

## FW: Mink Farm Reporting Numbers

From: Todosichuk, Ardice AFF:EX <Ardice.Todosichuk@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Yawney, Lauren AFF:EX <Lauren.Yawney@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: October 5, 2021 7:55:20 AM PDT  
FYI

**From:** Choquette, Blair [FH] <Blair.Choquette@fraserhealth.ca>  
**Sent:** July 29, 2021 6:52 PM  
**To:** Emerson, Brian P HLTH:EX <Brian.Emerson@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Newhouse, Emily [FH] <Emily.Newhouse@fraserhealth.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Mink Farm Reporting Numbers

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

Hi Brian

Below is the information submitted to date. A couple of notes:

- Both s.3 numbers. I can follow-up with the operators for a break down based on location?
- s.3
- s.3
- s.3 – only two numbers provided. Number of Breeders ( not broken down into male/female) and Total Number.

Producer	Breeding Females Mink	Breeding Males Mink	Non-Breeding Mink	Total
s.3	13,800	3450	52,240	69,490
s.3				
s.3	19,750	4950	76,570	101,270
s.3				
Langley				
s.3	3800	950	22,150	26,900
Rd, Abbotsford				
s.3	4200	1050	24,150	29,400
Rd, Abbotsford				
s.3	1,800	450	10,500	12,800
Aldergrove				
s.3	5750* number not broken down into		24,790* number not provided by producer. Only total and number of breeders. FH to	30,540

Chilliwack.	Female/Male		confirm	
s.3	Not provided			Not provided
s.3	0	0	0	0
s.3	0	0	0	s.3

Blair

-----Original Message-----

From: Emerson, Brian P HLTH:EX <[Brian.Emerson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Brian.Emerson@gov.bc.ca)>

Sent: Thursday, July 29, 2021 2:52 PM

To: Choquette, Blair [FH] <[Blair.Choquette@fraserhealth.ca](mailto:Blair.Choquette@fraserhealth.ca)>

Cc: Newhouse, Emily [FH] <[Emily.Newhouse@fraserhealth.ca](mailto:Emily.Newhouse@fraserhealth.ca)>

Subject: Re: s.3

EXTERNAL SENDER. If you suspect this message is malicious, please forward to [spam@phsa.ca](mailto:spam@phsa.ca) and do not open attachments or click on links.

Thanks Blair.

Having you got a tracking summary of what has come in? I think I will need to send some reminders tomorrow.

Thanks again.

Brian

Dr. Brian P. Emerson, Deputy Provincial Health Officer (acting) BC Ministry of Health, PO Box 9648 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria<x-apple-data-detectors://17/0>, BC V8W 9P1

s.17; s.19

[brian.emerson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:brian.emerson@gov.bc.ca)<<mailto:brian.emerson@gov.bc.ca>>

On Jul 29, 2021, at 2:11 PM, Choquette, Blair [FH] <[Blair.Choquette@fraserhealth.ca](mailto:Blair.Choquette@fraserhealth.ca)> wrote:

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

FYI

Blair

Blair Choquette

Health Protection Manager

Environmental Health Services

Fraser Health

400 2777 Gladwin Rd,

Abbotsford, BC V2T 4V1

Tel: s.22

Fax: (604) 852-1558

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Thank you

-----Original Message-----

From: s.22

Sent: Thursday, July 29, 2021 12:25 PM

To: Choquette, Blair [FH] <Blair.Choquette@fraserhealth.ca>

Subject: On behalf of the MHO

EXTERNAL SENDER. If you suspect this message is malicious, please forward to [spam@phsa.ca](mailto:spam@phsa.ca) and do not open attachments or click on links.

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I currently have no live animals on my farm, I have still pelts to sell from previous years . I was told last year I couldn't repopulate my farm due to COVID restrictions and now these rules prevent me from continuing a livelihood this year as well. I , as well as the rest of the industry await some answers on our future sooner than later hopefully<sup>s.3</sup>  
s.3

Sent from my iPhone

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

## FW: PHO's final edits: AGRI mink farm products

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From: Renneberg, Tim AFF:EX <Tim.Renneberg@gov.bc.ca>  
To: MacLellan, Alyssa AFF:EX <Alyssa.MacLellan@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: November 5, 2021 9:13:43 AM PDT  
Attachments: SN\_Mink Policy Annt\_Nov 5\_FINAL.docx, QA Mink Farms Nov.5\_FINAL.docx, NR Mink Farms\_FINAL.docx

Tim Renneberg  
Senior Ministerial Advisor to  
the Honourable Lana Popham  
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries  
[tim.renneberg@gov.bc.ca](mailto:tim.renneberg@gov.bc.ca)  
250.387.1023

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**From:** Cotton, Brian GCPE:EX <Brian.Cotton@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** November 5, 2021 9:10 AM  
**To:** Renneberg, Tim AFF:EX <Tim.Renneberg@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Brandt, Alissa GCPE:EX <Alissa.Brandt@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: PHO's final edits: AGRI mink farm products  
Here they are with all Dr. Henry's edits included.

