

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

Ref: 195825

Date: September 3, 2021

**Title:** Meeting with Sysco Canada

**Issue:** Sysco Canada has requested a meeting with the Minister.

**Background:**

Sysco Canada (Sysco) has requested a meeting with Minister Popham to introduce their business and expanding interests in local food, food security, labour, and transportation. Sysco is a global distribution company supplying food and non-food products to restaurants, healthcare and education facilities, lodgings, and other food service outlets. In British Columbia (B.C.) Sysco employs nearly 1,000 people at facilities in Langford, Kelowna, Vancouver, and FreshPoint in Richmond.

Since 2018, Sysco BC has been an important partner in Feed BC, as the distributor for many B.C. health authorities, post-secondary institutions, and other public facilities. A multi-year Feed BC shared cost agreement with Sysco BC resulted in coaching of 90+ B.C. producers and processors, 25 new local food options for healthcare, and engaging Indigenous food businesses. Sysco recently announced a new B.C. position to grow their local food business.

Sysco has also engaged with ministry staff in recent retail supply chain discussions. While Sysco does not primarily work with retail outlets, they temporarily expanded their business model to include retail chains and direct-to-consumer sales during the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic. They played an important role in transporting food directly to some Indigenous and other remote communities where supply chains had been disrupted.

**Discussion:**

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**Suggested Response:**

- Thank Sysco for their support of Ministry initiatives including the Feed BC partnership, their engagement on supply chain issues and ongoing interest and support of B.C. producers and processors including Indigenous food businesses
- Inquire about Sysco's plans to increase local food offerings and expand opportunities for Indigenous food businesses.

Contact: Kristina Bouris, A/Senior Manager, Value Chain Innovation, 778-974-3488

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

Ref: 195488

Date: September 7, 2021

**Title:** Meeting with Investment Agriculture Foundation (IAF)

**Issue:** IAF is seeking approval for the proposed use of the residual Agri-Food Futures Fund (AFFF) and is providing updates on program and funding opportunities

**Background:**

1. Support for the proposed use of the residual AFFF funds (\$3.25M) over the next 3 to 5 years:

- AFFF was established in 2001, under a 21-year trust agreement for \$13.3M. Funds were administered through the federal-provincial safety net agreement (2000-2002), which increased the total funds in 2002 to \$22.8M. Including interest earned on the principal, \$23.8M has been spent as direct payments to participants.
- The current terms of the trust agreement between IAF and AFF expire on March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at which time, the trust will dissolve. As of April 30, 2021, the trust had \$3.23M in uncommitted funds from interest earned on the principal.
- IAF has provided a Proposed Strategic Approach (Appendix A) that outlines a strategy on for the use of the remaining funds to be used between 2022 and 2025.

2. Provide the Minister with program updates for Farmland Advantage and Buy BC:

Farmland Advantage (FLA):

- FLA encourages farmers to take action to maintain ecosystem services such as clean drinking water, biodiversity, flood mitigation and improved air quality. Participating farmers receive payments for these actions on a per acre basis.
- In 2020, IAF expressed its interest in becoming the long-term administrator for FLA. In a letter dated June 18, 2020, the Minister expressed support for IAF to use the residual interest earned on the AFFF towards establishing a provincial wide FLA program and utilizing AFF staff time and expertise as in-kind support (Appendix B).
- In late 2020, the Province of B.C. contributed \$27M to support the Healthy Watersheds Initiative (HWI)). IAF received \$500,000 of the HWI funds.

Buy BC Partnership Program:

- The Buy BC Partnership Program (BBCPP) is a foundational component of Buy BC that supports \$1.8M in industry-led local marketing activities per year.
- In 2018, AFF issued a Notice of Intent (NOI) to Direct Award the administration of BBCPP to IAF for up to five years (ending March 31, 2023). AFF will be required to conduct a full procurement process to secure a delivery agent beyond 2022/23. As part of this process, staff will undertake a program review to identify opportunities to better align cost-shared funding and logo licensing activities with government-led Buy BC activities.

