

Ministry of Agriculture and Food
BRIEFING NOTE FOR DM FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING

Ref: 196790

Date: March 30, 2022

Title: DM meeting with BC Alliance for Healthy Living

Issue: The BC Alliance for Healthy Living (BCAHL) recently released a report that includes topics of healthy food in B.C. schools and food security. They want to meet with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food (AF) to discuss their report and potential work linkages.

Background:

- An email from BCAHL requesting a meeting with the minister was received late November 2021.
- BCAHL released a new report 'A Healthier Recovery' in early November 2021.
- This report outlined the impact that the pandemic has had on British Columbians' health/well-being and outlines strategies to address these impacts.
- BCAHL's polling revealed that there have been a mix of effects on health risk factors and some concerning trends, which, if left unchecked, could lead to a surge in preventable chronic disease.
- The BCAHL report includes some topics (i.e., healthy food in B.C. Schools and food security) that overlap with AFF's mandate to ensure greater food security in the province.

Discussion:

The BCAHL report emphasizes the multidimensionality of health and well-being. It highlights the importance of mental health, nutrition, and activity levels as well as a sense of community and togetherness as critical components of long-term health which need to be supported in tandem. The report highlights food security and, in particular, affordable access to healthy food in schools as a key component of BCAHL's approach to well-being. Although much of the BCAHL's report is more relevant to work of the Ministry of Health (HLTH), AF has some relevant initiatives:

1. *Local food in schools:*

- Feed BC is working closely with the Ministry of Education (EDUC) to help bring more local foods to K-12 schools across the province in support of EDUC's mandate commitment for school food programs. HLTH is supporting AF and EDUC on this shared mandate.
- AF and EDUC are bringing a joint cabinet submission on the initiative to the Cabinet Committee on Social Initiatives (not yet scheduled). AF and EDUC presented to ADMCSI on March 21, 2022, and will present to DMCSI on April 14, 2022.
- F is providing information and support to EDUC staff on the mandate commitment to make sure students are properly fed for learning.

- The mandate targets support to school districts to create more local school meal programs based on district data and priorities and integrates Feed BC into this plan so that districts include locally grown food.
- Feed BC works closely with HLTH's Population and Public Health team to increase local food purchasing by health authorities.

2. *Food security broadly:*

- Food security is included in several AF 2020 Minister mandate commitments and is an ongoing, broad topic involving cooperation among ministries.
- AF supports community food access and healthy eating programs through shared mandates and partnerships with HLTH, EDUC and the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (SDPR).
- Currently, through participation on the cross-government Food Security Steering Committee co-led by HLTH and SDPR, AFF is working with ministries to develop a framework to guide provincial-level food security planning and action; provide a mechanism for the Province to respond effectively in future emergencies; and support population groups at higher risk for food insecurity, such as low-income families with children, Indigenous and rural/remote communities.
- AFF leads the development and delivery of programs, services, and policies to support sustainable food production, viable food and agriculture businesses, and a secure food supply in B.C. (see Appendix A for program examples).

Suggested Response:

- There are some direct linkages between BCAHL's work and AFF responsibilities (e.g., food production, food safety and more recently, supply chain issues, within the food system).
- Much of BCAHL's report is more aligned with HLTH's responsibilities (e.g., programs aimed at community and individual well-being through healthy living).
- AFF staff recommend that BCAHL work directly with HLTH's Population and Public Health Branch to explore areas of shared interest including healthy eating guidance.

Contact: Gray Daniels, Policy Analyst, 250-419-8715

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Appendix A

Examples of AFF programs that support components of food security:

- Sustainable land and food systems:
 - Climate adaptation and environmental sustainability programming
 - Water, waste, soil, and nutrient management
 - Agriculture Land Reserve
- Food productions and supply security resilience:
 - Shared AFF mandate with SDPR to support food programs for vulnerable people through locally grown foods
 - B.C. Indigenous Agriculture Development Program
 - Buy BC mandate/program
 - Feed BC mandate/program including K-12 school foods
 - Grow BC mandate/programs
 - Agritech and Regenerative Agricultural (framework, programs)
 - fish and seafood processing strategies and mandate
 - Agriculture and food labour mandate

Ministry of Agriculture and Food
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR MEETING

Ref: 196833

Date: April 20, 2022

Title: Meeting with District of Sooke Councillor Tony St-Pierre and Jack Anderson of Greenplan Consultants.

