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s.12 ; s.13

FW: Fur Farm BN

From: Anderson, Arlene AGRI:EX <Arlene.Anderson@gov.bc.ca>
To: Yawney, Lauren AGRI:EX <Lauren.Yawney@gov.bc.ca>, Whittington, Elissa AGRI:EX <Elissa.Whittington@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Travia, David V AGRI:EX <David.Travia@gov.bc.ca>, Renaud, Michael AGRI:EX <Michael.Renaud@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: December 18, 2020 4:18:25 PM PST

s.13; s.14; s.17

From: Anderson, Arlene AGRI:EX
Sent: December 18, 2020 3:25 PM
To: Travia, David V AGRI:EX <David.Travia@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Fur Farm BN

Hi Dave,

s.13; s.16; s.17

s.13; s.16;
^ 17 All of this can not be done immediately, especially with those we need to engage with being off for Christmas. These are things you know but worth saying. This work isn't simple and will take up bandwidth.



Arlene Anderson | Director, Policy and Legislation
Corporate Governance, Policy and Legislation Branch | Ministry of Agriculture
778 698-5170 | Arlene.Anderson@gov.bc.ca

RE: Fur Farming IN

From: Daniels, Gray AGRI:EX <Gray.Daniels@gov.bc.ca>
To: Anderson, Arlene AGRI:EX <Arlene.Anderson@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 13, 2021 1:59:25 PM PST
Aye!

From: Anderson, Arlene AGRI:EX <Arlene.Anderson@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 13, 2021 1:59 PM
To: Daniels, Gray AGRI:EX <Gray.Daniels@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Fur Farming IN

Gray,

Can you set up a touch base between Lauren, you and I so I can give you two the low down on JLM's comments? We had a quick call. At 3pm?

From: Daniels, Gray AGRI:EX <Gray.Daniels@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 13, 2021 1:58 PM
To: Anderson, Arlene AGRI:EX <Arlene.Anderson@gov.bc.ca>; Yawney, Lauren AGRI:EX <Lauren.Yawney@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Fur Farming IN
Ok, thanks for the heads up Arlene!
G

From: Anderson, Arlene AGRI:EX <Arlene.Anderson@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 13, 2021 1:51 PM
To: Yawney, Lauren AGRI:EX <Lauren.Yawney@gov.bc.ca>; Daniels, Gray AGRI:EX <Gray.Daniels@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Fur Farming IN
Hi,
In addition to the items below. JLM needs it to be obvious in the appendix as to show the jurisdictions that still embrace mink farming. She has written something at the end of the IN.
A

From: Anderson, Arlene AGRI:EX
Sent: January 13, 2021 1:49 PM
To: Viney, Ursula E AGRI:EX <Ursula.Viney@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Daniels, Gray AGRI:EX <Gray.Daniels@gov.bc.ca>; Yawney, Lauren AGRI:EX <Lauren.Yawney@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Fur Farming IN

Hi Ursula,

Here is the draft fur farming note we are working on.

JLM is keen for us to know how chinchilla farming (if at all) from mink farming. We need to know whether the same health, animal welfare, etc. concerns exist for chinchilla farming as mink farming. Is there someone on your team who can help with this?

JLM also wants to know more info on the mink farming cycle (e.g. mink food (where it comes from) so that we know who will no be able to get from of waste if mink are not eating it, and who would be impacted if they can't use mink poop as fertilizer). We don't need this for this note but for a future paper, briefing. Is there someone on your team who can help with this?

A

Arlene Anderson | Director, Policy and Legislation
Corporate Governance, Policy and Legislation Branch | Ministry of Agriculture
778 698-5170 | Arlene.Anderson@gov.bc.ca

Materials for Minister Briefing re: Mink - January 20 @ 1pm

From: Evers, Charlene AGRI:EX <Charlene.Evers@gov.bc.ca>
To: Godfrey, Sam AFF:EX <Sam.Godfrey@gov.bc.ca>, Sundhu, Ellora AFF:EX <Ellora.Sundhu@gov.bc.ca>, McGuire, Jennifer AGRI:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>, Anderson, Arlene AGRI:EX <Arlene.Anderson@gov.bc.ca>, Viney, Ursula E AGRI:EX <Ursula.Viney@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Oldham, Lisa E AFF:EX <Lisa.Oldham@gov.bc.ca>, Norton, Chris AGRI:EX <Chris.Norton@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 18, 2021 8:57:11 AM PST
Attachments: 193469 IN **s.13**
s.13

Good morning,

Please see attached materials for the above mentioned meeting.

Subject: Policy Approaches for fur farming in B.C.

Attending: MLP/Sam/Ellora/Tom/Jennifer/Arlene Anderson/Ursula Viney

Dept Resp: ASPD – Corporate Governance, Policy and Legislation

Thank you!

Char

Charlene Evers

A/Senior Executive Assistant

Deputy Minister's Office

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

☎ 778 974-3844

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION

Ref: 193469

Date: January 14, 2021

Title: Policy Approaches for fur farming in B.C.

Issue: Recent infections of SARS-CoV-2 in workers and animals on two B.C. mink farms have renewed pressures by animal activists to end fur farming in B.C.

Background: On December 6, 2020, Fraser Health declared a SARS-COV-2 outbreak among workers and animals at a B.C. mink farm. Health and Work Safe B.C. orders restricting operations were issued to prevent the ongoing transmission of the virus. The Provincial Chief Veterinarian (PCV) also instituted a Quarantine Order (QO) under the *Animal Health Act* (AHA) on the impacted farm. The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (AFF) activated its emergency response plans and instituted a virtual Incident Command Post to manage the response. On December 24, 2020, mink on a second farm tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 and a QO for that farm was issued.

Following the first B.C. mink farm SARS-CoV-2 infection, the B.C. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (BC SPCA) publicly called for an end to mink farming in B.C. Additionally, the Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals and Pamela Anderson, a spokesperson for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), wrote Premier John Horgan calling for an end to B.C. fur farming. While the calls to end the fur farming industry have primarily focused on the welfare of mink, it is likely that the same welfare concerns would also apply to chinchillas. The lack of activist focus on chinchilla fur farming is likely because the industry is much smaller within Canada. Furthermore, while there are currently no fox fur farms in B.C. the same welfare concerns would in principle apply to those farms, and to all other fur farm animals.

AFF's current approach to fur farming is to acknowledge and regulate it as an acceptable farm practice in B.C. Other jurisdictions that allow fur farming are outlined in Appendix B. The primary legislative tools used to govern the industry are the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* (PCAA), the Animal Care Codes of Practice Regulation, the AHA, and the Fur Farm Regulation. The legislative and policy approach in B.C. to fur farm regulation is consistent with other Canadian provinces, while approaches to animal welfare regulations vary across provinces.

As a result of lobbying by animal activists and changing public opinions towards fur farming, some countries have instituted stricter requirements on the keeping of fur animals while other countries have banned or are considering banning fur farming altogether (see *Appendix A*). The global COVID-19 pandemic is significantly impacting the fur farming industry. Concerns regarding virus mutation have prompted calls for mink culls and an end to mink and fur farming internationally. Culls have already occurred in several European countries.

First Nations Considerations:

A ban on fur farming would not impact traditional Indigenous rights to hunting and trapping.

Discussion:

The worldwide fur farming industry is in a general decline as fur is less popular with many consumers. In B.C., the number of mink farms decreased from 17 licensed farms and 14 licensed operators in 2016 to 11 farms and seven operators in 2020. There is one chinchilla farm and no fox farms operating in B.C. The total revenue of the BC fur industry has declined approximately \$3 million per year from 2013 to 2019. Revenue from export sales were \$2,178,437 in 2019.

Despite industry decline, fur farms provide jobs for domestic workers; large farms employ 25-30 employees each while small farms employ 1-5 employees, depending on the season. Fur farming contributes to the recycling of food and animal by-product wastes, which are used to feed farmed mink.