3. IAF's proposals to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's (AAFC) Agricultural Climate Solutions (ACS) Program and On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF)

- ACS is a \$185M, 10-year program that will help develop and implement farming practices to tackle climate change across Canada. ACS is supporting the development of regional collaboration hubs on farms, known as "Living Labs". Farmers and farm groups will be at the centre of decision making, innovation and on-farm activities at each hub.
- OFCAF will support producers in adopting beneficial management practices that reduce greenhouse gases and store carbon, e.g., cover cropping, rotational grazing practices. A total of \$200M will be distributed across Canada through delivery partners.

**Discussion:**

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**Suggested Response:**

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Contact: David Poon, Director, Resource Management Unit, 778-666-0562

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**Appendices**

Appendix A: IAF Agri-Food Futures Fund – Proposed Strategic Approach

Appendix B (Letter from Minister Popham, June 18, 2020)

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

Ref: 195832

Date: September 13, 2021

**Title:** Meeting with Farm Folk City Folk (FFCF) and Farmers for Climate Solutions (FCS)

**Issue:** FFCF and FCS have recommendations for AFF to help make climate action central to the next policy framework

**Background:**

- FCS launched in February 2020. 'FCS is a national alliance of farmer-led organizations and supporters who believe that agriculture must be part of the solution to climate change.' Their goal is for Canada to adopt policies that help farmers mitigate and adapt to climate change, and support the spread of low-input, low-emissions agricultural systems.
- FCS members from B.C. include:
  - FarmFolk CityFolk
  - BC Farmers Markets
  - Organic BC
  - Young Agrarians
- FFCF is a charitable non-profit organization, launched in 1993. FFCF's programs 'go from seed to plate to strengthen B.C.'s sustainable food systems,' by engaging various stakeholders including policymakers.
- In September 2020, FCS gathered a farmer-led task force of experts to develop a pre-budget submission for federal Budget 2021.
- FCS appear to have been successful in lobbying the federal budget for agricultural climate mitigation supports. In August 2021, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) launched the On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF) to support on-farm BMP adoption of practices. Specifically, the OFCAF targets improved nitrogen use, cover crops and rotational grazing, similar to three of six programs that FCS recommended for federal Budget 2021. OFCAF will provide \$200 million from 2021 to 2024.
- FCS and FFCF are looking to discuss the following four recommendations for the next policy framework (NPF) that is expected to follow the current policy framework, the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (2018/19 to 2022/23):
  1. Adopt a comprehensive agri-environmental strategy with clear emissions targets
  2. Support farmers directly to adopt practices to reduce emissions and build resilience
  3. Adapt risk management programs to reward climate-friendly agriculture
  4. Allocate additional funds to the NPF to ensure appropriate investment for climate adaptation and mitigation

**Discussion:**

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productivity BRM programs strive to reflect changes quickly.

**Suggested Response**

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Contact: David Poon, Director, Resource Management Unit, 778-666-0562

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**Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries**  
**MEETING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION**

Ref: 196092

Date: September 22, 2021

**Title:** District of Central Saanich Food Hub Feasibility Planning Session

**Issue:** Roundtable meeting discussion between the District of Central Saanich, industry, and community to discuss the feasibility of a food hub in the Saanich Peninsula.

**Background:**

- The BC Food Hub Network is in its third year of development. Currently, it includes twelve Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (Ministry) funded regional Food Processing and Innovation Hubs (food hubs). Four are operational (in Vancouver, Quesnel, Port Alberni, and Surrey). Eight are in various stages of development (in Salmon Arm, Cowichan Valley, Kamloops, Victoria, Abbotsford, Bowser, Rock Creek/Greenwood, and Creston).
- Funding has also been provided to twelve regions to conduct food hub feasibility studies and business plans to explore the development of Food Hubs within their communities which include Summerland, Quesnel, the Columbia Basin, Bowser, Salmon Arm, Kamloops, the Capital Region, Upper Skeena, North Vancouver, and Courtenay (all publicly announced), and Comox Valley and the Peace Region (not yet publicly announced).
- The BC Food Hub Network responds to a previous Ministry mandate letter commitment and is a core component of the current mandate commitment to expand the Grow BC, Feed BC, and Buy BC programs.

