

CLIFF#: n/a
Client / Writer:
Main issues:

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Date prepared: July 17, 2019
Last revised (include initials): July 22 / MT

Aquaculture Opportunities

- B.C.'s aquaculture industry is a significant economic, social, and cultural contributor to the Province. The Ministry of Agriculture is committed to the economic sustainability of the finfish and shellfish aquaculture sectors.
- The B.C. salmon farming industry has been operating since the mid-1970s and is now B.C.'s highest valued seafood product (\$778M in 2016) and a significant economic contributor in rural coastal communities.
- B.C. is taking steps to transition to a sustainable salmon aquaculture industry that not only respects wild salmon and embraces reconciliation with First Nations, but also protects current jobs and provides opportunities for new employment and innovation.
- The Province is working with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) bilaterally and through the Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers (CCFAM) to establish aquaculture practices, policies and regulation that minimize the risks to wild salmon, while providing national consistency and certainty for the industry.
- B.C. is in the process of developing new policies on salmon aquaculture tenures underpinned by principles of reconciliation and safety of wild salmon, and will continue to work with the Federal Government given DFO's jurisdiction over salmon farm licensing in this province.
- B.C. has committed funds for the fisheries, aquaculture and seafood sectors in the Pacific, and is eager to continue to work with DFO on the design and implementation of the \$142M B.C. Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (BCSRIF).
- BCSRIF is a comparable fund to the Atlantic Fisheries Fund, which has several priorities including funding economic development projects to grow the Pacific fisheries and aquaculture sectors.
- Investments through the BCSRIF will benefit commercial and recreational fishing and aquaculture development, as well as science and research initiatives.
- Additionally, the Province of B.C. is a partner in the Canadian Fish and Seafood Opportunities Fund (CFSOF), which is available nationally. Ministry of Agriculture has allocated funding to support projects, and staff are currently finalizing their review of proposals from the Pacific region.
- The Province and DFO are funding a study of new aquaculture technologies, including closed containment and deep ocean systems. It is expected the results will be released this summer which could outline future opportunities for aquaculture in the Province.
- In 2018 the Ministry developed a \$1.3M Oyster Recovery Fund program. This fund subsidized individual shellfish growers in purchasing seed stock to assist with remaining viable in the midst of the norovirus outbreaks of the past few years.

Bullet points on “Opportunities for Agrifood/Seafood Producers”

- Our government is committed to providing opportunities for farmers to build business relationships around growing and serving B.C.’s agricultural and seafood products.
- The *BC Agrifood and Seafood Strategic Growth Plan* was launched in 2015 under the leadership of the previous government. Under the current government (as of 2017), the Ministry of Agriculture is advancing opportunities for agriculture through a three-pillared strategy: GrowBC, FeedBC, Buy BC:

GrowBC, FeedBC, BuyBC 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. 2019/20 Ministry of Agriculture Service Plan)

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

- Enhance services and supports to the agri-food and seafood sector
- Ensure the future of the agri-food and seafood sector by protecting the land base and animal, plant and human health

Feed BC: Build the availability, value and variety of BC Food

- Increase the use of BC grown and processed foods by large BC based purchasers such as government facilities
- Foster innovation and develop a food hub network to support food processing

BuyBC: Build consumer awareness and demand and help local producers market their products to grow their businesses

- Build and leverage a strong, recognizable BuyBC brand to help producers and processors expand sales and ensure consumers can easily identify local food and beverages
- Help producers and processors expand sales in priority export markets

ALR Revitalization

The Ministry of Agriculture (AGRI) made recent updates to the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* (ALCA) and regulations (ALR Use Regulation; ALR General Regulation). These updates were part of a revitalization effort designed to better protect the ALR for farming purposes. This was achieved by providing the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) with greater governance and enforcement tools, and by introducing flexibility for local governments to address non-farm use impacts while encouraging farming and ranching across the provincial ALR.

Ministry Programs

Canadian Agricultural Partnership

Bullet points on “Opportunities for Agrifood/Seafood Producers”

- Ministry staff 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.
 - 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 million to B.C.’s farmers, food processors and agri-businesses. For every \$1 the Province invests, it leverages, \$1.50 from the federal government for our sector.
 - CAP sets out the parameters and funding for a national set of business risk management programs.
 - 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
 - CAP also enables the fulfillment of commitments under GrowB.C., Buy BC, Feed B.C., as well as to expand interprovincial and international markets for farmers, ranchers and agri-businesses in the province.

