar area.**
- **The Ministry of Agriculture is taking action on many fronts. Current initiatives include:**
    - **Participation on the Interagency Working Group for the Hullcar aquifer;**
    - **Completion of research and nutrient monitoring studies; and**
    - **Delivery of targeted funding to support education and implementation of beneficial management practices.**
- **The Ministry has increased nutrient management demonstration trials, improved nutrient management calculation tools and targeted funding to the sector to implement beneficial management practices that will promote better nutrient management.**
- **The Province conducted a review to ensure agricultural practices in the Hullcar aquifer are consistent with the provision of clean, safe drinking water. The review led to the POLIS Recommendations Report in November 2017.The Province is now focused on implementing the Report's recommendations.**
- **The Ministry will continue to focus its research and efforts on improving the nutrient management practices of the agriculture sector as well as finding innovative agritech solutions for producers to manage their nutrients.**

BACKGROUND:

- Nitrate levels have consistently exceeded water quality guidelines from March 2014 to present with respect to the Hullcar aquifer which is a drinking water source for the Hullcar Valley. There are 53 residents connected to the Steele Springs Water District (SSWD), 22 independent well users and the Splatsin First Nation who all rely on the aquifer for drinking water.
- A combination of factors is likely affecting the Hullcar aquifer, but agriculture has been identified as the primary cause.
- An inter-agency working group (AGRI co-Chairs) with representation from Ministry of Environment; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations; Ministry of Health; Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada; Interior Health Association and Splatsin First Nation are working to resolve the issue.
- In March, 2017, the Province provided $950K to help ensure the residents have safe drinking water.
- $300K is being managed by the Agricultural Research and Development Corporation to cover the costs of a community liaison consultant and to assist the agricultural community in developing nutrient management plans and action plans.
- $650K is being managed by the Fraser Basin Council. $300K is to be used to develop an alternative water supply for the SSWD; $50K to be used for at-tap nitrate conversion for private well owners; and $300K to be allocated for infrastructure and water protection for the Splatsin First Nation.
- The Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) Program provides a voluntary, no-cost, confidential on-farm risk assessment process to educate producers on better understanding their environmental risks as well as support to identify beneficial management practices to support improvements related to nutrient management.
- The Beneficial Management Practices Program provides cost-share funding to support producers in implementing beneficial management practices. This funding supports both planning as well as cost-share funding for nutrient management related equipment and innovative technology.
- Ministry of Environment's Code of Practice for Agricultural Environmental Management will require greater nutrient management planning and soil testing requirements for producers over the Hullcar aquifer starting in the fall of 2019.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- The EFP Program, a Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) program, provides over $2.25M annually to support education and cost-share funding for on-farm infrastructure to support environmental sustainability.
- In 2018/19 the Ministry provided over $175K to support targeted efforts to improve the drinking water quality in the Hullcar aquifer. These funds supported the implementation of on-farm beneficial management practices such as improved manure application, irrigation application, nutrient management planning and record keeping.
- It is anticipated that agricultural producers over the Hullcar aquifer will incur costs of greater than $75K (cumulative) to develop nutrient management plans as required under the Code of Practice for Agricultural Environmental Management in 2019/20.
- Through CAP, support for environmental sustainability will continue.

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Indigenous Agriculture Development

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **The Ministry of Agriculture is moving forward with the full adoption and implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission through three areas of focus: self-determination, building capacity, and program and economic development.**
- **As such, I am forming a Minister's Indigenous Agriculture Advisory Group made up of Indigenous agriculture leaders to inform our priorities, provide strategic advice and better understand their unique opportunities and challenges for agriculture economic development.**
- **Through strong relationships built on trust, understanding and respect, we strive to support Indigenous communities and entrepreneurs in improving their agriculture and business development knowledge, skills and capacity.**
- **There are currently three staff located across the province supporting Indigenous programs and outreach including agrologists and technical staff to provide on-the-ground support.**
- **Working with other ministry experts, staff provide project management support and referrals to a full suite of programs available to Indigenous communities, organizations and entrepreneurs.**
- **The Indigenous Agricultural Development Program, funded through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP), provides cost-shared funding to complete Agriculture Opportunity Assessments, business plans, and training to assist Indigenous communities and organizations to make informed decisions.**
- **The Ministry continues to work together with other agencies, ministries and the federal government to support broader reconciliation goals.**
- **In addition to economic health, we also support community health by promoting local agriculture and food security, which is particularly vital to remote communities as well as those still recovering from the devastating impacts of the 2017 and 2018 wildfire seasons.**
- **The Ministry of Agriculture is uniquely positioned to work positively with Indigenous communities both on and off reserve, endeavoring to**

narrow the socio-economic gap that separates Indigenous people from the rest of British Columbians.

Background:

- The Ministry of Agriculture's (AGRI) implementation plan sets out the actions that the Ministry will take in order to achieve the Draft Principles that Guide the Province of British Columbia's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples. The three areas of focus are Self-Determination, Building Capacity and Program and Economic Development.
- In March 2019, staff developed a Terms of Reference and membership list for the new Minister's Indigenous Agriculture Advisory group. The group is intended to recommend priorities, provide strategic advice and offer policy guidance to support the agriculture economic development interests and objectives of Indigenous communities including First Nations and Metis peoples. Membership is still being finalized to include regional and commodity representation and the first meeting to be scheduled within the next 6 months.
- In 2012, AGRI completed a First Nation Agricultural Needs Assessment which has been used to inform development of programs and services for Indigenous peoples. Additional consultation is being planned for fiscal 2019/20 to inform the development and enhancement of indigenous programs and services.
- The Indigenous Business Agrologist, Indigenous Agriculture Development Officer and Indigenous Projects and Communications Analyst work to support approximately 198 Indigenous communities throughout B.C. in the growth and development of Indigenous agriculture businesses and initiatives.
- By leveraging the local knowledge and relationships of the Regional Agrologists to provide advisory and referral services to Indigenous communities and businesses and to promote and guide them to available programs.
- In October 2018, AGRI launched the B.C. Indigenous Agriculture Development Program, funded through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP). The Indigenous Business Agrologist and Indigenous Agriculture Development Officer work with Indigenous applicants on project development and review applications. The Program is comprised of two steps:
    - Step 1 is funding of up to $5,000 to complete an Agriculture Opportunity Assessment (AOA's) and feasibility study with a Qualified Business Advisor
    - Step 2 funding of up to $10,000 for Agriculture Financial and Business Planning which can also include technical training and capacity building
- Over 42 First Nations have completed AOA's since 2011, with a total of seven additional communities to be completed by the end of fiscal 2018/19.
- With many Indigenous communities either new to agriculture or expanding into new opportunities, the New Entrant Strategy and New Entrant Needs Assessment will also inform indigenous agriculture capacity building and entrepreneur development. The New Entrant Advisory Group, which provides feedback to AGRI to support the implementation of the New Entrant Strategy, includes an indigenous farmer.
- AGRI continues to work with the First Nations' focused Community Futures Offices to host the annual Indigenous Agricultural Forum to increase extension knowledge, connect to funding and encourage peer to peer networking.
- AGRI staff hosted an agriculture development workshop at the Links to Learning annual technical training forum, a partnership between Cando, the National Aboriginal Lands Managers Association and Indigenous Services Canada.
- In addition, staff work with organizations such as the First Nation Health Authority, the Ministry of Health and the Heart and Stroke Foundation of B.C. and the Yukon on Local

Food Systems and Community Food Initiatives.

- AGRI is working on developing more targeted programming for Indigenous youth in agriculture through partnerships with 4-H and other indigenous and youth in agriculture organizations.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- B.C. provides unique Indigenous specific programming and technical staff support which is not offered by all provinces. Other provinces provide similar business development support through their CAP programs though not tailored specifically to indigenous communities and organizations.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- Approximately $90,000 is allocated to Indigenous agricultural services. Approximately $65,000 is allocated to the Indigenous Agriculture Development Program, $25,000 to support knowledge transfer events and the creation of information resources.
- Indigenous producers and processors are also eligible for other programs under CAP and other programs delivered by AGRI.
- In 2018-19, the Ministry expanded the longstanding partnership with 4-H BC through a new three-year funding increase of $63,000 per year for specialized programs geared towards urban and indigenous youth.

