

**Ministry of Agriculture
Premier Meeting with Aquaculture CEOs**

Ref: 187661

Date: January 15, 2018

Issue: Premier John Horgan is meeting with CEOs from Mitsubishi and Marine Harvest regarding B.C.'s positions on salmon farming.

Background: A recent meeting between the Canadian Ambassador to Norway and CEOs of corporations with major interests in B.C.'s salmon farming industry (Cermaq, Grieg, Marine Harvest and Mitsubishi) resulted in strong messages of concern. Consistent among all parties was concern about the future of the industry in B.C. due to the continued activism and what they deem inadequate industry engagement by the government of British Columbia. A representative from Mitsubishi, which owns Cermaq, indicated that the current uncertainty may have an impact on Japanese investments across Canada in all sectors. The Ambassador committed to sharing comments from the corporations with the provincial and federal governments.

s.13; s.16

To provincial staff's knowledge, there have been no instances of firearms used in any unlawful way at any of the salmon farm protests. During the interactions, some activists in the vicinity of the fish farms may have had access to hunting rifles in their boats; this is common as a safety precaution given the remoteness and likelihood of interaction with wildlife, such as grizzly bears which are prevalent in the area.

Response: We respect the right of people to engage in peaceful protests. We encourage resolution of issues through discussion wherever possible. Health and safety of all individuals involved in the current situation around salmon farms is a priority for this government and we will continue to monitor the situation and cooperate with law enforcement officials.

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Response: B.C. will continue to contribute to national aquaculture efforts that work towards a pan-Canadian approach (through the Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers (CCFAM)) that supports industry competitiveness and raises public confidence for current operations and future development of the industry in B.C. and in Canada.

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Response: Our government is focused on a new relationship with First Nations and all Indigenous people - one built on partnership and respect. The implementation of UNDRIP will create stronger partnerships between First Nations, our government, the federal government and industry.

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Response: Provincial Cabinet Ministers have held meetings with the BC Salmon Farmers' Association where good discussions on finding joint solutions to the current issues have taken place. We are at the beginning stage of these discussions and will continue to work closely with the industry as we move forward.

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Response: I'm encouraged that the CEOs are engaging with First Nations on this issue. A number of First Nations leaders have raised strong concerns to the provincial and federal government with open pen fish farms in their territorial waters and all governments need to work together on finding a solution.

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Response: The January 30th meeting is a government-to-government-to-government meeting, in response to a request from the affected First Nations. I can assure you that industry will be engaged subsequent to these discussions and during our ongoing tenure adjudications.

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Response: Our government is committed to working with First Nations, the industry and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) to ensure B.C.'s aquaculture sector is successful, environmentally sustainable and respects First Nations' rights while providing good jobs for British Columbians.

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Response: I recognize and appreciate the significance of the investments made by salmon farming companies in B.C. I will be sharing what I've heard today, coupled with the recommendations from the upcoming MAACFA report with my Cabinet. Lastly, I want to reiterate that this government is keenly interested in your thoughts on industry innovation and transition specific to British Columbia. This will help build social license and mitigate/ease potential environmental concerns that are front and center publically.

Broughton G2G2G Work Plan Update:

The Broughton G2G2G planning is underway with the January 30th G2G2G meeting confirmed. A draft agenda will be reviewed by Deputy Ministers (DM's) and Assistant Deputy Ministers (ADMs) on January 15th. A work plan and the strategic elements of the process will also be confirmed with the DMs and ADMs in advance of the Ministers briefing scheduled for January 23rd. The Province is awaiting official confirmation on DFO participation, but it is likely Minister LeBlanc will not be attending and other senior officials may be designated.

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