

CKNW: Fur farm phaseout

From: tno@gov.bc.ca, Today's News Online GCPE:EX <TNO@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: September 14, 2021 10:20:45 AM PDT

CKNW (Vancouver)

2021-09-14 10:00

Copyright

TNO...

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CKNW: Hoax press release re fur farm phaseout

From: tno@gov.bc.ca, Today's News Online GCPE:EX <TNO@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: September 14, 2021 10:51:53 AM PDT

CKNW (Vancouver)

News 1130

2021-09-14 10:30

Copyright

TNO...

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CHNL: Hoax press release re fur farms

From: tno@gov.bc.ca, Today's News Online GCPE:EX <TNO@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: September 14, 2021 1:16:16 PM PDT

CHNL (Kamloops)

CHNL Brett Mineer

2021-09-14 12:23

Copyright

[TNO...](#)

[Request Transcript...](#)

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RE: Request for Investigation into Fake Press Release

From: Ethier, Tom AFF:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>
To: Sundhu, Ellora AFF:EX <Ellora.Sundhu@gov.bc.ca>, Godfrey, Sam AFF:EX <Sam.Godfrey@gov.bc.ca>, Godfrey, Samuel PSSG:EX <Samuel.Godfrey@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Evers, Charlene AFF:EX <Charlene.Evers@gov.bc.ca>, Rayner, Jena AFF:EX <Jena.Rayner@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 16, 2021 1:14:35 PM PDT
Attachments: image001.jpg

Thanks Ellora – yes to a DM response. Cheers.

From: Sundhu, Ellora AFF:EX <Ellora.Sundhu@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 16, 2021 11:36 AM
To: Ethier, Tom AFF:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>; Godfrey, Sam AFF:EX <Sam.Godfrey@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Evers, Charlene AFF:EX <Charlene.Evers@gov.bc.ca>; Rayner, Jena AFF:EX <Jena.Rayner@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Request for Investigation into Fake Press Release
Hi Tom,
Can you please advise if this should be a Min reply or a DM reply?
Thanks,
Ellora

From: s.79 <canadamink@outlook.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 11:06 AM
To: Minister, AFF AFF:EX <AFF.Minister@gov.bc.ca>; Popham.MLA, Lana LASS:EX <Lana.Popham.MLA@leg.bc.ca>; Todosichuk, Ardice AFF:EX <Ardice.Todosichuk@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: s.79 <s.79>
s.22
Subject: Request for Investigation into Fake Press Release

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

Good morning Minister Popham
On behalf of the Canada Mink Breeders Association, the BC Mink Producers' Association and the International Fur Trade Federation please find attached a letter outlining their concerns regarding yesterday's fake news release.
We look forward to hearing from you.

s.79



Canada Mink Breeders Association
PO Box 68
Arcadia, NS B0W 1B0
P: 416-675-9400
E: canadamink@outlook.com

September 15, 2021

Honourable Lana Popham
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
PO Box 9043, STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, British Columbia
V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Popham:

We are writing on behalf of the Canada Mink Breeders Association, the BC Mink Producers' Association and the International Fur Trade Federation.

Yesterday, a fake news release, attributed to the Provincial Government, was issued to confuse the citizens of British Columbia about the current status of mink farming in British Columbia.

The fake press release was also issued in a clear attempt to cause economic harm to British Columbia's mink farmers—a legal and valued part of the British Columbia agriculture sector. Fake news and misinformation are a scourge in a democratic society and the British Columbia mink farmers are calling on the government to demand a full scale RCMP investigation into this hoax.

The government of British Columbia must protect the Mink Farmers, their Families and the citizens of British Columbia from such extreme and harmful activities.

The British Columbia mink industry looks forward to working with the Provincial Government to ensure a safe and viable mink industry.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely

s.79

Canada Mink Breeders
Association



BC Mink Producers'
Association



BC Mink Producers Association
(B.C.M.P.A.)

Americas
Region
International Fur Trade
Federation



CC: Ardice Todosichuk



[DATE SIGNED]

File: 0280-30
Ref: 196097

s.79

Canada Mink Breeders Association
Email: s.79

s.79

BC Mink Producers' Association
Email: s.79

s.79

Americas Region
International Fur Trade Federation
Email: s.79

Dear s.79

Thank you for your letter dated September 15, 2021, on behalf of the Canada Mink Breeders Association, the B.C. Mink Producers' Association, and the International Fur Trade Federation, regarding the fake government news release on September 14, 2021. I appreciate the willingness of your agencies, and the British Columbia (B.C.) mink producers, to continue to work and cooperate with the Ministry.

The Ministry takes this false release very seriously. As soon as we became aware of the release, we issued a correcting statement to the press and on the Ministry website. If you believe the release caused economic harm to B.C. mink producers, I recommend your organizations seek outside legal advice.