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ISSUE/PROGRAM: International Marketing

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **I am proud that B.C. agriculture and seafood products are enjoyed by families all over the world, and am committed to expanding the markets for B.C. products both overseas and at home.**
- **The B.C. government's promotion of B.C. food and seafood products in key markets like the United States, Asia and Europe, offers opportunities for B.C. companies to increase their sales and contributions to our coastal and mainland communities.**
- **Our government is committed to developing policies and programs that encourage exports and international trade and we're seeing results in B.C. agrifoods.**
- **2017 was a record year where B.C. agrifood exports reached $3.9 billion – up $100 million from 2016.**
- **British Columbia exported about 700 types of foods to approximately 160 markets in 2017, building on the demand for high quality, trusted B.C. products, and the network British Columbians have with family, friends, and businesses all over the world.**
- **Our government continues working with businesses to keep the trend and sales growing through trade missions, and 16 international B.C. government trade offices.**
- **B.C. government reps will participate in at least 15 international agrifood trade events in 2019, all of which connect buyers with B.C. companies, and incomes and jobs in B.C. communities.**

BACKGROUND:

- The July 2017 Mandate Letter requested that the Minister work with the Minister of State for Trade to expand exports and access to world markets.
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology (JTT) continue to follow the multi-year B.C. Agrifood and Seafood International Market Development Strategy developed in 2016/17, which was informed by extensive industry consultation and identifies top priority, secondary priority, and long-term growth markets for B.C. agrifood and seafood products.
- In 2017, B.C. exported $3.9 billion of agrifood and seafood products to approximately 160 markets. The top five markets were: the U.S. ($2.8 billion), China ($395 million), Japan ($204 million), South Korea ($71 million) and Hong Kong ($67 million). The top five exports were farmed Atlantic salmon ($512 million), food preparations for processing ($329 million), baked goods and other cereal preparations ($322 million), blueberries ($222 million) and mushrooms ($153 million).
- In 2018/19, the Ministry leveraged a continuum of targeted market development and market intelligence programs and services to support the growth of both small- and medium-sized exporters, including:
    - Launching the $5 million B.C. Agrifood and Seafood Market Development Program (BCASMDP) in September 2018, which is funded under the *Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP),* delivered by the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC, and provides cost-shared funding support for industry to undertake market research, strategic planning, marketing skills training, and other market development activities (37 applications approved);
    - 15 international tradeshows/events in priority markets (14 led by JTT, and one led by the Ministry);
    - Two dedicated B.C. Agrifood and Seafood Trade-and-Investment Representatives (TIRs) working in South Korea and Hong Kong;
    - Updating/translating the BC Agrifood and Seafood Export-Ready Business Catalogue in four languages; and,
    - Completing five Export Market Guides for secondary priority markets (all guides completed for top five priority markets, and 10/18 guides completed for secondary priority markets).
- In 2019/20, the Ministry will continue to support increased export sales for B.C.'s agrifood and seafood sector through similar programming and services.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- AGRI's total provincial budget for interprovincial and international market development is approximately $0.56 million annually.
- Through the CAP agreement with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the Ministry is able to leverage an additional $1.93 million in federal funding, expanding B.C.'s total annual budget to approximately $2.48 million.

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Kamloops – Noble Creek Irrigation System

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **In the Thompson region of B.C., the climate is warm enough to grow a wide variety of crops provided there is supplemental water to overcome the moisture deficit created by that warmth. Without irrigation the range of crops that can be grown is very limited and yields are greatly diminished.**
- **The land in the area serviced by the Noble Creek Irrigation System has excellent agricultural capability and has been irrigated for over a century. Since the first irrigation project in 1905 the area has grown a variety of different crops. Currently it produces wine, vegetables, tree fruits and forage for livestock that enhances the local economy. There are 37 active users of the system.**
- **The Environmental Farm Planning Program instituted by the Ministry of Agriculture (AGRI) encourages environmentally responsible agricultural practices including the efficient use of the province's water resources for agricultural production.**
- **AGRI staff have engaged with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the City of Kamloops to address the concerns raised by Noble Creek Irrigation System users. The City of Kamloops has deferred a decision on future management of the system until the issue can be examined in further detail.**
- **The Ministry of Agriculture has offered the assistance of the Irrigation Specialist, the Regional Agrologist and other knowledgeable staff to work with the City of Kamloops in conducting a review of the system and finding a way to continue irrigation of this valuable agricultural land.**

BACKGROUND:

- The agricultural land in the Noble Creek area has been irrigated since an irrigation project in 1905 was first able to supply water. In 1910 the British Columbia Fruitlands Irrigation & Power Company began running the irrigation system for the community until 1957. This was followed by the BC Fruitlands Irrigation District. After a major rebuild of the irrigation system with Federal/Provincial funding in 1968, the system was amalgamated with the City of Kamloops in 1974. The system provided both domestic and irrigation water with an additional domestic branch added in 1984.
- The agricultural capability of the land in the Noble Creek area is quite high (Class 1-2 & some 3) under irrigation and low (Class 5M) without irrigation, and the area is one of only a few remaining pockets of good agricultural land that has not been developed within the City of Kamloops.
- The NCIS has addressed a natural moisture limitation in the area and has enabled the production of a variety of high value crops and livestock including, but not limited to: grapes/winery i.e. Privado Vineyard & Winery, market gardens, Christmas trees, forage and multiple types of livestock.
- The current NCIS user group consists of approximately 37 active and 5 inactive services and contributes to $1.3 M in annual gross farm revenues.
- In 2010 the City extended their main potable water system from the Kamloops Centre for Water Quality into the Noble Creek area at a cost of $5.5 M with Federal/Provincial funding.
- In November 9, 2018 the City delivered a letter to Noble Creek Irrigation System (NCIS) users advising of the City's intention to divest itself of the NCIS.
- Lack of available irrigation water may potentially increase pressure from landowners to subdivide these ALR lands.
- In 2013, the City adopted the Agriculture Area Plan that was supportive of agriculture and mentions exploring the potential to expand irrigation in the City. Since then there has been considerable agricultural investment in the Noble Creek area and elsewhere in the City. Discontinuation of the NCIS appears contrary to the Agriculture Area Plan.
- AGRI staff have engaged the Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing to ensure consistency with legislation, communication and approach.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- The Environmental Farm Planning Program BMP funding was accessed by a couple of the larger producers in the NCIS to install irrigation pivots which improves water use efficiency (additional funding would increase the number of projects completed annually).
- No solid estimate has been given on what it will take to refurbish the system.
- It is anticipated that a request will be forthcoming to support the refurbishment of the system; no financial commitments have been made.

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ISSUE/PROGRAM: Livestock Watering Regulation Developement

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **AGRI supports the Ministry of Environment's (ENV) development of the Livestock Watering Regulation (LWR).**
- **The Ministry continues to work with ENV on possible changes and also with livestock producers to identify their concerns.**
- **Led by the ENV, staff from ENV, Ministry of Agriculture (AGRI), and Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resources Operations, and Rural Development (FLNR) continue to discuss possible LWR changes.**

BACKGROUND:

- The Ministry of Environment (ENV) is proposing a Livestock Watering Regulation (LWR) under the Water Sustainability Act (WSA).
- The regulation is meant to facilitate the development of improvements to livestock watering practices on Crown and private range lands. An intentions paper was released in January 2018 that identified a series of issues that are being discussed on a cross ministry basis.
- The livestock producers with the highest dependence on access to water is the cow-calf beef sector, which is represented by the BC Cattlemen's Association. The BC Cattlemen are concerned about the costs and administrative burden of the potential changes.
- Final decisions about what changes will be introduced have not yet been made.
- Staff from ENV, Ministry of Agriculture (AGRI), and Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resources Operations, and Rural Development (FLNR) continue to discuss possible changes.
- Issues identified through the intentions paper process include the following:

1. Potential changes to stream water rights.
   - Historically livestock have been able to drink from streams without requiring a licence.
2. Use of water during scarcity: Critical Environmental Flow Threshold (CEFT) Orders
   - Unlicensed livestock water is potentially a first shut-down during times of scarcity if this use is no longer a "not recorded" use.
3. Crown Land and Private Land Oversight and First Nations consultation on private land
   - ENV has raised concerns that there is insufficient oversight on private lands and no automatic trigger mechanism for First Nations consultation which implies consultation is insufficient.
4. Dugouts for livestock watering
   - Discussions to date have focused on potentially grandfathering existing dugouts up to 2,500 cubic metres in size (i.e., the size of an Olympic swimming pool). There are several thousand dugouts greater than this size that would require a storage licence.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- There are no expenditure/revenue implications for 2018/19.

