

Re: Monthly update call - animal welfare topics AGRI and SPCA

From: Alison Cuffley <acuffley@spca.bc.ca>
To: North, Anna AGRI:EX <Anna.North@gov.bc.ca>, Anderson, Arlene AGRI:EX <Arlene.Anderson@gov.bc.ca>, Marcie Moriarty <mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca>
Sent: June 15, 2020 9:48:52 AM PDT

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Good morning,

We're fine to cancel this month's check in and touch base again at our July 16th meeting. The only item on our agenda was regarding the letter from our Farm Animal Welfare manager re: Mink farm COVID-19 risks, if you had any questions. Melissa is also preparing another letter about the on-farm slaughter licenses that were recently announced by the minister but I will forward that directly to you as well and am happy to follow up directly as needed.

Kind regards, Alison

Alison Cuffley
Officer, Government Relations
BC SPCA

1245 East 7th Avenue
Vancouver BC V5T 1R1
604.647.1321
1.855.622.7722

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From: North, Anna AGRI:EX <Anna.North@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: June 12, 2020 16:52

To: Anderson, Arlene AGRI:EX <Arlene.Anderson@gov.bc.ca>; Alison Cuffley <acuffley@spca.bc.ca>; Marcie Moriarty <mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca>

Subject: Monthly update call - animal welfare topics AGRI and SPCA

Hi all, I'll be away on holidays, please keep this call and dial in as needed, otherwise we can reschedule?

Anna North

A/Director, Policy, Ministry of Agriculture

545 Superior Street, 5th floor

Victoria, BC

Government of British Columbia

Email: Anna.North@gov.bc.ca

Ph: 778-698-7941

Cell 250-208-8007

Caution: This email originated from outside of the BC SPCA. Do not click links or attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Subject: Recommendations for government response to COVID-19 outbreak on B.C. mink farms

Purpose

This briefing note outlines implications of the recent human and animal outbreak of COVID-19 on a mink farm in British Columbia's Fraser Valley, and provides recommendations to control the spread of the disease to protect public and animal health, focusing on a moratorium on mink farming in the province.

Background

The BC mink industry is a small sector consisting of 13 operations providing \$4.7 million in annual value of pelts for exportⁱ. 2019 polling conducted by Research Co. found 85% of British Columbians are opposed to killing animals for fur (including 62% who are strongly opposed)ⁱⁱ, demonstrating pre-existing ethical concerns about a sector that does not contribute to the province's food security, a key priority of the Government of British Columbia.

Mink are permitted to be farmed in BC through exemptions to the *BC Wildlife Act's* prohibition on keeping of native wildlife. The mink farmed in BC are native species that are far-ranging, solitary, and semi-aquatic animals. In BC, mink are confined to small barren wire cages, tightly packed together in high densities on farms that are closely concentrated in the Fraser Valley.

The outbreak of COVID-19 on a mink farm in British Columbia was anticipated after the first reports from the Netherlands in April 2020ⁱⁱⁱ. As of December 3, 2020, eight countries: Denmark, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Italy, Greece, Lithuania, and the United States of America - have reported SARS-CoV-2 in farmed mink to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)^{iv}. In Denmark, from June to November 2020, 982 people associated with mink farming or pelting have tested positive for the virus^v. As of December 1st, 20% of Denmark's mink farms have been affected⁴.

In spite of prudent government directions to tighten biosecurity on BC mink farms and inspection earlier in 2020, biosecurity measures proved insufficient to prevent transmission to animals in this concentrated, intensive industry in BC, which does not provide an essential service. Transmission of the virus between mink and humans can lead to dangerous mutations that may impact the effectiveness of vaccines, treatment, and public health measures. Mink themselves stand to suffer from SARS-CoV-2, as unlike other animals that have contracted the virus and show little-to-no symptoms, mink can become sick and die when infected. At this time, the practice of mink farming is at odds with the *Animal Health Act* due to the close contact between farmed mink and their caretakers, endangering both animal health and public health.

Depopulation at this time, after the autumn pelt harvest, is optimal as only breeding animals are on-site. This minimizes the economic and animal welfare impacts of this measure, and would prove more prudent than risking infection of future offspring, which would cause greater risks for virus spread and mutation. Accordingly,

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DOMESTIC, FARM AND WILD ANIMALS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

negative impacts of performing a humane precautionary cull on all 13 farms are minimal, while upsides to preventing risk for disease spread and mutation are significant. Appropriate compensation for the operations could be considered to offset negative impacts on the owners, a measure both Denmark and the Netherlands have taken.

Recommendations

The BC SPCA respectfully recommends that:

1. The Chief Veterinary Officer issue a precautionary moratorium on fur farming by suspending all fur farm licenses through 2021.
2. Consideration be given to humanely culling all farmed mink in British Columbia to prevent potential for their further suffering, using methods recommended by the American Veterinary Medical Association's Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals: 2020 Edition^{vi}.
3. Testing of mink and employees on all BC mink farms for SARS-CoV-2 be conducted to determine whether other exposures may have already occurred on other farms.
4. Consideration is given to providing compensation to impacted persons and economies.

Consideration

In the face of a global pandemic created by the transmission of a virus from wild animals to people, we recommend strong precautionary measures against further inter-species transmission of SARS-CoV-2 that could further threaten human and animal health, through a moratorium of mink farming in British Columbia.