The two primary concerns in renewed calls to end fur farming in B.C are a) the public and animal health implications of SARS-CoV-2 outbreaks on mink farms; and b) the animal welfare and ethical perspective of fur farming.

a) The public and animal health implications of SARS-CoV-2 outbreaks on mink farms

- Animal welfare organizations and some virologists are concerned about SARS-CoV-2 mutations on mink farms and the impact of a viral mutation on the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines.
- There is also concern for the health of the mink themselves, as mink can become sick and die when infected with SARS-CoV-2.
- The AHA is the primary legislative tool in B.C. to address the prevention and control of animal diseases. Under the AHA, the PCV has the authority to:
 - Establish quarantine and surveillance zones to minimize the risk of transmission or spread;
 - Declare an emergency if the reportable disease could have a serious impact on animal or public health; and
 - Order the slaughter of an animal(s) if it is affected by a reportable disease and the PCV believes preventative measures would be inadequate to protect animal or public health.
- Current scientific analysis indicates mutations occurring in farmed mink populations are not of concern. However, research does indicate that uncontrolled spread of the virus on mink farms could allow the virus to evolve and develop harmful mutations.
- Currently, the B.C. Ministry of Health (HLTH) considers the risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission from mink farms to be low for the general population, moderate for populations in areas of high mink farm density and high for employees at mink farms. There is still uncertainty around the risk mink farms pose as mutation reservoirs of the virus. This potential is currently under investigation by HLTH and the B.C. Centre for Disease Control.
- The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNR) and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) are also actively reviewing the impact of SARS-CoV-2 outbreaks on mink farms on wildlife and environmental management. A wild mink found close to a fur farm with an active SARS-CoV-2 outbreak in Utah tested positive for the virus.
- FLNR is currently undertaking research on the wild mink populations in B.C. to evaluate the presence and threat of SARS-CoV-2.
- ENV is engaged in work on the management of and disposal of wastes from mink farms with SARS-CoV-2 outbreaks, specifically virus positive mink carcasses.
- ENV has confirmed that fur farms are compliant with general agricultural waste management requirements, and that SARS-CoV-2 mink bodies must be managed as hazardous waste under the *Environmental Management Act*.
- Studies are inconclusive on the susceptibility of chinchillas to SARS-CoV-2.

b) The animal welfare and ethical perspective of fur farming

- A 2019 poll of 1000 Canadians conducted by Research Co. on fur farming in Canada indicated 62 percent of the B.C. residents polled strongly oppose killing animals for their fur. It is unclear how many B.C. residents were polled.

- Animal welfare organizations and those opposed to fur farming argue that there is little justification to support a declining industry that is inherently cruel and unethical.
- Primary concerns regarding fur farming include the size and bareness of cages; the inability to express natural behaviours; and the fighting and self-mutilations that occur as a result of confinement.
- Regarding confinement, the relatively short domestication period, in comparison to other farm animals, and the “wilder” nature of fur animals are also noted as a concern. Wild minks’ habitat ranges can be as large as 2.5 miles of stream habitat or about 2,500 acres in wetland habitat.
- Studies to improve housing conditions for mink have generally been conducted within the framework of a standard cage environment. By limiting investigations only to standard cage environments, it restricts potential welfare improvements because cages are significantly smaller than the minks’ natural habitat.
- A small number of recent studies indicate that moving towards an enriched enclosure system may benefit farmed mink; such a system would improve on current welfare standards. Some European countries generally require larger and more complex cages and higher social and enrichment environments for fur farmed animals than BC and Canadian standards. (See *Appendix C*)
- While some argue that existing measures do not go far enough to improve the welfare of farmed fur animals, the adoption of harmonized animal welfare evaluation and remedial strategies is seen by others to improve overall farmed animal welfare.
- Some international welfare standards, such as the World Animal Protection Index (API), regard a ban of fur farming as the only option that reflects a high-level welfare standard.

While some voices are calling for a “cull” of mink in the province for health reasons, B.C. has an effective regulatory framework under the AHA to address the prevention and control of animal disease. Fundamentally, this issue relates to the ethical question of whether the breeding, rearing, selling, and killing of fur animals is an acceptable practice in B.C. and, if so, whether changes are needed to ensure the welfare of farmed fur animals. The focus on animal welfare concerns also apply to chinchillas and all other potential fur animals (e.g. foxes), as the keeping of any animals for fur farming will be regulated by the same legislation as mink.

The ethical discussion concerning the care, treatment, use, and inherent value of animals is complex and influenced by many factors such as human emotions, moral philosophy, societal and cultural norms, historical practices, scientific research and religious beliefs. Some peoples’ perceptions emphasize the basic health and functioning of animals, especially freedom from disease; others emphasize reduction of psychological suffering through expression of natural behaviours and having natural elements in an animal’s environment; and others emphasize an animal’s freedom from human use and control.

Given these variations in personal perceptions and values, there is not a one-size-fits-all approach to this issue. Furthermore, given the inherent polarization of the issue, there is not likely a single approach that satisfies the concerns of all stakeholders. The preferred policy approach is likely one that a) is developed through extensive consultation with various stakeholders including animal rights and welfare activists, veterinarians, animal welfare and behavioral researchers, fur farmers, and other farmed animal stakeholders; and b) incorporates science, moral reasoning and consensus.

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In all complex policy issues, the potential exists for unintended consequences to any approach taken. While a robust investigation of potential consequences requires a deeper analysis than that taken in developing this paper, there are additional social, economic and welfare aspects to consider.

s.13

Contact: Lauren Yawney, Senior Legislative Analyst, 236 478-3443
Gray Daniels, Policy Analyst, 250 419-8715

ED DT ADM JLM DM TE

Attachments:

APPENDIX A: Fur Farm Ban Legislation Jurisdictional Scan

APPENDIX B: Jurisdictions which allow and regulate fur farming

APPENDIX C: Fur Animal Welfare Requirements in Legislation

APPENDIX A

Fur Farm Ban Legislation Jurisdictional Scan

The purpose of this table is to provide an overview of the varying international legislation regarding fur farms.

In addition to the countries outline below, bans on fur farming also exist in Austria, Slovakia, Belgium, Luxembourg, Slovenia, the Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Czech Republic and Hungary, but substantive information on these laws was unable to be found. Legislation on fur farm bans are also being proposed in Bulgaria, Estonia, Lithuania, Montenegro, and Ukraine.