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LABOUR

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **Labour is a critical issue here in B.C. and across Canada.**
- **The industry has told us this, and that labour shortages are impacting productivity and some are delaying expansion plans.**
- **This issue will become increasingly important in the coming years due to the gap between the number of workers needed and the number of workers available.**
- **While we continue to work on attracting domestic workers and incentivize automation, we are fortunate to be able to access temporary workers through a variety of programs provided by the Federal government.**
- **The ongoing commitment to managing this critical labour issue is shown through the work in our province, across Canada at the federal/provincial territorial tables, and through the relationships we have built with the sector and international consulates.**
- **The Ministry of Agriculture is working with the industry, our provincial colleagues and our colleagues across the country to identify potential solutions as it will take a concerted coordinated effort to address the labour issues that are being faced not only by our sector but by many other sectors in B.C.**

BACKGROUND:

- The Ministry of Agriculture's (AGRI) role is to enable the agriculture and seafood sectors to grow and thrive. Lack of labour supply is an issue that impacts business productivity and expansion plans; therefore, AGRI considers this a priority issue.
- The areas that are within AGRI's control are providing data and promoting the use of technology. AGRI provides programs to assist employers in becoming better at recruitment and retention, as well as acts as a coordinator to facilitate issues resolution between other B.C. Ministries and federal departments.
- B.C. is undertaking a pilot project called the Migrant Support Network that focusses on the issues being experienced by workers and works towards resolving them.
- Federal government departments are responsible for administration of the programs for temporary workers and permanent immigration:
    - Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) manages the policy and program design of all the temporary foreign worker programs. The current total of temporary foreign workers in B.C. agricultural occupations is 7,570[1]
    - ESDC has conducted a review of its Primary Agricultural programs in order to improve services to employers as well as improve issues being experienced by the workers. AGRI has been involved and is pleased with progress to date.
    - Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) is responsible for legislation that enables temporary foreign worker programs as well as the operational aspects of those programs (e.g., issuing work permits, collecting biometrics, etc.). IRCC manages all permanent immigration pathways in conjunction with provinces.
    - Biometrics collection was a requirement put in place by IRCC that could have imposed delays on farmers accessing workers in January 2019. Through coordinated efforts of BCAC, the Province and Agriculture and Agrifood Canada, no delays were experienced.
- AGRI is working to ensure the sectors are aware of options and programs for permanent immigration and to make better use of the options available to fill shortages permanently.
- B.C. labour statistics as reported in 2017 are provided below:
    - Number of farmers[2] 26,430
    - Other Agrifood and Seafood sector related employment[3] 233,600
    - Employment in agriculture[4] 24,000
    - Employment in commercial fisheries and aquaculture[5] 4,500
    - Employment in food processing[6] 32,600

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- All provinces and territories are struggling with a shortage of labour in agriculture, food processing and seafood (as applicable).

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[1] Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada
[2] Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 2016 Census
[3] Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey 2017, excludes temporary foreign workers
[4] Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey 2017, excludes temporary foreign workers
[5] Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey 2017, excludes temporary foreign workers
[6] Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey 2017, excludes temporary foreign workers

- Ontario is the jurisdiction that is most similar to B.C. in that it has a diverse range of products, accesses temporary foreign workers, and has a coordinated stakeholder group that assists employers in accessing temporary foreign worker programs.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- Not applicable.

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TEMPORARY FOREIGN WORKER HOUSING

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **Temporary Foreign Workers (TFWs) are critical to the B.C. agricultural sector and will become even more important in the coming years due to the gap between the number of workers needed and the number of workers available province-wide.**
- **B.C. laws fully cover TFWs who have the same rights and protections as other workers in B.C. and we are committed to working with the federal and provincial governments to ensure the rights and protections of all residents, including TFWs.**
- **The expectation of the Province is that all industries, including the agriculture industry, at minimum meet the provincial health and safety standards including adequate housing for the workers they employ.**
- **The Ministry of Agriculture is working with the ministries of Labour and Health and the agriculture industry to review and ensure that the housing and safety standards continue to be achieved in the agriculture sector.**
- **The ongoing commitment to managing this critical labour issue is shown through the work in our province, across Canada at the federal/provincial territorial tables, and through the relationships we have built with the sector and international consulates.**

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BACKGROUND:

- In 2017, BC received 7,823 work permits for Temporary Foreign Workers (TFWs) from all agricultural occupations. (This is a 15.8 percent increase from 2016).
- The agriculture and seafood sector utilizes the federal Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP), which enables employers to hire foreign workers to fill labour shortages when Canadian workers are not available. The TFWP includes two program streams for the agriculture sector:
    - The Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (SAWP), under which foreign workers from Mexico and Caribbean countries are hired to work in primary agriculture jobs lasting up to eight months.
    - The Primary Agricultural Stream, under which foreign workers from any country are hired to work in primary agriculture jobs lasting up to 24 months.
- Employers are required to meet various federal and provincial employment standards to ensure the workers are treated fairly while working in B.C.
- One of these standards is appropriate housing that is set by the federal government in consultation with the country the workers are coming from.
- The BC Agriculture Council (BCAC), under an agreement with Service Canada, is responsible for support and organization of pre-occupany inspections of TFWP housing, using updated industry-developed housing guidelines that exceed federal program requirements in many areas.
- Authorized inspectors inspect accommodations as part of the TFWP requirement and help ensure TFWs receive adequate housing conditions and to increase public trust.
- All BCAC housing inspectors are licensed with Consumer Protection BC.
- A listing of the certified inspectors are managed by BCAC and are located on the WALI website at
- http://walicanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Approved-Home-Inspectors-updated-August-23-2018.pdf
- There is no one provincial ministry that deals with the issue of housing for temporary foreign workers. The Ministry of Agriculture (AGRI) plays a facilitating and coordinating role between the various governments.
- The federal government requires pre-occupancy inspections of TFWP housing in order to receive workers. There is no requirement for mid-season (occupancy) inspections to ensure TFW housing conditions remain acceptable for workers.
- Agriculture employers in B.C. are also responsible for meeting requirements for work camp accommodations, administered by the Ministry of Health under the Industrial Camps Regulation, *Public Health Act.*
- Under the Industrial Camps Regulation (Regulation), all industrial camps must ensure that their facilities meet health and safety regulations for workers. Regional health authorities are responsible for inspecting any public health complaints. However, provincial health authorities respond only to complaints in work camps and do not receive notice of when and where agriculture work camps are operating.
- The Ministry of Health has put together a new guideline to help industrial camp operators to follow the Regulation. The guideline is posted publicly on the Ministry of Health website: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/keeping-bc-helathy-safe/industrial-camps
- The Minister of Labour, the Honourable Harry Bains, introduced new legislation in 2018, *The Temporary Foreign Worker Protection Act* which allows for better protection of these workers. Under the legislation, recruiters of foreign workers must be licensed and employers intending to hire foreign workers must be registered with the province.

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- In 2017 a working group was formed with representatives from the Ministries of Labour and Health and the BC Agriculture Council and is facilitated by AGRI.
- The working group agreed that in order for any steps forward to be effective it should be from a coordinated systems approach to address the foundational issues and drive a proactive approach. The proposed actions to be reviewed are:
    - **Coordination** – commit to provincial coordination to take a systems approach to address housing.
    - **Inspections** – focus on improving housing inspections including standards, inspector training, frequency and proactive follow up issues.
    - **Industry Engagement** – Drive cultural change to commit to high quality housing standards and ensure knowledge of standards and compliance implications.
    - **Regulatory review** – regulatory review to identify improvements of the Industrial Camps Regulation, *Public Health Act* (and other housing standards to ensure clarity and consistency).

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ADVICE TO MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE Ministry of Agriculture Date: January 15, 2019 Minister Responsible: Popham	**Fruit picking piece rate increase**

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **Farmers and farm workers will see an increase to the minimum piece rates this growing season.**

- **The Fair Wages Commission had suggested higher piece rates and tighter timelines just weeks after the start of last year's harvest season, suggesting all farm workers receive at least the general hourly minimum wage by June 1, 2019.**

- **My colleague, Minister Bains, decided to take a more moderate approach, so that farmers weren't impacted in the midst of the harvest season.**

If asked about lack of data regarding piece rate wages in B.C.:

- **It was determined that there was not adequate data on piece rate and hand harvested crops when the Commission finalized their report.**

- **The Ministry of Labour hired an Agricultural Economist, Karen Taylor, to better study the piece rate system here in B.C.**

- **Minister Bains received the study in January and is currently reviewing it and considering next steps.**

KEY FACTS:

On January 1, 2019, the minimum wage for farm workers paid by piece rate increased by 11.5 per cent.

This is the same rate increase made to the general minimum wage in June 2018.

The increase for piece work crops means that farm workers who hand harvest the following crops will see the following increases to the minimum piece rates:

(rates include vacation pay of four percent of earnings):

Crop	September 15, 2017	January 1, 2019
Apples	$18.89 a bin (27.1 ft^3 / 0.767 m^3)	$21.06 a bin (27.1 ft^3 / 0.767 m^3)
Apricots	$21.73 a 1/2 bin (13.7 ft^3 / 0.388 $m^{3)}$	$24.23 a 1/2 bin (13.7 ft^3 / 0.388 $m^{3)}$
Beans	$0.259 a pound / $0.571 a kg	$0.289 a pound / $0.637 a kg
Blueberries	$0.438 a pound / $0.966 a kg	$0.488 a pound / $1.077 a kg
Brussels sprouts	$0.180 a pound / $0.397 a kg	$0.201 a pound / $0.443 a kg
Cherries	$0.248 a pound / $0.547 a kg	$0.277 a pound / $0.610 a kg
Grapes	$20.07 a 1/2 bin (13.7 ft^3 / 0.388 m^3)	$22.38 a 1/2 bin (13.7 ft^3 / 0.388 m^3)
Mushrooms	$0.260 a pound / $0.573 a kg	$0.290 a pound / $0.639 a kg
Peaches	$20.07 a 1/2 bin (12.6 ft^3 / 0.357 m^3)	$22.38 a 1/2 bin (12.6 ft^3 / 0.357 m^3)
Pears	$21.27 a bin (27.1 ft^3 / 0.767 m^3)	$23.72 a bin (27.1 ft^3 / 0.767 m^3)
Peas	$0.323 a pound / $0.712 a kg	$0.360 a pound / $0.794 a kg
Prune plums	$21.27 a 1/2 bin (13.7 ft^3 / 0.388 m^3)	$23.72 a 1/2 bin (13.7 ft^3 / 0.388 m^3)
Raspberries	$0.395 a pound / 0.871 a kg	$0.440 a pound / 0.971 a kg
Strawberries	$0.380 a pound / $0.838 a kg	$0.424 a pound / $0.934 a kg
Daffodils**	$0.152 a bunch (10 stems)	$0.169 a bunch (10 stems)

**The rate for daffodils does not include vacation pay.

Farmer Associations like the BC Fruit Growers and the BC Cherry Association have been critical of the increase in the media, stating that farmers will have to absorb the increase into their earnings. Since their fruit competes on the global market, they cannot pass the increase along to customers by increasing the price of their produce.

