

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

Ref: 193917

Date: February 16, 2021

Title: Labour update on piece rates and child employment.

Issue: Background information for meeting with Minister Harry Bains on:

- piece rates and minimum wage in British Columbia, and
- the *Employment Standards Amendment Act* and children working on farms.

Background:

Piece rates and minimum wage:

Since 1981, the Employment Standards Regulation has set minimum piece rates for farm workers who hand harvest certain berry, fruit, or vegetable crops; workers are paid for the amount they pick, and not in relation to a minimum hourly wage. The piece rate system in British Columbia (B.C.) is unique compared with all other Canadian jurisdictions in that it doesn't provide that farm workers must earn at least the equivalent of the general hourly minimum wage. The system was established with the intent that an average, reasonably diligent hand harvester would be able to earn at least the equivalent of the general minimum hourly wage.

In September 2017, Government appointed a Fair Wages Commission (FWC) that heard from employers, workers, business organizations, union groups, academics, community stakeholders and low-wage workers. The FWC prepared recommendations on the path to reaching – and surpassing – a \$15-an-hour minimum wage by 2021, which Government accepted.

The FWC was also directed to make recommendations on the other minimum wages under the Employment Standards Regulation, including piece rates. The recommendations included increasing all piece rates by 15 percent on June 1, 2018 and implementing the general minimum wage for piece rate workers as of June 1, 2019, with piece rates as additional incentives. The Ministry of Labour determined more information was needed on the details of the piece rate system and, instead, implemented an 11.5 percent rate increase to piece rates as of January 1, 2019, and hired agricultural economist Dr. Karen Taylor to conduct an in-depth study.

The purpose of Dr. Taylor's study was to provide further economic analysis on the 15 agricultural crops that are harvested in B.C. under the piece rate system. Along with a historical study of piece rates, Dr. Taylor spoke directly with farmworkers and growers; consultations which were not possible during the consultations with the FWC's initial report development process. The study, which took place between September and December 2018, was submitted to Government on January 10, 2019, and publicly released on December 10, 2019.

Employment Standards Amendment Act and children working on farms:

In 2003, the *Employment Standards Act* and Regulation were amended to set standards for workplaces that employ young people under 15 years of age:

- Children aged 12 to 14 may work with their parent's written consent, and

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- Children under 12 require a permit issued by the Director of Employment Standards in order to work.

The changes were intended to recognize that parents are primarily responsible for their children, and they decide whether it is appropriate for their children to work. The changes allowed children as young as 12 to do virtually any kind of work, including in dangerous sectors like construction, which has resulted in life-altering injuries.

In April 2019, the Minister of Labour introduced the *Employment Standards Amendment Act* (Bill 8) to better protect workers throughout the province, including children and youth. The provisions related to child employment are not yet in force and require supporting regulations that the Ministry of Labour is leading. Provisions in Bill 8 prohibit employers from employing a child who is under 16 years of age in a hazardous industry or in hazardous work as prescribed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. Once hazardous work or a hazardous industry is prescribed, there will be an absolute prohibition on someone under the age of 16 to work in the work or industry. There is also an authority to prescribe an age that is older than 16 but less than 19 where, if an individual is younger than that age, they will not be allowed to work (i.e. the age of 18 could be prescribed for working underground in mines –if an individual is 16 or 17, they will not be allowed to work underground).

Provisions in Bill 8 also prohibit employers from employing children under 14 without a permit from the Director of Employment Standards. Bill 8 allows 14- and 15-year-olds to perform “light work” as defined in the regulations with parental consent, or other work with a permit from the Director of Employment Standards. The Act focuses on bringing B.C. in line with international child employment standards and existing legislation in other Canadian jurisdictions.

The 2019 amendments define “hazardous work” as work likely to be harmful to the health, safety or morals of a person under 16 years. While no decisions have been made, based on other jurisdictions, examples of this hazardous work include: construction, forestry, heavy manufacturing, or operating dangerous equipment. Similarly, it is anticipated that “light work” could include activities such as stocking shelves in a convenience store, working as a cashier, or hosting at a restaurant.

The *Employment Standards Amendment Act* contains a provision that can exempt a worker, or specific sector of workers, from the new child employment requirements for up to three years so that businesses and employees have time to adjust to the new rules.

Discussion:

Piece rates and minimum wage:

The Ministry of Labour is currently engaged in further discussions about future changes to minimum piece rates. The engagement is supported by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries.

In spring 2020, tentative agreement was reached to remove minimum piece rates for apricots, peaches, brussels sprouts, mushrooms and daffodils from the *Employment Standards Act*, but this decision was not implemented due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For these crops, piece rates were rarely if ever used and the removal of these crops from the regulation would have no impact on workers or employers. This conclusion has not been reconfirmed with stakeholders post-COVID. On April 1, 2020, the direction was that the minimum piece rates would continue for 10 crops: apples, beans, blueberries, cherries, grapes, pears, peas, prune plums, raspberries and strawberries.

Government has contemplated that future increases will occur at some point, however there is no clarity regarding when or by how much.

Clarification regarding the interpretation of how businesses use piece rates has also occurred. Paying by piece rates is never mandatory. As per Section 18 of the Employment Standards Regulation, piece rates do not apply if the farm worker is not employed on a piece work basis and is instead employed on an hourly basis. In this scenario, the general hourly minimum wage for hours worked would apply rather than the minimum piece rates. Hand harvesters employed on an hourly basis are still able to receive bonuses or incentives (such as a bonus for each pound harvested over a certain number of pounds). Similarly, there is nothing prohibiting the parties from including in their employment agreements a range of other incentive systems that are designed to enhance productivity or efficiency. The only constraint would be that the incentive system would need to be anchored on the general hourly minimum wage so that the hand harvester would earn no less than the equivalent of the general hourly minimum wage for the hours worked within a pay period.

Employment Standards Amendment Act and children working on farms:

The Ministry of Labour is working to modernize the *Employment Standards Act* and Regulation by bringing the child employment provisions into compliance with international law. The details for the new child employment provisions in the *Employment Standards Amendment Act* will be set out in regulations to be approved by Cabinet.

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Suggested Response:

- The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (AFF) looks forward to continued collaboration with the Ministry of Labour on the shared mandate item of piece rates.
- AFF appreciates updates regarding children working on farms. The Labour Unit will incorporate this material into the Agriculture Labour Strategy to explain how youth may be legally engaged to participate in the domestic agriculture workforce.

Contact: Shannon Tucker, Labour Project Lead, 778 945-1364

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

Ref: 193499

Date: January 28, 2021

Title: Minister Popham and BC SPCA meeting, February 2, 2021

Issue: Minister Popham is meeting with representatives from the British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (BC SPCA) on February 2, 2021 to discuss:

- Ongoing collaboration;
- Enforcement on commercial farms; and
- The BC SPCA's 2021 Budget Submission.