Full Ban Legislation		
Jurisdiction	Information	Info Links
United Kingdom	<p><u>Primary Instrument</u> <i>Fur Farming (Prohibition) Act</i> created in 2000</p> <p><u>Key Facts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibits “the keeping of animals solely or primarily for slaughter for the value of their fur” in England and Wales Allows for the creation of scheme to allow for compensation of individuals for losses as a result of ceasing business In 2002 the practice was prohibited in Scotland with the <i>Fur Farming (Prohibition) (Scotland) Act</i> and Northern Ireland with the <i>Fur Farming (Prohibition) (Northern Ireland) Order</i> The legislation still allows for the import of animal furs from other countries and the sales of some furs <p><u>Additional considerations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once the UK has officially left the EU, the country is considering a total ban on the sale of fur 	<p>Legislation: UK Act https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/33/contents</p> <p>Scotland Act https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2002/10/contents</p> <p>Northern Ireland Order https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisi/2002/3151/contents</p> <p>Other Info: https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/sep/25/uk-considering-outright-ban-on-fur-sales-after-brex</p>
Norway	<p><u>Primary Instrument</u> <i>Fur Farming Prohibition Act</i> created in 2018</p> <p><u>Key Facts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires all farms to be closed by February 2025 Allows for compensation to farmers for ceasing business <p><u>Additional considerations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Norway was once the world’s largest producer of fox pelts, with 20,000 farms in 1939 	<p>Other Info: https://dyrevern.no/dyrevern/breaking-news-norway-bans-fur-farming/</p> <p>https://www.reuters.com/article/us-norway-fur-idUSKBN1F426E</p>
California	<p><u>Primary Instrument</u> Assembly Bill 44, which amended the <i>Fish and Game Code</i></p> <p><u>Key Facts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bill comes into effect January 2023 Bans the sale and manufacturing of fur products in the state 	<p>Legislation: https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB44</p> <p>Other Info: https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/oct/13/fur</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used fur, fur products used for specified purposes, and any activity expressly authorized by federal law are exempt from the bill Allows for fines of up to \$1,000 for repeated violations <p><u>Additional considerations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statewide ban follows bans of fur sales in Los Angeles and San Francisco 	-ban-california-outlaws-making-and-selling-new-products
The Netherlands	<p><u>Primary Instrument</u> <i>Fur Farming Prohibition Act</i> created in 2013</p> <p><u>Key Facts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Banned mink farming with a transition period to phase out farms by 2024 Allows for compensation to farmers for ceasing business Following a COVID-19 outbreak at more than 40 farms, the phase out timeline was brought up to March 2021 Minks at the COVID-19 affected farms were culled in the interest of public health Farmers at the farms unaffected by COVID-19 could slaughter their mink in 2020, but are not allowed to re-stock <p><u>Additional considerations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Netherlands is the European Union's second largest mink producer Fox and chinchilla fur farming was phased out in the country in the mid-1990s 	<p>Other Info:</p> <p>https://nos.nl/artikel/2345662-kabinet-maakt-eind-aan-nertsenfokkerij-alle-bedrijven-volgend-jaar-dicht.html</p> <p>https://www.hsi.org/news-media/dutch-mink-fur-farms-to-be-permanently-closed/</p>
Croatia	<p><u>Primary Instrument</u> <i>Animal Protection Act</i></p> <p><u>Key Facts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislation initially introduced in 2007 and came into effect in 2017 Provided a ten-year phase out period for existing fur farms prior to full adoption Prohibits the farming and breeding of animals for fur production purposes 	<p>Legislation:</p> <p>http://www.mvep.hr/files/file/dokumenti/prevodenje/zakoni/25-Zakon-o-za%C5%A1titi-%C5%BEivotinja--NN-102-17-ENG.pdf</p>
Bans as an effect of other legislation		
Japan	<p><u>Primary Instrument</u> <i>Invasive Alien Species Act</i> created in 2005</p> <p><u>Key Facts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bans actions of raising, planting, storing, carrying or importing invasive alien species The American Mink is considered an invasive alien species under the Act, effectively making their farming illegal <p><u>Additional considerations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mink farms built prior to 2006 could continue operation 	<p>Legislation:</p> <p>https://www.env.go.jp/en/nature/as.html</p> <p>Other Info:</p> <p>https://www.furfreealliance.com/japan-makes-end-fur-farming/</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The singular mink farm existing in Japan ceased operation in 2015 after years of animal welfare issues 	
Germany	<p><u>Primary Instrument</u> <i>Animal Products Trade Prohibition Act</i> created in 2017</p> <p><u>Key Facts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires strict requirements for keeping animals, such as increased cage sizes and swimming basins for mink Farms permitted to keep operating without adapting to new legislation until 2022 <p><u>Additional considerations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The stricter welfare requirements made fur farming unprofitable The last fur farm in the country closed in 2019 	<p>Legislation: http://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/khfeverb/BJNR239400008.html#BJNR239400008BJNG000300124</p> <p>Other Info: https://www.tagesspiegel.de/gesellschaft/panorama/pelze-in-der-letzten-deutschen-nerzfarm-sind-keine-tiere-mehr/24151900.html</p>
Sweden	<p><u>Primary Instrument</u> <i>Animal Welfare Act</i> created in 1988 and amended in 2018</p> <p><u>Key Facts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires animals to be able to “perform behaviours for which they are strongly motivated for and that are important for their well-being (natural behaviour)” <p><u>Additional considerations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction of the legislation instituted stricter requirements on the keeping of fur animals Required foxes to only be kept in such a way that they can be active, dig and socialize with other foxes New requirements rendered fox farming economically unsustainable in the country, closing all farms in 2001 Mink farms are still allowed under the legislation 	<p>Legislation: https://www.government.se/494b85/contentassets/9f6a4e0fb1704a0ba72531b63811ac22/animal-welfare-act-sfs-2018-1192-12-mars-2020.pdf</p> <p>Other Info: https://www.djurensratt.se/blogg/decline-swedish-fur-industry#:~:text=Fur%20arming%20came%20to%20Sweden,2%20million%20pelts%20a%20year.</p>
Bans promised or currently being debated		
France	<p><u>Key Facts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planned ban introduced in a speech September 29, 2020 by Minister of Environmental Transition Barbara Pompili No new farms will be authorized, and all existing farms must close by 2025 <p><u>Additional considerations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not impact the orylog rabbit fur industry 	<p>https://www.loc.gov/law/f/foreign-news/article/france-french-government-announces-ban-on-wild-animal-performances-and-mink-farming/</p> <p>https://www.reuters.com/article/us-france-animals-circus-idUSKBN26K24V</p>
Poland	<p><u>Key Facts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planned ban introduced in September 2020 Closure of all existing farms within a year of the ban passing Ban would impact 700 of the 810 fur farms in Poland Currently, no compensation for farmers referenced in the bill 	<p>https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/sep/29/film-showing-cannibalism-prompts-probable-ban-on-fur-farms-in-poland</p>

Ireland	<p><u>Key Facts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phased removal of all fur farms in the country (three in operation currently) <p><u>Additional considerations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibition of Fur Farming Bill 2018 put forward in government and got to the first stage of the legislative process, but was not passed any further due to dissolution of the government • The Department of Agriculture has pre-emptively called for a cull of all mink in the country and required farms to stop breeding immediately in response to COVID-19 • Farmers will receive compensation in the short term as a result of the cull, with a wider compensation package likely in future 	<p>https://www.thejournal.ie/future-of-fur-mink-farming-ireland-5271940-Nov2020/</p> <p>https://www.politico.eu/article/ireland-signals-likely-end-to-fur-farming-with-cull-of-120000-mink/</p> <p>https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/28e8c1-government-approves-phasing-out-of-fur-farming/?referrer=http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/press/releases/2019/june/title,128816,en.html</p>
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APPENDIX B

Jurisdictions which allow and regulate fur farming

The following table outlines jurisdictions where fur farming is allowed and regulated. This table does not provide an exhaustive list of countries where fur farming is allowed; instead, it highlights jurisdictions which produce the most pelts.

Canada	Fur farms exist in all provinces, but most farms are found in the following provinces: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ontario• Nova Scotia• British Columbia• Newfoundland and Labrador• Prince Edward Island• Quebec
United States	Fur farms exist in 23 states, with the following states producing the most pelts annually: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wisconsin• Utah• Idaho• Oregon• Minnesota
International	In addition to Canada and the United States, the following countries' fur farms produce the most pelts annually: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Denmark• Finland• Spain• Russia• China

APPENDIX C

Fur Animal Welfare Requirements in Legislation

This table provides a comparison of the animal welfare requirements in legislation in different jurisdictions. Sweden and Germany were chosen for comparison as these countries' welfare requirements have made some or all fur farming economically unviable within the countries. The legislation governing animal welfare in the different jurisdictions are as follows:

British Columbia: The Fur Farm Regulation, *Animal Health Act*, *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* (PCAA), Animal Care Codes of Practice Regulation

Canada: The National Farm Animal Care Council's Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farmed Mink and Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farmed Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), the *Criminal Code*

Sweden: *Animal Care Act*, Animal Welfare Ordinance, Regulations and general guidelines of the Swedish Board of Agriculture on the rearing and keeping of fur animals

Germany: *German Animal Welfare Act*

General animal welfare requirements		Mink	Foxes	Chinchillas
BC	<p>Care Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Persons responsible for an animal must not cause or allow an animal to be in distress. - Animals must be protected from circumstances likely to cause distress - Animals must have access to a sufficient food supply and clean, palatable water. <p>Facility Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must protect the animals from extreme weather. - Must be sufficiently lighted and allow for access to sufficient hours of continuous daylight. - Must allow for the observation and care of animals. <p>Cage Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must be of sufficient size to comfortably accommodate all animals intended to be held. - If more than one animal is in a cage there must be either another level or a nest box. - Must be safe and clean and allow for proper drainage when washed. - Must allow air to flow freely in around the cage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reasonable and generally accepted practices for care are described in the Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farmed Mink. - The Code referenced can be used as a defence against conviction under the PCAA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reasonable and generally accepted practices for care are described in the Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farmed Fox (<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>). - The Code referenced can be used as a defence against conviction under the PCAA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No specific requirements established.¹
Canada	<p>Care Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Everyone who willfully causes, or allows, unnecessary pain, suffering or injury to an animal commits an offence under the <i>Criminal Code</i> - Producers must ensure welfare needs (e.g. clean water, sufficient feed 	<p>Cage Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cages with multiple animals must have a hammock/shelf/platform and at least one manipulative enrichment 	<p>Cage Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mature foxes must be housed individually, with pups housed in pairs or groups - All foxes must have access to at least one 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No specific requirements established.