BC Poverty Reduction Coalition has said that the piece-rate system needs to be abolished, as some workers are not even making the equivalent of the minimum hourly wage.

The Ministry of Labour hired Karen Taylor, and agricultural economist and subject matter expert to do an in-depth study of B.C.'s piece rate system.

Minister Bains has received the study, and is currently reviewing it.

Media Interest: Most interest in Okanagan region, coverage from major and minor outlets there (Global, Castanet)

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MARKET IMPACTS ON RASPBERRIES

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **The raspberry industry is in decline due to increased imports that are impacting the jam, puree and juice markets.**
- **The Ministry continues to provide Agriculture Income Protection (AgriStability) programs to growers to protect against declines in market conditions.**
- **The Ministry has a full time Industry Specialist to work with the berry industry.**
- **New opportunities for processed raspberries are an area of focus for the Ministry.**
- **The Province is supporting the berry industry to develop competitive berry production practices through Canadian Agricultural Partnership funding ($200,000/year for five years)**
- **The Province is helping to build the domestic and export markets for B.C. foods.**

BACKGROUND:

- British Columbia (B.C.) is the largest raspberry producing-province in Canada with approximately 2000 acres producing 12-17 million pounds annually.
- There are currently around 90 raspberry growers, primarily farming in the Fraser Valley.
- B.C. raspberry growers face higher input costs and land costs relative to producers in the USA and other areas of the world. The industry is further threatened by labour shortages.
- Most of the raspberries produced (95 per cent) are machine-harvested and destined for the processing market. Fruit is graded and frozen into Individually Quick Frozen (IQF) berries, jam-grade (flats), puree-grade (drums) or juice-grade. Over 75 per cent of the crop is sold in flats and drums for jam and puree. There is little value-added processing.
- The B.C. raspberry industry has been steadily declining in size from peak production in the 1980s when there were approximately 6000 acres producing over 40 million lbs.
- The industry has been in more rapid decline over the past three years due to increased imports from countries with lower costs of production, particularly Mexico, Eastern Europe and China. Fresh raspberry byproduct from Mexico is severely impacting Canadian and USA jam, puree and juice markets.
- Prices to B.C. raspberry producer for jam-grade and puree-grade raspberries fell by approximately $0.30/pound in 2018 to around $0.62/pound for jam-grade and $.58/pound for puree-grade. The B.C. raspberry industry is not sustainable in these market conditions.
- Approximately 40 B.C. raspberry growers subscribe to the Agriculture Income Protection (AgriStability) program which protects against declines in net farming income due to market conditions.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- There is one FTE Berry Crop Specialist in each of the other two large raspberry-producing provinces, Quebec (1100 acres raspberries) and Ontario (540 acres raspberries).

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- One AGRI FTE position has been allocated to the berry sector as the Industry Specialist.
- Additional AGRI staff, including the Food Processing Specialist, Entomologist, Plant Pathologist, Nutrient Management Specialist and Minor Use Pesticide Coordinator spends a portion of their time on the raspberry sector.
- The raspberry industry is supported by CAP funding ($200,000 per year across raspberries, blueberries and strawberries) to develop competitive berry production practices.

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MEAT INSPECTION PROGRAM OVERVIEW

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **On January 1, 2014 British Columbia implemented a new provincial meat inspection system. The B.C. Meat Inspection Program ensures that consumers can enjoy B.C. meats with full confidence.**
- **The Ministry of Agriculture has about 50 employees who conduct inspection duties at provincially licensed Class A and B abattoirs, and other staff to provide information for licensing applicants.**
- **The program continues to grow: one new Class A and two new B licences were issued in 2018/19.**
- **The program has received strong support from B.C.'s Provincial Health Officer, the B.C. Cattlemen's Association, the Association of BC Abattoirs, and the BC Food Processors Association.**
- **We have heard concerns from smaller rural operators about problems of access to slaughter services.**
- **As Minister of Agriculture, I am committed to working with operators and applicants—of all types and sizes— to support development of cost effective and innovative slaughter capacity solutions in all regions of the province.**

BACKGROUND:

- On January 1, 2014, the BC Government implemented a traditional meat inspection system requiring an inspector to be present for a licensed Class A or B abattoir to operate.
- Every animal and every carcass is inspected to support best practices in animal welfare and the highest standards of food safety at Class A and B abattoirs.
- There are 60 provincially licensed Class A and Class B abattoirs, with 41 licensed for red meat and 27 for poultry (several facilities are licensed for both).
- Most Class A or B establishments are small scale operations: 82 percent of Class A/B production is from four abattoirs. Some plants process only 20 animals in a year.
- The Meat Inspection Program currently has about 50 staff that works in a union environment. The staff is supported by regional supervisors distributed over four regions; Vancouver Island; Lower Mainland; Interior and Northern BC.
- A Meat Hygiene Veterinarian supports the meat inspection staff to make dispositions on animals and carcasses based on best practices and evidence.
- Class D and E licences support local livestock and meat production in remote and rural communities where existing slaughter capacity is limited or non-existent.
- Class D licences are only available in ten regional districts prescribed in the Meat Inspection Regulation. These are areas of the province where it is unlikely that Class A or B abattoirs will operate due to low population, low livestock numbers, and transport challenges.
- A Class D licence permits a holder to slaughter their own animals and other peoples' animals on-farm and sell restricted amounts (25 animal units, or 25,000 pounds) of uninspected meat at their farm gate, and to retail outlets and temporary farm markets within the regional district in which the licence was issued.
- Class E licences are available anywhere in the Province, subject to conditions that are more restrictive than those for Class D. Class E licensing permits a holder to slaughter only their own animals on-farm and sell restricted amounts (ten animal units, or 10,000 pounds) of uninspected meat at their farm gate and to temporary farm markets within the regional district in which the licence was issued, but not to retail outlets. A Class E licence application must include a feasibility study that considers proximity to licensed A and B establishments, among other things.
- In many cases, a Class A or B establishment is a cost effective alternative to Class D or E licensing. Ministry staff works with applicants to inform them and correct assumptions that a Class A or B facility is necessarily large scale, costly and administratively difficult to achieve.
- Class A and B licences are desirable as they have greater revenue potential with no production limit and the ability to sell provincially inspected meat to restaurants and retail stores province-wide.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- All provinces now have provincially operated meat inspection systems.
- Most provinces have traditional meat inspection systems in place.
- BC collaborates with Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba to continue developing the BC Meat Inspection Program based on current evidence and best practices.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- Budget ($ millions)

2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
5.61	5.34	

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SELECT STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FISH AND FOOD REPORT ON LOCAL MEAT PRODUCTION AND INSPECTION

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **The Select Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fish and Food (Committee) was established on April 24, 2018.**
- **The Committee was first tasked with examining, inquiring into, and making recommendations concerning local meat production in B.C.**
- **From May to June 2018, the Committee launched a broad public consultation about local meat production.**
- **The Committee released their report in September with 21 recommendations for government around licensing and oversight, skilled labour and workforce, and industry growth and development.**
- **Since the report came out, Ministry staff has been working to address many of the recommendations and take the time to get the government response right.**
- **We want to ensure we give appropriate consideration to the work of the Committee and address the recommendations appropriately.**

BACKGROUND:

- The Select Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fish and Food (Committee) was established on April 24, 2018 and tasked with examining, inquiring into, and making recommendations concerning local meat production in B.C.
- From May 16 to June 15, the Committee hosted a broad public consultation and invited input from farmers, producers, processors, consumers, restauranteurs and all other individuals and organizations interested in local, small-scale meat production.
- The Committee received 74 survey responses, 50 in person presentations, 36 written submissions and 4 in-person briefings.
- On September 28, 2018 the Committee released "Local Meat Production and Inspection in British Columbia" (Report).
- The Report has three topics of focus:
  1. abattoir licensing and oversight;
  2. skilled labour and workforce; and
  3. industry growth and development.
- The Report has 21 recommendations for government:
  - 8 recommendations about abattoir licensing and oversight.
  - 3 recommendations about skilled labour and workforce.
  - 10 recommendations about industry growth and development.
- A formal response to the recommendations is anticipated soon. Since September, Ministry staff has been working to address many of the recommendations. Recommendations requiring regulatory changes, such as those related to alternative boundary restrictions for Class D sales will require more in-depth study.
- The Ministry is reviewing approaches to deliver improvements that balance the shared interests of government and the public in: maintaining competitiveness among enterprises of different scale; food safety, and animal welfare.