Background:

The BC SPCA

The BC SPCA is a not-for-profit charitable organization, funded primarily by public donations, with a mission to protect and enhance the quality of life for domestic, farm, and wild animals in British Columbia (B.C.). The BC SPCA was created in 1895, and it has authority under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* (PCA Act). The PCA Act creates legislative force to prevent cruelty to animals in B.C., including family pets (companion animals), livestock, and working animals, but excluding wildlife. The BC SPCA is the only animal organization in B.C. with the authority to enforce laws under the PCA Act. The BC SPCA operates in 44 locations and employs 645 staff members and approximately 5,500 volunteers throughout B.C.

There are two distinct functions of the BC SPCA in B.C.: a regulatory function and a community outreach function. The BC SPCA is mandated under the PCA Act to respond to animals in distress. BC SPCA enforcement actions are performed by Special Provincial Constables. Currently, the BC SPCA has 34 full time Special Provincial Constables who are authorized to investigate complaints of animal abuse and neglect. BC SPCA constables investigate approximately 8,500 complaints of animal cruelty each year, at a cost of approximately \$3.5 million annually. The BC SPCA does not receive annual, dedicated funding from the Province for their enforcement actions.

Enforcement on commercial farms

The Animal Care Codes of Practice Regulation (the Regulation) came into force on June 1, 2019, under the PCA Act, to provide further protection for farm animals by establishing reasonable and generally accepted practices of animal management. The Regulation applies to all farming and ranching operations in B.C. where the animals listed in section 2 of the Regulation are kept for the purposes of breeding, boarding, grazing, selling, training, and for the production of certain farm and ranch products and by-products. While failure to abide by the Codes of Practice is not necessarily an offence, following the Codes is a defense from conviction of animal distress. Referencing the Codes of Practice in regulation therefore provides an incentive to farmers and ranchers to follow these practices.

Approximately 20 percent of complaints received by the BC SPCA involve farm animals. Most of these complaints relate to either hobby farmers or equines. A very small percentage relate to enforcement on commercial farms (approximately 10 to 20 complaints per annum).

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Funding

A facility review in 2013 by the BC SPCA, and updated in 2019 to include all BC SPCA facilities, resulted in their adoption of a long-range Facilities Development and Services Plan (FDSP). The FDSP seeks to improve or replace facilities over a 16-year period (2014 to 2029) at a cost of \$117.5 million. The first phase of FDSP is complete (2014 to 2018) and covered facility replacement or redevelopment at six facilities (at a total cost of \$18.97 million). The second phase of FDSP covers a five-year period (2019 to 2024), and the projected total cost of this phase is \$51.4 million.

The BC SPCA's annual operating expenses grew from \$19.5 million in 2005 to \$38.5 million in 2018 as a result of expanded programing. This was matched by a similar growth in revenue due largely to the increase in donor support.

The BC SPCA received \$1.46 million from the Province as part of COVID-19 response funding to help animal care organizations through the pandemic.

Discussion:

Ongoing collaboration

In the BC SPCA's letter to the Minister requesting this meeting, their request is to "discuss how [AFF and the BC SPCA] can best partner together in the years ahead and help achieve... mutual goals, like promoting B.C.'s animal welfare laws, improving food security and continuing to improve conditions in farming communities".

AFF staff share a positive relationship with the BC SPCA. AFF staff regularly reach out to the BC SPCA for input on work and to include them in relevant consultations.

The majority of BC SPCA investigations involve companion animals, with approximately 82 percent of all investigations are related to dogs and cats. In 2018, BC SPCA's cruelty investigations program made up 12 percent of their total program spending. Because of their inherently small focus on farm animal protection, BC SPCA's expertise and knowledge of farm animals is limited. This is problematic for commercial farm operators; the lack of knowledge erodes trust of the BC SPCA within the farm animal community.

Enforcement on commercial farms

In the BC SPCA's letter to the Minister, their request is to provide important updates "regarding events that have occurred this fall related to concerns with respect to commercial farm investigations which have shifted some of our priorities", s.13

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However, it is not the BC SPCA's responsibility to enforce the Codes of Practice, which outline generally accepted management practices for livestock and farm animal operators, including owners, managers, and employees. The Regulation was made to reference the Codes of Practice as reasonable and generally accepted practices of animal management (section 24.02 of the PCA Act). A point of

tension in previous discussions between AFF staff and BC SPCA staff has been around the misunderstanding of the Regulation's intention.

The BC SPCA opposes extreme and illegal actions by animal rights advocacy groups, including farm invasions and trespass to install hidden cameras. They support government action to further penalize these illegal activities.

The BC SPCA have been internally contemplating whether they should continue with farm animal investigations. This follows the decision of other provinces (e.g., Ontario) to change their animal inspection model. After internal research and discussion, the BC SPCA decided to continue with their enforcement authorities as it relates to the PCA Act on commercial farms and to seek a solution with government.

An example provided by the BC SPCA of enforcement on commercial farms is the recent events at Excelsior Farms. The video of the farm was illegally obtained and could not be used as evidence in the case. The BC SPCA supports that decision. However, they believe the contents of the video demonstrate that the farm is in violation of the Codes of Practice and provincial and federal animal cruelty laws. The Excelsior file led to the loss of some public support, staff were threatened, and public protests were held outside BC SPCA offices. At the time of this event, the Abbotsford police department called in a veterinary third-party assessment to Excelsior Farms, who indicated he did not see any welfare problems on the farm.

BC SPCA's 2021 Budget Submission

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Contact: Britney Irvine, Senior Policy Analyst, 778-698-4029

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

Ref: 193781

Date: February 03, 2021

Title: Minister Popham is scheduled to meet with David Kiemele, Managing Director of Cermaq Canada.

Issue: Discuss the timeline for closures in the Discovery Islands and expected impacts.

Background:

- On September 28, 2020, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) responded to Cohen Commission's Recommendation #19 by announcing the completion of nine peer-reviewed risk assessments. All nine assessments found that the transfer of pathogens posed minimal risk to the abundance and diversity of migrating Fraser River sockeye salmon in the Discovery Islands area, allowing DFO to continue to issue licenses for the area.
- Hon. Bernadette Jordan, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, announced shortly thereafter that DFO would consult Discovery Islands First Nations to better understand their position and concerns and subsequently established its own process for consulting with First Nations about the renewal of aquaculture licenses.
- In December 2020, Minister Jordan announced that DFO will phase out salmon farming operations in the Discovery Islands by June 2022, with the stipulations that:
 - No new fish of any size may be introduced into Discovery Islands facilities during this time; and
 - All farms are to be free of fish by June 30, 2022, but existing fish at the sites can complete their growth-cycle and be harvested.
- This coincides with timing of the Provincial salmon farm tenure policy implementation.
- Most of the tenures are on a month-to-month renewal scheme as a result of the provincial moratorium on issuance of new tenures pending DFO's Cohen Response. There are, however, tenures with expiry dates past this date and up to 2034.
- DFO has provided the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) summary tables of the relevant Discovery Islands sites, and their proportional contribution by company and by B.C. production (Appendices 1-3). Briefly, the area represents 32 percent of current B.C. farmed biomass and represents approximately 20 percent of provincial aquaculture revenue (\$132M in 2019).
- On January 18, 2021, fish farms including MOWI Canada West, Cermaq Canada, Grieg Seafood, and Saltstream Engineering applied to the Federal Court of Canada for a judicial review of the decision to phase out salmon farming in the waters off the northeast coast of Vancouver Island by June 30, 2022.
- The judicial review was requested on the grounds that Minister Jordan's decision was:
 - Inconsistent with the science that came out in September 2020 as a result of the Cohen Commission;
 - Inconsistent with the content of consultation with First Nations; and
 - Unfair in terms of process to Cermaq, who was told that the consultation with First Nations would be limited to scientific issues.
- Cermaq has noted a strong opposition of the decision to not allow restocking of fish as they will need to cull existing hatchery fish scheduled for spring stocking. They have indicated that no other pens exist for this brood stock, and a cull will impose a non-trivial financial loss.
- Cermaq has indicated they wish to focus on providing themselves and local First Nations with enough time to enter discussions to determine if there are any opportunities to continue operations in the future.