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**From:** Renneberg, Tim AFF:EX <[Tim.Renneberg@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Tim.Renneberg@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** November 5, 2021 9:07 AM  
**To:** Cotton, Brian GCPE:EX <[Brian.Cotton@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Brian.Cotton@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Brandt, Alissa GCPE:EX <[Alissa.Brandt@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Alissa.Brandt@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: PHO's final edits: AGRI mink farm products  
I guess I'd like to have it all together so I can make that final decision.  
Tim Renneberg  
Senior Ministerial Advisor to  
the Honourable Lana Popham  
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries  
[tim.renneberg@gov.bc.ca](mailto:tim.renneberg@gov.bc.ca)  
250.387.1023

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**From:** Cotton, Brian GCPE:EX <[Brian.Cotton@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Brian.Cotton@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** November 5, 2021 9:05 AM  
**To:** Renneberg, Tim AFF:EX <[Tim.Renneberg@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Tim.Renneberg@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Brandt, Alissa GCPE:EX <[Alissa.Brandt@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Alissa.Brandt@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Re: PHO's final edits: AGRI mink farm products  
Do you want that bullet as part of the final?

Thanks,  
Brian

On Nov 5, 2021, at 9:01 AM, Renneberg, Tim AFF:EX <[Tim.Renneberg@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Tim.Renneberg@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Can I get a final clean version of the materials?  
Tim Renneberg  
Senior Ministerial Advisor to  
the Honourable Lana Popham  
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries  
[tim.renneberg@gov.bc.ca](mailto:tim.renneberg@gov.bc.ca)  
250.387.1023

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**From:** Cotton, Brian GCPE:EX <[Brian.Cotton@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Brian.Cotton@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** November 4, 2021 7:44 PM  
**To:** Brandt, Alissa GCPE:EX <[Alissa.Brandt@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Alissa.Brandt@gov.bc.ca)>

**Cc:** Renneberg, Tim AFF:EX <[Tim.Renneberg@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Tim.Renneberg@gov.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: PHO's final edits: AGRI mink farm products

The main edit is the addition of the fifth bullet in this part (rest are negligible). We mention this in QA but I'd left it out of NR previously.

After further outreach and discussion with public health officials, animal health experts and mink producers about managing the threat of the virus, public health officials expressed concerns including:

s.13

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**From:** Brandt, Alissa GCPE:EX <[Alissa.Brandt@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Alissa.Brandt@gov.bc.ca)>

**Sent:** November 4, 2021 7:41 PM

**To:** Cotton, Brian GCPE:EX <[Brian.Cotton@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Brian.Cotton@gov.bc.ca)>

**Cc:** Renneberg, Tim AFF:EX <[Tim.Renneberg@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Tim.Renneberg@gov.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** Re: PHO's final edits: AGRI mink farm products

I can't see the track changes on my phone but I didn't notice anything significantly different when I read through. Will take another look tomorrow morning.

On Nov 4, 2021, at 19:38, Cotton, Brian GCPE:EX <[Brian.Cotton@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Brian.Cotton@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Last minute edits on NR and KMQA from DBH. They're tracked in NR and highlighted in QA. QA edits are fine but let me know if you're good with the NR ones.

---

**From:** Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX <[Tiffany.Nelson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Tiffany.Nelson@gov.bc.ca)>

**Sent:** November 4, 2021 7:30 PM

**To:** Cotton, Brian GCPE:EX <[Brian.Cotton@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Brian.Cotton@gov.bc.ca)>; Boelens, Robert GCPE:EX <[Robert.Boelens@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Robert.Boelens@gov.bc.ca)>

**Cc:** Thouli, Sabreena GCPE:EX <[Sabreena.Thouli@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Sabreena.Thouli@gov.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** PHO's final edits: AGRI mink farm products

**Importance:** High

Hi Brian – Dr. Henry has made a few final edits. They look good to me. Can you confirm you'll be accepting before I rush these through our Minister's approval?

Thank you!

Tiffany

250 858-4680

<QA Mink Farms Nov. 5\_2021\_430PMbh.docx>

<NR Mink Farms Nov D11bh.docx>



# SPEAKING NOTES FOR

**MINISTER LANA POPHAM**

Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

## **Mink Policy Update**

Press Theatre  
B.C. Legislature

**Friday, November 5, 2021**

Time: 12:30 p.m.

- Thank you everyone for joining us this afternoon on the traditional territory of the Lekwungen-speaking peoples of the Esquimalt and the Songhees nations.
- I'm joined by Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, today to provide an update on the future of mink farming in British Columbia....
- And to announce the B.C. government is beginning a process to phase out the province's mink farming industry due to ongoing public health risks associated with COVID-19.