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Support for New Entrants

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **New entrants to agriculture face significant barriers to entry with the rising cost of agricultural land and inputs as well as the increased complexity of regulations, markets access, technology advancements and production practices.**

- **The Ministry of Agriculture (AGRI) recognizes the importance of attracting the next generation of young farmers, and ensuring support is available to help them succeed.**

- **As a part of Grow BC, the Ministry launched the *New Entrant Strategy: Growing B.C.'s Next Generation of Agricultural Leaders* to help address new farmers access land, knowledge and capital.**

- **In September 2018, AGRI launched the B.C. Land Matching Program which is delivered by the Young Agrarians, with a $300,000 annual investment from the Government of B.C.**

- **The B.C. Land Matching Program provides land matching services to new farmers and landowners, as well as educational events across the Province.**

- **AGRI has technical experts, programs, workshops and resources related to cost of production, financial and business planning, and other topics to support new entrants to the sector and our economy.**

- **Investment in new entrant programming was $400,000 in 2018/19 which is over and above the $1.2 million in Business Development funding supporting new entrants through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership.**

- **To further understand and address the needs of new farmers, AGRI is currently conducting a New Entrant Needs Assessment which will inform programming in areas such as skill development, mentorship, and cost-shared funding opportunities for new farmers.**

Background:

- The Ministry of Agriculture's (AGRI) New Entrant Agrologist leads the delivery of the *New Entrant Strategy*, as a part of Grow BC, and develops resources and programs for new entrants in B.C.
- The *New Entrant Strategy* consists of three pillars:
    - Help new entrants to access land,
    - Increase the business and production knowledge of new entrants,
    - Support new entrants to access capital,
- The New Entrant Advisory Group consists of members representing different regions, sectors and new farmer groups and provides feedback to the New Entrant Agrologist to support the implementation of the *New Entrant Strategy*.
- AGRI, in partnership with BC Stats, is conducting a New Entrant Needs Assessment, to better determine the challenges and barriers facing new entrants to agriculture:
    - The assessment includes a survey of individuals who had registered an agriculture business in B.C. in the last five years, a publicly accessible survey, and web-based focus groups.
    - The assessment will be completed in March 2019 and has already received feedback from over 500 new farmers.
- B.C. Land Matching Program, delivered by Young Agrarians, provides land matching and business support services to new farmers looking for land as well as landowners interested in finding someone to farm their land.
    - Dedicated land matchers for the Okanagan, Metro Vancouver/Fraser Valley, Vancouver Island, and Columbia Basin offer land matching support to new farmers and landowners
    - Nine matches are completed for a total of ten acres and another 18 matches are currently in negotiation for a total of 90 acres
    - Five Land Linking workshops and five educational events will be held across the province
- Additional AGRI resources available to new entrants to agriculture include:
    - The *New Farm Start Up Guide*, *Growing Your Farm Enterprise*, and *the Guide for Agriculture Lease Agreements in British Columbia* are available online and in print.
    - Business Workshops such as "Top 10 Financial Mistakes of Farmers & How to Avoid Them" and Succession Planning Workshops for existing producers are regularly presented throughout B.C.
    - Access to professional business coaches through one-on-one support and farm business management short courses at agriculture shows or through online webinars.
    - Funding for industry groups and new entrant groups such as BC Young Farmers to support new farmers to access knowledge transfer events and conferences.
    - Annual program support for 4-H programs that develop youth in agriculture through educating and nurturing future leaders for rural organizations and communities throughout the province.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- B.C. provides a similar suite of new entrant /beginning farmer programs and opportunities to those offered by other provinces.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- The Province supported the B.C. Land Matching Program with $300,000 in 2018/2019.

- Business Development programs are funded through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership. The budget for the program, which includes support for new entrants, has grown from $540,000 in 2013 to over $1.2 million for 2018/2019. Specifically, AGRI provided $ 28,600 through this budget to BC Young Farmers for a project to support Leadership Capacity Building for new and young farmers to access business planning and attend the Canadian Young Farmers Forum.
- AGRI looks forward to continuing our longstanding partnership with 4-H BC through the MOU for educational service delivery and an annual program delivery grant of $87,000. In 2018-19, the Ministry started a new three-year agreement to increase 4-H BC funding by $63,000 for specialized programs geared towards urban and indigenous youth.

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ISSUE/PROGRAM: Nutrient Management

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **Our government is committed to supporting an environmentally sustainable agriculture sector.**
- **The Ministry continues to invest in research and on the ground efforts to support Environmental Sustainability through improved nutrient management practices.**
- **Ministry staff are implementing an expanded Nutrient Management Program to support improved nutrient management planning and calculation tools, a nutrient management planning training program, nutrient management demonstration trials, and targeted funding to the sector to implement beneficial management practices that will promote improved nutrient management.**
- **With the changes introduced in the new Agricultural Environmental Management Code of Practice, the Ministry will continue to work with the agriculture industry, the BC Agriculture Council and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change to support the implementation and roll out of the new regulations. Nutrient management planning is a key component of the regulation which ensures that groundwater and surface water quality is protected while allowing the sector to stay competitive.**
- **Our expanded Nutrient Management Program supports the Ministry's efforts to mitigate the agriculture sectors contributions to climate change.**
- **The Ministry will continue to focus its research and efforts on improving the nutrient management practices of the agriculture sector as well as finding innovative Agritech solutions for producers to manage their waste.**
- **Staff are also fully engaged with the Inter-Ministry Hullcar Aquifer Working Group that aims to ensure agricultural practices over the aquifer are supporting the protection of clean, safe drinking water.**

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Background:

- Farms in B.C. are responsible for managing nutrients in an environmentally sustainable manner. In order for crop production to occur, nutrients must be supplied to support their growth. If nutrients are not applied appropriately they can become a source of pollution.
- Nitrogen and phosphorus are essential plant nutrients, but they can lead to pollution when they move out or off of the soil into the surrounding environment.
  - Leaching: Nitrogen (nitrates) can be washed down though the soil profile into aquifers, polluting drinking water (e.g., Hullcar Aquifer, Abbotsford Aquifer).
  - Runoff: Nutrients (primarily phosphorus) can be washed across the soil surface into surface waters, leading to harmful algal blooms (e.g., Shuswap Lake).
  - Runoff: Pathogens (fecal coliforms) from manure can be washed across the soil into surface waters, resulting in water contamination (e.g., B.C.'s pathogen contributions leading to shellfish harvest closures in Washington State).
  - Gas Emissions: Under certain environmental conditions nutrients from manure and fertilizer are converted into greenhouse gasses.
- After years under review, the regulation which focuses on prevention of pollution from farm waste management, the Agriculture Waste Control Regulation (AWCR), is being replaced on February 28, 2019. The new regulation is a Ministerial Order called the Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Code of Practice.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE NEW AEM CODE:

- The Ministry's Nutrient Management Program will help provide producers with tools they can use to demonstrate compliance with new nutrient management planning requirements
- An impact assessment completed by AGRI for ENV estimated the cost implications of the AEM Code to the agriculture sector at $81.5M. The dairy sector is the most impacted by the more stringent regulatory requirements.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATIONS:

- Through the Environmental Farm Plan Program, a Growing Forward 2 funded program, the Ministry provides cost-share funding towards on-farm infrastructure to support environmental sustainability. Through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, support for environmental sustainability will continue.
- In addition, the Ministry has committed $700K towards for nutrient management program in 2019/20. Expenditures support targeted nutrient management cost share funding, development of nutrient management tools, a nutrient management training program, outreach promoting adoption of beneficial nutrient management practices, and demonstration trials.
- Phase-in of the new AEM Code of Practice will have cost implications for program expenditures as new tools, training and outreach will be needed.