First Nations Considerations: One-third of fish harvesting jobs are in First Nation communities, and salmon are of critical cultural and socioeconomic importance. In B.C.'s four largest salmon farming companies, 30 percent of the jobs are staffed by First Nations. Much of the salmon farming industry's operations are under agreement with the First Nations in whose territory they are working within. However, many other First

Nations in B.C., both coastal and interior, are vocal about calling for the transition of this industry to land-based closed containment or ending entirely. The Discovery Islands sites included in the federal decision intersect several First Nations territories (Appendix 4).

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APPENDIX 1: Total production impacted by Discovery Islands decision, in metric tonnes and in %, relative to total B.C. production (Provided by DFO)

SALMON	Total Licensed Biomass (MT)	Current Biomass - MT (July 2020)	Harvested Biomass			Revenue		
			2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019
Discovery Islands	46153	18968	15,397,101	11,239,777	17,963,676	\$ 130,566,881	\$ 105,135,943	\$ 131,807,376
All of BC	295299	59574	85,349,214	86,853,238	88,791,142	\$ 725,993,980	\$ 770,724,950	\$ 661,934,806
% BC	16%	32%	18%	13%	20%	18%	14%	20%

APPENDIX 2: Impacts in tonnes and percentage on total licensed production for each company, for Discovery Islands and Broughton Archipelago (Provided by DFO)

	Total Licensed Production (MT)	Harvested Production (MT)		
		2017	2018	2019
Total Salmon – B.C.	297,172	85,349	86,853	88,791
MOWI	150,675	47,347	39,483	49,887
Cermaq	68,788	24,018	25,050	19,742
Grieg	63,000	11,429	19,800	16,809
Yellow Island	750	2	19	4
Saltstream	230	9	-	-
Discovery Passage*	51,226	19,820	11,240	21,280
	17%	23%	13%	24%
MOWI	38,968	15,473	3,984	14,897
	26%	33%	10%	30%
Cermaq	8,278	4,336	4,799	5,038
	12%	18%	19%	26%
Grieg	3,000	-	2,438	1,340
	-	-	12%	8%
Yellow Island	750	2	19	4
	100%	100%	100%	100%
Saltstream	230	9	-	-
	100%	100%	-	-
Broughton Archipelago	58,882	22,955	13,698	22,500
	20%	27%	16%	25%
MOWI	28,752	8,443	12,946	6,892
	19%	18%	33%	14%
Cermaq	15,230	8,868	751	7,034
	22%	37%	3%	36%
Grieg	14,900	5,644	-	8,574
	24%	49%	-	51%

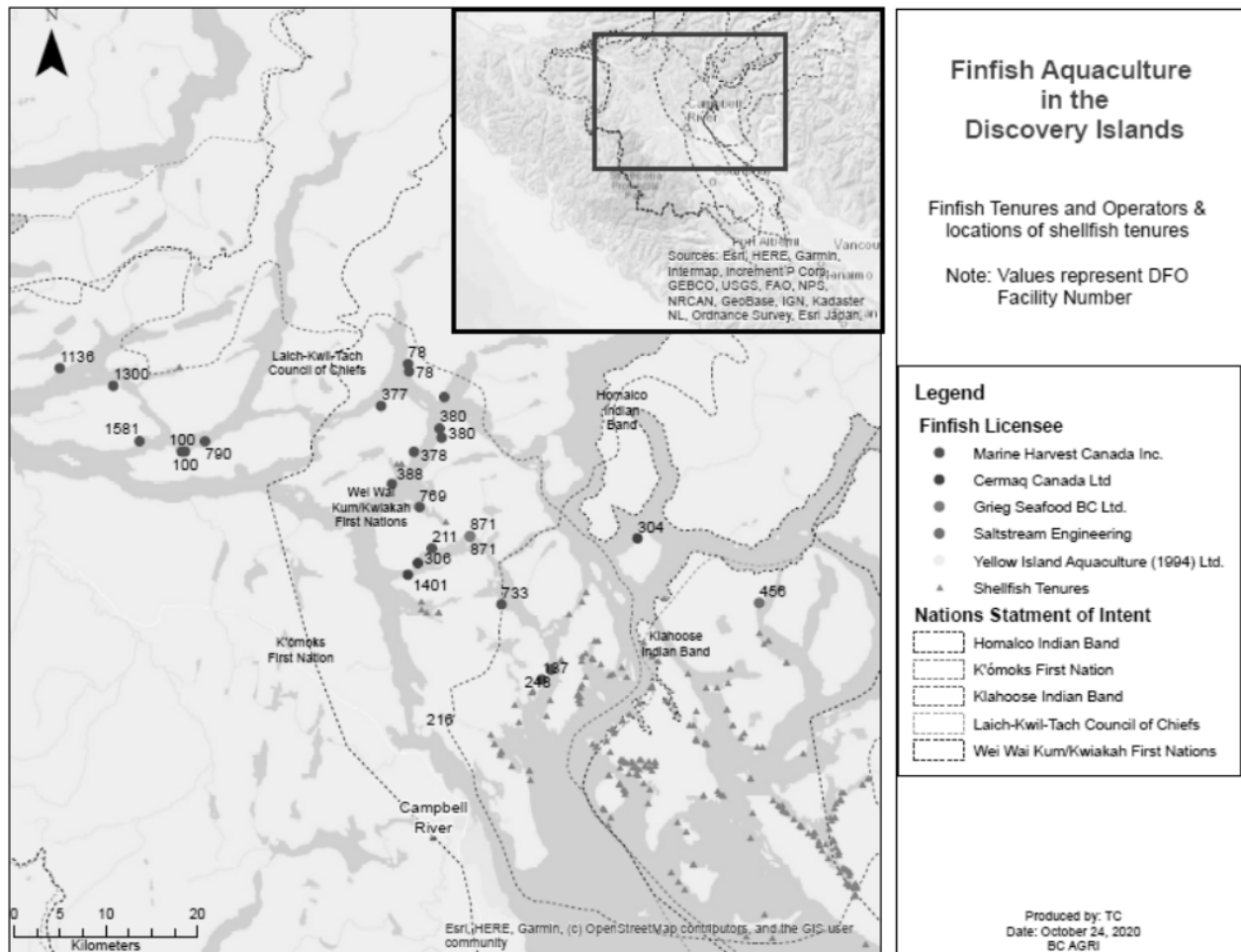
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APPENDIX 3: List of Aquaculture Sites in the Discovery Islands