Issue: Cast Iron Farm Co-op (CIFC) is proposing a pilot project to construct a "Farm Hamlet Model" on land in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) situated within the District of Sooke.

Background:

- CIFC is a permaculture inspired co-operative farm located in the District of Sooke that raises pigs, sheep and chickens on 4.8 ha farm in the ALR and is operated by three families.
- CIFC is working in tandem with Greenplan Consultants who has drafted a proposal to create a Farm Hamlet pilot project within the District of Sooke.
- The Farm Hamlet concept entails constructing multiple residences (more than two) on land within the ALR and subsequently developing a farm where each household contributes/participates in the agricultural operation.
- The Farm Hamlet concept aims to create an affordable avenue for young persons to own and farm ALR land with the ultimate goal of increasing local food production.
- While Sooke has been selected as the location for the pilot project, Greenplan Consultants has also proposed developing a Farm Hamlet Bylaw so that other communities in B.C. could implement the Farm Hamlet Model within their zoning bylaws.
- Greenplan Consultants are currently seeking input and feedback from the Ministry, Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) and the District of Sooke and aim to develop and complete the Farm Hamlet Model in 2022

Discussion:

- The *Agricultural Land Commission Act* (ALCA) ALR Use Regulation (Regulation) was recently amended to enable that, subject to local government approval, every property in the ALR have the potential for both a primary and an additional residence (with established size restrictions).
- Currently, constructing more than two residences on a property within the ALR, or residences beyond the size restrictions laid out in the ALCA and Regulation, requires the submission and subsequent approval of a Non-Adhering Residential Use (NARU) Application from the ALC.
- A NARU Application and approval by the ALC would be required to develop a Farm Hamlet within the ALR.

- As referenced in the document prepared by Greenplan Consultants and given the novelty of the Farm Hamlet concept, Greenplan Consultants are encouraged to engage the ALC for guidance on the ALR application process.
- Housing limitations in the ALR has been identified as a barrier to new entrants/young persons to agriculture, especially those leasing land, by stakeholders including the Young Agrarians who administer the BC Land Matching Program.
- B.C.'s New Entrant Strategy includes the following goals under the 'Access to Land' pillar:
 - Provide land matching and business support services to new entrants and landowners through the B.C. Land Matching Program.
 - Support and facilitate pathways to alternative forms of tenure through the Guide to Leasing Agreements, Co-operative Start-Up Guide and Cooperative Financing Guide.
 - Pathfinding new farmers to land access alternatives such as to agriculture cooperatives and incubator farms.

Suggested Response:

- Encouraging farming on ALR land and supporting new entrants into agriculture are priorities of the Ministry.
- Since 2018, the Ministry has worked to revitalize the ALR and ALC that has included extensive public engagement.
- One outcome of the ALR/ALC revitalization project was the residential flexibility initiative that allows farmers and ALR landowners to have both a principal residence and small secondary residence (subject to local government approval) on their property without having to submit an application to the ALC.
- The development of a Farm Hamlet within the ALR requires the submission of a NARU application to the ALC.
- The ALC is an administrative tribunal responsible for implementation of the ALCA and Regulations. The ALC operates arm's length from government and renders decisions independent from government influence/interference.
- Greenplan Consultants are encouraged to engage the ALC for guidance on the ALR application process.
- Given the challenges that young people face in entering the agricultural industry, if a NARU application was approved by the ALC for a Farm Hamlet, AF staff would be interested in connecting with Greenplan Consultants and CIFIC to learn more about the Farm Hamlet concept.
- The Ministry supports the B.C. Land Matching Program which provides land matching and business support services to new farmers looking for land to farm as well as landowners interested in finding someone to farm their land. The program addresses the significant barrier to land access for those seeking to enter the B.C. agriculture industry.