Fur Animal Welfare Requirements in Legislation

This table provides a comparison of the animal welfare requirements in legislation in different jurisdictions. Sweden and Germany were chosen for comparison as these countries' welfare requirements have made some or all fur farming economically unviable within the countries. The legislation governing animal welfare in the different jurisdictions are as follows:

British Columbia: The Fur Farm Regulation, *Animal Health Act*, *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* (PCAA), Animal Care Codes of Practice Regulation

Canada: The National Farm Animal Care Council's Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farmed Mink and Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farmed Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), the *Criminal Code*

Sweden: *Animal Care Act*, Animal Welfare Ordinance, Regulations and general guidelines of the Swedish Board of Agriculture on the rearing and keeping of fur animals

Germany: *German Animal Welfare Act*

	General animal welfare requirements	Mink	Foxes	Chinchillas
	<p>to maintain health and vigour, shelter and environmental enrichment) can be met on site.</p> <p>Facility Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Air flow for dry, healthy environment and prevention of excessive heat and cold is always required. - Must replicate daylight provided by a natural photoperiod. - Any light provided must be sufficient to express natural behaviours. - Artificial lighting must not negatively impact the normal circadian rhythm. - Must allow animals to observe each other. <p>Cage requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Access to water is always required. <p><i>Nest boxes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must be designed to hold adequate bedding and allow for good nesting behaviour to provide a comfortable, safe, and secluded place. - Must be able to accommodate all animals in the pen comfortably at the same time. 	<p>Minimum dimensions: 0.47m width, 0.47m length, 0.2 m height.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pairs of animals to have a minimum of 0.65m² per animal. 	<p>enrichment that can manipulated.</p> <p>Minimum dimensions: <i>Single foxes:</i> 1.04m width, 1.04 m length, 0.91 m height</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pairs of animals to have a minimum of 0.84m² per animal. 	
Sweden ²	<p>Care requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Animals must be kept and cared for in a good environment such that: 1. well-being is promoted; 2. animals are able to express natural behaviours; and 3. behavioural disorders are prevented. - Animals must be observed at least once per day and kept in a way that allows observation without difficulty or disturbance - Action must be taken immediately if abnormal behaviour is noticed 	<p>Care requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adult animals may not be kept together - Claws should be inspected and cut regularly - Regular food requirements must not be reduced to bring about weight loss - Feeding must occur twice a day 	<p>Care requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Animals must be kept in a way that satisfies their need to socialise with other foxes and to move, dig and otherwise occupy themselves.³ 	<p>Care requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Animals must be kept in pairs - Freedom of movement must not be restricted by obstructing objects such as a collar - Chinchillas must be protected against sudden and loud noises

Fur Animal Welfare Requirements in Legislation

This table provides a comparison of the animal welfare requirements in legislation in different jurisdictions. Sweden and Germany were chosen for comparison as these countries' welfare requirements have made some or all fur farming economically unviable within the countries. The legislation governing animal welfare in the different jurisdictions are as follows:

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Sweden: *Animal Care Act*, Animal Welfare Ordinance, Regulations and general guidelines of the Swedish Board of Agriculture on the rearing and keeping of fur animals

Germany: *German Animal Welfare Act*

General animal welfare requirements		Mink	Foxes	Chinchillas
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Animals must be provided with daylight access beyond windows - Animals must be protected from direct sunlight and not kept in constant darkness or light - Animals must be exposed to and accustomed to humans starting at a young age - Killing and pelting must take place away from live animals - Animals must be kept satisfactorily clean <p>Facility Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must be designed to prevent disturbances from noise, pollution or other factors - Light level must be sufficient for animals to behave normally and correspond to the animals' natural circadian rhythm - Presence of pests must be minimized <p>Cage Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide enough space to meet the normal need for movement and appropriate enrichment - Cages lined up so animals cannot harm one another 	<p>Cage Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Requirements for climbing cages, platforms in every cage, nest boxes with bedding material and enrichment objects that must be replaced regularly - Cages must not be kept on top of each other <p>Minimum dimensions: 0.8m length, 0.45m height, 0.255m² bottom area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Area should be increased by 0.085m² for each additional young animal 		<p>Cage Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Requirements for multi-level cages, enrichment objects and access to sand baths at least once per day <p>Minimum dimensions: 0.5m width, 1m height, 0.5m² total area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Area should be increased by 0.16m² for each additional young animal
Germany	<p>Facility Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must allow for the natural behaviour of the animal, and allow them to eat, drink and rest according to their species. - Must be equipped with frost-protected watering devices and allow constant access to drinking water. - Must allow for the removal of the fur animals without pain or avoidable suffering. 	<p>Cage Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Floor of housing must be at least partially paved. - Must have at least one platform per animal on which an adult animal can lie and stand up and under which an adult animal can stand up. 	<p>Cage Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must be mounted in an elevated position and have a main chamber and an antechamber which hides the entrance to the main chamber. 	<p>Cage Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must be equipped with tunnels - Must have at least one platform per animal - Must have a sand bath filled with quartz-free sand with

Fur Animal Welfare Requirements in Legislation

This table provides a comparison of the animal welfare requirements in legislation in different jurisdictions. Sweden and Germany were chosen for comparison as these countries' welfare requirements have made some or all fur farming economically unviable within the countries. The legislation governing animal welfare in the different jurisdictions are as follows:

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Germany: *German Animal Welfare Act*

General animal welfare requirements	Mink	Foxes	Chinchillas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must offer protection from direct sunlight. - Lighting levels must accord with animals' natural cycles - Must allow for observation of animals. - Adult animals are not kept individually. - Animals can see others of their species. - Excrement is removed at least daily if kept inside or at least weekly if the animals are kept outside. - Fur animal must be accustomed to handling by people from birth. <p>Cage Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cages must not be kept on top of each other - Animals must have access to behavior-appropriate environmental enrichment outside of the nest box <p><i>Nest box:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must have separate area with solid walls where all animals can rest at the same time - Opening is positioned so that newborn animals are restrained, and adult animals have easy access - Must have hay, straw or another suitable material to ensure animals can keep the nest box warm with their body heat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must have devices for climbing that do not consist of wire mesh and have holding devices. - Must be equipped with tunnels. - Must include a swimming pool with of at least 1m² and 30cm deep. <p>Minimum dimensions, in addition to nest box and swimming pool: 1.7m width, 1.7m length, 1m height.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Area should be increased by 1m² for each additional animal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must have at least 2m² for digging and draining of excretions - Must have at least one platform per animal on which an adult animal can lie and sit upright and under which an adult animal can sit upright. - Must be equipped with tunnels. <p>Minimum dimensions in addition to nest box: 3.46m width, 3.46m length, 1.5m height</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Area should be increased by 3m² for each additional animal 	<p>an area of at least 250cm²</p> <p>Minimum dimensions in addition to nest box and sand bath: 1m width, 1m length, 1m height</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Area should be increased by 0.5m² for each additional animal

¹ Chinchillas are not mentioned in the Animal Care Codes of Practice Regulation, nor is there a Code of Practice for chinchilla care established by the National Farm Animal Care Council.

² In January 2019 the Swedish Board of Agriculture (SBA) concluded a study on whether mink in the fur industry live in conditions compliant with the *Animal Welfare Act*. The findings of the study were inconclusive, but the SBA noted positive changes in mink welfare since their regulations were established.

³ The welfare requirements on the keeping of farmed foxes has made fox fur farming economically unviable within Sweden.

Revised Mink Paper

From: Giacomazzi, Terri AGRI:EX <Terri.Giacomazzi@gov.bc.ca>
To: Anderson, Arlene AGRI:EX <Arlene.Anderson@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Hughes, Marie Julie AGRI:EX <MarieJulie.Hughes@gov.bc.ca>, Yawney, Lauren AGRI:EX <Lauren.Yawney@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 20, 2021 2:54:05 PM PST
Attachments: Mink Farming Policy Analysis (clean) with additions_January 20.docx

Arlene,

Attached you'll find the mink paper revised as per Jennifer's requests/questions. As discussed, no other changes were made beyond her requests. All changes were noted in the side comments. There are a couple of outstanding pieces that Julie is waiting to hear back on. I'm sending this now as I will soon be out of the office for the rest of the week.

Thanks so much all for contributing to this work.

Terri Giacomazzi, Senior Policy Analyst, BSc (Agr), M.A., P.Ag

Corporate Governance, Policy and Legislation Branch | BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

1767 Angus Campbell Road | Abbotsford, BC | V3G 2M3 | 1 (778) 666-0552

Please note: I am currently working from home. If you do not reach me at the number listed above, please leave me a message and I will return your call as soon as I am able. Alternatively, please send me an email to arrange a suitable call back time. Thank you.