DFO Facility Ref.	Facility	Licence Holder	Landfile No.	Pacific Fishery Mgmt. Area	Production Planned in 2021
78	Phillips Arm, Cardero Channel	Mowi	2403170	13-24	Y
1401	Brent Island, Okisollo Channel	Cermaq	1407983	13-10	Y
304	Raza Island, Raza Passage	Cermaq	2403035	13-14	Y
138	Dunsterville Bay, Hoskyn Channel	Mowi	1401659	13-13	N
211	Sonora Island, Okisollo Channel	Mowi	1403325	13-10	Y
377	Bickley Bay, East Thurlow Island	Mowi	1404309	13-25	N
378	Thurlow Point South, Nodales Channel	Mowi	1403300	13-26	N
388	Brougham Point, East Thurlow Island	Mowi	1403301	13-26	N
547	Read Island, Bear Bay	Mowi	1401611	13-12	N
733	Cyrus Rocks, Okisollo Channel	Mowi	1406292	13-12	N
769	Young Passage, Sonora Island	Mowi	1405768	13-26	N
1581	Hardwicke Is. Site B, Chancellor Channel	Mowi	1409321	13-40	Y
456	Doctor Bay, West Redonda Island	622335 British Columbia Ltd.	0193432	15-5	Y
216	East of Maude Island, Discovery Passage	Yellow Island Aquaculture (1994) Ltd.	1401748	13-3	Y
871	Barnes Bay, Sonora Island	Grieg	1405542	13-10	Y
380	Sonora Pt., Nodales Channel	Mowi	1403144	13-26	Y
306	Venture Point, Sonora Island	Cermaq	1403267	13-10	Y
790	Chancellor Channel, West Thurlow Island	Mowi	1405245	13-41	Y
100	Lees Bay, N. Shore, West Thurlow Island	Mowi	1401949	13-41	Y

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APPENDIX 4: Map of Aquaculture Sites in the Discovery Islands



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

Ref: 193737

Date: February 8, 2021

Title: University of British Columbia (UBC) Linkage to Regenerative Agriculture

Issue: An opportunity for Dr. Rickey Yada and Dr. Sean Smukler to share UBC linkages to regenerative agriculture and agri-technology

Background:

- The Faculty of Land and Food Systems is led by Dean Rickey Yada and houses several professors within the Centre for Sustainable Food Systems (CSFS) who are working on regenerative agriculture related initiatives.
- The focus of this meeting will be to showcase UBC linkages to Regenerative Agriculture and highlight ongoing initiatives that aim to network regenerative practices and agri-tech innovation in the province.
- The presentation will be led by Dr. Sean Smukler, the principal investigator of the Sustainable Agriculture Landscape (SAL) Laboratory and Chair of Agriculture and Environment at UBC (a Chair position that was jointly funded by the BC Ministry of Agriculture).
- Dr. Smukler also founded the BC Agricultural Climate Adaptation Research Network (ACARN), a provincial collaboration with major agriculture universities (UBC, SFU, KPU, UFV, TRU, UNBC), the Ministry, Agriculture and Agri-food Canada and industry partners. The vision of the network is to be a provincial hub that fosters a collaborative approach for advancing agricultural research, education, and extension strategies in British Columbia.

Discussion:

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Conclusion:

This meeting presents an opportunity to hear about work underway at UBC in regenerative agriculture and agri-technology and to discuss potential linkages to Ministry priorities.

Contact: Jason Lusier, Regional Team Lead – Coast, Extension Services Division, 778 666-0585

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Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING FEBRUARY 11, 2021
WITH KEVIN BOON OF BC CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Ref: 193521

Date: February 5, 2021

Title: MLP meeting with BC Cattlemen's Association

Issue: Meeting continuation from Jan 28, 2021; regulatory burdens and cost of doing business

Background:

In addition to the COVID-19 outreach round tables held with beef, bison, forage and grain sectors with Minister Popham on May 5, 2020 and Premier Horgan May 12, 2020, the BC Cattlemen's Association (BCCA) has met with Minister Popham December 18, 2020 and January 28, 2021.

The following topics have been discussed:

- Focus on BC Beef Brand development and federal packing plant initiative.
- Livestock watering legislation changes: concerns about regulatory burdens to producers, administrative burdens to Government, protecting stock water use during times of scarcity.
- Cost implications to producers for the maintenance of water storage and dams: regulatory burdens that are counterproductive and threatening the sustainability of ranching.
- Utilization, planning and management of Crown Lands: Crown Land access, provincial forage plan and *Forests and Range Practices Act (FRPA)* consultations, landscape level planning.

First Nations Considerations:

BCCA is actively engaging in indigenous relations and is in conversations with indigenous communities where projects are taking place (i.e. targeted grazing projects). They have also formed a new committee focused on indigenous relations. BCCA recognizes the considerations needing to take place with indigenous relations and has brought this forward at the national level with the Canadian Cattlemen's Association; B.C. is seen as the leader on this topic. One area of concern is archaeological assessments which slow down work on certain BCCA programs, including the highway fencing program.

Discussion:

Topics with regulatory burdens and rising costs of doing business:

1. Agricultural Environmental Management Code of Practice – cost of compliance
2. Livestock watering legislation – anticipating costs of compliance; the time for consultation and engagement of industry has also costed the industry with the time and effort spent on the topic
3. Archaeological assessments – producer-borne cost for assessments, often multiple assessments are requested on the same area
4. *Trespass Act* with relation to private land access (referring to Douglas Lake Ranch case and hearing)

Other topics to discuss:

1. Wildlife impacts on agriculture and human safety – impacts of predators and management of wildlife
2. Rural transportation corridors – Quesnel Hydraulic road slide
3. Meat Inspection Regulation – concerns about food safety standards with Class D and E licenses
4. Vancouver Island Cattlemen's Association – transportation of livestock on and off the Island
5. Prescribed livestock ownership identification areas – would like to keep the last 20 minutes of the meeting for this topic and invite the BC Breeders and Feeders Association (Lindy Gilson) along with Ownership Identification Inc. (Bob Miller)

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Key Messages:

- Quesnel Hydraulic road slide: AFF staff is liaising between industry and MOTI to understand challenges and economic impacts to producers.
- AFF support of the BC Beef Brand initiative \$1.05M (\$965,000 has been spent) for brand and organization development, sales and marketing plan, lease of existing federally inspected facility and upgrades required, and business development.
- Prescribed livestock identification inspection areas: issue of concern for beef sector since 2015; staff are currently working through the next steps on this issue. Prioritization will be key to getting BCCA support.
- \$300K has been provided annually to BCCA since 2018/19 for the support of the Livestock Protection Program, funding support is split 60/40 between FLNRORD and MAFF.
- Virtual Livestock Fencing – Agri-tech development and proof of concept:
 - Ranchers and government invest in building and maintaining hundreds of km of fence each year to manage livestock and protect critical habitats and ecosystems such as wetlands and riparian areas. This investment is at significant risk to damage and destruction by wildfires.
 - BCCA is exploring development of a virtual fencing collar suited to B.C. landscapes, technologies and conditions. Discussions include MAFF staff, FLNRORD, Telus and 2 private sector companies (B.C. and B.C. affiliated).
 - Potential applications: active grazing for wildfire risk reduction, animal management along rail lines and highways, along riparian management and wildlife corridors, and borders.
 - Co-benefits: enhanced rural connectivity; and, associated or linked technologies and businesses.
- AFF currently delivers an Environmental Farm Plan and Beneficial Management Practices Program which provides cost-shared funding to irrigation system improvements and supports technical feasibility studies, agricultural dam assessments and construction works related to erosion control in riparian areas, but not for expansion of water storage or supply. In addition to this, AFF works in partnership with FLNRORD to fund the delivery of dam safety workshops for agricultural producers.

Completed by: Laura Code, Beef and Livestock Industry Specialist;
please contact Georgina Beyers 250-896-6221

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

Ref: 193894

Date: February 19, 2021

Title: BC Greenhouse Growers Association (BCGGA) seeking Ministry leadership on collaboration with Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation to engage with natural gas providers.

Issue: BCGGA continued vulnerability to natural gas constraints and high costs due to reliance on natural gas

Background:

BCGGA engaged with prior Executive leadership at the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (EMLCI) and Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (MAFF) in 2019/2020. An initial meeting between EMLCI and FortisBC was held, to inform EMLCI on FortisBC's gas procurement process.

A subsequent session comprised of a small group of leadership from Government, Industry, and gas providers was proposed, to discuss options for BCGGA's long-term natural gas needs. It is unclear as to whether this meeting took place.

MAFF has not been engaged at the staff level on this initiative.

Discussion:

- The B.C. greenhouse vegetable sector is a capital-intensive industry that relies on state-of-the-art greenhouses and leading-edge production practices to produce high quality vegetables for the fresh market.
- The sector accounts for 18 percent of total crop revenues in B.C. but uses only 0.05 percent of the land in crop production.
- The B.C. greenhouse industry contributes significantly to provincial farm cash receipts (\$606.6 M in 2017).
- The B.C. greenhouse sector is the second largest in Canada, producing vegetables, landscape nurseries, forest seedlings, and floriculture products. The industry uses large volumes of natural gas and propane for heating and, in the case of vegetables and some floriculture, to provide food grade carbon dioxide (CO₂) for plant growth (CO₂ acts as a fertilizer for these crops).
- The crops produced include cucumbers, eggplant, lettuce, peppers, and tomatoes. Tomatoes and bell peppers represent 80 percent of total sector sales. To improve profitability, the sector is expanding the production of novel types and varieties of vegetables, such as mini, heirloom, and high sugar varieties.
- The production of greenhouse vegetables is regulated in B.C. and producers must apply to the BC Vegetable Marketing Commission (BCVMC) for production allocation.
- There are 61 commercial operations registered with BCVMC; 41 are in the lower Fraser Valley and account for 96 percent of the production area. The remaining 20 accounts for four percent of the production area and are in the Okanagan and on Vancouver Island.

Natural gas has experienced extreme price volatility following the explosion at the Enbridge pipeline near Prince George in October 2018.

- The 2,858-km B.C. pipeline stretches from Fort Nelson to the Canada/US border, at Huntingdon-Sumas, transporting about 60 percent of the natural gas produced in B.C. and supplies about 50 percent of natural gas demand in the American states of Washington, Oregon and Idaho.

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- Low temperatures experienced over the past two winters (in some cases, prolonged stints of freezing temperatures) exacerbated the issue, by demanding greater capacity of the pipeline and increasing operational costs to the grower.
- Greenhouse operations took steps to lessen the impact (e.g. delaying planting of their 2019 crop, recommissioning biomass boilers).

Greenhouse Carbon Tax Relief Grant Program

MAFF manages the Greenhouse Carbon Tax Relief Grant Program (the Program) with a budget of \$7.55M that was set in 2017-2018 based on a carbon tax at \$30/tonne. As a result of increases to the Carbon Tax rate, the expenses in 2020-2021 will be \$9.75M.

- The Ministry has recommended that Treasury Board approve access to \$2.2M from the 2020-2021 Contingencies and New Programs Vote to enable it to meet its commitment to greenhouse producers.

Suggested Response:

- Thank you for bringing this back to our attention. I appreciate your patience as our attention was diverted to COVID-19 recovery efforts for the Agriculture sector.
- As you know, the Ministry's Industry Specialist, Greenhouse, and Nursery retired in February 2020. We are currently looking into filling this vacancy and I appreciate you engaging with my Director of Industry Development to inform the job profile and workplan.
- I will work with staff to reinitiate the collaboration between MAFF and EMPLCI to engage natural gas providers, to ensure greenhouse grower's natural gas needs and expenses are known and as stable as possible.
- I encourage BCGGA to explore all available options to increase efficiency and affect the Sector's reliance on natural gas. Please work with my staff to explore potential avenues.

Contact: Georgina Beyers, Director, Industry Development, 250-896-6221

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

Ref: 193625

Date: February 12, 2021

Title: Meeting with the Prince Rupert Port Authority (PRPA).

Issue: Introduction to the PRPA and overview of the Port's current landscape.

Background:

- In January 2021, the PRPA (see Appendix A for PRPA governance structure) submitted a congratulatory letter to MLP on re-election as MLA for Saanich South and re-appointment as Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries.
- The PRPA is accountable to the federal Minister of Transport. Its mandate is to regulate port operations, develop port lands and support the growth of Canadian trade through the Port of Prince Rupert (the "Port").
- The Port is the third-largest in Canada behind Vancouver and Montreal, the northern-most trade gateway on the West Coast, and fastest supply chain between North America and Asia. In 2020, the Port handled approximately \$50 billion in international trade, stimulated \$1.5 billion of economic activity and supported more than 6,000 jobs in Northern B.C.

First Nations Considerations:

- The surrounding Port area covering the mouth of the Skeena River estuary is a critically important river for salmon and supports the area's Indigenous, commercial, and recreational fisheries, including exports of fish and seafood products.
- In January 2019, the PRPA announced the development of a moratorium on Flora, Agnew and Horsey Banks to ensure protection of marine habitat by prohibiting any industrial development in this marine area adjacent to Lelu Island. This is set for a 20-year period, but revisited every five years to decide on whether to reset the 20-year timeframe.