Contact: Reed Bailey, Land Use Planner, 778-698-3455

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Appendix A

Residential Flexibility

Amendments made to the Agricultural Land Reserve Use Regulation under the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* took effect December 31, 2021. Under these amendments, new rules apply where an ALR landowner is permitted to have two residences per parcel in specific circumstances. If the parcel has only one existing residence, a second residence may be built as follows:

- If the parcel is 40 hectares or less, there will be permission for two residences: one that is 500 m² or less in total floor area, and one that is 90 m² or less in total floor area.
- If the parcel is larger than 40 hectares, there will be permission for two residences: one that is of any size permitted by the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* (the Act) at the time it was built, and one that is up to 186 m² in total floor area.

The new rules apply to all ALR parcels, including those that are farmed as well as those that are not farmed. The secondary residence could be used for many purposes, including housing farm labour, extended family, as a rental house for supplemental income or agritourism accommodation.

If an ALR landowner wishes to have more than two residences on one parcel, they have the option of applying to the ALC for permission for additional residences for farming. Local governments review most applications to the ALC and any residences on the ALR are subject to relevant local government rules/regulations.

While local governments cannot approve any additional housing than what is permitted by the ALCA and Regulation, local governments continue to be able to restrict residential uses in the ALR to ensure consistency with their local community planning needs and priorities.

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

Ref: 196889

Date: January 31, 2022

Title: Meeting with Real Estate Foundation of BC and Watersheds BC about the Healthy Watersheds Initiative

Issue: Real Estate Foundation of BC and Watersheds BC have requested a meeting to discuss the Healthy Watersheds Initiative and provide options for a tour to some project sites.

Background: In 2020, British Columbia created the Healthy Watersheds Initiative (HWI). The HWI is a \$27M program funded through the B.C. Economic Recovery Plan (previously referred to as Watersheds and Wetlands (Watersheds BC)). This funding helped communities adapt to climate change by restoring threatened ecosystems and watersheds, so they are healthier and more resilient.

The Real Estate Foundation of BC (REFBC) administers this funding with support from Watersheds BC and the Indigenous Leaders Advisory Circle. The Indigenous Leaders Advisory Circle helps ensure that HWI people and partners are strengthening relationships with Indigenous communities; supports shared learning about this work from an Indigenous perspective; and guides practices for hearing and sharing Indigenous knowledge respectfully.

The HWI funded over 60 shovel-ready projects led by Indigenous nations and organizations, environmental organizations, societies, and regional districts that have employed around 700 people. These projects are taking place across the province and include restoring rivers, streams, and wetlands; protecting salmon habitat; managing water flows; carrying out water monitoring and data collection; and conducting watershed mapping and sustainability planning.

On January 25, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy announced the release of a discussion paper on the Watershed Security Strategy and Fund (WSSF) for public engagement¹. Development of the Watershed Security Strategy and Fund was a mandate commitment for the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV).

First Nations Considerations: Watershed security is a critical issue for Indigenous Nations in B.C. Reconciliation is a cornerstone to developing the WSSF. Government is working with Indigenous partners to jointly build an enduring engagement and collaboration process needed to ensure our success. B.C. has a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the First Nations Fisheries Council (FNFC) and several ministries have been working closely with the FNFC to develop engagement strategies with First Nations.

Discussion: The HWI projects were originally required to be completed by December 31, 2021; however, due to floods, droughts, supply chain disruption, worker shortages,

¹ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2022ENV0007-000103>

permitting delays, competing demands on Indigenous communities' time and resources, and the continuing COVID pandemic, projects were given an extension.

REFBC and Watersheds BC are monitoring project progress and keeping ENV informed on progress. Many projects (18) will be submitting reports to REFBC in January 2022, and a further 32 will be reporting in April 2022 with the remainder reporting before the end of 2022.

The watershed sector, including Watersheds BC and REFBC, are looking to government for longer-term funding commitments to protect and restore B.C. watersheds. The sector considers leveraging the success and enthusiasm behind HWI as critical to ensuring the long-term health of watersheds and communities throughout B.C.

In developing the Watershed Security Fund, ENV staff are taking into consideration the lessons from the HWI and exploring a range of options. ENV is also consulting across government to ensure the WSSF is aligned with other priorities (e.g., Coastal Marine and Wild Salmon strategies, as well as modernized land use planning). AFF is heavily involved in these coordination efforts and those with the FNFC.