BC SPCA Subject Matter Experts

As the largest animal welfare organization in B.C. with experts in the field of farm animal welfare, the BC SPCA is a longstanding leader on issues of farm animal and wildlife welfare. Further, the BC SPCA's power to investigate complaints of farm animal cruelty and enforce the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* (the "PCA Act") and the animal-related sections of the *Criminal Code*, uniquely positions the organization to protect farm animals. Our subject matter experts available to support government on this file include:

Dr. Emilia Gordon, DVM, DABVP (Shelter Medicine Practice) – Senior Manager, Animal Health egordon@spca.bc.ca

Geoff Urton, MSc – General Manager of Strategy & Innovation gurton@spca.bc.ca

Sara Dubois, MSc, PhD, RPBio – Chief Scientific Officer sdubois@spca.bc.ca

Melissa Speirs, MSc – Manager, Farm Animal Welfare mspeirs@spca.bc.ca

ⁱ <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=3210011501&pickMembers%5B0%5D=1.11&pickMembers%5B1%5D=2.1&cubeTimeFrame.startYear=2014&cubeTimeFrame.endYear=2018&referencePeriods=20140101%2C20180101>

ⁱⁱ <https://researchco.ca/2019/11/22/animals-canada/>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/06/coronavirus-rips-through-dutch-mink-farms-triggering-culls-prevent-human-infections>

^{iv} <https://www.who.int/csr/don/06-november-2020-mink-associated-sars-cov2-denmark/en/>

^v <https://www.who.int/csr/don/03-december-2020-mink-associated-sars-cov2-denmark/en/>

^{vi} <https://www.avma.org/sites/default/files/2020-02/Guidelines-on-Euthanasia-2020.pdf>

PROVINCIAL OFFICE

1245 East 7th Avenue, Vancouver, British Columbia, V5T 1R1
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Charitable Registration # BN 11881 9036 RR0001

December 10, 2020

Tom Ethier
Deputy Minister, Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca

RE: Positive Cases of COVID-19 in Farm Workers and Mink

Dear Deputy Minister Ethier,

As all levels of government work diligently to control the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on British Columbians, the BC SPCA continues to perform our essential services to ensure that vulnerable animals and the people who care for them are also protected. This includes our mandate to advocate for the health and welfare of wild and farmed animals, in addition to companion animals, and the risks our communities face from zoonotic diseases.

We want to acknowledge your action to date to move swiftly to test animals on the Fraser Valley mink farm where eight workers tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 over the weekend. With yesterday's confirmation of SARS-CoV-2 positive mink on the farm, **the BC SPCA is requesting a moratorium on mink farming in B.C through an immediate suspension of all mink farm licenses.** Please find enclosed, a briefing note that outlines our full recommendations for your consideration, also submitted to the Chief Veterinary Officer directly today with the Provincial Health Officer copied.

We also wish to communicate our concern for the well-being of infected mink. We have asked the CVO the following questions: What is the current clinical condition of these animals, and what actions have been taken to alleviate suffering of these animals, as required under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act*?

Our veterinary experts on staff have shared their extreme concern about the potential for infected mink to transmit the virus back to people, to other wildlife, or to companion animals such as free-roaming cats. We are deeply apprehensive of the consequences for the health status of wild and companion animal populations in North America should measures to eradicate this outbreak prove insufficient. The World Health Organization has praised the public health response in Denmark that involved mass depopulation of farms, noting that this action limited

continued spread of mink-associated variants of SARS-CoV-2.¹ A moratorium on fur farming in B.C. can be swiftly made by the CVO by **suspending all fur farm licenses through 2021**. Doing so at this time, after the fall harvest, will minimize any economic impact of this action.

In a letter to the Minister of Agriculture on June 2, 2020, the BC SPCA raised concerns about reports of mink contracting COVID-19 on farms in the Netherlands and spreading COVID-19 to farm workers. Since then, many other countries have had outbreaks on mink farms despite prevention measures. The BC SPCA also suggested at that time, with such significant COVID-19 risks on B.C. mink farms, for each farm to have a pandemic response plan in place, outlining: a monitoring program for health of mink and farm staff; actions to be taken in the event that farm staff become ill and unable to care for the mink; and a plan for veterinary care or humane killing of mink. Although we were encouraged to hear that Ministry inspections took place in fall 2020, unfortunately the biosecurity measures taken were evidently insufficient to prevent this highly transmissible virus. Now our communities, our pets, and our wild animal populations are at greater risk of contracting COVID-19 if further measures are not taken swiftly.

In closing, we cannot state strongly enough our position that any risk to human or animal health and welfare in British Columbia is simply not worth the continued production of animal pelts to be sold to international markets as a luxury item in a time of international crisis.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this issue.

Yours sincerely,



Craig Daniell
Chief Executive Officer
BC SPCA

Enclosure

¹ <https://www.who.int/csr/don/06-november-2020-mink-associated-sars-cov2-denmark/en/>

Fw: BC SPCA calls for immediate moratorium on mink farming in B.C.

From: Alison Cuffley <acuffley@spca.bc.ca>
To: Anderson, Arlene AGRI:EX <Arlene.Anderson@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Marcie Moriarty <mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca>, Melissa Speirs <mspeirs@spca.bc.ca>
Sent: December 14, 2020 12:31:17 PM PST

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

Good morning Arlene,

I wanted to keep you updated, as this morning we put out a news release related to our letters to the Agriculture DM, Chief Veterinary officer, and Provincial health officer sent last week. Please let me know if you or any of your colleagues have questions related to this.

Thank you, Alison

From: Alison Cuffley <acuffley@spca.bc.ca>

Sent: December 14, 2020 12:26

To: Sam.Godfrey@gov.bc.ca <Sam.Godfrey@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: BC SPCA calls for immediate moratorium on mink farming in B.C.