Discussion:

The following highlights include sector-focused considerations related to Port activities:

Transportation and Infrastructure:

- In September 2020, Treasury Board approved the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure's request for a \$25 million contribution from *StrongerBC* to fund the PRPA's Ridley Island Export Logistics Platform (RIELP).
- The RIELP will add value to B.C. exports, including agricultural products, through greater optimization of supply chains, containerization of products, and more competitive access to global markets.

Agriculture, Food and Fisheries:

- The Port is an important terminal for B.C.'s northern fishing vessels, including those that harvest and offload Dungeness crab. The Area A Dungeness crab fishery surrounding Prince Rupert is one of B.C.'s seven commercial crab fisheries and one of the most important and lucrative crab fisheries in Canada. In 2019, the fishery accounted for approximately 67% of crab landings by weight (over 5,500 tonnes worth \$65 million; an increase from the previous five-year average of 1,300 tonnes). Area A landed approximately one million pounds of crab each week in Prince Rupert during the start of its season opening in July 2020.
- The Port is also an important shipping terminal for exports of Western Canadian grain/oilseed and forage out of the Central Interior (see Appendix B for 2019 B.C. agriculture, seafood, food and beverage export highlights). For example, the cost to ship hay from Vanderhoof to Shanghai via Prince Rupert ranges

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from CAD \$102 to \$107 per ton, which is roughly the same as trucking freight costs from Vanderhoof to Abbotsford.

- The Ministry is providing funding to develop Food Processing and Innovation Hubs ('Food Hubs') across B.C. regions, including through a Grain and Oilseed Food Hub feasibility study in the Peace Region and implementation support for an Upper Skeena Small-Scale Food Hub near Hazelton, B.C.
- The Ministry engaged with the Port a few years ago on the feasibility of building a beef packing plant in Prince George (yet to materialize), but has not had any other direct engagement related to primary agriculture.

Conclusion:

- Opportunities may exist to engage further with the PRPA and industry on opportunities to expand exports through Northern B.C., in support of the Provincial Government's economic recovery objectives.

Appendices:

- Appendix A – PRPA Governance
- Appendix B – 2019 B.C. Agriculture, Seafood, Food and Beverage Export Highlights

Contact: Lee Haney, Market Development Specialist, FBB (Lee.Haney@gov.bc.ca) 778-698-3496)

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Appendix A – PRPA Governance

EXECUTIVE TEAM

Shaun Stevenson – President/CEO

Shaun Stevenson became the President and Chief Executive officer at the Port of Prince Rupert in 2018. Since 1997, his various roles have been instrumental in the growth and diversification of the Port's business in support of expanding trade. These roles have included feasibility assessment, marketing, financing, and development of many new terminals and facilities, notably the successful launch of the Fairview container terminal.

Brian Friesen – Vice President, Trade Development and Communications

Brian joined the PRPA in 2014 and has assumed progressive roles in marketing and trade development. In his current role, he is responsible for business development, strategic planning, marketing, corporate communications, business analysis and investment attraction. Prior to joining the Port Authority, Brian held various roles in sales, marketing and business development.

Shelby O'Brien – Vice President, Commercial and Regulatory Affairs & General Counsel

Shelby joined the PRPA in 2013. She oversees regulatory matters affecting port operations, leads commercial negotiations for new developments and terminal expansion projects, and is responsible for the negotiation and implementation of settlement agreements with First Nations. Shelby is a member of the Canadian Maritime Law Association and sits as Chair of the association's Ports and Harbours Committee.

Joe Rektor – Vice President, Finance

Joe joined the PRPA in 1992. As a chartered accountant, he leads the financing, financial control and reporting, business analysis, risk management, human resources and information technology activities of the organization.

Kurt Slocombe – Vice President, Gateway Operations and Planning

Kurt joined the PRPA in May 2019. He moved to Prince Rupert in 2007 as part of the Maher Terminal's start up team for Fairview Container Terminal. Since that time, he has held positions of increased responsibility at the Terminal, including Director of Operations as well as Director, Gateway Operations Centre (a joint venture between DP World and CN Rail).

Ken Veldman – Vice President, Public Affairs and Sustainability

Ken is responsible for leading the teams and strategies related to sustainability, environment, communities, governments and relationships with Indigenous Peoples. Ken has been a member of the PRPA team since 2011 and has over 25 years of experience in economic development, including senior roles in Terrace, Prince George, Vancouver, and B.C.'s 2010 Olympic Games Secretariat.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Frans Tjallingii – Board Chair

Frans Tjallingii has over 18 years of leadership, commercial, organizational development and strategy consulting experience in maritime and oil and gas industries. He is a board director and/or advisor to multiple companies in the technology, finance, education and other industries. In 2018, he completed the sale to Galaxy Digital of First Coin Capital, an advisory firm in the blockchain industry, which he co-founded in 2017. Before that, he led the Canadian presence of Saam Smit Towage. Frans started his career with business development at a consulting engineering firm where he created a new advisory service related to environmental aspects of shipping. After working for the Netherlands Government dealing with international maritime environmental treaties and conventions, he joined SMIT (now Royal Boskalis Westminster) in

2004. Frans is the Co-founder and Chairman of the New Leaf Project, a not-for-profit that is pioneering new approaches to homelessness. Frans has a Masters degree in Marine Biology from the University of Groningen and a Masters in Business Administration from the Rotterdam School of Management. Mr. Tjallingii was appointed on the recommendation of the Minister of Transport in consultation with the Coast Tsimshian First Nations.

John Farrell – Board Vice-Chair, and HR and Compensation Committee Chair

John Farrell called Prince Rupert home during the 1990s and then, since 2007, as the owner of Opa Sushi and Cow Bay Café restaurants. For the past five years, he has worked as the General Manager for the local Community Futures Development Corporation. Mr. Farrell's commitment to the communities of Prince Rupert and Port Edward is demonstrated through extensive civic leadership. He has served as Chair of the Port Edward Harbour Authority, B.C. Fisheries Legacy Trust, Vice-Chair of Tourism Prince Rupert and a past President of the Prince Rupert and District Chamber of Commerce. His involvement extends further to include Rotary, coaching youth soccer, and as Chair of the Annunciation School parent support group. Mr. Farrell was appointed by the City of Prince Rupert and District of Port Edward to the PRPA Board of Directors.