Additionally, the Ministry continues to work on strengthening policy to deter and punish illegal actions taken by extreme animal activists. The Ministry supports B.C. farmers and ranchers and denounces illegal actions taken by extreme animal activists.

.../2

- 2 -

Thank you again for taking the time to write and share your concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ethier', written in a cursive style.

...for
Tom Ethier
Deputy Minister

cc: s.79
canadamink@outlook.com
s.79

Canada Mink Breeders Association

From: [Smith, George PREM:EX](#)
To: [Godfrey, Sam AFF:EX](#)
Cc: [Boelens, Robert GCPE:EX](#); [Townsend, Dave H GCPE:EX](#); [Brandt, Alissa GCPE:EX](#); [Ethier, Tom AFF:EX](#)
Subject: Re: FOR RELEASE: Lana Popham announces permanent, five-month phase out process for BC fur farms - Statement -
Date: September 14, 2021 10:05:06 AM

The Sun will be writing a story about the hoax.

On Sep 14, 2021, at 9:56 AM, Godfrey, Sam AFF:EX
<Sam.Godfrey@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Van Sun story is down.

Sam Godfrey

Senior 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

I respectfully acknowledge this Office is situated on the traditional territory of the Esquimalt and Songhees First Nations.

Pursuant to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, do not disclose the contents of this message or any attachment(s) without prior written consent from the sender. If you are not the intended recipient please notify the sender by reply email, and fully delete.

From: Boelens, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Boelens@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: September 14, 2021 9:26 AM

To: Godfrey, Sam AFF:EX <Sam.Godfrey@gov.bc.ca>; Townsend, Dave H GCPE:EX <Dave.H.Townsend@gov.bc.ca>; Smith, George PREM:EX <George.Smith@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Brandt, Alissa GCPE:EX <Alissa.Brandt@gov.bc.ca>; Ethier, Tom AFF:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: FOR RELEASE: Lana Popham announces permanent, five-month phase out process for BC fur farms - Statement

We're getting a few media / stakeholder calls on the fake release, and it may be worth issuing a short statement from MLP or the Ministry that could read something like the below. I'd suggest keeping it brief and focussing on the current govt status. Let me know yr thoughts or if you would like us to proceed pls

STATEMENT

VICTORIA – Minister of Agriculture Lana Popham / The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries has issued the following statement on the current status of mink farming in British Columbia:

In July 2021, the provincial health officer placed a moratorium on any new mink farms in B.C. and capped existing mink farms at their current numbers. The B.C. government continues enhanced surveillance to monitor, inspect and mitigate SARS-CoV-2 infections in mink farms in the province to protect the public, farm workers and animal health, as a provincial review of the mink farming sector in B.C. continues.

From: Boelens, Robert GCPE:EX

Sent: September 14, 2021 9:11 AM

To: Godfrey, Sam AFF:EX <Sam.Godfrey@gov.bc.ca>; Cotton, Brian GCPE:EX

<Brian.Cotton@gov.bc.ca>; Townsend, Dave H GCPE:EX

<Dave.H.Townsend@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: FOR RELEASE: Lana Popham announces permanent, five-month phase out process for BC fur farms - SM post

See suggested post below / could also be expanded into a statement if needed

For the record on mink farming in BC: There's a moratorium on new or expansion of mink farms. Enhanced surveillance to monitor, inspect and mitigate SARS-CoV-2 infections in mink farms in the province continues, and a review of the mink farming sector in BC is ongoing

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<Robert.Boelens@gov.bc.ca>; Townsend, Dave H GCPE:EX

<Dave.H.Townsend@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Fwd: FOR RELEASE: Lana Popham announces permanent, five-month phase out process for BC fur farms

Urgent - hoax. Pls correct with media.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Smith, George PREM:EX" <George.Smith@gov.bc.ca>

Date: September 14, 2021 at 8:55:18 AM PDT

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

Subject: Fwd: FOR RELEASE: Lana Popham announces permanent, five-month phase out process for BC fur farms

George Smith (he/him)

Communications Director

Office of the Premier | Government of BC

Begin forwarded message:

From: Rob Shaw <rshaw@cheknews.ca>
Date: September 14, 2021 at 8:43:28 AM PDT
To: "Smith, George PREM:EX" <George.Smith@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: **Fwd: FOR RELEASE: Lana Popham announces permanent, five-month phase out process for BC fur farms**

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Is this a real press release? The email address @govbcc.ca is weird and the press release format is weird and the PDF looks weird and I'm half wondering if it's a hoax or something?
Subject seems real though.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Dave Townsend** <dave.h.townsend@govbcc.ca>
Date: Tue, Sep 14, 2021 at 8:40 AM
Subject: FOR RELEASE: Lana Popham announces permanent, five-month phase out process for BC fur farms
To: Dave Townsend <dave.h.townsend@govbcc.ca>

Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Lana Popham announces permanent, five-month phase out process for fur farms across British Columbia

From: Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

News Release

September 14, 2021- Victoria, BC – Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

Today, the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Lana Popham, announced that the Ministry of Agriculture will be permanently phasing out fur farms across British Columbia, by way of a five-month, multi-step process.