Good morning Sam,

I wanted to let you know that this morning we released a news item related to our call for the moratorium on mink farming.

<https://spca.bc.ca/news/moratorium-mink-farming/>

Please let me know if you have any questions. Have a great weel.

Kind regards, Alison

Alison Cuffley (she/her)

Officer, Government Relations

BC SPCA

1245 East 7th Avenue

Vancouver BC V5T 1R1

604.647.1321

1.855.622.7722

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Re: BC SPCA & UBCIC | Fur farming update

From: Alison Cuffley <acuffley@spca.bc.ca>
To: Norton, Chris AFF:EX <Chris.Norton@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Zachary, Dawnae AFF:EX <Dawnae.Zachary@gov.bc.ca>, Evers, Charlene AFF:EX <Charlene.Evers@gov.bc.ca>, judy@ubcic.bc.ca, Natasha Kim <Natasha@ubcic.bc.ca>, andrea@ubcic.bc.ca
Sent: September 16, 2021 9:23:55 AM PDT

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

Good morning,
Ahead of our meeting next Wednesday, September 22nd, I wanted to confirm the attendees from the UBCIC and the BC SPCA.

UBCIC:

Kukpi7 Judy Wilson

Andrea Glickman, Policy Director

Natasha Kim, Policy Writer & Researcher

BC SPCA:

Craig Daniell, CEO

Dr. Sara Dubois, Director, Science and Policy; Chief Scientific Officer

Alison Cuffley, Government Relations officer

Thank you, Alison

Alison Cuffley

She/her/they/them

Officer, Government Relations

BC SPCA

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acuffley@spca.bc.ca • spca.bc.ca

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From: Alison Cuffley <acuffley@spca.bc.ca>

Sent: August 24, 2021 08:26

To: Norton, Chris AFF:EX <Chris.Norton@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: 'andrea@ubcic.bc.ca' <andrea@ubcic.bc.ca>; Zachary, Dawnae AFF:EX <Dawnae.Zachary@gov.bc.ca>; Evers, Charlene AFF:EX <Charlene.Evers@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Re: BC SPCA & UBCIC | Fur farming update

Good morning Chris,

Kukpi7 Judy Wilson will be attending on behalf of the UBCIC, and I have forwarded the meeting invitation to her direct email address.

Thank you, Alison

From: Norton, Chris AFF:EX <Chris.Norton@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: August 20, 2021 16:53

To: Alison Cuffley <acuffley@spca.bc.ca>

Cc: 'andrea@ubcic.bc.ca' <andrea@ubcic.bc.ca>; Zachary, Dawnae AFF:EX <Dawnae.Zachary@gov.bc.ca>; Evers, Charlene AFF:EX <Charlene.Evers@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: BC SPCA & UBCIC | Fur farming update

Thanks Alison,

When you liaised with UBCIC, were you able to get confirmation of their attendance for this time also?

Chris Norton

Executive Administrative Assistant

Science, Policy and Inspection Division | Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

'(c) (236) 478-1998 | chris.norton@gov.bc.ca

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I respectfully acknowledge that I work in the traditional territory of the Lekwungen people.

This includes the Songhees & Esquimalt First Nations whose historical relationship with the land continues to this day.

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From: Alison Cuffley <acuffley@spca.bc.ca>

Sent: August 10, 2021 2:52 PM

To: Norton, Chris AFF:EX <Chris.Norton@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: 'andrea@ubcic.bc.ca' <andrea@ubcic.bc.ca>; Craig Daniell <cdaniell@spca.bc.ca>; Zachary, Dawnae AFF:EX <Dawnae.Zachary@gov.bc.ca>; Evers, Charlene AFF:EX <Charlene.Evers@gov.bc.ca>; Sara Dubois <sdubois@spca.bc.ca>

Subject: Re: BC SPCA & UBCIC | Fur farming update

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

Good afternoon Chris,

We would be pleased to meet with DM Ethier on September 22nd at 11:30am. Dr. Sara Dubois (CC'd here) will also be attending.

Thank you for your assistance with scheduling.

Kind regards, Alison

Alison Cuffley

She/her/they/them

Officer, Government Relations

BC SPCA

1245 E 7th Ave

Vancouver, BC

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604-647-1321

acuffley@spca.bc.ca • spca.bc.ca

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From: Norton, Chris AFF:EX <Chris.Norton@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: August 9, 2021 17:26

To: Alison Cuffley <acuffley@spca.bc.ca>

Cc: 'andrea@ubcic.bc.ca' <andrea@ubcic.bc.ca>; Craig Daniell <cdaniell@spca.bc.ca>; Zachary, Dawnae AFF:EX <Dawnae.Zachary@gov.bc.ca>; Evers, Charlene AFF:EX <Charlene.Evers@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: BC SPCA & UBCIC | Fur farming update

Unfortunately, Mr. Ethier will be unavailable from August 23 to September 20. Would you be open to looking at options for the week of September 20?

If so, the following options are currently available:

September 20:

- 11:30am-12:00pm

September 22:

- 11:30am-12:00pm

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Chris Norton

Executive Administrative Assistant

Science, Policy and Inspection Division | Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

'(c) (236) 478-1998 | chris.norton@gov.bc.ca

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From: Alison Cuffley <acuffley@spca.bc.ca>

Sent: August 9, 2021 11:44 AM

To: Norton, Chris AFF:EX <Chris.Norton@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: 'andrea@ubcic.bc.ca' <andrea@ubcic.bc.ca>; Craig Daniell <cdaniell@spca.bc.ca>

Subject: Re: BC SPCA & UBCIC | Fur farming update

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

Hello Chris,

Thank you for your patience while I liaised with the UBCIC and our team for scheduling. Unfortunately, neither Craig nor Kukpi7 Judy Wilson are available during the below time period. If Mr. Ethier and Ms. McGuire have availability the following week (or week beginning August 30th) we will endeavour to match their schedules. Thank you again for your prompt reply and assistance with organizing this meeting.