Suggested Response:

- ENV will conduct public and stakeholder engagement on the development of the Watershed Security Fund in phases through 2022.
- Protecting clean water is a priority for the government of B.C. and we are developing a Watershed Security Strategy and Fund to address this.
- B.C. has committed to several initiatives to protect watersheds, fisheries, and communities that rely on them.
- Reconciliation and collaboration with Indigenous peoples are central to the WSSF and government is working with Indigenous partners to jointly build an enduring engagement and collaboration process.

Contact: Adam Batty, Senior Policy Analyst, 778-698-9326

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Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER AND PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR MEETING

Ref: 197106

Date: February 8, 2022

Title: Background for meeting with Grieg Seafood delegation

Issue: Grieg Seafood is seeking to discuss issues related to the future of salmon farming in B.C. and possible Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Province.

Background: The Federal Liberals announced a Platform commitment in 2019 to "...develop a responsible plan to transition from open-net pen salmon farming to closed containment systems by 2025" in B.C. The commitment was subsequently translated into a mandate commitment for both former DFO Minister Bernadette Jordan and current DFO Minister Joyce Murray but the text "to closed containment systems" was removed. There remains uncertainty on whether this means a transition by 2025, or just the development of a plan for transition.

In December 2020, DFO announced the phase out of salmon farming operations in the Discovery Islands (DI) by June 2022, with the stipulations that all farms be fish-free by June 30, 2022. This will affect approximately 19 farms including Grieg sites. The associated production and capacity loss is in addition to the Broughton Process, which will see the transition of 17 farm tenures to seven (pending First Nations approvals) in the area immediately adjacent to the Discovery Islands.

In reaching out to the Ministry to schedule this meeting, Grieg has indicated they wish to present and discuss the following:

1. Opportunity to sign a MoU with B.C. around:
 - Provincial leadership to urge DFO to renew salmon farming licenses for at least 10 years while industry develops a plan for transition.
 - Asking for a joint study on land-based technology and feasibility with financial support.
2. Provincial leadership to get clarity on the 2025 DFO Transition plan.

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. Approximately 78 percent of the salmon farming industry's operations are under agreement with the First Nation in whose territory they are working within. Several Nations consider DFO's Discovery Islands decision an affront to their right of self-determination. However, several 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.

Discussion: Industry has indicated that the business case and technologies around land-based farming methods will require several more years of development. Any transition plan will need to consider these realities and be able to ensure an environment where there's continued industry investment in the province.

Furthermore, there is concern that too many details are unknown in this 2025 Transition Plan, including whether the goal is the transition of the sector away from open-net pens to more sustainable technologies and practices, or an entire transition to land. Industry is concerned that DFO Minister Joyce Murray is looking to expedite the process to a deadline before 2025; Despite her mandate letter sharing the same 2025 transition plan statement as the previous minister. DFO staff are currently seeking clarity from the Minister through their briefings. Currently, the Province is participating as an observer, s.13; s.16

s.13; s.16

Grieg has recently invested in a semi-enclosed system at a site in the Sunshine Coast and will now expand the use to its three farms in Esperanza Inlet. They have also indicated that they remain open to investing in land-based aquaculture. Currently, primary constraints to development of land-based RAS are regulatory uncertainty and very high capital cost associated with large sites required to take advantage of economies of scale. Financing such ventures, which is in the hundreds of millions, will require private investor financing, and may require incentivizing operations in the province. With most of the farmed salmon market being in the US, it may not make sense for companies to remain in B.C. where there are comparatively high business expenses (taxes, labour, real estate, etc.).

To better understand these dynamics, the Ministry is currently managing a contract (\$85K, Final Report delivered March 2022) to evaluate:

1. Business case for long-term profitability and return on investment for land-based RAS production systems in B.C.
2. Socioeconomic impacts for RAS production systems in B.C.
3. Government policies and programs necessary to attract RAS developers and investors to B.C.

