

Ministry of Agriculture and Food
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR MEETING

Ref: 198744

Date: September 9, 2022

Title: Meeting with Jack Anderson of Greenplan Consultants, Heather Pritchard from the Foodlands Cooperative of BC, Kent Mullinix, Director of Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security at Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Rob Buchan, City Manager from Prince Rupert and Guy Dauncey, co-chair of the West Coast Climate Action Network.

s.21

Background:

- CIFIC 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.

s.21

Discussion:

- The *Agricultural Land Commission Act* (ALCA) ALR Use Regulation (Regulation) was recently amended to allow, subject to local government approval, both a primary and an additional residence (with established size restrictions) on properties in the ALR.
- Constructing more than two residences 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.

- 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.
- Following the last meeting between Greenplan and the Minister; AF Land Use Planner - Reed Bailey, reached out to Jack Anderson to support their committee / process. He has not been engaged further.
- There are no current ministry funding Programs that fit with this proposal.

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; one outcome of this work 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.

s.21

- 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.

s.13

- 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

ED MR ADM AL DM PP

BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING WITH SALT SPRING
ISLAND FARMERS' INSTITUTE AND AGRICULTURAL ALLIANCE ON SEPTEMBER 23, 2022

Ref: 198806

Date: September 16, 2022

Title: Background to support Minister session with the Salt Spring Island Farmers' Institute and the Salt Spring Island Agricultural Alliance

Issue: Minister requested Ministry staff to prepare a two-hour session with Salt Spring Island Farmers' Institute including Feed BC and other programs that support farmers

Background: Agriculture and food production on Salt Spring Island includes primarily mixed farming, value-add and small-scale processing businesses. Salt Spring's food and beverage products are highly regarded across the province and beyond. Producers are supported by several organizations including the Agricultural Alliance and the Farmers' Institute, which is a member of the Agricultural Alliance (see meeting details agenda in Appendix).

Salt Spring Island Farmers' Institute was founded in 1895 and is one of the oldest Farmers' Institutes in B.C. It encourages the preservation of Salt Spring agricultural heritage and community involvement in all projects. It continues to own property and exhibition halls for community use (10 acres with exhibition halls, livestock buildings and show rings, museum, riding ring, outdoor stage, and vendor and exhibitor booths. All buildings and grounds are maintained by volunteers.

Salt Spring Island Agricultural Alliance (Ag Alliance) is an umbrella organization of groups that work together to enhance agriculture and food production on Salt Spring. It was established in 2008 to oversee implementation of Salt Spring's **Area Farm Plan Renewal 2020-2030** and works with government and others to support agriculture initiatives. It includes nine member organizations: Island Natural Growers, Salt Spring Abattoir Society, Salt Spring Community Market Society, Salt Spring Island Poultry Club, Salt Spring Island Chamber of Commerce, Salt Spring Island Community Economic Development Commission, Salt Spring Island Farmers' Institute, Salt Spring Island Farmland Trust Society, Transition Salt Spring. They also have "The Root" (SSI Farm Center for Food Security) a community facility to assist farms with the processing and wholesaling/distribution of locally grown produce.

First Nations Considerations: Salt Spring Island is located on the traditional territories of the Coast Salish Peoples, the traditional land of multiple Indigenous communities including Cowichan, Tsawwassen, Tsawout, Malahat and Tseycum. The Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group is a politically unified group that represents six Hul'qumi'num-speaking First Nations: Cowichan, Stz'uminus, Penelakut, Lyackson, Halalt, and Lake Cowichan which are located in and around southeastern Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands, and the Lower Fraser River. Hul'qumi'num actively use of the land and sea at Xwaaqw'um (Burgoyne Bay) on Salt Spring.

Discussion:

Feed BC:

- The Minister requested a presentation to the Farmers' Institute on Feed BC and a potential Feed BC meeting with Salt Spring's hospital and long-term care facility.
 - Island Health's Feed BC work to date has focused on bringing Vancouver Island produce to Vancouver Island long-term care facilities.
 - Island Health is unable to support a Feed BC meeting currently as:
 - There is a brand-new food service and kitchen management staff starting at Lady Minto this month; and
 - Island Health needs to do further work this year to bring its Salt Spring facilities into Feed BC, which will take time.
- There are three Island Health facilities on Salt Spring: Lady Minto/Gulf Island Hospital (19 beds) and Long-term Care (29 units), and Greenwoods Long-Term care (13 beds)
 - Lady Minto has a unique food service model that operates outside Island Health Food Services but works closely with Island Health on menu development and local food purchasing, which is on par with other Island Health facilities.
 - The other two Salt Spring healthcare facilities also operate outside Island Health food services but are supported by Island Health on menu planning and local food purchasing and use the same purchasing organization.
 - None of the three Salt Spring healthcare facilities are currently participating in Island Health's Feed BC partnership. Island Health will work to bring Lady Minto into Feed BC over the next year, but they are challenged by significant staff changes in these facilities, and so Feed BC is not a focus at this time.
 - Contact for Lady Minto/Gulf Islands Hospital and Long-term Care: Jennifer Eskes, Director, Island Health Food Services, Jennifer.Eskes@islandhealth.ca
- Island Health has been a leader and champion of local food for many years.
- In 2020/21, 30.4% of Island Health's food expenditures were for B.C. products including B.C. products used by Salt Spring facilities: Island Farms milk, meats from B&C Meats, Islands West fruits and vegetables, Golden Valley eggs and Canada Bread products.

Grow BC

The Minister requested another presentation for the meeting with the Farmers' Institute focused on support to producers. Ministry staff have identified that there are a large number of new entrant and small farmers on Salt Spring. The GrowBC presentation will focus on the following:

- Introduction of new Regional Agrologist for the area (started July 2022)
- AF programs and services relevant to new entrants including business planning, marketing, land matching, health and wellness supports
- Highlighting upcoming workshops on Small Flock Health in light of avian influenza

s.21

s.21

s.13; s.16

Suggested Response:

- Thrilled to be visiting the incredible producers and processors of Salt Spring Island
- Thank you for taking time out of your busy week to join us today
- Here to provide information on Ministry programs that can support you and your work including Feed BC and Grow BC

Contact: Martha Anslow, Director, 778-987-3431

ED LB ADM AL DM PP

Appendix

Minister Meeting Details and Agenda

- September 23, 2022, 10 am – noon, 251 Rainbow Rd, Salt Spring Island
- Invitation sent:

Are you a Salt Spring Island producer or processor interested in learning more about Ministry of Agriculture and Food programs and resources? Come to this session to hear presentations from FeedBC and GrowBC including tools and resources that can help you prepare to sell and support you and your work. This will include an overview of related Ministry programs and services available and time to ask questions and connect with Minister Lana Popham and Ministry staff.

Agenda:

- Introductions (up to 15 minutes – all attendees)
- Minister opening remarks (5-7 minutes)
- FeedBC Presentation (up to 30 minutes including 10-minute Q&A)
 - Martha Anslow and Elietha Bocskei, FBB:
 - Tools and resources for selling to government facilities and beyond
- GrowBC Presentation (up to 50 minutes including 10-minute Q&A)
 - Bejay Mills and Angela Boss, ESSB:
 - Regional Agrologist introductions
 - New Entrant programming and opportunities
 - Business Planning resources
 - Health and Wellness support for farmers
 - Land matching (TBD based on land matcher availability)
- Meet and Greet/Q&A with Minister Popham and staff (up to 25 minutes)