**First Nations Considerations:**

- The inclusion of Indigenous peoples in the BC Food Hub Network (if/as desired by First Nations) is important to create food processing and economic opportunities for businesses and communities. One recent success is through where the Kamloops Food Hub is working with the Kweseltken Kitchen, a mobile food processing trailer for agritourism training and food demonstrations.
- A food hub in the District of Central Saanich could serve a region that includes two First Nation groups: Tsartlip (Sart-Lip) and Tsawout (Say-Out) Nations. There is a great need for ongoing engagement with First Nation groups and capacity building for future success.

**Discussion:**

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Contact: Jennifer Walsh, Manager, Food Innovation, 236-478-0562

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

Ref: 196071

Date: September 22, 2021

**Title:** Updates to the Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farmed Mink

**Issue:** The National Farm Animal Care Council has published an updated Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farmed Mink.

**Background:**

The National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC) originally published the Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farmed Mink (Code) in 2013. Issues that had been identified throughout the 5-year review of the Code were incorporated by the NFACC into the revised Code. Draft updates to the Code were provided to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (AFF) earlier this year, and AFF staff submitted comments back on these proposed updates. The updated Code was published on August 11, 2021.

**First Nations Considerations:**

The Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farmed Mink does not impact traditional Indigenous rights to hunting and trapping.

**Discussion:**

Amendments were made to the following sections: 1.2.2 Pens, 1.2.3 Nest Boxes, 3.1 Nutrition, 3.1.1 Breeding Mink, 5.1 Animal Handling, 6.2 (now 6.3) Confirming Death and the Euthanasia chapter (now called Euthanasia and Harvest). Most updates to the Code provide clarity or are technical changes which are summarized in Appendix A.

NFACC has extended the timeline for pens to meet the new pen size requirements from December 31, 2023 to December 31, 2028. AFF raised concern for this extension and requested that more research be conducted into mink housing and enrichments. The updated Code includes a preamble assuring that industry is committed to working with researchers and other partners to ensure that more research on mink housing is completed in time for the next Code update. They also note the Canada Mink Breeders Association estimates that 50 percent of farms already comply with new pen size requirements.

An additional section in Chapter 6: Euthanasia and Harvest was included in the 2021 updates to include contingency methods for euthanasia if CO from a compressed gas cylinder cannot be sourced or used (see Appendix B). The Ministry raised concern over the use of CO<sub>2</sub> as a contingency method, considering its aversive nature to mammals. The Code acknowledges that CO<sub>2</sub> is aversive to mink and causes a brief period of distress before mink become insensible. Therefore, they note that CO<sub>2</sub> must only be used as a last resort.

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## Summary

- The National Farm Animal Care Council has published amendments to the original 2013 Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farmed Mink.
- Most of the updates provide clarity or are technical changes.
- Ministry concerns that were raised around the need for further research into mink housing and enrichments and the use of CO<sub>2</sub> for euthanizing mink were addressed in the updated Code.

Contact: Katie Fraser, Senior Policy Analyst, 778-974-4885

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## Appendix A: Changes in Language from 2013 Code of Practice to 2021 Amendments