Summary

- **B.C. understands the regulatory uncertainty facing businesses like Grieg because of federal decisions on salmon aquaculture; however, B.C. is not in a position to explore an MOU as suggested.**
- **We have been very active in demanding DFO, and federal government step up with supports for businesses and individuals affected by the Discovery Islands decision.**
- **B.C. has opted for a salmon farm policy approach that respects Indigenous interests and paves a path for agreements for continued operation.**
- **B.C. has initiated a contract for assessing RAS production systems. We will be sharing information in the coming months.**
- **B.C. is currently an observer in the 2025 Transition process but is very interested in learning more details about DFO's plans for this initiative.**

Contact: Tyson Carswell, Senior Policy Analyst, 778-698-4056

ED MR ADM JLM DM PP

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

Ref: 197308

Date: February 17, 2022

Title: Meeting with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) Minister Joyce Murray

Issue: Minister Popham and Minister Murray are set to meet to discuss respective mandate commitments and opportunities for collaboration.

Background: In December 2021, DFO Minister Murray received a mandate letter with elements of note to the Ministry of Agriculture Food and Fisheries including:

- Work to implement the Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative.
- Continue to work with the Province of British Columbia and Indigenous communities on a responsible plan to transition from open net-pen salmon farming in coastal British Columbia waters by 2025 and work to introduce Canada's first-ever *Aquaculture Act*.
- Grow Canada's ocean and freshwater economies and the sustainable growth of Canada's fish and seafood sector.

DFO may wish to discuss the status of B.C.'s mandate commitment to double the provincial contribution to the B.C. Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (BCSRIF), and the status of B.C.'s participation in the federal 2025 aquaculture transition process.

First Nations Considerations: First Nations make up a significant proportion of commercial fishers, as well as have economic interests in tidal sportfishing and aquaculture in the province. DFO has made significant fisheries management decisions in recent years underpinned by reconciliation objectives (e.g., Discovery Islands aquaculture, Area E Dungeness crab, the recent closure of herring spawn on kelp fishery in Central Coast, etc.). However, DFO does not appear to have a plan to mitigate for the socioeconomic impacts these decisions have on the existing non-Indigenous sectors. This has led to increased tension between Indigenous and non-Indigenous harvesters.

Discussion: Provincial and federal governments are uniquely aligned in their interest to respond to the Pacific salmon crisis. The federal Budget 2021 included \$647M for DFO to address Pacific salmon recovery and plans to develop a Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative (PSSI). The federal PSSI will address four pillars of wild salmon management: harvest transformation, hatcheries, habitat conservation, and collaboration. AFF is working with DFO to ensure both governments are aligned on both the provincial and federal initiatives, however, there have been limited details from DFO on what the PSSI will entail, and how the federal government plans to work with B.C. on issues of salmon habitat management. At this point, B.C.'s Wild Salmon Strategy and Action Plan (WSSAP) is composed of high-level options that focus on provincial jurisdiction around land and water management; and will require Cabinet approval before consulting and refining further. In August 2021, B.C. raised with former DFO Minister Bernadette Jordan, the opportunity to align respective salmon strategies

more formally through a memorandum of understanding or some other means. There has been no formal response from DFO, and an indication of reluctance from the PSSI at staff level to enter a formal agreement with B.C., and instead focus on working together where appropriate and most effective to recover wild salmon.

Linked to DFO's PSSI and B.C.'s WSSAP is BCSRIF. DFO committed an additional \$100M over five years to BCSRIF beginning in fiscal year 2021/22. DFO is eager to have B.C. contribute the additional provincial contribution of \$42.85M and formally join on for BCSRIF Phase 2. Currently AFF is working on a 2021/22 Contingencies request for the funding. DFO is currently holding on any future BCSRIF intakes or actioning Phase 2, pending B.C.'s contribution. s.13; s.16

s.13; s.16

s.13; s.16

s.13; s.16 In 2021, DFO invited the Province to participate in a Strategic Oversight Committee (ADM-level) and Technical Working Group (Director-level). To this point, B.C. has participated only as an observer, and that direction has not changed. DFO's mandate commitment specifically names B.C. s.13; s.16

s.13; s.16

Until direction changes, staff are continuing to participate in the process as observers to ensure B.C. is fully informed on progress and direction of the initiative.