B.C. Agri-Business Planning Program B.C. Agri-Business Planning Program supports specialized business planning to enable producers and processors to make more informed decisions and strengthen their business.

The B.C. Indigenous Agriculture Development Program identifies and supports the development of agriculture and agri-foods opportunities within Indigenous Communities, Tribal Councils, and Economic Development Corporations.

B.C. Lean for Food Processors Program Lean is a continuous improvement philosophy that was originally developed to increase efficiency and reduce waste. Lean practices and tools identify problems and create solutions through improved business processes.

Agri-Skills Workshops, Webinars & Resources Agri-Skills Workshops, Webinars and Resources improve business management skills and capacity of producers and processors. This program has a specific focus on building capacity of new entrants and scale-scale producers and processors.

Knowledge Transfer Events Program supports industry activities that contribute to and improve the competitiveness, innovation and resilience of B.C.’s agriculture and agrifoods sector. The funding facilitates knowledge and technical transfer to strategically support B.C.’s producers and processors to innovate and adapt to changing environmental, production, and market conditions

Bullet points on “Opportunities for Agrifood/Seafood Producers”

The B.C. Land Matching Program (BCLMP) provides land matching and business support services to new farmers looking for land to farm as well as landowners interested in finding someone to farm their land. The benefits of land matching are hands on, personalized support services to new farmers and landowners to better understand regulations, evaluate opportunities, access resources, and ultimately find a land match partner.

The Hazelnut Renewal Program provides funding to remove infected trees to mitigate the spread of Eastern Filbert Blight and to incentivize the planting of new disease-resistant hazelnut trees in British Columbia. The Hazelnut Renewal Program will be accepting applications from March 30 to July 15, 2019 (Fall planting/removal 2019-2020).

B.C. Tree Fruit Replant Program assists with cashflow deficits during the establishment period for new high-value varieties and modern planting practices. The Program provides financial support for growers to replace fruit trees with varieties that will meet consumer demands for high-value, high-quality B.C. fruit.

FACTAP - Fisheries and Aquaculture Clean Technology Adoption Program assists industry-driven adoption or adaptation of market ready clean technologies, processes, and/or sustainable practices into the day-to-day operations of aquaculture facilities, wild capture harvesting, and fish and seafood processing establishments in order to improve their environmental performance.

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 \$142 million over five years, including a \$5 million grant to the Pacific Salmon Foundation Endowment Fund in 2018/19.

- The provinces contribution is \$42.85 million over five years beginning in 2019/20, plus an additional matching \$5 million one-time grant to the Pacific Salmon Foundation in 18/19.

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

Bullet points on “Opportunities for Agrifood/Seafood Producers”

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.

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.

- To date the province has provided \$25,000 towards the development of shellfish aquaculture in partnership with First Nations on the North Coast.
- Contribution from DFO (\$323,000), First Nation (\$130,000), representing excellent leveraging of funds (i.e. each provincial dollar was matched by \$18 in Federal and Industry dollars.).

AgriTech

The Ministry of Agriculture launched the *AgriTech Challenge* in partnership with Innovate BC. The federal and provincial government-funded Challenge is offering a total of \$150,000 in support for made-in-B.C. technology solutions for three defined challenge categories.

The Ministry of Agriculture works collaboratively with BC’s agriculture and seafood industries to improve the sustainability and security of BC’s food supply by improving production methods and ensuring the highest standards in animal care and food safety. The Ministry, in partnership with Innovate BC, presents the Agritech Innovation ChallengeA new method, idea or product. ChallengeA process to identify the best technology to solve big business problems. and is seeking technologyScience or knowledge put into practical use to solve problems or invent useful tools. solutions that serve the needs of the Province’s agriculture, agrifood and seafood industries.

The Opportunity:

A total of \$150,000 in funding is available to winners of the Agritech Challenge. In addition to seed funding, winners will receive mentorship support, Market-Validation Training (MVT) through the Agriculture VentureA new business activity. AccelerationA fast-tracking of progress towards one’s goal, with the support of outside experts, support or infrastructure. Program, and other opportunities, to produce and demonstrate a proof-of-concept. Winners of the Challenge will be invited to pitch their solutions at Ag Innovation Day in January 2020 at the Pacific Agriculture Show in Abbotsford.

Submissions will be reviewed by expertsA person with extensive knowledge or ability based on research, experience, or occupation and in a particular area of study. and leaders from the industry who will consider the following criteria:

- **Innovation:** The solution includes a technology that is new to BC, a new application of technology, a new business model, or a new process for solving the Challenge.
- **Potential for Impact:** The planned solution implementation has the potential to positively impact BC (economically, socially, environmentally, etc.).
- **Scalability:** The solution addresses an existing or emerging market demand and is practical, easy to implement and economical for potential users.
- **Feasibility:** The solution is scalable and demonstrates strong potential for commercialization and adoption.