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s.13

Updated Mink Policy Paper

From: Giacomazzi, Terri AGRI:EX <Terri.Giacomazzi@gov.bc.ca>
To: Hughes, Marie Julie AGRI:EX <MarieJulie.Hughes@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Anderson, Arlene AGRI:EX <Arlene.Anderson@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 25, 2021 3:16:46 PM PST
Attachments: Mink Farming Policy Analysis (clean) with additions_January 25.docx

Here you go Julie...the most recent version. Could you please make sure Ursula and Rayna review the current version and provide feedback or approve if they are good with it? I'm planning to leave the comments on the side for Jennifer. Once she approves it I will remove the working comments.

Thank you Julie,

Terri.

Terri Giacomazzi, Senior Policy Analyst, BSc (Agr), M.A., P.Ag

Corporate Governance, Policy and Legislation Branch | BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

1767 Angus Campbell Road | Abbotsford, BC | V3G 2M3 | 1 (778) 666-0552

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s.13

Page 108 of 217 to/à Page 118 of 217

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13 ; s.14

Page 119 of 217

Withheld pursuant to/removal as

s.14

Fur Farm Welfare 1 Pager

From: Yawney, Lauren AFF:EX <Lauren.Yawney@gov.bc.ca>
To: Anderson, Arlene AFF:EX <Arlene.Anderson@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 9, 2021 3:03:37 PM PST
Attachments: Potential Fur Farm Welfare Amendments 1 pager.docx

Hi Arlene,

Attached please find the 1-pager on options to increase welfare for mink farming.

Thanks!

Lauren

Lauren Yawney, MA

Senior Legislative Analyst

Corporate Policy and Priorities Branch

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

(236) 478-3443

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s.13

RE: Follow-Up Discussion re: Mink Farms in BC

From: Clair, Veronica [BCCDC] <veronic.clair@bccdc.ca>
To: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Gunvaldsen, Rayna AFF:EX <Rayna.Gunvaldsen@gov.bc.ca>, Brodtkin, Elizabeth Dr. [FH] <Elizabeth.Brodtkin@fraserhealth.ca>, Newhouse, Emily [FH] <Emily.Newhouse@fraserhealth.ca>, Viney, Ursula E AFF:EX <Ursula.Viney@gov.bc.ca>, Ethier, Tom AFF:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>, XT:HLTH Brodtkin, Elizabeth <elizabeth.brodtkin@fraserhealth.ca>
Sent: April 19, 2021 9:01:48 AM PDT

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hi,

Yes, we have been strategizing on how to do this in the best manner possible. I had started updating the prior draft risk assessment and then thought it would be best to have input from national experts. So, I have approach the group in CFIA and PHAC that led the national rapid qualitative risk assessment (RQRA). They agreed to support us in generating an updated risk assessment for BC. The process involves first a meeting to set up the questions to answer, the pathway that are relevant, the mitigation factors to include and how. Then it uses a Delphi process to support ranking of the risks and associated uncertainties, with experts meeting to discuss the rating and share insight, followed by a re-ranking and new discussion. This process might take a month and a bit, followed by the write up and review of the final RQRA by the group.

I have started to discuss with our local experts as to how and when to move forward with the BC RQRA. As Fraser Health is in the middle of the third wave, the biggest so far, Dr. Newhouse asked that we perhaps delay the start of that BC RQRA for another month or so, to ensure her full participation. We agreed that her participation was key, even at the stage of framing the questions, pathways and mitigations strategies.

Best,
Veronic

From: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX [mailto:Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca]

Sent: Sunday, April 18, 2021 2:06 PM

To: Clair, Veronica [BCCDC]

Cc: Gunvaldsen, Rayna AFF:EX; Brodtkin, Elizabeth Dr. [FH]; Newhouse, Emily [FH]; Viney, Ursula E AFF:EX; Ethier, Tom AFF:EX

Subject: RE: Follow-Up Discussion re: Mink Farms in BC

EXTERNAL SENDER. If you suspect this message is malicious, please forward to spam@phsa.ca and **do not** open attachments or click on links.

Hello Dr Clair,

Following the April 1st meeting with Dr Henry, An action from that meeting was that the risk assessment on mink farms was to be updated to reflect new information and a revised health risk assessment.

Curious as to the timing of the production of this updated risk assessment or even a preliminary risk assessment statement from Health?

AFF is assessing policy options for this sector and the health risk assessment is a significant factor in determining the policy options.

Thank you

Jennifer McGuire, P.Ag.

Assistant Deputy Minister, Science Policy and Inspections Division

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

Ph: 778-698-8521 Cell: 250-361-5944

From: Clair, Veronica [BCCDC] <veronic.clair@bccdc.ca>

Sent: March 17, 2021 11:23 AM

To: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Kristianson, Eric PREM:EX <Eric.Kristianson@gov.bc.ca>; Godfrey, Sam AFF:EX <Sam.Godfrey@gov.bc.ca>; Gunvaldsen, Rayna AFF:EX <Rayna.Gunvaldsen@gov.bc.ca>; Ethier, Tom AFF:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>; McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>; XT:HLTH Brodtkin, Elizabeth <elizabeth.brodtkin@fraserhealth.ca>;

Viney, Ursula E AFF:EX <Ursula.Viney@gov.bc.ca>; Newhouse, Emily [FH] <Emily.Newhouse@fraserhealth.ca>

Subject: RE: Follow-Up Discussion re: Mink Farms in BC

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hi Bonnie,

We had a productive call today, thanks to all who participated. We hope the cabinet presentation went well.

I have drafted a brief summary of some aspects discussed, pasted below, especially as it relates to your questions on vaccine and some PH updates (if I did not capture those particular items properly, I hope those who participate will adjust the draft). I am available, at your convenience, if you want to discuss further, 604-369-0731.

The group would like to proceed with a follow-up call, including the whole group, before the end of the week.

BC CDC and FHA would like a follow-up call with you after the larger group call.

Is it possible for the PHO's office to schedule and participate in those calls in that timeframe?

Best,

Veronic

Dr. Veronic Clair, MD, MSc, CCFP, FRCPC, PhD

Physician Epidemiologist

BC Centre for Disease Control

veronic.clair@bccdc.ca

I respectfully acknowledge that I live and work on the unceded territory of the x̱məθkwəy̓əm, Skwxwú7mesh, Stó:lō and Səlilwətaʔ/Selilwitulh Nations.

Draft summary

Vaccine

- Vaccinating tens of thousands of mink is done in the industry for other diseases. Vaccine producers are usually conscious of the cost mink producers are able to bear, when pricing their products.
- Cost of vaccines, considering the value of the mink product per mink, the potential for small to large mink mortality with infection, and the difficulty of processing skins from an infected herd, renders the cost benefit ratio different than for other diseases/animals, for example e.coli vaccines for cattle's.
- Normally vaccines in animal need to demonstrate efficacy to be approved, likely from RCTs. Approval might not be sought in Canada, but if approved in another jurisdiction, Canadian farmers could request access under an emergency import permit.
- Dr. Gunvaldsen will explore how to proceed further with seeking more information about the vaccine. This is a delicate task and it might not be feasible to get more information in the very short term.

Other updates

- FHA recently provided clarification of PH requirements to the operators. In domains where alternatives are seen as feasible by public health, operators need to submit alternate procedures seeking to achieve similar results to initial public health recommendation.
- FHA reported encouraging inspections recently and expression from the industry that they understand the risk and will follow PH requirements.
- Mink workers will be eligible for vaccine, FHA will organize.
- Environmental samplings to detect an infected herd earlier than via mortality testing could be considered, effectiveness and timeline for implementation remains uncertain. BC CDC to explore further.

Various attendant will seek more information to report during the next call.

From: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX [<mailto:Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>]

Sent: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 9:18 AM

To: Gunvaldsen, Rayna AFF:EX; Ethier, Tom AFF:EX; McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX; Brodtkin, Elizabeth Dr. [FH]; Viney, Ursula E AFF:EX; Newhouse, Emily [FH]; Clair, Veronic [BCCDC]

Cc: Kristianson, Eric PREM:EX; Godfrey, Sam AFF:EX

Subject: RE: Follow-Up Discussion re: Mink Farms in BC

Good morning,

Unfortunately I have to present to cabinet this am at 930 so will miss the call but please go ahead and have the discussion and I will follow up after. I do have some thought about mink vaccines:

1. Assuming they are available soon and efficacious. How expensive are they likely to be?
2. What is the probability producers will pay for them when the mink are a disposable commodity (to be blunt) and don't get that sick and the mink would need to be immunized with each successive generation . This is from experience with vaccines for E. coli in cattle where producers have resisted using them because of cost and the fact that cattle don't get sick with E. coli so it is not a production issue.