Suggested Response:

- **The Province sees our relationship with DFO as one of the keys to ensuring B.C. has healthy and sustainable fisheries, aquaculture, and seafood sectors, and I see our relationship as integral to this work.**
- **We are keen to continue to work collaboratively with DFO in aligning our wild salmon strategies and are hopeful for a more thorough bilateral discussion soon on mechanisms to make this possible.**
- **At this time, we are still awaiting approval through our formal committee processes for provincial funding for BCSRIF and direction on the Wild Salmon Strategy and Action Plan.**
- **On aquaculture, we expect to remain observers in the 2025 Transition process.** s.13

s.13

- **I look forward to continuing our collaborative work and building strong relations bilaterally and through the Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers.**

Contact: Mike Turner, Director of Policy, 778-698-3129

ED MR ADM DM

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING WITH INVESTMENT
AGRICULTURE FOUNDATION

Ref: 197351

Date: February 28, 2022

Title: Meeting with Investment Agriculture Foundation (IAF)

Issue: IAF will be asking for funding for the Farmland Advantage program and requesting a letter to be written to Minister Bibeau regarding the Living Labs financial allocation

Background:

- In 2020, IAF expressed its interest in becoming the long-term administrator for a provincial Farmland Advantage (FLA) program. FLA had operated in regions of B.C. since 2008, paying farmers to implement practices that provide ecosystem services to the public (e.g., clean drinking water, healthy wildlife populations, flood mitigation).
- The Minister expressed support in June 2020 (Appendix 1) for IAF to a) use residual interest earned on the 'Agri-Food Futures Fund' (AFFF) towards establishing a provincial FLA program and b) use AFF staff time and expertise as in-kind support. AFFF is the fund that was established under a Trust Agreement between IAF and AFF in 2021, and IAF has committed \$0.8M of the AFFF to FLA from 2021 to 2025, of which \$0.2M has been spent.
- In late 2020, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV), contributed \$0.5M to IAF for Farmland Advantage through a third party, as part of a \$27M package for the Healthy Watersheds Initiative (HWI). The funds are to be spent on completing 30 projects within the 2021/22 fiscal year, and it has supported restoration of riparian areas along rivers and streams.
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada have a nationwide Agricultural Climate Solutions (ACS) Living Labs program. The program is to develop, through iterative applied research and knowledge transfer, land-based beneficial management practices for mitigating GHG emissions and sequestering carbon.
- IAF is one of three organizations in B.C. applying for the ACS Living Labs grant in partnership with the BC Agriculture Council and multiple commodity associations, covering perennial row crops, field vegetable, dairy, and cattle/forage sectors.

Discussion:

Farmland Advantage

- s.13
- Since December 2021, IAF has been delivering AFF's Beneficial Management Practices (BMP) program, which provides direct participant payments to producers like FLA does.

AFF intends to improve the performance measurement framework of its BMP program, to better show the program's impacts on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

- FLA complements the BMP program to some extent. AFF would like to see an even closer alignment between the BMP and FLA programs (e.g., eligibility and reporting requirements), which will help AFF demonstrate its impacts on climate action.
- s.13; s.17

Request re: Living Labs program

- AFF understands that B.C has been allocated \$4.2M in funding, of \$180M nationwide, over a 5-year period from the national Living Labs Program.
- IAF (and the participating commodity associations) will be submitting their proposal for the ACS Living Labs program in March and are planning to request an additional \$800,000 over 5 years to support the project.
- Since IAF's initial request in January 2022 for the upcoming meeting, the Minister of AFF has already provided a letter to IAF (Appendix 2), addressed to federal minister Bibeau, to support IAF's request for additional funding for their ACS Living Labs proposal.

Suggested Response:

- AFF recognizes that Farmland Advantage can help address climate change mitigation and adaptation goals and support regenerative agriculture.
- AFF is interested in continuing to work with IAF to find synergies between FLA and AFF's environmental programs (e.g., BMP), to improve program performance evaluation and description of program success stories.
- A letter from Minister Popham has been drafted for the MO to send to Minister Bibeau to show support for their request for an additional \$800,000 over 5 years to support the ACS Living Labs program.

Contact: Andrea Shaw, Agroecologist, (250) 331-9933

DIR MR ADM AL DM PP

Appendices (2)

Appendix 1 – Letter from Minister Popham to IAF