2013 Code of Practice	2021 Code of Practice Updates
<p>1.2.2 Pens</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All new pens must also meet the following requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If lowering the feed strip, the lowered portion of the pen must have a <b>minimum height of 12in</b> (30cm), and extend a maximum of 10in (25cm) into the pen.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>As of December 31, 2023</b>, all pens must meet the new pen size requirements (Table 1), or those which comply for the lifetime of the pen provisions (Table 2).</li> </ul>	<p>1.2.2 Pens</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All pens must meet the following requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If lowering the feed strip, the lowered portion of the pen must have a <b>minimum height of 10 in</b> (25 cm), and extend a maximum of 10 in (25 cm) into the pen.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>As of December 31, 2028</b>, all pens must meet the new pen size requirements (Table 1), or those which comply for the lifetime of the pen provisions (Table 2).</li> </ul>
<p>1.2.3 Nest Boxes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nest boxes must be designed to hold adequate bedding and allow for good nesting behaviour to provide a comfortable, safe, and secluded place.</li> <li>Nest boxes must be an appropriate size to accommodate all animals in the pen comfortably at the same time.</li> <li>During whelping, lactation, furring, and winter months, mink must have access to a nest box <b>with adequate bedding</b>.</li> <li>If feeding on nest box lid, kits must be able to easily access the feed.</li> </ul>	<p>1.2.3 Nest Boxes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nest boxes must be designed to hold adequate bedding and allow for good nesting behaviour to provide a comfortable, safe, and secluded place, <b>and reasonable efforts must be made to keep nest boxes clean</b>.</li> <li>Nest boxes must be an appropriate size to accommodate all animals in the pen comfortably at the same time.</li> <li>During whelping, lactation, furring, and winter months, mink must have access to a nest box.</li> <li><b>During furring and winter months, the nest box must only be blocked or removed if needed to retrain mink not to soil it (for a maximum of 1 week) or during exceptionally warm periods during the conditioning phase (as long as warmer temperatures</b></li> </ul>

	<p><b>persist, to a maximum of 2 weeks).</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The nest box must never be removed during whelping or lactation.</b></li> <li>• <b>Any temporary removal or blocking of the nest box must be based on consideration of welfare risks/benefits rather than as a routine; include the basis for these decisions in on farm protocols.</b></li> <li>• If feeding on the nest box lid, kits must be able to easily access the feed.</li> </ul>
<p>3.1 Nutrition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All mink must have access to sufficient quantities of nutritional feed which meet their physiological needs.</li> <li>• Farms must monitor body condition score <b>regularly</b> to ensure appropriate feeding levels (refer to Appendix A - Body Condition Scoring for Mink).</li> <li>• Pens of mink that are over- or under-conditioned must be marked so the mink may be monitored more closely and fed accordingly.</li> </ul>	<p>3.1 Nutrition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All mink must have access to sufficient quantities of nutritional feed which meet their physiological needs.</li> <li>• Farms must monitor body condition score <b>daily</b> to ensure appropriate feeding levels (refer to Appendix A - Body Condition Scoring for Mink).</li> <li>• Pens of mink that are over-conditioned (<b>i.e. body condition score 5</b>) or under-conditioned (<b>i.e. body condition score &lt;2</b>) must be marked and the mink must be monitored more closely and fed accordingly.</li> </ul>
<p>3.1.1 Breeding Mink</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Feeding programs must aim to condition breeders appropriately while avoiding the need for significant dietary adjustment.</b></li> <li>• All males must be monitored very closely during the breeding season for loss of condition.</li> </ul>	<p>3.1.1 Breeding Mink</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>If conditioning of breeding animals is needed, feeding programs must be adjusted gradually and as early as possible in the season to avoid significant and/or abrupt feed restriction.</b></li> <li>• All males must be monitored very closely during the breeding season for loss of condition.</li> </ul>
5.1 Animal Handling	5.1 Animal Handling