Jennifer Clarke – Board Director and Audit Committee Chair

Jennifer Clarke is President of JPC Strategies Ltd., which provides clients with project management, communications and policy advice and was Senior Counsel at Fleishman Hillard Canada, an international strategic communications firm. She began her career as a television producer and reporter working in the U.S. and Canada and has also taught local government in the political science department at the University of British Columbia. She served three terms on Vancouver City Council and on the board of the Greater Vancouver Regional District from 1993 to 2002. Ms. Clarke holds a B.A. from Yale University and a Masters of Journalism from the University of California at Berkeley and her certification from the Institute of Corporate Directors. She has held senior roles on a wide variety of boards including Translink, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of B.C., the Advisory Board of the Centre for the Study of Democratic Institutions at UBC, Coast Mental Health, the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation, the B.C. Provincial Capital Commission and the Vancouver Public Library Foundation, whose board she now chairs. Ms. Clarke was appointed on the recommendation of the Minister of Transport in consultation with the Port User Nominating Committee.

Kenneth Clayton – Board Director and Major Projects Committee Chair

Ken Clayton grew up in Tsawwassen, BC, and graduated from the University of British Columbia's Civil Engineering Program in 1971. He currently resides in Delta, B.C. Before joining Humphrey Construction Ltd. as a project engineer, he worked for companies in the hydroelectric and concrete manufacturing fields. Since 1990, he has served as President of Humphrey Construction, a general contracting firm whose projects include many in the mining, port and fishing industries throughout North America. In 2010, he was made a Fellow of Engineers Canada, a distinction honouring individuals who have given noteworthy service to the engineering profession. Mr. Clayton was appointed on the recommendation of the Minister of Transport in consultation with the Port User Nominating Committee.

Beverley Clifton Percival – Board Director

Beverley Clifton Percival is Gitksan and lives in Hazelton, B.C. She has a B.A. in Sociology and Anthropology. She has completed course work for an M.A. in First Nations Studies but has yet to complete her project due to family loss. She has been a researcher, a Museum Curator a College/University Instructor, and most recently a Negotiator for the Gitksan Hereditary Chiefs for 15 years. Her family played an active role in Delgamuukxw and Gisdawya. She is firmly grounded in her Gitksan identity and teachings. She believes in Indigenous worldview and ability to make positive change. She is currently the Health Director of Witsset (formerly Moricetown) Health Centre with a staff of 16 people. Improving the wellness and health of Indigenous people is a goal and she will collaborate and work with like-minded people for this purpose.

Lifelong learning is what her tsiits (granny) taught her and she will pass on knowledge to those coming behind. Ms. Clifton Percival is the federal government appointee on the Board.

Peter Lantin – Board Director and Sustainability Committee Chair

Peter Lantin served as the elected President of the Council of the Haida Nation from 2012-2018 and has over 15 years of experience in financial administration and governance. He previously served as Chair for the Gwaii Trust, a society that owns and manages a perpetual fund for the benefit of all the people of Haida Gwaii, and was the Chief Operating Officer for TRICORP, an aboriginal capital corporation. Mr. Lantin is the Provincial Government appointee on the Board.

Rita Andreone – Board Director and Governance Committee Chair

Rita Andreone, Q.C., is an accredited independent director, with broad chair, oversight and risk management experience. She is a business leader, governance advisor and a recently retired business lawyer. For over 30 years, she has advised and worked with multi-platform, diversified businesses and has been provincially and nationally recognized. She has a long history of community contributions and professional service and is published and has lectured on various business and legal topics. Ms. Andreone was appointed on the recommendation of the Minister of Transport in consultation with the Port User Nominating Committee.

Appendix B – 2019 B.C. Agriculture, Seafood, Food and Beverage Export Highlights

2019 B.C. Agriculture, Seafood, Food and Beverage Exports:

In 2019, B.C. exported \$4.7 billion worth of agriculture, seafood, food and beverage products to 152 international markets. Top 2019 exports included farmed Atlantic salmon (\$561.9 million), food preparations for manufacturing and natural health products (\$376.7 million) and blueberries (\$273.4 million). The U.S. continued to be B.C.'s largest agriculture, seafood, food and beverage export market in 2019, accounting for a 73% share worth \$3.4 billion in export value (see table below for 2019 B.C. agriculture, seafood, food and beverage exports to top 10 international markets).

Rank	Market	2017	2018	2019	2019 Share	18-19 Growth	Top Products in 2019
1	United States	\$2,815.2	\$3,083.7	\$3,397.2	73%	10%	Atlantic salmon, blueberries, baked goods, mushrooms, food preparations for manufacturing & natural health products
2	China	\$410.4	\$497.9	\$452.0	10%	-9%	Crabs, geoduck clams, hake, cherries, pork
3	Japan	\$204.1	\$224.4	\$208.8	4%	-7%	Pork, herring, shrimp/prawns, Atlantic salmon, mushrooms
4	South Korea	\$71.3	\$73.3	\$101.3	2%	38%	Food preparations for manufacturing & natural health products, coffee, sugars, sea urchin, animal feed
5	Hong Kong	\$67.1	\$72.7	\$71.7	2%	-1%	Geoduck clams, animal feed, pork, food preparations for manufacturing & natural health products, cherries
6	Taiwan	\$40.5	\$53.8	\$50.4	1%	-6%	Food preparations for manufacturing & natural health products, pork, poultry, animal feed, soups and broths
7	Australia	\$30.5	\$29.5	\$37.1	1%	26%	Food preparations for manufacturing & natural health products, mixed fruits and nuts, coffee, butter, dairy spreads and oils, cheese
8	United Kingdom	\$21.5	\$24.5	\$31.9	1%	31%	Sockeye, food preparations for manufacturing & natural health products, sablefish, coffee, cherries
9	Ukraine	\$18.8	\$39.4	\$29.2	1%	-26%	Hake, pollock, pork, food preparations for manufacturing & natural health products, soups and broths
10	Philippines	\$26.6	\$27.1	\$26.7	1%	-2%	Poultry, pork, food preparations for manufacturing & natural health products, miscellaneous edible preparations, other animal products
	<i>Rest of World</i>	<i>\$238.1</i>	<i>\$263.1</i>	<i>\$273.9</i>	<i>6%</i>	<i>4%</i>	<i>N/A</i>
	World	\$3,944.0	\$4,389.4	\$4,680.3	100%	7%	Atlantic salmon, food preparations for manufacturing & natural health products, blueberries, baked goods, mushrooms

2019 B.C. Field Crop Exports:

In 2019, B.C. exported \$145 million in field crops to 82 international markets. B.C.'s field crop export value increased 14% over the previous year with growth in almost all commodities, most notably a 126% increase in the export value of hay and a 63% increase in oats (see table below for 2019 B.C. field crop exports).