- This decision follows the advice of public health officials, animal health experts and infectious disease experts about managing the threat of the virus for both workers at the farms and the broader public ...
- And follows a B.C. Centre for Disease Control Risk Assessment that advises COVID-19 variants in mink pose a risk to human health, which will continue in the years ahead.
- The process includes:
  - a permanent ban on breeding mink
  - a permanent ban on live mink on farms by April 2023

- and all operations ceasing completely, with all pelts sold by April 2025.
- We communicated that information to the nine mink farm operators in B.C. earlier today.
- We know this may be a challenging transition for the farmers, but it is a decision that is in the best interest of public health.
- Our government will work with affected farmers and workers to help them pursue other farming, business or job opportunities that support their families.

- The farmers will also be eligible for benefits through existing government-funded income-protection programs to assist them through the transition.
- The decision to phase out mink farming follows outreach, meetings and on-going discussion with public health officials and mink producers about managing the threat of the virus since the first outbreak at a B.C. mink farm last December.
- And follows the public health order, Dr. Henry issued in July, placing a moratorium on any new mink farms in B.C. and capping the amount of animals at existing numbers.

- Government has carefully considered this decision and consulted with the PHO and Fraser Health Authority to determine the health risks and the best path forward.
- And the decision to phase out mink farming is based on these public health risks and is recommended to keep British Columbians safe.
- With that in mind, I'd like to ask Dr. Henry to provide some information on the public health recommendations.
- And following that, both of us will be available for any questions you may have.
- Thank you.

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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
[release number]  
[Date]

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

### **Mink farming phase out planned in B.C.**

VICTORIA – The B.C. government is beginning a process to phase out the province's mink farming industry due to ongoing public health risks associated with COVID-19.

"This decision follows the recommendations of public health officials and infectious disease experts about managing the threat of the virus for workers at the farms and the broader public," said B.C. Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Lana Popham. "Our government will work with affected farmers and workers to help them pursue other farming, business or job opportunities that support their families."

The proposed phase out follows the conditions of the Public Health Officer order and includes:

- a permanent ban on breeding mink
- a permanent ban on live mink on farms by April 2023
- all operations ceasing completely, with all pelts sold by 2025.

The decision follows a report from the BC Centre for Disease Control which identified the potential for the SARS-CoV-2 virus to mutate in mink and be passed back to people, along with additional concerns that mutations could have an impact on vaccine effectiveness. In July 2021, after three of the nine B.C. mink farms had mink and two farms had workers test positive for SARS-CoV-2 during the previous months, the provincial health officer placed a moratorium on any new mink farms in B.C. and capped the number of animals (restricting the acquisition of additional mink) at existing numbers.

After further outreach and discussion with public health officials, animal health experts and mink producers about managing the threat of the virus, public health officials expressed concerns including:

- ongoing persistence of infected mink and workers at mink farms contracting SARS-CoV-2 from mink and transmitting on to broader human populations
- the presence of the highly transmissible Delta variant and the threat of it being introduced in mink farms, even from vaccinated people.
- potential transmission of SARS-CoV-2 from escaped mink to wild animals, which could also pose a risk to public health

- subsequent mutations of SARS-CoV-2 strains may lead to variants that can spread more easily or could undermine the effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccination program in British Columbia
- challenges with maintaining strict bio-security measures and monitoring programs over the longer term.

“Public health has been monitoring and managing outbreaks related to mink farming along with the Ministry of Agriculture and WorkSafeBC, but as this remains an ongoing public health issue, we believe the risk is too great for operations to continue as they were,” said Dr. Bonnie Henry, provincial health officer. “Public health supports government’s decision to take this action at this time, for the safety of the broader population.”

The transition period allows the nine operating mink farms in B.C. time to plan for the closure of their farms. During this time, Fraser Health, WorkSafeBC and the Province will continue to ensure biosecurity measures are in place to protect workers and families on the farms, as well as making sure each farm is taking all necessary precautions to reduce the risk of spreading SARS-CoV-2 through human-to-animal or animal-to-human transmission.

The B.C. government will work with farmers and workers to support them in transitioning to new agricultural jobs or to other trades or careers. The farmers will also be eligible for benefits through existing government-funded income-protection programs to assist them through the transition.

#### **Learn More:**

British Columbians are welcome to provide comments on the decision in writing to [FurFarmRegulation@gov.bc.ca](mailto:FurFarmRegulation@gov.bc.ca) by November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

For more information on the phase out, go to [https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/agriculture-and-seafood/covid-19/mink\\_farm\\_public\\_bulletin.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/agriculture-and-seafood/covid-19/mink_farm_public_bulletin.pdf)

Currently licensed fur farms will be able to receive support through [Agriculture income protection \(AgriStability\) - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)

#### **Contact:**

Dave Townsend  
Government Communications and Public Engagement  
Ministry of Agriculture  
250 356-7908