Bullet points on “Opportunities for Agrifood/Seafood Producers”

The Ministry is currently in the second phase of the Challenge process which entails reviewing project proposals from three proponents (out of 10 initial Letters of Intent submitted).

Bullet points on “Prosperous Treefruit Sector”

SUPPORT A PROSPEROUS, SUSTAINABLE AND INNOVATIVE TREE FRUIT SECTOR IN BC (2019)

ISSUE

Appropriately administered provincial support for the tree fruit sector is key to continued growth of the sector. The Agriculture Census of 2016 shows the family-owned tree fruit farms in BC generate income of \$118.6 million per year; a packed value of \$218.8 million; and total economic activity annually of \$776.6 million.¹

However, erosion of support, or an early end to support such as the Replant program funded by the province threatens the ongoing health and growth of the industry. Previous governments increased funding of the Replant program from \$8.5 million to \$9.5 million over seven years until 2021. About 25% of the required investment for growers in a replant program needs to come from government.

BACKGROUND

The Province earlier agreed to increase the Replant Program by an additional \$5 million until 2021. There is not yet an indication of whether or not this funding will be honoured. The replant grant for soft fruit increased to \$5.50 for the 2019 Replant Program. Additionally, the administration of the program is currently split between governments and associations. The program ran smoothly when administered by associations only, and it is likely that a return to local administration would save time, money, and better represent the needs of growers. In fact, if all agricultural programs administration were moved to associations, similar efficiencies could be recognized, according to the British Columbia Fruit Growers’ Association.² The Replant Program wait list is now funded by the Tree Fruit Competitiveness Fund.

The BC Fruit Growers Association (BCFGA) supports the BC Government School Fruit and Vegetable Nutrition Program. This program aims at reducing health care costs. As a matter of fact, an August 2009 report by the McGill World Platform for Health and Economic Convergence, entitled “Building Convergence, Toward an Integrated Health and Agri-Food Strategy for Canada”³, notes the importance of improved nutrition to reducing health care costs.

The School Fruit and Vegetable Nutrition Program is also a key investment for the Ministry of Health. During provincial budgetary challenges, the Ministry of Health might be tempted to reduce its investment in this program. However, doing so would simply increase long term health care costs due to an increased level of poor nutritional choices of the public. The BCFGa works with the Minister of Agriculture to advocate for ongoing support for the School Fruit and Vegetable Nutrition Program that seeks to introduce impressionable youth to healthy eating choices.

The ongoing lack of negotiations of the Columbia River Treaty is impacting agriculture⁴ on both sides of the BC/Washington border. Late summer water flows need regulating, especially in light of 2017-2018 flooding.

THE CHAMBER RECOMMENDS

That the Provincial Government:

¹ <https://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/ca2016>

² Presentation to the Select Standing Committee on Finance & Government Services, October 13, 2019.

<https://www.bcfga.com/files/SSC%20Finance%20%20September%2026,%202018.pdf>

³ https://www.ivey.uwo.ca/cmsmedia/3779216/buildingconvergence_summary.pdf

⁴ “Columbia River Treaty renegotiation will impact Okanagan: Proposing changes to negative environment consequences of original treaty” Barry Gerding, Black Press, Jun. 29, 2018 <https://www.trailtimes.ca/news/columbia-river-treaty-renegotiation-will-impact-okanagan/>

Bullet points on “Prosperous Treefruit Sector”

s.13; s.16

Bullet points on “Prosperous Treefruit Sector”

Industry 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.
- Currently, treefruit production is valued at approximately \$260 million annually.
- 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.
- B.C.’s tree fruit industry is very small compared to its direct competitor (Washington state) to the south. B.C. produces approximately four million boxes of apples compared to Washington states’ 130 million boxes annually.
- Despite the relative size of the industry, B.C. continues to produce high quality, high value apples and cherries, capitalizing on competitive advantages of late season harvest and superior variety selection for worldwide transport.