Kind regards, Alison

Alison Cuffley

She/her/they/them

Officer, Government Relations

BC SPCA

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acuffley@spca.bc.ca • spca.bc.ca

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From: Norton, Chris AFF:EX <Chris.Norton@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: August 6, 2021 13:36

To: Alison Cuffley <acuffley@spca.bc.ca>

Cc: 'andrea@ubcic.bc.ca' <andrea@ubcic.bc.ca>; Craig Daniell <cdaniell@spca.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: BC SPCA & UBCIC | Fur farming update

Dear Alison,

Deputy Minister, Tom Ethier and Assistant Deputy Minister, Jennifer McGuire would like to meet with Grand Chief Stewart Phillip and Craig Daniell on behalf of the Ministry in response to their letter dated July 13, 2021.

They are currently available to meet for 30 minutes any time between 9:00am-12:00pm on Thursday, August 19.

Please let me know what time will work best and it will be my pleasure to issue a meeting invite accordingly.

If this time is unsuitable, please advise and I will seek to provide some additional options.

I look forward to hearing from you and assisting to schedule this meeting.

Kind regards,

Chris Norton

Executive Administrative Assistant

Science, Policy and Inspection Division | Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

'(c) (236) 478-1998 | chris.norton@gov.bc.ca

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From: Alison Cuffley <acuffley@spca.bc.ca>

Sent: July 13, 2021 1:47 PM

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

Cc: Andrea Glickman <andrea@ubcic.bc.ca>; Craig Daniell <cdaniell@spca.bc.ca>

Subject: BC SPCA & UBCIC | Fur farming update

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

Good afternoon Minister Popham,

Please find attached a letter from Grand Chief Stewart Phillip and Craig Daniell regarding the fur farming industry in British Columbia.

Kind regards, Alison

Alison Cuffley

She/her/they/them

Officer, Government Relations

BC SPCA

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Page 11 of 30 to/à Page 12 of 30

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.12

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

From: Cotton, Brian GCPE:EX <Brian.Cotton@gov.bc.ca>
To: Ethier, Tom AFF:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>, McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX
<Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>, Rainforth, Kelly A AFF:EX
<Kelly.Rainforth@gov.bc.ca>, Todosichuk, Ardice AFF:EX
<Ardice.Todosichuk@gov.bc.ca>, Anderson, Arlene AFF:EX
<Arlene.Anderson@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: November 5, 2021 9:31:13 AM PDT
Attachments: NR Mink Farms_FINAL.docx, QA Mink Farms Nov.5_FINAL.docx, SN_Mink
Policy Annt_Nov 5_FINAL.docx

These should be final – Dr. Henry had some late additions last night but MO has now signed off. They're with Health MO for one last look.

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 by November 15th, 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

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

Q and A
Mink Farms
November 5, 2021
DRAFT

Key Messages

- **The decision to phase out B.C.'s mink farming industry is all about public health and ensuring we protect British Columbians from the risks associated with COVID-19.**
- **We're following the recommendations of public health officials, animal health and infectious disease experts who advise that without action, mink farming will continue to pose a public health risk to British Columbians in the years ahead.**
- **We've already had outbreaks among mink on one third of the active mink farms in B.C. and the virus is being passed from mink to humans and humans to mink.**
- **We know this is a challenging time for the nine mink farms and over the coming months, government staff will work with the farmers to help them evaluate and pursue other farming or business options that support their families.**
- **We've carefully considered this decision and in line with the public health order Dr. Henry issued in July, we are taking this step so we can protect British Columbians against a health hazard.**

1) What's changed today for mink farmers and why now?

- 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.
- The process includes:
 - a permanent ban on breeding mink
 - a permanent ban on live mink on farms by April 2023
 - all operations ceasing completely, and all pelts sold by 2025
- The decision follows consultations, meetings and on-going discussion with public health officials, animal health experts and mink producers about managing the threat of the virus, and with the likelihood of COVID-19 becoming endemic in B.C., the time to act is now.
- During those discussions, public health officials expressed concerns including:
 - ongoing persistence of infected mink and workers at mink farms contracting the SARS-CoV-2 from mink and transmit it to broader human populations (workers have already contracted the virus from mink at one farm)
 - 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 human populations
 - subsequent mutations of SARS-CoV-2 strains could lead to variants that could undermine the effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccination program in British Columbia

2) What about the other types of fur farms?

- The change only impacts mink farms, as mink are the only farmed animals in B.C. that have a susceptibility to COVID-19 and pose a risk to human health through the transmission of possible variants.
- There is currently only one other fur farm operating in B.C. that raises chinchilla, their operations are not affected by today's announcement, as there is no evidence they can become infected with SARS-Cov-2 according to our Chief Provincial Vet.

3) If mink farms are a major public health risk, then why are you allowing live animals to remain on farm until April 2023 and waiting until 2025 to end the industry?

- This is a decision that is about public health.
- Mink farms are a public health concern which is why a public health order was issued by Dr. Henry in July that put a moratorium on any new mink farms and capped farms at existing mink numbers.
- We are following the recommendations laid out in the BC Centre for Disease Control's human health risk assessment and from our discussions with public health officials.
- We are putting an end to breeding (there will not be another breeding season) and will continue to ensure biosecurity measures and other necessary precautions are taken to limit any potential spread.