My best,

Bonnie

Dr Bonnie Henry

Provincial Health Officer

Office of the PHO

Ministry of Health

4th floor, 1515 Blanshard St

Mailing address: PO Box 9648, STN PROV GOVT

Victoria, BC

V8W 9P4

Bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca

Phone: 250 952-1330

I gratefully acknowledge that I live and work on the traditional unceded territory of the Lekwungen Peoples, specifically the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations. Hay'sxw'qu Si'em

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-----Original Appointment-----

From: Halicki, Ashley HLTH:EX **On Behalf Of** Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX

Sent: March 16, 2021 10:03 AM

To: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX; Gunvaldsen, Rayna AFF:EX; Ethier, Tom AFF:EX; McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX; XT:HLTH Brodtkin, Elizabeth; Viney, Ursula E AFF:EX; 'emily.newhouse@fraserhealth.ca'; 'veronic.clair@bccdc.ca'

Cc: Kristianson, Eric PREM:EX; Godfrey, Sam AFF:EX

Subject: Follow-Up Discussion re: Mink Farms in BC

When: March 17, 2021 9:30 AM-10:30 AM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada).

Where: Dial in: 1-877-353-9184 | Conf ID: **s.15** | Moderator: Bonnie **s.15**

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s.13 ; s.14

From: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: March 8, 2021 8:13 PM

To: Anderson, Arlene AFF:EX <Arlene.Anderson@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: FW: Final draft for review ASAP re: Questions for CDC and PHO re: human health risk related to mink farms dur to COVID-19

Hi,

Can you pls review this note? Pls advice if this is accurate and FLNR has ability to regulate this sector. Pls confirm with Geneva that this proposal is accurate.

Thanks

Jennifer

From: Ethier, Tom AFF:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: March 8, 2021 1:54 PM

To: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: FW: Final draft for review ASAP re: Questions for CDC and PHO re: human health risk related to mink farms dur to COVID-19

Can you have a look at the note attached. When you have time. Thx.

From: Godfrey, Sam AFF:EX <Sam.Godfrey@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: March 8, 2021 12:45 PM

To: Ethier, Tom AFF:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: Final draft for review ASAP re: Questions for CDC and PHO re: human health risk related to mink farms dur to COVID-19

Thanks.

s.13; s.17

Coincidentally I was working a new draft note, for your consideration, attached.

Sam Godfrey

Senior Ministerial Advisor to the Honourable Lana Popham
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries. British Columbia
Mobile: 250 208 1359 | Office: 250 387 1023
Rm 327, Parliament Buildings,
501 Belleville St., Victoria, BC, CAN, V8W 1X4

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From: Ethier, Tom AFF:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: March 8, 2021 11:37 AM

To: Godfrey, Sam AFF:EX <Sam.Godfrey@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: FW: Final draft for review ASAP re: Questions for CDC and PHO re: human health risk related to mink farms dur to COVID-19

Importance: High

FYI – important development.

From: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: March 8, 2021 10:47 AM

To: Gunvaldsen, Rayna AFF:EX <Rayna.Gunvaldsen@gov.bc.ca>; Ethier, Tom AFF:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: XT:HLTH Brodtkin, Elizabeth <elizabeth.brodtkin@fraserhealth.ca>; 'Newhouse, Emily [FH]'

<Emily.Newhouse@fraserhealth.ca>; Clair, Veronic [BCCDC] <veronic.clair@bccdc.ca>; Thompson, Laurel HLTH:EX <Laurel.Thompson@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: Final draft for review ASAP re: Questions for CDC and PHO re: human health risk related to mink farms dur to COVID-19

Importance: High

Hello Rayna and Tom,

We have had increasing concerns about biosecurity on the mink farms in BC (Please see the note below that outlines some of the issues) and had a call this weekend to review options from a public health perspective. Our assessment is that the risk longer term has increased and we need to determine what the options are for the future.

Could we please find an hour to have a discussion with you about our concerns and options this week. I have copied Laurel to work with your staff to find a time for those copied here and anyone else you would like to attend.

My best,

Bonnie

Dr Bonnie Henry
Provincial Health Officer
Office of the PHO
Ministry of Health
4th floor, 1515 Blanshard St
Mailing address: PO Box 9648, STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC
V8W 9P4
Bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca

Phone: 250 952-1330

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From: Newhouse, Emily [FH]
Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2021 10:41 AM
To: Henry, Bonnie [EXT]; Clair, Veronic [BCCDC]
Cc: Brodtkin, Elizabeth Dr. [FH]
Subject: RE: Final draft for review ASAP re: Questions for CDC and PHO re: human health risk related to mink farms dur to COVID-19

Hi Bonnie,

I will share with you a summary I have been drafting – I think Elizabeth has already given you some of the content. Apologies for its length, but I would like you to have the full picture.

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s.13

We will have an opportunity to discuss at the Onehealth meeting today.

Regards,
Emily

Emily Newhouse, MD, MPH, FRCPC
Medical Health Officer
Fraser Health

Administrative assistant:
Christy Burkett
Ph: 604-930-5405, ext 765638
christy.burkett@fraserhealth.ca

From: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Monday, March 01, 2021 4:51 PM
To: Clair, Veronic [BCCDC] <veronic.clair@bccdc.ca>
Cc: Newhouse, Emily [FH] <Emily.Newhouse@fraserhealth.ca>
Subject: RE: Final draft for review ASAP re: Questions for CDC and PHO re: human health risk related to mink farms dur to COVID-19

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I am sorry Veronic, just been so flooded and I assumed this had gone. But yes, please do send and Emily I heard from Elizabeth that you were having increasing concerns. The document I sent had options for increased safety etc. but I do believe the time is now for a fulsome discussion with MAFF about options. Emily I would appreciate your thoughts.

My best,
Bonnie

*Dr Bonnie Henry
Provincial Health Officer
Office of the PHO
Ministry of Health
4th floor, 1515 Blanshard St
Mailing address: PO Box 9648, STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC
V8W 9P4
Bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca*

Phone: 250 952-1330

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From: Clair, Veronic [BCCDC] <veronic.clair@bccdc.ca>
Sent: March 1, 2021 4:42 PM
To: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Newhouse, Emily [FH] <Emily.Newhouse@fraserhealth.ca>
Subject: RE: Final draft for review ASAP re: Questions for CDC and PHO re: human health risk related to mink farms dur to COVID-19

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Hi Bonnie,

You had not provided an answer as to releasing that document to MAFF, so it was not sent to them.

I had not heard from FH a discussion to phase out the industry.

I am aware of new cases on mink farm workers, but not workers that interacted with minks and no mink with sign of infection and no SARS-CoV-2 found in mink submitted for samples as of late last week.

I am adding Emily, as she is the one who most worked on those answers and is most involved with managing the risk on the ground with the mink farms. She is usually off on Mondays.

Should we wait until we have the discussion you asked Alex to setup before making further decisions on that document?

Or do you want me to send it as a document accurate as of the date I send it to you, with potential revision as the situation evolves?

Best,

Veronic

Dr. Veronic Clair, MD, MSc, CCFP, FRCPC, PhD
Physician Epidemiologist
BC Centre for Disease Control
veronic.clair@bccdc.ca

I respectfully acknowledge that I live and work on the unceded territory of the x^wməθkwəyəm, Skwxwú7mesh, Stó:lō and Səlilwətaʔ/Selilwitulh Nations.

From: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX [mailto:Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca]
Sent: Monday, March 01, 2021 4:22 PM
To: Clair, Veronic [BCCDC]
Subject: FW: Final draft for review ASAP re: Questions for CDC and PHO re: human health risk related to mink farms dur to COVID-19

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Forgive me but did I reply to you on this? I hope I did and that this has been sent. FH has indicated things are escalating and we have an opportunity to discuss with ^{s.13}

s.13

I copied you on a not about that just now.

Thanks!
Bonnie

Dr Bonnie Henry
Provincial Health Officer
Office of the PHO
Ministry of Health
4th floor, 1515 Blanshard St
Mailing address: PO Box 9648, STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC
V8W 9P4
Bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca

Phone: 250 952-1330

I gratefully acknowledge that I live and work on the traditional unceded territory of the Lekwungen Peoples, specifically the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations. Hay'sxw'qu Si'em

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From: Clair, Veronic [BCCDC] <veronic.clair@bccdc.ca>
Sent: February 12, 2021 1:13 PM
To: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Final draft for review ASAP re: Questions for CDC and PHO re: human health risk related to mink farms dur to COVID-19

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Hi Bonnie,

Here is the document with the draft answers.