Bullet points on “Prosperous Treefruit Sector”

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The BC Chamber of Commerce

- The *2016-2017 BC Chamber of Commerce Policy and Position Manual* recommended that the Provincial Government undertake a planning process to encourage expansion and development of the wine, cideries and distilleries agri-tourism sector in BC and that an ensuing plan or strategy should work in concert with BC's Agri-tourism policies and regulations. The Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training's response to this recommendation included reference to the *Agricultural Land Use, Subdivisions and Procedure Regulation* (ALRUSPR) under the *Agricultural Land Commissions Act* (ALCA) that the BC Ministry of Agriculture updated in July 2016 to provide clarity for permitted agri-tourism activities in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR). The BC Ministry of Agriculture's update to the ALRUSPR established new opportunities around events, such as weddings, in the ALR to help farmers grow their incomes while preserving land within the ALR to produce local food for British Columbians.
- The *2017-2018 BC Chamber of Commerce Policy Position Manual* recommended that the Provincial Government amend the ALRUSPR to permit breweries, distilleries and meaderies similar product content rules as wineries and cideries. The BC Ministry of Agriculture's response to this recommendation referenced the amendment that was made to the ALRUSPR that provided parity for breweries, distilleries and meaderies. The amendment made allows for breweries, meaderies and distilleries to contract with other BC growers to meet the 50% farm product requirement (provided the farm on which the brewery, meadery or distillery is located is at least two hectares and producing primary farm product). The amendment addressed industry's request for equality under the regulations and ensured that farming remained an integral part of operations on the ALR.
- The *2019 Thompson-Okanagan Regional Consultation Meeting Regional Policy and Position Manual* provides information on and recommendations for:
s.13

¹ https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/british-columbians-our-governments/local-governments/finance/local-government-statistics/schedule702_2018.xls

² <https://info.bcassessment.ca/Services-products/property-classes-and-exemptions/understanding-property-classes-and-exemptions>

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Recommended Response

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³ See https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/agriculture-and-seafood/agricultural-land-and-environment/strengthening-farming/consultation_summary-agritourism_consultations_sept_2016.pdf

Agricultural Land Reserve – Revitalization Initiative

Minister of Agriculture Advisory Committee’s Public Engagement:

- Engagement period occurred February 5 through April 30, 2018
- Engagement outcome:
 - Committee travelled to 9 regional community meetings and spoke with over 170 individuals
 - Direct email and mail: received over 280 submissions from agricultural organizations, stakeholders and the public
 - Online public surveys: received over 2,300 submissions from across B.C.

Minister Advisory Committee’s Key Objectives for Interim Recommendations:

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Committee Interim Reports:

- The Committee submitted two reports to Minister Popham on July 31, 2018.
- The “What We Heard Report” outlines the engagement overview and the summary of what the committee hear.
- The Report on Interim Recommendations includes:
 - 13 recommendations for legislative and regulatory change
 - Four recommendations for action to protect the ALR
 - 14 key issues still under consideration for the final report

Committee Final Report:

- Submitted December 4, 2019
- Reiterated all of the interim recommendations for legislative changes and identified further recommendations – a total of 32 – across three broad themes/required strategic shifts:
- Strategic Shift I: Agriculture First ALR Governance
- Strategic Shift II: A Protected, Productive ALR
- Strategic Shift III: Farmer and Rancher Resilience in the ALR

Government’s Policy Goals for ALR Revitalization (revitalized legislation and regulatory system)

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Agricultural Land Commission Act and Regulatory Changes; Future Regulatory Reform

Bill 52 – *The Agricultural Land Commission Amendment Act* – 2018 provided for three key changes:

1. Addressing mega-mansions and speculation in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) by limiting size of principal residence and empowering the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) to approve additional residences for farm use.
2. Restricting removal of soil and increasing penalties for dumping of construction debris and other harmful fill in the ALR.
3. Reunifying the ALR as a single zone, ensuring consistent rules with strong protections for all provincial ALR land.

Bill 52 was brought into force on February 22, 2019 through regulation.

Bill 15 – *The Agricultural Land Commission Amendment Act* – 2019 strengthened ALC governance tools to further protect ALR land by:

- replacing the statutorily-prescribed ALC governance structure of six panel regions with one commission to be comprised of regional representatives from all six administrative regions;
- providing the ALC Chair with more flexibility to organize commission members into decision-making panels by topic, technical expertise, or administrative region;
- adding new ALR decision-making criteria that the ALC must consider in order to prioritize the protection and enhancement of the size, integrity and continuity of the ALR land base;
- adding more compliance and enforcement capacity and tools, including a new offence for landowners who do not produce records when ordered to by the ALC, and
- requiring that applications for excluding property from the ALR may only be submitted to the ALC by local governments, First Nations governments or the Province, to support more thoughtful land-use planning in the ALR.

Bill 15 received Royal Assent on May 30, 2019 and will be brought into force by regulation.