- But even with these precautionary measures in place, we're still seeing transmissions and public health officials have expressed concern over the challenges of maintaining strict biosecurity measures and monitoring over the long term.
- The April 2025 date is to ensure farmers are given sufficient time to shut down their farm or transition while also allowing them to maximize their market opportunities for selling pelts.

**4) Shouldn't the market determine whether these businesses exist, not government?
Is it really the government's role to ban a type of lawful business?**

- This is a decision that's about public health.
- A public health order was already issued in July 2021 capping the number of mink at existing numbers on farms and placing a moratorium on any new mink farms.
- Despite the stringent measures in the PHO order, we are still seeing transmission on one of the three mink farms that previously had mink test positive.
- That order followed a report from the BC Centre of 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 efficacy.
- The decision follows outreach, meetings and on-going discussion with public health officials, animal health experts and mink producers about managing the threat of the virus, and with the likelihood of COVID-19 becoming endemic in B.C., the time to act is now.
- During those discussions, public health officials expressed concerns including:
 - ongoing persistence of infected mink and workers at mink farms contracting the SARS-CoV-2 from mink and transmit it to broader human populations (workers have already contracted the virus from mink at one farm)
 - 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 human populations
 - subsequent mutations of SARS-CoV-2 strains could lead to variants that could undermine the efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccination program in British Columbia

5) Did the pressure and actions of animal activists to ban mink farms influence the decision?

- The advice of public health officials, animal health and infectious disease experts guided this decision. It is about the risk these farms pose given the outbreaks of COVID that have occurred and the potential for ongoing transmission that could spill over into the broader community.
- It is true that many British Columbians have requested an end to fur farming in our province, but as I said, this was a decision based on public health advice from the experts.

6) So how does it work? Do they have to harvest all their mink immediately? Will the government just refuse to issue fur farm licences?

- In July 2021, 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 mink farms at July 2021 numbers.
- Those restrictions will be effectively made permanent with a regulation change planned for late 2021. The Regulation will also restrict the breeding of mink.
- The farms must have no live animals on farm by April 2023 but can time their own pelt sales until April 2025 to maximize their market opportunities.
- All farms must cease operations completely by April 2025.
- Currently licensed farms will be re-issued their annual licenses as long as they continue operations, including the sales of stored pelts, up until April 2025.

7) How long has this been planned for? When were the farmers informed?

- The decision follows outreach, meetings and on-going discussion with public health officials, animal health experts and mink producers about managing the threat of the virus, that began earlier this year.
- We informed the nine farm owners of the transition period and plans this morning, and understand it is a difficult decision for them.
- We know this is a difficult time for the nine currently operating mink farms. Over the coming months, the B.C. government will work with the farmers to help them consider and plan for other farming or business options.
- The farmers will also be eligible for benefits through existing government-funded income-protection programs to assist them through the transition.

8) What about ranching, dairy or other family farm type business that are animal-based? Salmon farms? Are any of these next?

- Not at all, this decision was based on public health.
- The catalyst for this decision was the report from the BCCDC and the risk that people face should the virus mutate in mink.
- Our policy on salmon farms has long been clear and is not changing.
- In June 2018, we announced a new salmon aquaculture policy, which makes it clear that, effective June 2022, no new tenures along B.C.'s coast will be approved unless:
 - The fish farm operator has negotiated agreements with the First Nation(s) in whose territory they propose to operate
 - The operator can satisfy the DFO that their farm will not adversely impact wild salmon stocks.
- We're working to increase food production in B.C. and supporting the families and British Columbians that form our important ranching, dairy and livestock sector.

9) Would you respond the same way if it was cattle or chickens? What's the difference between chickens getting Avian influenza and minks contracting SARS-Cov-2 when it comes to public health?

- This decision is about public health, and the situations are very different.

- When there was an avian influenza outbreak in 2014, the virus was found in very specific locations (poultry farms) in the Fraser Valley and responded to quickly and effectively, with the farm sites in question being sanitized and disinfected.
- B.C. was able to contain the virus to the farms and eliminate it there. There were no human deaths connected to the outbreak.
- The COVID outbreak is much different. There has been a global pandemic that has lasted for almost two years, with multiple strains of the virus continuing to develop and spread around the world
- The pandemic has resulted in the death of over five million people globally, as well as almost 2,200 deaths here in B.C. and the hospitalization of thousands more.
- We're following the recommendations of public health officials and infectious disease experts who advise that without action, mink will continue to pose a public health risk to British Columbians in the years ahead.
- We've already had outbreaks among mink on one third of the active mink farms in B.C. and the virus is being passed from mink to humans and humans to mink.
- The decision to phase out B.C.'s mink farming industry is all about public health and ensuring we protect British Columbians from the risks associated with COVID-19.

10) What Covid-19 incidents have taken place at mink farms in BC?

- Three B.C. mink farms have had mink test positive for SARS-CoV-2 since December 2020.
- Workers at least one and most likely two mink farms have also contracted the virus from mink.
- The three farms were placed under quarantine following the positive tests; two farms have reduced quarantine orders (pelts and freezers must remain on farm), and one farm remains under full quarantine.
- Fraser Health, WorkSafeBC and the Province 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.
- Oversight will continue on these farms during the transition, and we will be ensuring there is compliance with the changes that are being made.

11) What kind of support from government will be there for the mink farmers?