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stockpeople handling mink must be trained in mink behaviour and proper handling techniques.</li> <li>• Mink must be handled in a manner that minimizes stress.</li> <li>• Mink must be supported by the body when being carried.</li> <li>• Pressure on the abdomen must be avoided when handling mink, especially in pregnant females.</li> <li>• Handling females during the first 30 days following breeding must be avoided; utmost care must be used if handling is required in later gestation.</li> <li>• Where box/cage traps are used to catch escapees on farm, they must be checked at least twice daily.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stockpeople handling mink must be trained in mink behaviour and proper handling techniques.</li> <li>• Mink must be handled in a manner that minimizes stress <b>and prevents pain or injury.</b></li> <li>• <b>Juvenile and adult mink may be lifted by firmly grasping the base of the tail. The time they are held by only the base of the tail must be minimized (i.e. only as long as necessary to transfer the mink to a handling crate or nearby pen).</b></li> <li>• <b>If carrying mink further or the mink begins to swivel or show signs of stress, their body must be supported immediately.</b></li> <li>• Pressure on the abdomen must be avoided when handling mink, especially in pregnant females.</li> <li>• Handling females during the first 30 days following breeding must be avoided; utmost care must be used if handling is required in later gestation.</li> <li>• Where box/cage traps are used to catch escapees on farm, they must be checked at least twice daily.</li> </ul>
<p>6.2 Evidence to Confirm Death</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each mink must be confirmed dead immediately following euthanasia.</li> <li>• Death must be confirmed by determining the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-absence of all movement for at least five minutes</li> <li>-absence of a heartbeat and pulse for at least five minutes</li> <li>-lack of breathing for at least five minutes</li> <li>-fixed, dilated pupil</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>6.3 Confirming Death</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mink must remain in the chamber until all movement has stopped and death is confirmed.</li> <li>• <b>A written protocol outlining the indicators used to confirm death, and their assessment, must be developed and implemented.</b></li> </ul>

-absence of all reflexes including the corneal reflex (i.e., no blinking when the eyeball is touched).	
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## Appendix B: Contingency Methods for Euthanasia

Table 6.2 – Contingency Methods

In the event that CO from a compressed gas cylinder cannot be sourced or cannot be used due to human safety regulations/rules, a contingency method may be used but only as a last resort and only if in accordance with Table 6.2.		
Method	Conditions	Comments
<p>Gas inhalation:</p> <p>Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from a commercially supplied cylinder.</p>	<p>Must be supplied in a precisely regulated and purified form without contaminants or adulterants from a commercially supplied cylinder (24).</p> <p>It is critically important to achieve and maintain at least an 80% concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> (24).</p> <p>Requires specialized equipment (pressure-reducing regulator, flow meter, CO<sub>2</sub> cylinder) and a closed chamber to contain gas (24).</p> <p>Gradual fill chambers must be used (24).</p>	<p>Is aversive to mink and causes a brief period of distress before mink become insensible (31).</p> <p>Use in a well-ventilated area for operator safety.</p>
<p>Gas inhalation:</p> <p>Filtered exhaust CO only if from purpose-built device/equipment that achieves and maintains a concentration of at least 4%.</p>	<p>The gas must be cooled, filtered, and free from irritating components before entering the chamber and the hose must be free of any defects that would impact the flow rate.</p> <p>It is critically important to achieve and maintain at least a 4% concentration of CO (24).</p> <p>The gas must not be filtered through a catalytic converter.</p>	<p>The delivery rate can be difficult to regulate even when using a specially adapted source of exhaust.</p> <p>Use in a well-ventilated area for operator safety.</p> <p>If indoors, use CO monitors to warn personnel of hazardous concentrations.</p>



## BRIEFING NOTE

### Meeting with Rick Hansen

## Briefing Note

**What:** Meeting to discuss wild salmon and sturgeon restoration efforts and priorities in B.C.

**Who:** Rick Hansen, founder of the Rick Hansen Foundation and current Chair of the Fraser River Sturgeon Conservation Society.