Further grandfathering of manufactured homes:

A July 2019 regulatory change extended the grandfathering period for bringing manufactured homes onto ALR properties for immediate family members:

- The change permits landowners in the ALR to include a manufactured home for immediate family members providing the home meets specific criteria, and the landowners obtain all the required permits and authorizations before Feb. 22, 2020.

Government's policy goals for cannabis production in the ALR:

The federal government signalled its intent to legalize cannabis by October 17, 2018. In 2015, the previous provincial government had not granted local governments authority to prohibit medical cannabis production in the ALR. The new approach to recreational cannabis under federal legalization required a more responsive approach to local needs and provincial priorities. The resulting new rules reflect the *Local Government Act* zoning powers and related authorities of the over 150 local governments with ALR land within their boundaries.

The ALCA regulation was amended to provide more authority for local governments to prohibit cement-bottomed cannabis facilities, while provincially protecting some cannabis production (soil-bottomed) across the province. The ALCA regulation amended on July 18, 2018 works to balance four key provincial interests:

- Preserving the productive capacity of the ALR;
- Acknowledging the federal legalization of recreational cannabis;
- Respecting citizen's Charter-protected right to access medical cannabis; and
- Recognizing the need for flexibility at the local level.

Cannabis production in the ALR: The July 2018 regulatory change provided authority to local and First Nation governments to prohibit cement-based cannabis production on ALR land in their communities while clarifying that cannabis production in the ALR cannot be prohibited if it is grown lawfully:

- in an open field;
- in a structure that has a soil base;
- 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.

Future (2019-2020) regulatory work:

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Ministry of Agriculture

FOR INFORMATION FOR DEPUTY MINISTER FOR MEETING WITH BC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN KELOWNA ON JULY 23, 2019

Date: July 22, 2019

Resolution: Effective meat inspection systems for all British Columbia's Community Scale Livestock Producers and Abattoirs (Armstrong)

Select Standing Committee on Agriculture:

- On April 24, 2018, the Select Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fish and Food (SSCAFF) was established and tasked with examining, inquiring into and making recommendations concerning local meat production in BC.
- SSCAFF launched a public consultation from May 16 to June 15 that invited input from farmers, producers, processors, consumers, restaurateurs and all other individuals and organizations interested in local, small-scale meat production.
- On September 28, SSCAFF released their Report highlighting: abattoir licensing and oversight; skilled labour and workforce; and industry growth and development. The Report makes 21 recommendations (Appendix 1).
- Actions undertaken to date include:
 - To support local slaughter capacity and local food security, the Ministry of Agriculture has reduced the travel time restriction associated with Class E applications from 2 hours to 1 hour.
 - To support rural slaughter capacity, the Ministry has invited input from local governments on proposals for new types of designations for Class D regions or sub-regions, and designation of new regions or sub-regions.
 - In collaboration with the BC Food Processors Association, the Ministry developed and delivered food safety and animal welfare training workshops for rural producers throughout the province. Participants are eligible for financing up to \$2,000 for some equipment purchases.
 - The Ministry of Agriculture is collaborating with the Ministry of Health and Regional Health Authorities to investigate opportunities and resources for increased inspections of Class D and E facilities.
 - Launched a comprehensive provincial slaughter capacity study that will serve as a baseline for future reviews of the B.C. Meat Inspection Program.
 - Highlighted local meat products as part of government's Buy BC campaign.
 - Through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, the Ministry provided funding for food safety and traceability program development for businesses.

Class A and B Slaughter Establishments as Small to Medium Businesses:

- Class A and B slaughter establishment licences:
 - are available anywhere in the province
 - do not limit production volumes
 - allow for sales province-wide, and
 - are supported by government trained inspection service, which is mandatory.
- There is no minimum size requirement for either Class A or Class B provincially inspected licenced establishments.
- There are no inspection service fees paid by the abattoirs.
- Most Class A and Class B establishments are small to mid-size operations that service their local communities.
- Class A and B licensing is often a cost effective alternative to Class D or E licensing. Ministry staff work with applicants to inform and improve understanding of the licensing system. For example, it is not true that Class A and B facilities must be large scale, costly and administratively difficult to achieve.
- Class A and B licences have greater revenue potential than Class D and E because there are no limits on production which can be sold anywhere in the province.
- Work Shift Agreements between the Meat Inspection Program and licenced establishments provide certainty that inspection services are provided at agreed upon days and times throughout the year.

Response to Chamber Recommendations:

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Page 19 of 20 to/à Page 20 of 20

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s.16