- The BC government will reach out to work directly with the farmers to look at options that may help them transition to other sectors.
- We know this is a very challenging time for them and dealing with impacts from the pandemic has been challenging as well, and are hopeful that over the coming months, we can work together to help them pursue other farming or business options.
- During their transition, currently licensed fur farms will be able to receive support through AgriStability, a program that provides income protection to eligible B.C. farmers who enrol in it.
- AgriStability protects agricultural producers against declines in their net farming income due to market conditions, production loss or increased costs of production.

- The amount of support the program provides can vary considerably, depending on the individual farm's revenue and expenses over the last five years.

12) What sort of gap might there be in their current income and what AgriStability can provide?

- The amount of support the program provides can vary considerably, depending on the individual farm's revenue and expenses over the last five years.

13) Why aren't you offering direct compensation for their licenses? Why aren't you offering them any help to transition to a new business or start a new farm? Even animal welfare groups have called for direct compensation for the farmers.

- We are optimistic that over the coming months, we can work together to help the farmers plan and pursue other farming or business options.
- In the meantime, we feel the timeline and existing AgriStability program can help farmers during this transition.
- The B.C. government also offers business development support, both specific to the Ministry of Agriculture through business coaching and planning, and to the broader business community through other ministries.

14) What about the employees who will lose their jobs and be put out of work? What support is there for them?

- Fortunately, there is a strong demand for workers in B.C.'s agriculture and processing sector, as well as many opportunities in other trades and careers. Many B.C. companies are looking for employees now, and competitively recruiting.
- We have programs in place to support employees to transition to new jobs and careers, including employment insurance, as well as no-cost training programs, career counselling and support finding the right job through WorkBC.
- We feel the combination of the strong job market and the programs we have for workers in transition can meet the need and help arrange future employment.

15) How many farms, mink and employees are there now? What kind of impacts do you expect on the economy?

- There are nine operational mink farms with about 318,000 animals at the height of the season (before pelting) in B.C. with about 200 to 250 employees total, depending on the season (There is a tenth licenced farm, but it is not active).
- The impact to the provincial economy is expected to be minimal with mink farms facing declining sales in recent years. The number of fur farms in BC has been declining for some time; for example, there were 22 mink and fox farms in 2000, and now there are nine mink and one chinchilla farm today.
- In 2019, B.C. farm cash receipts for mink totalled \$4.7 million, down from \$12.8 million in 2018.

16) Are you expecting litigation for compensation?

- We are optimistic that over the coming months, we can work with the farmers to plan and pursue other farming or business options.
- We believe we can help them transition to new businesses that support their families.

17) Isn't there a vaccine for mink?

- I understand that a mink COVID-19 vaccine is being developed with the intent to be used in some jurisdictions, but it has not been approved for use in Canada. Having said that, I understand one B.C. farm is importing the vaccine and planning to vaccinate.
- We have followed the advice of public health and infectious disease experts that more research is needed to determine if the vaccine could be an option.
- With the risk that workers at mink farms and the broader human population face from the potential transmission of SARS-CoV-2 from mink, and the possibility of subsequent mutations, we needed to start the process now.

18) Are these nine farms in the ALR? Seeing as how they are in the Fraser Valley, has there been any thought to offering them exclusion from the ALR as compensation? There is a housing shortage, and letting them build or sell their property for development might help?

- Section 16(1) of the Animal Health Act prohibits the disclosure of specific farm locations to protect the farmer's privacy and encourage reporting of possible disease.
- If these farms are in the ALR, there are no plans to propose that any land that has been used for mink farming be excluded from the Agricultural Land Reserve.

19) How long would the COVID-positive mink farms need to be fallow before crops could be grown on them or any other livestock raised on them? How about mink farms in general?

- For farms that did not have any positive cases, it really depends on each farm's individual situation and circumstances.
- For example, the overall condition of their property, their storage and land use practices over the years, and if any land needs to be remediated for other farming or human uses, could all impact the time before the land could be used for crops or livestock.
- One of our commitments to the farmers is to help them assess the condition of their property and steps towards any needed remediation so it can continue to be used for farming purposes.

20) Are you offering any funding to help them clear their property of the old structures at least? If not, why?

- This will be a part of the conversations that we have with the farmers.
- Once we have a better idea of the condition of the farms and land involved, and the contents of them, we can see if there may be government programs or support available.

21) Are you consulting with First Nations on this decision?

- We'll be notifying modern Treaty First Nations as this is a public health issue where action is needed immediately but we have already heard support for ending fur farming in B.C. from the Union of BC Indian Chiefs.

22) Does this in any way impact trapping of wild mink in B.C.?

- No. This has no impact on trapping of any wild furbearers.

23) What are other jurisdictions doing?

- While we may be the first to phase out this industry in North America, other jurisdictions in Europe have moved away from fur farming recently for various reasons.
- But today's announcement is not about what other jurisdictions are doing - this is about ensuring and protecting the health of British Columbians.

24) Can you move this industry to another part of the province?

- No, public health concerns would remain no matter what part of B.C. mink farms were in.
- This is a public health issue – full stop – and we are looking out for the health of all British Columbians.

If asked about issues other than mink:

25) Do you have any comments on recent allegations of animal abuse at Fraser Valley Dairy?