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ISSUE/PROGRAM: Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation Review

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **The Ministry of Agriculture (AGRI) understands the importance of clean air and reducing smoke from burning and supports the Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation (OBSCR) changes. AGRI staff have been working with ENV collaboratively since 2008.**

- **The burning of crops, foliage, and stubble and burning for weed control will continue to be exempt after the regulation is revised. There are also relaxed conditions for burning diseased and smaller material (under 10cm in diameter).**

- **As a result it is expected that most existing farm operations will not be affected by the new regulation.**

- **Ministry staff are available to provide advice and support producers in identifying the most appropriate disposal options.**

BACKGROUND:

- The Ministry of Environment (ENV) is revising the Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation (OBSCR), which falls under the Environmental Management Act.
- The Regulation has been under review and public consultation since 2008. ENV is now in the final stages of completing the draft regulation and is ready to proceed with implementation. ENV is targeting the following dates:
  - Feb 27th, 2019 - Proposed OIC considered by Cabinet
  - April 30th, 2019 - Revised Regulation comes into force
- Intentions papers were released in 2008 and 2010 and an update was posted to the ENV webpage in 2016. ENV presented the details of the final proposed changes to stakeholders through webinars in April/May 2018.
- Representatives of the agriculture sector and the BC Agriculture Council (BCAC) voiced their concerns to ENV and AGRI staff during the consultation meetings and most recently during the April/May 2018 webinars. The representatives and BCAC also submitted written responses to the intentions papers. The sector's main concerns are about higher costs and a reduced ability to burn in some locations of the province.
- ENV has undertaken significant consultation with the agriculture sector while working on the Regulation and changes have been made over time to reflect agriculture sector feedback and reduce the impact on the sector. These include:
  - Accommodations for diseased materials and reduced setback distances for burning smaller material.
  - Burning of crops, foliage, and stubble and burning for weed control will continue to be exempt (i.e., not covered by the regulation) after the regulation is revised.
- Some activities, such as clearing for crop production or replanting by the tree fruit industry for crop improvement purposes will be affected; individual producers may incur additional costs under new OBSCR requirements for burning and are subject to stricter rules (e.g., stricter setback distances and reduced burning windows).
- There are a number of alternative disposal options to burning woody debris. However, these options may be costlier than burning.
  - Alternatives include on-farm disposal (chip and mulch, chip for hog fuel, bury, burn in air curtain incinerator), and disposal at an organics drop off facility available at many Regional District landfills.
- ENV continues to work closely with AGRI on the implications of the changes.
- Ministry staff are available to provide advice and support producers in identifying the most appropriate disposal options.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- Not Applicable

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Tree Fruit Competitiveness Fund

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **In February 2018 the Minister announced a $5 million dollar Treefruit Industry Competitiveness Fund at the BC Fruit Growers (BCFGA) AGM.**
- **The Fund is targeted at funding requests for Infrastructure, Marketing and Research. It may also be used to top up Replant Program shortfalls.**
- **All funds are held by IAF and will be delivered to project proponents after application, review and confirmation from the industry led committee.**
- **During the summer and fall of 2018 an industry wide consultative strategic plan was created to guide the fund expenditure. That plan is now in place and the Fund is now up and running.**
- **Several applications are currently in process with the BCFGA leading the administration and adjudication process. Industry and academia input has been positive to date.**
- **Several funded projects will start work this spring including research on cherry blossom timing, cluster analysis of the treefruit industry and several others. Project applications have been well organized and based on strategic documents.**

BACKGROUND:

- The tree fruit industry is composed of approximately 800 growers managing 14,500 acres of tree fruit crops in the Okanagan, Similkameen and Creston valleys.
- The industry has operated in the Okanagan valley since the 1800's and been a foundation of the economic and social development of many communities.
- In February 2018, the Ministry announced a new $5 million Tree Fruit Competitiveness Fund to be administered by the Investment Agriculture Foundation of British Columbia (IAF). The fund will be open to tree fruit growers, producers, and processors to support three key areas of research, marketing and infrastructure.
- IAF is a trusted and knowledgeable partner in the ongoing development of the B.C. tree fruit industry. As with other funds and programs, IAF provides low administration costs and highly effective programming and processes to ensure the benefit to the industry is maximized.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- No other funds similar to this are known by Ministry staff.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- The program is $5 million ending approximately 2021.
- The program is administered by BCFGA and IAF. Ministry staff sit on the review committee (ex-officio) to assist in governance and administration.

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Hazelnut Renewal Program

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **In July 2018, the Ministry of Agriculture (AGRI) launched a Hazelnut Renewal Program (HRP) providing the BC Hazelnut Grower's Association (BCHGA) with $300,000 in funding over the next three years (2018-2021).**
- **This funding will allow new and existing growers to replace dead and diseased orchards with Eastern Filbert Blight (EFB) resistant varieties, and will further expand hazelnut acreage in B.C. with new plantings.**
- **In the first year of the program 20 acres (2,500 trees) of EFB infected trees have been removed and 42 acres (11,282 trees) of new trees have been planted.**
- **The program is administrated and managed by AGRI with the collaboration of the BCHGA .**
- **AGRI staff have been working with industry partners (primarily the BCHGA) to assure assistance for applicants, as well as promoting the HRP.**
- **With support through the Canadian Agriculture Partnership, a three year study (with a budget of $180,000) on emerging diseases and their impact on hazelnuts is being conducted by the Ministry.**
- **AGRI supported the BCHGA in delivering a half day of hazelnut extension at the Pacific Agricultural Show in January 2019.**
- **A feasibility study to assess the economic impacts of a co-op business model for the BCHGA is being proposed to the industry.**

BACKGROUND:

- The B.C. hazelnut industry is composed of approximately 40 growers with about 400 acres in production (down from 887 acres in the 2012-2014 Land Use Survey).
- The current hazelnut industry is highly concentrated in the Chilliwack-Agassiz region, as climate and soils are favourable for growing. Note that more studies are needed to determine the suitability of new Oregon cultivars for cultivation in B.C.
- Eastern Filbert Blight (EFB) caused the collapse of B.C.'s hazelnut production, from 1.1 million pounds in 2013 to 29,000 pounds in 2016.
- Despite the devastating impact of EFB, interest in hazelnuts remains strong. New varieties of EFB resistant trees are currently being evaluated in variety trials.
- In July 2018, the Province announced a $300,000 Hazelnut Renewal Program (HRP) to replant approximately 200 acres of new hazelnut trees over three years. This initiative hopes to encourage growers to replace dead and diseased orchards with EFB resistant varieties and reinvigorate the hazelnut industry. See the budget breakdown below.

Program expenditure for 2018-2021 Hazelnut Renewal Program

Year	Estimated acres	Estimated trees	Program funding
Year 1 (2018-2019)	42 new planting 20 acres removed	11,282	$100,000
Year 2 (2019-2020)	75	20,175	$100,000
Year 3 (2020-2021)	75	20,175	$100,000
Total	**200**	**51,632**	**$300,000**
Note that Year 2 and 3 only new planting has been considered. If removal is requested, numbers will be adjusted.			

- Hazelnuts can be planted on idle or underutilized agricultural land to provide increased return. Financial benefits will warrant keeping small land parcels actively farmed and in the Agriculture Land Reserve (ALR)
- As new orchards are susceptible to diseases, including EFB, AGRI staff are conducting a three year study focused on emerging diseases and their impact on hazelnuts to develop management strategies to help growers to implement best management practices.
- In other regions the co-op business model has been successful in supplying hazelnuts to the value-added market. AGRI is helping to develop a feasibility study to assess the economic impacts of a co-op business model for the BCHGA.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- B.C.'s Hazelnut Industry is very small compared to its direct competitor (Oregon State). B.C. produced 25,000 pounds in 2017 compared with the 36,000 tons produced by Oregon in the same year.
- Despite the size of the hazelnut industry, B.C. can be competitive in the agricultural sector by revitalizing the industry through the HRP and capitalizing on competitive advantages such as a low input crop, the potential of value-added products, and the promotion of local food security.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION:

- 0.7 FTE is committed to work with BCHGA and the industry.
- The budget for the Hazelnut Renewal Program is $300,000 over three years (2018-2021).
- The program is managed and administrated by AGRI keeping administrative costs to a minimum. BCHGA receives 10 per cent of the funding for their collaboration on the program.

- A study on emerging diseases and their impact on hazelnuts was funded for three years through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership Program ($180,000).

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Wildfires: Canada-British Columbia Wildfire Recovery Initiatives for Agriculture - 2017 and 2018

RECOMMENDED RESPONSES:

- **The Canada-British Columbia Wildfire Recovery Initiatives are helping the Province's agricultural producers return to production after the impacts from both the 2017 and 2018 Wildfires.**
    - **2017 Wildfires - 173 ranchers and farmers received support from the program equating to nearly $9 million.**
    - **2018 Wildfires - 60 ranchers and farmers have applied to the program receiving nearly $800,000 with several applications still to be finalized.**
- **Agriculture recovery payments will continue for the 2019 and 2020 grazing season for wildfire caused losses on Crown Range.**
- **Throughout the design phase of the agricultural wildfire initiatives, the Ministry of Agriculture consulted closely with the BC Cattlemen's Association and other industry partners on the supports required to ensure that they would meet producer needs, while being delivered in a simple and timely manner.**
- **The Ministry of Agriculture has and continues to work closely with industry organizations to monitor the situations in the fire affected areas. Our goal is to ensure these recovery initiatives are effective in assisting producers return to production and maintaining the important economic contribution agriculture makes to the affected communities.**
- **These wildfire recovery initiatives were developed under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership AgriRecovery policy framework, and as a result they are cost-shared between the Government of Canada and British Columbia on a 60:40 ratio.**

BACKGROUND:

- The Province experienced wildfires which consumed over one million hectares in both 2017 and 2018. The impacts to farmers and ranchers were extraordinary including the loss of feed, pastures, damages to critical infrastructure, as well as missing livestock, deaths and injuries.
    - 2017 Canada-British Columbia Wildfires Recovery Initiative (CBCWRI) was announced October 5, 2017 with the ability to provide up to $20 million.
    - 2018 CBCWRI was announced October 4, 2018 with the ability to provide up to $5 million.
- The funding assistance estimates were made prior to the full extent of the fires being known and allowed for worst cases scenarios in each instance. The recovery programs offered identical extraordinary cost assistance for producers.
- These initiatives were developed under the CAP AgriRecovery policy framework .The AgriRecovery framework enables federal and provincial governments to respond to severe loss events in a coordinated way.
    - The framework has rigid criteria that must be met in order for an event to qualify for an AgriRecovery response.
    - The purpose of initiatives developed under AgriRecovery is to provide assistance to affected producers to help offset extraordinary costs required to return to production.
    - There is no set program design and each initiative is developed to respond to a specific loss event. The scope of AgriRecovery is limited to covering extraordinary costs for agricultural producers...
- The Ministry has had extensive communication with other agencies to help coordinate their responses to fire related losses. These include Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNR), Emergency Management BC (EMBC), BC Wildfires and the Red Cross.
- Financial support provided for livestock: Extraordinary Livestock Feeding, Owned Feed Transportation Assistance, Pregnancy, Fire Clean-up on Private Land, Establishment of Safe Livestock Handling Facilities, Extraordinary Mustering and Transportation Costs, Veterinary Costs, Breeding Livestock Mortality, Private Fencing, Specialized Facilities Rental, Irrigation System Repair, Replanting of Perennial Forage and Incremental Grazing Cost.
- Financial support for Crop Production and Apiaries: Hives Lost to Fire, Extraordinary Bee Mortality, Private Fencing, Specialized Facilities Rental and Irrigation System and Perennial Crop Production Infrastructure Repair.
- These initiatives also provided financial support to Industry Organizations who incurred extraordinary costs as a result of providing wildfire supports to agricultural producers.
- The B.C. Agri-Business Planning Program, funded through CAP Business Development programs, also provided up to $5,000 in funding to help producers impacted by wildfire implement immediate and long-term disaster recovery business plans. To date, 17 producers (8 in 2017-18 and 9 in 2018-19) have access to this funding.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- AgriRecovery responses are specific to each event. All provinces have equal access to funding from Canada under Growing Forward 2 and Canadian Agricultural Partnership Agreements.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- AgriRecovery initiatives are cost-shared 60:40 between Canada and the Province. The funding is enabled by the Growing Forward 2 Agreement and will continue under the new Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) Agreement, as of April 1, 2018.
    - 2017 CBCWRI can provide up to $20 million in assistance to eligible applicants of which $8 million would come from B.C.
        - It is highly unlikely program costs reach $20 million and may not reach $10 million. The original $20 million cost was agreed to with Canada in August 2017 before the extent of damage was known. It was set sufficiently high for worst case scenarios.
        - 173 ranchers and farmers received support from the program equating to nearly $9 million.
    - 2018 CBCWRI can provide up to $5 million in assistance to eligible applicants of which $2 million would come from B.C.
        - The original $5 million cost was agreed to with Canada in September 2018 before the extent of damage was known. It was set sufficiently high for worst case scenarios.
        - 60 applications received; 29 have been paid with the remainder at various stages of processing; predominantly the payment of remaining claims are pending on clients submitting additional information, such as insurance details or other pertinent information about their farming operations.

- The Ministry of Agriculture did not require any budget uplift to fund AgriRecovery. The funds were diverted from the Agriculture Income Stabilization Trust Account budget transfer for 2017/18 or 2018/19 fiscal year. The Trust Account is used to fund AgriStability and had sufficient funds to manage AgriStability costs.

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ADVICE TO MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE **Ministry of Agriculture** **Date: Jan 14, 2019** **Minister Responsible: Minister Lana Popham**	**AGRI wildfire response**

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- When emergencies occur, The Ministry works with individual farmers and ranchers as well as industry organizations and local governments to support the wildfire response and provide the help farmers and ranchers need.

- Broadly the emergency response efforts can be categorized into:

    - Coordinating and planning for emergency feed as needed
    - Supporting the relocation of livestock
    - Arranging re-entry permits for ranchers in evacuated areas to care for their livestock.

- The ministry also works with livestock producers to prepare for emergencies by developing industry specific guides and individualized plans, and programs like premises identification which help trace livestock.

- Together, the governments of Canada and British Columbia continue to support British Columbians and First Nations communities facing the immediate and long-term impacts of wildfires.

- The governments of Canada and B.C. are working with producers, local officials and stakeholders to respond to this emergency as efficiently and collaboratively as possible and will keep working until the job is done.

- The ministry worked closely with our federal partners to establish the 2018 Canada-British Columbia Wildfires Recovery Initiative, which is providing up to $5 million to assist agricultural producers with the extraordinary costs incurred to recover from the adverse effects of this year's wildfires.

    - The AgriRecovery initiative will help agricultural producers with the extraordinary expenses necessary for recovery and to return to production as soon as possible.
    - Additional Income support for ranchers and crop producers is available through existing the federal and provincial government's business risk

management programs; Production Insurance, AgriStability and AgriInvest

BACKGROUND:

Ministry of Agriculture staff worked closely with the BC Cattlemen's Association and other agricultural associations to monitor and provide assistance to support any livestock relocation through the Provincial Regional Emergency Operation Centre's (PREOC)s.

Ministry of Agriculture staff members were deployed to the Cariboo Regional District EOC, the Bulkley Nechako Regional District EOC, and the Southeast PREOC to provide direct support for the agricultural sector.

Main duties included assisting ranchers with relocation of cattle, coordinating alternate grazing sites or emergency feed, and arranging for ranchers in evacuated areas to access to their ranches to check their livestock.

AgriRecovery Initiatives were launched for the 2017 ($20m) and 2018 ($5m) wildfires; the initiatives are cost shared 60:40 federal:provincial. The financial assistance with extraordinary recovery expenses includes:

- Costs related to ensuring animal health and safety.
- Feed, shelter and transportation costs for livestock.
- Costs to re-establish perennial crop and pasture production damaged by fire.

Premises ID

The British Columbia Premises Identification Program was established to reduce the impact of livestock disease or natural disaster emergencies by gathering and organizing information about the location of animals, the types of animals at each location and how to contact those responsible for the health of those animals quickly.

Livestock traceability that uses valid premises identification numbers helps the industry to:

rapidly notify registered livestock stakeholders
prepare, manage and reduce the impact of an animal health or food safety issue, such as disease, fire, flood or sanitary issues
track and trace of animals in the event of an emergency
better manage emergencies to help maintain market access

.

To register a livestock premises in B.C. takes about ten minutes. An on-line registration system and more details are at www.gov.bc.ca/premisesidprogram

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Lessons Learned from this Year's Wildfires

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **During the 2018 wildfire season the Ministry of Agriculture (AGRI) emergency management staff enhanced their strong working relationship with the Ministry of Forest Lands Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) Range Branch staff and the B.C. Cattlemen's Association (BCCA) to further increase capacity to provide timely support to the livestock sector.**

- **Due to the wildfire locations, AGRI staff provided a mixture of both in person and remote support to Emergency Management BC's (EMBC) Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centers (PREOCs) and Local Authority Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs). This model of support has proven effective to allow for flexibility and situational constraints.**

- **EMBC and AGRI staff were able to provide continuous support to respond and manage extremely high hay and input costs resulting from drought conditions. AGRI staff utilized knowledge and relationships across western Canada in attempts to minimize impacts to market conditions in the regions.**

- **The 2018 wildfires resulted in evacuation orders and alerts over massive areas. AGRI continued to work with Local Authorities and the agriculture sector to develop re-entry processes. Implementation of re-entry strategies is an ongoing process which is led by Local Authority EOCs and is event specific. Safety remains the ultimate priority.**

- **EOC Agriculture Desk staffing by external representatives or the Local Authority staff continued be an option in 2018. There is an ongoing need to support training and development of such individuals as AGRI ability to service multiple PREOCs and EOCs is limited; AGRI staff have shown to be most efficient and effective when engaging via PREOCs.**

BACKGROUND:

- Based on the 2003 Filmore Report, the Ministry of Agriculture (AGRI) is to provide technical guidance to Emergency Management B.C. (EMBC) and local governments during an emergency event. This role allows AGRI staff to act as technical specialists within the emergency operation structure.
- The defined structure has allowed AGRI staff to remain within scope to support agribusinesses only. During the 2018 wildfires, staff primarily focused on agribusiness operations and Local Authority EOCs invested significant effort to support hobby farms and horse operations with technical input from AGRI staff.
- EMBC and AGRI have developed a policy to support Local Authorities with livestock relocations under specified conditions. EMBC will reimburse Local Authorities and First Nations for their response costs related to helping approved livestock owners move their animals to safety during an emergency. For support with livestock relocation, farm business operators must request assistance directly through their Local Authority EOC.
- The Emergency Hay program model, developed during the 2017 response, was used again in the 2018 response by Regional District Bulkley-Nechako and Regional District Okanagan Similkameen. Delivery of this program was internal to the EOCs with AGRI providing framework.
- AGRI has proactively worked with Local Authorities and producer associations to develop and promote emergency response guidebooks for the agriculture sector. i.e. Beef, Dairy, Pork and Small Mixed Farm Emergency Management Guides. In addition, the BC Agriculture & Food Climate Action Initiative has partnered with AGRI and industry to delivery emergency preparedness training and tools at the individual farm level in multiple communities throughout the province; this work is ongoing.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- NA

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- NA

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Ministry Support to Wildfire Response

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **The Ministry of Agriculture was actively involved in the wildfire response supporting the Regional Districts and Emergency Management BC.**

- **The Ministry of Agriculture has worked with local authorities for numerous years to integrate agriculture operations into the local authorities' response framework.**

- **The Ministry of Agriculture partners with Range Branch staff from the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development and Emergency Management BC to provide support to producers.**

- **This Range Branch and Ministry of Agriculture team in partnership with local authorities and industry organizations such as the BC Cattlemen's Association has been instrumental in facilitating reentry for livestock care and movement, supporting livestock relocation and organizing the delivery of emergency feed (hay).**

- **From July to October, 16 Ministry of Agriculture staff provided support to the Provincial Emergency Operation Centers in Terrace, Prince George, and Kamloops, in addition to the Emergency Operations Centers in the Cariboo Regional District, Regional District Bulkley-Nechako, and Regional District Okanagan Similkameen.**

- **The Ministry of Agriculture's role is to provide advisory support to the Provincial Emergency Operations Centers and the Regional District Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) regarding agriculture related issues. Ministry staff also works to build agriculture related capacity at the EOC level.**

BACKGROUND:

- The Ministry of Agriculture (AGRI) Emergency Management team has worked with local governments over the past decade to improve mitigation and preparation for natural emergencies including the development of the Emergency Management BC (EMBC) livestock relocation policy which provides support to move livestock during an evacuation alert.
- Technical background documents have been created and can be found on AGRI's website: **https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/business-market-development/emergency-preparedness**

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- AGRI works with other provinces regarding emergency management and is considered a leader in natural disaster and disease response.
- AGRI works in partnership with Range Branch (FLNRORD) to ensure the concerns and needs of ranchers are addressed.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- With funding through EMBC, AGRI worked with EMBC, local authorities, and B.C. Cattlemen's Association to:
    - Support more than 40 farms/ranches in relocating livestock
    - Enable rider programs to locate and move livestock in Regional District Bulkley-Nechako and Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen.
    - Secure support for up to $890,000 in order for Regional District Bulkley-Nechako to operate an Emergency Operation Center led emergency hay program for impacted producers in their region.
    - Engage agriculture-focused liaisons in the Bulkley Nechako Emergency Operation Center.
- Sixteen AGRI staff directly involved with back up from various offices provided well over 1500 person hours to wildfire response.

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Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

Ministry of Agriculture **Date:** Jan 18, 2019 **Minister Responsible:** Lana Popham	**B.C. Wine Month**

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **I proclaimed April as B.C. Wine Month last year, to support our industry during an unfair wine ban levelled by Alberta in winter, 2018.**
    - **We worked with the BC Wine Institute and BC Liquor Stores to ensure there are increased opportunities to have B.C. wines available to consumers, including local wines from small & medium producers that are not typically available outside of the wineries.**
    - **We contributed $100,000 to the BC Wine Institute to promote and market BC Wine Month and all related activities to British Columbians.**
    - **We provided $75,000 funding to further study the feasibility of having a B.C. Wine Centre of Excellence in our province,**
    - **And moved ahead with the launch of new sub-appellations to build local brands and connect more people to local wine.**
    - **We provided $50,000 in funding to support the marketing of BC VQA wines to new international markets.**
    - **We provided $125,000 in funding to support the development of a long-term strategic plan for B.C.'s wine industry.**
- **B.C.'s wine industry is made up of family-run vineyards and wineries that have chosen farming and wine-making as their passion and profession.**
- **They provide good jobs in communities throughout the province, and we are proud to shine a spotlight on the work they do and the wine they make.**
- **Our wineries produce award-winning, world class wines, draw in tourists to our beautiful province and strengthen our local economies.**

- **Our government will continue to support interprovincial and international trade of our amazing B.C. wines, and will continue to work with industry to promote them this year, and many more to come.**

- **We continue to work with the BC Wine Institute on options to develop a Wine Centre of Excellence to showcase our wines and winemakers to residents and visitors.**

- **B.C. wineries are world class and I am confident that people across the country and around the globe will continue to be drawn to the exceptional quality and variety of our B.C. wines.**

- **I encourage all British Columbians to Buy BC wines, to support the families and the people who work in B.C.'s award-winning wine industry.**

Background:

- On February 6, 2018, Premier Rachel Notley of Alberta announced an immediate ban on the import of B.C. wine into the province.

- This ban was a reaction to the Ministry of Environment's announcement on January 30, proposing a second phase of regulations to improve preparedness, response and recovery from potential spills.

- B.C.'s Wine Institute identifies that:

    - 30 per cent of all wine sold in Alberta is from B.C. with a retail value of $160 million.

    - Alberta is the second most important market for B.C. wine (behind B.C. itself)

ISSUE/PROGRAM: Support for B.C. Wine

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **Our government is committed to supporting our B.C wine-making community.**
- **B.C.'s wine industry is made up of family-run vineyards and wineries that have chosen farming and wine-making as their passion and their profession.**
- **In addition to delivering fantastic wine, they also provide good jobs in communities throughout the province, and we are proud to shine a spotlight on the work they do and the wine they make.**
- **Over the past year, our government has supported B.C.'s wine industry in many ways:**
    - **We proclaimed April 2018 as B.C. Wine Month to support our industry during a wine ban levelled by Alberta in winter, 2018;**
    - **We worked with the BC Wine Institute and BC Liquor Stores to ensure there are increased opportunities to have B.C. wines available to consumers, including local wines from small & medium producers that are not typically available outside of the wineries;**
    - **We supported the BC Wine Institute to promote and market B.C. Wine Month and all related activities to British Columbians;**
    - **We provided funding to further study the feasibility of having a B.C. Wine Centre of Excellence in our province,**
    - **and moved ahead with the launch of new sub-appellations to build local brands and connect more people to local wine;**
    - **We provided funding to support the development of a long-term strategic plan for B.C.'s wine industry.**
- **Our government will continue to support interprovincial and international trade of our amazing B.C. wines, and will continue to work with industry to promote them this year, and many more to come.**
- **B.C. wineries are world class and I am confident that people across the country and around the globe will continue to be drawn to the exceptional quality and variety of our B.C. wines.**

- **I encourage all British Columbians to Buy BC wines, to support the families and the people who work in B.C.'s award-winning wine industry.**

BACKGROUND:

- B.C.'s wine industry employs approximately 12,000 people, and has an economic impact of $2.8 billion annually. B.C. is home to 929 vineyards, including over 350 licensed wineries.
- In 2017, B.C. exported $8.97 million worth of wine to 17 international markets; China is B.C. largest wine market with shipments worth $7 million. Between 2016 and 2017, the growth of the wine industry was -7.6 per cent.
- On February 6, 2018, Premier Rachel Notley of Alberta announced an immediate ban on the import of B.C. wine into the province.
- This ban was a reaction to the Ministry of Environment's announcement on January 30, proposing a second phase of regulations to improve preparedness, response and recovery from potential spills.
- BC's Wine Institute identifies that:
  - 30 per cent of all wine sold in Alberta is from B.C. with a retail value of $160 million.
  - Alberta is the second most important market for B.C. wine (behind B.C. itself).
- Along with the proclamation of B.C. Wine Month in April 2018, other government initiatives in support of B.C.'s wine industry included:
  - Worked with the BC Wine Institute and BC Liquor Stores to ensure there are increased opportunities to have B.C. wines available to consumers, including local wines from small & medium producers that are not typically available outside of the wineries;
  - Contributed $100k to the BC Wine Institute to promote and market B.C. Wine Month and all related activities to British Columbians;
  - Provided a total of $68k of funding to further study the feasibility of having a B.C. Wine Centre of Excellence in our province including $23k in 2018/19,
  - and moved ahead with the launch of new sub-appellations to build local brands and connect more people to local wine;
  - Provided a total of $125k in funding to support the development of a long-term strategic plan for B.C.'s wine industry including $75k in 2018/19.
- The BC Wine Institute (BCWI) is dedicated to establishing B.C. wines as the preferred premium wine brand in BC; create a business climate that encourages investment in the quality of BC wines; provide leadership on key industry issues; and assist members in reaching their full potential.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

- The Ministry will provide $50k in 2019/20 to the BCWI to support the marketing of BC VQA wines to new international markets.

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