**Executive Summary:** Rick Hansen is a passionate supporter and advocate of wild salmon and sturgeon recovery in B.C. He has met with provincial staff and Cabinet members in the past to discuss the need for improved provincial coordination and efforts to recover and restore wild salmon and sturgeon populations.<sup>s.13</sup>

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**Background:** Rick Hansen is the founder of the Rick Hansen Foundation (RHF) and a passionate supporter of people with disabilities in Canada and the conservation of sturgeon and salmon ecosystems. He formed, and is the current Chair of, the Fraser River Sturgeon Conservation Society (FRSCS) and helped form the Pacific Salmon Endowment Fund Society (PSEFS) where he is a former board member. Rick has recently discussed the need for improved accessibility to angling opportunities, including infrastructure investments of the Freshwater Fisheries Society of B.C. and the Rec Sites and Trails program. Mr. Hansen and the FRSCS are strong and passionate advocates for sustainable management of fish, with a focus on sturgeon and

## BRIEFING NOTE

### Meeting with Rick Hansen

salmon. Mr. Hansen regularly meets with federal and provincial elected officials and staff. The primary focus is advocating for changes to restore and sustain salmon and sturgeon. In 2020, the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNR) provided a \$250K partnership grant to the FRSCS to assist the Province in conducting the 2021 engagement with Indigenous Nations and stakeholders to inform a B.C. Fraser River Sturgeon Management Plan.

Mr. Hansen has previously expressed his vision for a third party (non-government) entity to lead salmon recovery efforts, possibly the Pacific Salmon Foundation. The Province is working on strategies to recover wild salmon populations through restoring habitats, utilizing hatcheries, and other means. These efforts include working to double the size of the B.C. Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (BCSRIF). Efforts will be taken on protection of fish habitat in conjunction with the Watershed Security Strategy and within a provincial Wild Salmon Strategy & Action Plan. Outreach and engagement on this work is expected to start this fall.

#### **Recommendations:**<sup>s.13</sup>

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

Ref: 195712

Date: September 14, 2021

**Title:** Meeting with TruLeaf Sustainable Agriculture Ltd. (TruLeaf).

**Issue:** The Minister has been invited to a meeting with the CEO (Barrie Murchie) and the CFO (Jeff McKinnon) of TruLeaf to discuss their interest in locating to British Columbia (B.C.).

**Background:**

- TruLeaf is a data-driven company founded in 2011 that supplies vertical farming technology to create efficient, controlled, and scalable indoor farms.
- TruLeaf grows and sells packaged leafy vegetables in Canada through its wholly-owned subsidiary, GoodLeaf Community Farms, under the GoodLeaf brand. The company is based out of Guelph, Ontario and has a R&D facility in Truro, Nova Scotia – but they are interested in expanding their operations to B.C.
- Since 2018, TruLeaf has had a strategic partnership with McCain Foods Ltd. McCain's \$68M investment into TruLeaf makes them the majority shareholder of TruLeaf and they hold 40 percent of the company's board seats. This investment underpins TruLeaf's ambitious growth and expansion plans to scale their farm network throughout Canada over the next three to five years.

**Discussion:**

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**Suggested Response:**

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Contact: Kira Craig, Business Program Analyst, (778) 405-1942

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## **APPENDIX 1: TRULEAF MEETING ATTENDEES**

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### **Barry Murchie – CEO, TruLeaf**

Barry joined the TruLeaf Board of Directors following McCain's Strategic Investment in TruLeaf in April 2018. He was previously with McCain Foods for 25 years in leadership positions in North America, Asia, and South America.

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### **Jeff McKinnon – VP and CFO, TruLeaf**

Jeff leads GoodLeaf's finance, HR and IT departments. He has held senior financial leadership positions within both public and private growth stage companies throughout his career. Jeff has a MBA from Saint Mary's University in Halifax and is a CPA.

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

Ref: 195790

Date: September 13, 2021

**Title:** Meeting between the Yukon's Environment Department and British Columbia's Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries officials on wild salmon.

**Issue:** Meeting with Deputy Minister, Manon Moreau and Assistant Deputy Minister Christine Cleghorn of the Yukon's Environment Department, and B.C.'s Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Deputy Minister Tom Ethier and Assistant Deputy Minister Jennifer McGuire, regarding pressures to wild salmon and the Yukon's potential role in federal/provincial plans on wild salmon recovery in western Canada.