- I have been advised by the BC Milk Marketing Board of alleged animal abuse at a dairy farm and I am extremely dismayed and disappointed by this report.
- Under B.C.'s Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, the BC SPCA is mandated to respond to animals in distress and investigate animal welfare concerns, and this is what they are doing.
- The BC Milk Marketing Board has the authority to regulate and monitor all activities related to the production and marketing of dairy within B.C. I am supportive of the immediate action they are taking to suspend the dairy license for the farm, pending further investigation.
- It is of utmost importance that these animals receive proper care. While an investigation is underway, I have asked the Milk Marketing Board to make sure a qualified observer has a presence on the farm to ensure there are no animal welfare issues or concerns.
- My ministry is committed to animal welfare and monitoring the situation. If further work is needed to ensure animal welfare outcomes, the ministry will take appropriate action as needed.

26) Is the government doing enough to prevent animal cruelty on BC farms?

- Ensuring animals are treated ethically and with care is a priority for our government, and both livestock producers and the SPCA have roles to play in that.

- That's why we adopted the National Farm Animal Care Council Codes of Practice to strengthen animal welfare in BC.
- Most B.C. ranchers and livestock producers take great pride in the care they provide their animals and in their role as stewards of the land, and I believe the vast majority are meeting the standards in the Code.
- The SPCA informed the ministry of their plans to conduct unannounced animal welfare inspections at farms and ranches under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, which is permitted under the legislation to ensure animals in B.C. are being treated with the care and respect they deserve.
- The Ministry has been engaged in dialogue with the BC SPCA, the BC Agriculture Council and farming organizations to support the development of an inspection system that is fair, and that all parties can understand and support.
- If there are individuals or operations that are not meeting those expected levels of care, they most certainly should be, and the SPCA inspections will help ensure that.

27) What can tell us about the recent Asian Giant Hornet specimen found in B.C?

- I understand, ministry staff were notified in late October by the CFIA that a specimen which appeared to be an Asian Giant Hornet was found in a Japanese Beetle Trap on 3rd Ave. just east of 216th Street in Langley.
- The specimen was in very poor condition, and based on its deterioration, was likely captured in late September. Due to its size, it could not have been a mated queen hornet and was likely a sterile worker or male hornet, possibly from a nest that was eradicated south of the boarder in late September.
- Work is underway to determine if the specimen has the same genetic base as the hornets in the four nests that have been eradicated in Washington State since Nov. 2020. It is expected that the latest specimen will also have originated from the same source.
- The B.C. government did not issue a public notice about the find, because of the time that lapsed between the hornet being trapped in late September and the time it was discovered in late October, and because Asian Giant Hornets will not be active again until the spring.
- The Province will continue to partner with Washington State to monitor and to respond to AGH activity.



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.

RE: Vaccine follow-up - Fur Commission USA, Annual Meeting | August 25, 2021

From: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX
To: Sara Dubois <sdubois@spca.bc.ca>, Ethier, Tom AFF:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Craig Daniell <cdaniell@spca.bc.ca>, Alison Cuffley <acuffley@spca.bc.ca>, Natasha Kim <Natasha@ubcic.bc.ca>, Andrea Glickman <andrea@ubcic.bc.ca>
Sent: September 22, 2021 12:46:24 PM PDT
Hi Sara,

Thank you for the information.

I have shared this with our Chief Vet for her information.

We will be in touch as this work evolves.

Regards,

Jennifer

*Jennifer McGuire, P.Ag.
Assistant Deputy Minister
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries*

From: Sara Dubois <sdubois@spca.bc.ca>
Sent: September 22, 2021 12:36 PM
To: Ethier, Tom AFF:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>; McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Craig Daniell <cdaniell@spca.bc.ca>; Alison Cuffley <acuffley@spca.bc.ca>; Natasha Kim <Natasha@ubcic.bc.ca>; Andrea Glickman <andrea@ubcic.bc.ca>
Subject: Vaccine follow-up - Fur Commission USA, Annual Meeting | August 25, 2021

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

Thank you Tom and Jennifer for your time today,

Here is the link from the Canada Mink Breeders Association referencing the vaccine use in 2021 (at 4m30s) and order for 2022:

https://youtu.be/g_gmfkaEH0s

Even if BC fur farmers are given access to the vaccine, we remain concerned about the use of limited provincial resources for indefinite monitoring and management of risks on fur farms.

Note the speaker also references the last outbreak and that virus-positive mink were captured outside the perimeter fence, which conflicts with the statement in the Ministry's release on July 26.

We look forward to ongoing updates on this file.

Cheers,
Sara

Sara Dubois, PhD, RPBio
(she/her/elle)
Director, Science & Policy Division
BC SPCA Chief Scientific Officer
778.772.9762

Respectfully acknowledging that I work on, and this email was sent from, the unceded traditional territory of the downriver hən̓q̓əmiṇəm speaking peoples - ,xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), and səliłwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, and the Skwxwú7mesh-ulh Sníchim speaking peoples - Skwxwú7mesh Uxwumixw (Squamish) Nation whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

OUR MISSION: To protect and enhance the quality of life for domestic, farm and wild animals in British Columbia.

The BC SPCA is a not-for-profit organization reliant on donations from the public. Charitable Tax # BN 11881 9036 RR0001

This message and any attachments or links are for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain privileged and confidential information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify us immediately and destroy the original message. Thank you.

RE: Vaccine follow-up - Fur Commission USA, Annual Meeting | August 25, 2021

From: Natasha Kim <Natasha@ubcic.bc.ca>
To: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>, Sara Dubois <sdubois@spca.bc.ca>, Ethier, Tom AFF:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Craig Daniell <cdaniell@spca.bc.ca>, Alison Cuffley <acuffley@spca.bc.ca>, Andrea Glickman <andrea@ubcic.bc.ca>, Judy Wilson <judy@ubcic.bc.ca>
Sent: September 22, 2021 12:50:08 PM PDT
Attachments: UBCIC_CC02_24_Resolution2021_05_HuntingPaper_Mandate.pdf

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

Dear Jennifer,

Please find attached UBCIC Resolution 2021-05 that was referenced by Kukpi7 Judy Wilson in the meeting. Thank you for meeting with us all.