Thanks

Veronic

From: Clair, Veronic [BCCDC]
Sent: Monday, February 8, 2021 2:14 PM
To: Henry, Bonnie [EXT] <bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Newhouse, Emily [FH] <Emily.Newhouse@fraserhealth.ca>; Sekirov, Inna [BCCDC] <inna.sekirov@bccdc.ca>
Subject: Final draft for review ASAP re: Questions for CDC and PHO re: human health risk related to mink farms dur to COVID-19

Hi Bonnie,

Please find attached the final draft of the answer to the Assistant Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (MAFF).
The original request for answer was to you and me. Let me know if you want to review or if I can send it as such to Jennifer.

When Jennifer asks below about the timeframe to return the document, I indicated early this week. I am not sure if you want to review the answer in details. The answers are now very comprehensive, as CFIA, and the members of all the BC agency part of the One Health working group on Mink and COVID have provided feedback. It is likely longer than what they wanted. The last feedback from FH was received Sunday from Emily, and is fully included, and so is the feedback from Inna from today.

The conclusion is: "Currently, the above multi-agency teams are working with the industry to implement ongoing human and mink viral surveillance as well as to enhance Covid-19 safety plans on farms. Once the above mitigation measures are well implemented, assuming continued cooperation of industry, we estimate the risk of a SARS-CoV-2 variant virus of concern arising at a mink farm, and then being transmitted back to a worker and onward to the general population or wildlife, in a way that would significantly threaten the health of the population, as low and acceptable; however, there is a significant degree of uncertainty."

The other questions touch on what are the pathways of concern for the risk, next steps we would like MAFF to take to minimize the risk, impact of the breeding season on the risk, concerns if the incidence of COVID cases was to increase substantially in the FH region, with what additional further risk reduction measure needed. Some of those topics have a few associated questions. All questions are highlighted in green (same as what was provided by the MAFF).

Thank you very much again for being our PHO and for all your work.
Best,

Veronic

Dr. Veronic Clair, MD, MSc, CCFP, FRCPC, PhD
Physician Epidemiologist
BC Centre for Disease Control
veronic.clair@bccdc.ca

I respectfully acknowledge that I live and work on the unceded territory of the xʷməθkwəy̓əm, Skwxwú7mesh, Stó:lō and Səlilwətaʔ/Selilwitulh Nations.

From: Clair, Veronic [BCCDC]
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2021 11:19 AM
To: 'McGuire, Jennifer AGRI:EX'; Henry, Bonnie [EXT]
Cc: Hryciuk, Lorie [EXT]; Anderson, Arlene AGRI:EX
Subject: RE: Questions for CDC and PHO re: human health risk related to mink farms dur to COVID-19

Hi,
BC CDC drafted an answer which was circulated early this week. Extensive feedback was obtained during a meeting on Tuesday involving most members of the One Health working group working on mink farms and COVID. Modifications based on the feedback received have been sent back to members for feedback. We are still awaiting further comments from the Fraser Health Authority who is using their public health legislative authority to manage the risk of mink farm on the ground at the moment.

I hope to receive all feedback and provide the document with the answers back to you early next week.

Best,

Veronic

Dr. Veronic Clair, MD, MSc, CCFP, FRCPC, PhD
Physician Epidemiologist
BC Centre for Disease Control
veronic.clair@bccdc.ca

I respectfully acknowledge that I live and work on the unceded territory of the xʷməθkwəy̓əm, Skwxwú7mesh, Stó:lō and Səlilwətaʔ/Selilwitulh Nations.

From: McGuire, Jennifer AGRI:EX [<mailto:Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2021 11:07 AM
To: Clair, Veronica [BCCDC]; Henry, Bonnie [EXT]
Cc: Hrycuik, Lorie [EXT]; Anderson, Arlene AGRI:EX
Subject: RE: Questions for CDC and PHO re: human health risk related to mink farms dur to COVID-19

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Hello Dr Henry and Dr Clair,

My minister office is interested in the mink farming risk to humans – and is seeking an opinion from health professionals. Your opinion is important to inform now urgent decisions regarding the mink farming sector. When can the ministry expect to receive a response?

Thank you

Jennifer McGuire, P.Ag.
Assistant Deputy Minister
Agriculture Science and Policy Division
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
Ph: 778-698-8521 Cell: 250-361-5944

From: McGuire, Jennifer AGRI:EX
Sent: January 31, 2021 7:42 PM
To: 'Clair, Veronica [BCCDC]' <veronic.clair@bccdc.ca>; Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Hrycuik, Lorie HLTH:EX <Lorie.Hrycuik@gov.bc.ca>; Anderson, Arlene AGRI:EX <Arlene.Anderson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Questions for CDC and PHO re: human health risk related to mink farms dur to COVID-19

Hello Dr. Clair

The Pathway Document was prepared by AGRI staff to for the purpose of organizing the information that had been provided to AGRI by CDC.

I understand the time demand and constraints.
Thank you for your attention as time permits.

Jennifer McGuire, P.Ag.
Assistant Deputy Minister
Agriculture Science and Policy Division
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
Ph: 778-698-8521 Cell: 250-361-5944

From: Clair, Veronica [BCCDC] <veronic.clair@bccdc.ca>
Sent: January 29, 2021 10:06 AM
To: McGuire, Jennifer AGRI:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>; Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Hrycuik, Lorie HLTH:EX <Lorie.Hrycuik@gov.bc.ca>; Anderson, Arlene AGRI:EX <Arlene.Anderson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: Questions for CDC and PHO re: human health risk related to mink farms dur to COVID-19

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Thank you for your email and involving us in this assessment.

The BC CDC works very closely with Fraser Health, WorkSafe and across several ministries, including the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries to manage the risks that might arise from an infected mink herd. I would qualify the current level of risk management as effective, and evolving as the situation and evidence evolves.

Answering the list of questions you provided will take some time, in order to ensure agreement across relevant health stakeholders, including the health authority managing more closely the situation with the farms on the ground.

Thank you for circulating the pathway document. I don't recall seeing this specific document before. Can you clarify where this document comes from and who contributed to filling it out?

Best,

Dr. Veronic Clair, MD, MSc, CCFP, FRCPC, PhD
Physician Epidemiologist
BC Centre for Disease Control
veronic.clair@bccdc.ca

From: McGuire, Jennifer AGRI:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: January 28, 2021 8:32 PM

To: Henry, Bonnie [EXT]; Clair, Veronic [BCCDC]

Cc: Hryciuk, Lorie [EXT]; Anderson, Arlene AGRI:EX

Subject: Questions for CDC and PHO re: human health risk related to mink farms due to COVID-19

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Dr. Bonnie Henry
Provincial Health Officer
Office of the PHO
Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca

and

Dr. Veronic Clair, MD, MSc, CCFP, FRCPC, PhD
Physician Epidemiologist
BC Centre for Disease Control
veronic.clair@bccdc.ca

Hello Dr. Henry and Dr. Clair,

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries is currently assessing all options of risk of spread of COVID-19 in mink farming activities as well as seeking to understand where mitigation/actions should be taken to address unacceptable risk to human health (workers and community).

Please find attached a list of questions which we seeking to understand the PHO & CDC perspectives on the level of risk that mink farming activities pose to human health in light of COVID-19 and potential other infectious respiratory diseases (should they occur in the future). The questions are in the context of current, projected and future infectious respiratory diseases.

The mink farm herd population is currently at low (only breeding stock); within a weeks breeding season will begin and the herd size/mink population on the farms will then increase potentially 4 times by April/May. Ministry staff would appreciate discussing the questions with you should clarification be needed, at your earliest convenience. Your responses are important to inform the ministry review of this sector.

Thank-you for all that you are doing for the province of BC!

Thank you

Jennifer McGuire, P.Ag.
Assistant Deputy Minister
Agriculture Science and Policy Division
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
Ph: 778-698-8521 Cell: 250-361-5944

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APPENDIX A

Fur Farm Ban Legislation Jurisdictional Scan

The purpose of this table is to provide an overview of the varying international legislation regarding fur farms. In addition to the countries outline below, bans on fur farming also exist in Austria, Slovakia, Belgium, Luxembourg, Slovenia, the Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Czech Republic and Hungary, but substantive information on these laws was unable to be found. Legislation on fur farm bans are also being proposed in Bulgaria, Estonia, Lithuania, Montenegro, and Ukraine.