**Background:**

On July 30th, 2021 Minister Streicker of Yukon's Ministry of Energy, Mines and Resources, discussed with Parliamentary Secretary Fin Donnelly, measures being taken by B.C. and the federal government to restore and protect wild salmon. The Yukon indicated that they would like to discuss a whole of west coast perspective, involving the Yukon.

There are 75,000 kilometers of salmon-bearing rivers in Yukon. Since 1993 the Yukon has had a formal co-management structure for salmon resources. Salmon and their habitats are co-managed through an integrated process involving First Nation Governments, the Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee (YSSC) and the Government of Canada. This approach is seen to facilitate the recognition and incorporation of traditional knowledge, scientific information and involve a broad range of interests in salmon management processes.

Salmon originating in the Yukon spend their adult lives in international waters. The Pacific Salmon Treaty, through the Pacific Salmon Commission, created the Transboundary and Yukon River Panel (YRP) to manage shared salmon stocks. The YRP is a bi-national body charged with making recommendations about all matters related to salmon management on the Yukon River. There have been long standing concerns with the ability of Alaska to harvest salmon bound for up-river waterbodies within Yukon, and Yukon's inequitable access to harvest these fish produced within its Territorial headwaters.

B.C., the Yukon, and the federal government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 1991 that aimed to coordinate ongoing water and related resource planning and management activities through exchanges of information. It does not reference salmon.

**First Nations Considerations:**

In response to low salmon returns in their region, several Yukon First Nations have imposed restrictions on salmon fishing for their citizens, cancelling or limiting the number of fish available for seasonal fish camps.

**Discussion:**

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**Suggested Response:**

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Contact: Rebecca Wardle, Senior Policy Analyst, 236-478-2417.

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

Ref: 195993

Date: Sept 21, 2021

**Title:** Update on Genuine BC Beef and Westwold facility

**Background:**

BC Beef Producers Inc. (BCBP) is a limited liability corporation that was created to provide B.C. beef to B.C. consumers, under the trademarked brand of "Genuine BC Beef".

BCBP entered into a two-year lease agreement with the owners of KML, a federally registered beef processing facility in Westwold. As of March 31, 2021, upgrades to the facility were completed, Mark Ishoy had been hired by BCBP as the Chief Operating Officer and a test run of cattle through the facility undertaken. BCBP required the sale of 50 percent of the shares to begin operations. In addition to cattle slaughtered within the BCBP shareholder agreement, other options were being considered to improve feasibility of the plant, including slaughtering for other processors (toll processing).

AFF supported the BC Beef Brand initiative with \$1.05M for brand and organization development, sales and marketing plan, lease of existing federally inspected facility, its required upgrades, and business development.

**Discussion:**

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**Next Steps:**  
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Contact: Christina Forbes, Industry Specialist, Beef and Livestock 236-766-7057

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Appendix 1: BC Beef Brand Packing Plant Estimate Note 2021

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

Ref: 196114

Date: September 16, 2021

**Title:** RegenBC status update

**Issue:** Update on final agenda and delivery of RegenBC conference.

**Background:**

Ministry staff, in consultation with the Minister's Office, have developed a proposed agenda for the RegenBC on September 27, 28, 29. The Ministry has retained the services of Inventa Sales & Promotions, a full service event production company that will be responsible for the production and delivery of the Event. The Inventa team is led by Erica Ramos. The following provides an update on engagement with speakers and recommendations to finalize agenda, prior to the event.

**Discussion:**

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Contact: Diana Berry, Senior Program Developer, 778-698-4237

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

Ref: 195996

Date: September 24, 2021

**Title:** Buy BC Status Update for FY 2021/22

**Issue:** A mid-year update on the status of Buy BC projects and programming.

**Background:**

- Since the re-launch of Buy BC in 2018, over 625 B.C. companies have joined Buy BC and over 240 marketing projects have been funded (see Appendix A for Buy BC overview).

**Discussion:**

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**Next Steps:**

A final status report on Buy BC will be provided to MO in March/April 2022.

Contact: Andrea Hoerger, Sr. Manager, Market Development, 778 698-2583

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