Product	2017	2018	2019	2019 Share	18-19 Growth	Total Markets	Top Markets in 2019
Wheat	\$62.6	\$57.0	\$67.0	46%	17%	68	U.S. (67%), Indonesia (4%), Japan (3%), China (3%)
Rape/colza seeds	\$19.5	\$26.2	\$26.2	18%	0.1%	24	Japan (25%), China (20%), Mexico (12%), Pakistan (9%), U.A.E. (8%)
Oats	\$9.3	\$9.6	\$15.7	11%	63%	26	U.S. (79%), Japan (6%), Mexico (5%)
Barley	\$5.8	\$6.2	\$8.1	6%	30%	16	China (68%), Japan (15%), U.S. (9%)
Malt	\$12.2	\$7.2	\$7.5	5%	4%	4	U.S. (99%)
Canary seeds	\$2.7	\$1.7	\$6.0	4%	250%	24	Colombia (23%), Indonesia (13%), Spain (11%), Australia (9%)
Hemp	\$12.2	\$7.1	\$2.2	1%	-70%	5	U.S. (91%), Australia (7%)
Hay	\$0.6	\$0.8	\$1.7	1%	126%	4	China (53%), South Korea (44%)
Rice	\$0.9	\$0.9	\$1.3	1%	54%	5	U.S. (59%), China (39%)
Legumes	\$1.1	\$1.4	\$1.3	1%	-5%	6	U.S. (92%), United Kingdom (6%)
Other field crops	\$13.6	\$9.4	\$8.2	6%	-12%	N/A	N/A
Total Field Crops	\$140.6	\$127.5	\$145.2	100%	14%	82	U.S. (52%), China (11%), Japan (8%)

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

Ref: 193947

Date: February 19, 2021

Title: Decision note for funding B.C. Crab Fishermen's Association (BCCFA) project for the Canadian Fish and Seafood Opportunities Fund (CFSOF).

Issue: The BCCFA has submitted a project to the CFSOF that requires B.C. cost sharing and a minister approval letter.

Background: The CFSOF was first launched in 2018 and is a national marketing program that supports industry organizations in their efforts to address key market-access issues, as well as branding and promotion opportunities through national and regional initiatives. The CFSOF is a federal, provincial, and territorial governments' cost-share program of \$42.85 million (70 percent federal and 30 percent provincial) and funds eligible activities supported by participating provinces and territories. Eligible applicants under the CFSOF are not-for-profit industry organizations (e.g., associations and Indigenous governments) operating on a national, regional, or sector-wide basis in the fish and seafood sector who are active in, or supporting, marketing activities related to the sector. During the current COVID-19 pandemic context, the CFSOF is another tool to help the fish and seafood sector adapt to changing consumer demand and build new markets.

Crab is economically significant to many communities on the coast. In 2019, 8,288 tonnes of Dungeness crab were landed coastwide with landed and wholesale values of \$98.5M and \$173.1M, respectively. This is a significant increase from the previous five-year average of 3,972 tonnes and \$52.2M average landed value. China is the largest export market for B.C. crab, representing 95 percent of crab exports, and the United States and Singapore markets represent three percent and one percent of B.C. crab exports, respectively. 2019 and 2020 have both seen record high catch volumes, however COVID-19 related complications on 2020 values are still unknown. B.C.'s top three seafood exports in 2019 were farmed Atlantic salmon (\$561.9 million), crabs (\$206.5 million) and hake (\$102.9 million), where crabs ranked sixth in B.C.'s overall agriculture and food product export values.

BCCFA has applied to the CFSOF with a project for increasing marketing of B.C. crab in Canada with a focus on reaching more B.C. markets. The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (AFF) has marked funding for CFSOF contribution for this fiscal year with estimated provincial costs of \$24,300.

First Nations Considerations: Of the 221 crab licence eligibilities for this fishery, 32 have been designated as communal commercial licences for First Nations participation in the commercial fishery. First Nations' harvest for food, social and ceremonial (FSC) purposes may occur where authorized by an aboriginal communal licence, harvest document, or under fishery treaty agreements. Several First Nations conduct their own crab stock assessment surveys in traditional territories in conjunction with FSC fishing.

Discussion: Crab is economically significant to many communities on B.C.'s coast and was the most valuable wild fishery in 2019 by landed value. The fishery is currently highly reliant on an export market to China and on processing in the U.S. Developing more of a domestic market for crab in Canada will help increase stability of income for B.C. crab fishermen as well as contribute to local food security by providing more locally harvested protein for British Columbians. Increasing processing in B.C. will also contribute to achieving a ministry mandate commitment. The B.C. crab fishing industry, like many other B.C. fisheries, is experiencing impacts from the global COVID-19 pandemic. Funding marketing initiatives for this industry supports the provincial COVID-19 economic recovery goals by contributing to market stability.

The B.C. crab fishery is broken up into seven Crab Management Areas (CMA), each with a different management structure, markets, and fishery timing. This structure is one of the factors leading to the fishery

not having a well-structured coastwide organization like other B.C. fisheries. The BCCFA currently represents five of the seven CMAs and is interested in increasing their coast-wide capacity. The BCCFA is not only trying to increase the marketing of B.C. crab through the success of this CFSOF project, but also hoping that a unified marketing plan for all CMAs with help reform the BCCFA and increase participation of industry members in each area. Many members of the crab fishery have indicated that they would come together in a more organized way if there were benefits from a broader marketing strategy. If successful, this could bring the groups together to more efficiently deal with other coast-wide issues in the crab fleets.

Staff from AFF have been in communications with the BCCFA and DFO as the organization administering the CFSOF. AFF and DFO have provided feedback and worked with the BCCFA to get the current proposal ready for approval. The Project approval requires a letter of support (Appendix 1) from Minister Popham and sign-off by DFO Minister Jordan. Discussions with DFO staff have indicated that this project can begin funding within this fiscal year if provincial approval can be provided soon to move it forward to Minister Jordan.

Options:

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Option 2: Send letter of provincial support and commit to fund this project in full this fiscal year.

Pros: Project would begin benefitting the industry right away and could result in better marketing in place for the larger 2021 northern fishery in late spring. Funding this project will also show support for one of B.C.'s most valuable fisheries being faced with issues caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cons: Ministry costs of \$24,300.

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Recommendation: Option #2. This project will provide provincial support to the crab industry, and the funding has already been planned and allocated for the current fiscal year. This project aligns with the draft strategy developed by AFF staff to increase support for the crab sector in B.C.

Approved / Not Approved



Lana Popham, Minister

February 25, 2021

Date Signed

Contact: Kevin Romanin, Senior Policy Analyst - Marine Fisheries, Aquaculture and Seafood, 778-974-4884

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Appendix 1 – Letter of Support

File: 0280-30

Ref: 193947

Hon. Minister Bernadette Jordan
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Jordan:

I am writing you today to indicate my support and that of the British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries for the project put forward through the Canadian Fish and Seafood Opportunities Fund (CFSOF) by the B.C. Crab Fishermen's Association (BCCFA).

The reference number for this project is CFSOF-1003 and the Province of British Columbia is agreeing to provide provincial cost shared funding in the amount of \$24,300.

B.C. is pleased to remain part of the CFSOF, which aims to promote collaborative projects that provide broad benefits at a national, regional, or a sectoral level. B.C. continues to support its fish and seafood sectors and recognizes the CFSOF as a valuable tool for funding the Province's international and domestic marketing needs.

Sincerely,

Lana Popham
Minister

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