Full Ban Legislation		
Jurisdiction	Information	Info Links
United Kingdom	<p><u>Primary Instrument</u> <i>Fur Farming (Prohibition) Act</i> created in 2000</p> <p><u>Key Facts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibits “the keeping of animals solely or primarily for slaughter for the value of their fur” in England and Wales Allows for the creation of scheme to allow for compensation of individuals for losses as a result of ceasing business In 2002 the practice was prohibited in Scotland with the <i>Fur Farming (Prohibition) (Scotland) Act</i> and Northern Ireland with the Fur Farming (Prohibition) (Northern Ireland) Order The legislation still allows for the import of animal furs from other countries and the sales of some furs <p><u>Additional considerations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once the UK has officially left the EU, the country is considering a total ban on the sale of fur 	<p>Legislation: UK Act https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/33/contents</p> <p>Scotland Act https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2002/10/contents</p> <p>Northern Ireland Order https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisi/2002/3151/contents</p> <p>Other Info: https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/sep/25/uk-considering-outright-ban-on-fur-sales-after-brex</p>
Norway	<p><u>Primary Instrument</u> <i>Fur Farming Prohibition Act</i> created in 2018</p> <p><u>Key Facts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires all farms to be closed by February 2025 Allows for compensation to farmers for ceasing business <p><u>Additional considerations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Norway was once the world’s largest producer of fox pelts, with 20,000 farms in 1939 	<p>Other Info: https://dyrevern.no/dyrevern/breaking-news-norway-bans-fur-farming/</p> <p>https://www.reuters.com/article/us-norway-fur-idUSKBN1F426E</p>
California	<p><u>Primary Instrument</u> Assembly Bill 44, which amended the <i>Fish and Game Code</i></p> <p><u>Key Facts</u></p>	<p>Legislation: https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billTextCli</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bill comes into effect January 2023 Bans the sale and manufacturing of fur products in the state Used fur, fur products used for specified purposes, and any activity expressly authorized by federal law are exempt from the bill Allows for fines of up to \$1,000 for repeated violations <p><u>Additional considerations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statewide ban follows bans of fur sales in Los Angeles and San Francisco 	ent.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB44 Other Info: https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/oct/13/fur-ban-california-outlaws-making-and-selling-new-products
The Netherlands	<p><u>Primary Instrument</u> <i>Fur Farming Prohibition Act</i> created in 2013</p> <p><u>Key Facts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Banned mink farming with a transition period to phase out farms by 2024 Allows for compensation to farmers for ceasing business Following a COVID-19 outbreak at more than 40 farms, the phase out timeline was brought up to March 2021 Minks at the COVID-19 affected farms were culled in the interest of public health Farmers at the farms unaffected by COVID-19 could slaughter their mink in 2020, but are not allowed to re-stock <p><u>Additional considerations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Netherlands is the European Union's second largest mink producer Fox and chinchilla fur farming was phased out in the country in the mid-1990s 	Other Info: https://nos.nl/artikel/2345662-kabinet-maakt-eind-aan-nertsenfokkerij-alle-bedrijven-volgend-jaar-dicht.html https://www.hsi.org/new-s-media/dutch-mink-fur-farms-to-be-permanently-closed/
Croatia	<p><u>Primary Instrument</u> <i>Animal Protection Act</i></p> <p><u>Key Facts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislation initially introduced in 2007 and came into effect in 2017 Provided a ten-year phase out period for existing fur farms prior to full adoption Prohibits the farming and breeding of animals for fur production purposes 	Legislation: http://www.mvep.hr/files/file/dokumenti/prevode/nje/zakoni/25-Zakon-o-za%C5%A1titi-%C5%BEivotinja--NN-102-17-ENG.pdf
Bans as an effect of other legislation		
Japan	<p><u>Primary Instrument</u> <i>Invasive Alien Species Act</i> created in 2005</p>	Legislation: https://www.env.go.jp/en/nature/as.html

	<p><u>Key Facts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bans actions of raising, planting, storing, carrying or importing invasive alien species The American Mink is considered an invasive alien species under the Act, effectively making their farming illegal <p><u>Additional considerations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mink farms built prior to 2006 could continue operation The singular mink farm existing in Japan ceased operation in 2015 after years of animal welfare issues 	<p>Other Info:</p> <p>https://www.furfreealliance.com/japan-makes-end-fur-farming/</p>
Germany	<p><u>Primary Instrument</u></p> <p><i>Animal Products Trade Prohibition Act</i> created in 2017</p> <p><u>Key Facts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires strict requirements for keeping animals, such as increased cage sizes and swimming basins for mink Farms permitted to keep operating without adapting to new legislation until 2022 <p><u>Additional considerations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The stricter welfare requirements made fur farming unprofitable The last fur farm in the country closed in 2019 	<p>Legislation:</p> <p>http://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/khfeverbg/BJNR239400008.html#BJNR239400008BJNG000300124</p> <p>Other Info:</p> <p>https://www.tagesspiegel.de/gesellschaft/panorama/pelze-in-der-letzten-deutschen-nerzfarm-sind-keine-tiere-mehr/24151900.html</p>
Sweden	<p><u>Primary Instrument</u></p> <p><i>Animal Welfare Act</i> created in 1988 and amended in 2018</p> <p><u>Key Facts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires animals to be able to “perform behaviours for which they are strongly motivated for and that are important for their well-being (natural behaviour)” <p><u>Additional considerations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction of the legislation instituted stricter requirements on the keeping of fur animals Required foxes to only be kept in such a way that they can be active, dig and socialize with other foxes New requirements rendered fox farming economically unsustainable in the country, closing all farms in 2001 Mink farms are still allowed under the legislation 	<p>Legislation:</p> <p>https://www.government.se/494b85/contentassets/9f6a4e0fb1704a0ba72531b63811ac22/animal-welfare-act-sfs-2018-1192-12-mars-2020.pdf</p> <p>Other Info:</p> <p>https://www.djurensratt.se/blogg/decline-swedish-fur-industry#:~:text=Fur%20farming%20came%20to%20Sweden,2%20million%20pelts%20a%20year.</p>
Bans promised or currently being debated		
France	<p><u>Key Facts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planned ban introduced in a speech September 29, 2020 by Minister of Environmental Transition Barbara Pompili 	<p>https://www.lob.gov/law/foreign-news/article/france-french-government-</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No new farms will be authorized, and all existing farms must close by 2025 <p><u>Additional considerations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not impact the orylog rabbit fur industry 	announces-ban-on-wild-animal-performances-and-mink-farming/ https://www.reuters.com/article/us-france-animals-circus-idUSKBN26K24V
Poland	<p><u>Key Facts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planned ban introduced in September 2020 Closure of all existing farms within a year of the ban passing Ban would impact 700 of the 810 fur farms in Poland Currently, no compensation for farmers referenced in the bill 	https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/sep/29/film-showing-cannibalism-prompts-probable-ban-on-fur-farms-in-poland
Ireland	<p><u>Key Facts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phased removal of all fur farms in the country (three in operation currently) <p><u>Additional considerations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibition of Fur Farming Bill 2018 put forward in government and got to the first stage of the legislative process, but was not passed any further due to dissolution of the government The Department of Agriculture has pre-emptively called for a cull of all mink in the country and required farms to stop breeding immediately in response to COVID-19 Farmers will receive compensation in the short term as a result of the cull, with a wider compensation package likely in future 	https://www.thejournal.ie/future-of-fur-mink-farming-ireland-5271940-Nov2020/ https://www.politico.eu/article/ireland-signals-likely-end-to-fur-farming-with-cull-of-120000-mink/ https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/28e8c1-government-approves-phasing-out-of-fur-farming/?referrer=http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/press/pressreleases/2019/june/title,128816,en.html

ⁱ <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-03218-z>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-03218-z>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-54818615>

^{iv} Jed Goodfellow, 'Regulatory Capture and the Welfare of Farm Animals in Australia' in Steven White and Deborah Cao (eds) *Animal Law and Welfare: International Perspectives*, Springer (2016), pg 209

^v <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/mink-farming-canada-agristability-boom-bust-1.5495165>

^{vi} <https://www.bbc.com/news/business-55017666>

^{vii} Grandin, Temple, 'Mental Well-Being in Farm Animals: How They Think and Feel' in Franklin D McMillan, DVM, (editor). *Mental Health and Well-Being in Animals*. Blackwell Publishing, 2005.

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