Given the unique circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, and citing concerns around several outbreaks on fur farms, the Ministry of Agriculture will be closing down all existing fur farms, primarily in response to the fourth wave of COVID-19 surging throughout British Columbia.

Fur farms currently operating will be offered financial support through the AgriStability fund, to aid them in their transition from the fur industry into another agriculture sector that is financially viable for British Columbia communities, families and economy.

The Ministry of Agriculture continues to stand with farm families during this difficult time and is taking concrete action to respond.

Quotes

"Today's announcement will create safer communities for our farmers across BC, safeguard them amidst the trials and tribulations of the COVID-19 pandemic, and support them in transitioning to other industries. We are united in our goal of ensuring that farmers are fully supported through the COVID-19 pandemic. Whilst we acknowledge this will be a challenging transition, we are confident that it is the best decision to create a safer province for all members of the public, and safeguard our unified goal in moving out of the COVID-19 pandemic."

- BC Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries: Lana Popham

Contacts

David Townsend

Public Affairs Officer, Agriculture Communications
Office

Dave.H.Townsend@gov.bc.ca

— — —
David Townsend
Public Affairs Officer
Agriculture Communications Office
Dave.H.Townsend@gov.bc.ca
250-387-9105

From: [Godfrey, Sam AFF:EX](#)
To: [Boelens, Robert GCPE:EX](#); [Townsend, Dave H GCPE:EX](#); [Smith, George PREM:EX](#)
Cc: [Brandt, Alissa GCPE:EX](#); [Ethier, Tom AFF:EX](#)
Subject: RE: FOR RELEASE: Lana Popham announces permanent, five-month phase out process for BC fur farms - Statement.
Date: September 14, 2021 9:56:02 AM

Van Sun story is down.

Sam Godfrey

Senior 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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George Smith (he/him)
Communications Director
Office of the Premier | Government of BC
British Columbia Parliament Buildings | [250-208-6794](tel:250-208-6794)

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Subject: FOR RELEASE: Lana Popham announces permanent, five-month phase out process for BC fur farms

To: Dave Townsend <dave.h.townsend@govbcc.ca>

**Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Lana Popham
announces permanent, five-month phase out process for fur farms
across British Columbia**

From: Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

News Release

September 14, 2021- Victoria, BC – Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

Today, the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Lana Popham, announced that the Ministry of Agriculture will be permanently phasing out fur farms across British Columbia, by way of a five-month, multi-step process.

Given the unique circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, and citing concerns around several outbreaks on fur farms, the Ministry of Agriculture will be closing down all existing fur farms, primarily in response to the fourth wave of COVID-19 surging throughout British Columbia.

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- BC Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries: Lana Popham

Contacts

David Townsend

Public Affairs Officer, Agriculture Communications Office

Dave.H.Townsend@gov.bc.ca

David Townsend
Public Affairs Officer
Agriculture Communications Office
Dave.H.Townsend@gov.bc.ca
250-387-9105

From: Dale, Alec R AFF:EX
To: Ethier, Tom AFF:EX; McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX
Subject: RE: FOR RELEASE: Lana Popham announces permanent, five-month phase out process for BC fur farms - Statement
Date: September 14, 2021 12:41:03 PM

I just spoke with Ardice on this and she will provide an update later this afternoon in conjunction with GCPE. Sounds like central GCPE is looking into this on legal aspects as well. As one might expect, industry reps are fuming over this and Ardice is connecting with them to let them know status (not details).

Do you need more from us on this or ok to let GCPE take the lead on it?

Bizarre!

AD

From: Ethier, Tom AFF:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 14, 2021 9:55 AM
To: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>; Dale, Alec R AFF:EX <Alec.Dale@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: FOR RELEASE: Lana Popham announces permanent, five-month phase out process for BC fur farms - Statement

From: Godfrey, Sam AFF:EX <Sam.Godfrey@gov.bc.ca>
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Subject: Re: FOR RELEASE: Lana Popham announces permanent, five-month phase out process for BC fur farms - Statement

Hi. The text itself is fine. Should we not tell media that a hoax release may have been sent to them? As context for the statement....

Sent from my iPhone

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Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Lana Popham announces permanent, five-month phase out process for fur farms across British Columbia

From: Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

News Release

September 14, 2021- Victoria, BC – Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

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- BC Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries: Lana Popham

Contacts

David Townsend

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