Warm regards,

Natasha Kim

Policy Writer and Researcher

Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs

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WEBSITE	www.ubcic.bc.ca

401 - 312 Main Street, Vancouver BC V6A 2T2

OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

We acknowledge our place of work is within the ancestral, traditional and unceded territories of the X^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Sk̓w̓x̓wú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh)

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

Sent: September 22, 2021 12:46 PM

To: Sara Dubois <sdubois@spca.bc.ca>; Ethier, Tom AFF:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>

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Assistant Deputy Minister
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

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Cheers,
Sara

Sara Dubois, PhD, RPBio
(she/her/elle)
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BC SPCA Chief Scientific Officer
778.772.9762
sdubois@spca.bc.ca • spca.bc.ca
Animal Cruelty and Wildlife Hotline: 1.855.622.7722

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UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

FOUNDING HEAD OFFICE
209 - 345 Chief Alex Thomas Way
Kamloops, B.C. V2H 1H1
Tel: 250-828-9746
Fax: 250-828-0319



VANCOUVER OFFICE
401 - 312 Main Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6A 2T2
Tel: 604-684-0231
Fax: 604-684-5726
1-800-793-9701
Email: ubcic@ubcic.bc.ca
Web: www.ubcic.bc.ca

UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS
CHIEFS COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 24TH-25TH, 2021
VIRTUAL MEETING

Resolution no. 2021-05

RE: UBCIC Mandate on Hunting

Copyright

Page 06 of 16

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Copyright

Moved: Chief Keith Crow, Lower Similkameen Indian Band
Seconded: Chief Greg Gabriel, Penticton Indian Band
Disposition: Carried
Date: February 24, 2021

RE: Vaccine follow-up - Fur Commission USA, Annual Meeting | August 25, 2021

From: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX
To: Natasha Kim <Natasha@ubcic.bc.ca>, Sara Dubois <sdubois@spca.bc.ca>, Ethier, Tom AFF:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Craig Daniell <cdaniell@spca.bc.ca>, Alison Cuffley <acuffley@spca.bc.ca>, Andrea Glickman <andrea@ubcic.bc.ca>, Judy Wilson <judy@ubcic.bc.ca>
Sent: September 22, 2021 12:54:28 PM PDT

Thank you Natasha for the resolution.

I have shared this with ministry staff.

Appreciate the timely response.

Regards

*Jennifer McGuire, P.Ag.
Assistant Deputy Minister
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries*

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Policy Writer and Researcher

Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs

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FW: Vaccine follow-up - Fur Commission USA, Annual Meeting | August 25, 2021

From: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX
To: Ardice AFF:EX Todosichuk (Ardice.Todosichuk@gov.bc.ca) <Ardice.Todosichuk@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Yawney, Lauren AFF:EX <Lauren.Yawney@gov.bc.ca>, Anderson, Arlene AFF:EX <Arlene.Anderson@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 22, 2021 12:54:50 PM PDT
Attachments: UBCIC_CC02_24_Resolution2021_05_HuntingPaper_Mandate.pdf
FYI

From: Natasha Kim <Natasha@ubcic.bc.ca>

Sent: September 22, 2021 12:50 PM

To: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>; Sara Dubois <sdubois@spca.bc.ca>; Ethier, Tom AFF:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>

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Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries*

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Cc: Craig Daniell <cdaniell@spca.bc.ca>; Alison Cuffley <acuffley@spca.bc.ca>; Natasha Kim <Natasha@ubcic.bc.ca>; Andrea Glickman <andrea@ubcic.bc.ca>

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Sent: September 27, 2021 1:22:24 PM PDT
Hello Andrea,

In response to your question, the Ministry is continuing to review our policies and regulations regarding mink farming, and we are not currently working on a financial transition plan for mink farmers. Like all farms, mink farms are eligible for the AgriStability Program as the Canada Revenue Agency considers fur sales as farm revenue.

As you may be aware, AgriStability is an individualized program which compares a farm's program year margin to the Olympic average (excludes the highest and lowest) for that farm from the previous five years. Farms which experience more than a 30 percent drop in margin receive a payment. Lower market prices, production issues and/or higher expenses can all cause or contribute to an AgriStability payment.

AgriStability is designed to not mask market or production signals. Instead, individual farms experiencing multiple years of poor returns have a lower historic margin and therefore receive a lower level of support. This is currently occurring in the mink sector.

Regards,

*Jennifer McGuire, P.Ag.
Assistant Deputy Minister
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries*

From: Andrea Glickman <andrea@ubcic.bc.ca>
Sent: September 22, 2021 12:56 PM
To: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>; Natasha Kim <Natasha@ubcic.bc.ca>; Sara Dubois <sdubois@spca.bc.ca>; Ethier, Tom AFF:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>
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Subject: RE: Vaccine follow-up - Fur Commission USA, Annual Meeting | August 25, 2021

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Thanks Jennifer. We had another follow-up question. Can you provide any further info about the potential financial transition program you are working on for families involved in mink farming right now, and when that would be launched, and if that means the mink farms will be shut down as that is launched?

My best
Andrea

Andrea Glickman
Policy Director

Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs

TEL | (604) 684 0231
CELL | (604) 842-2977
FAX | (604) 684 5726
E-MAIL | andrea@ubcic.bc.ca
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