

DM ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR FARMED ANIMAL WELFARE

MEETING #3 SUMMARY DRAFT MAY 9, 2023

ATTENDEES: **Facilitators:** Alex Grzybowski | Chanda Hunnie
Advisory Committee Members: Calvin Breukelman | Cory
Lepine | David Janssens | Jack DeWit | Jackie Wepruk | Jeffery
Spitters | Kevin Boon | Lisa McCrea | Marcie Moriarty | Mark
Siemens | Megan Bergman | Nova Woodbury | Marina von
Keyserlingk | Nicole Sillett | Jennifer Woike
Unavailable: Peter McKenzie | Richard Harry
Secretariat: Jacqueline Cushing | Lauren Yawney | Tina
Bodnar

1. SECRETARIAT HOUSEKEEPING

- a. Freedom of Information (FOI)
 - i. It is the Ministry's position that any email communications by committee members about the Committee are subject to FOI. This includes email communications among committee members as well as committee members and their constituents as it pertains to the project. Therefore, if you no longer require a document or email, consider deleting it.
- b. Note: The Committee has been made public.
- c. Infographics (Production, Transport, Marketing, Processing)
 - i. A revised version of the infographics were provided to the Committee (also available on SharePoint).
- d. Jurisdictional scan of Canada
 - i. The Secretariat has reviewed legislation in the provinces and territories which is now complete and will be uploaded to SharePoint. Several questions have been identified that couldn't be answered so meetings will be conducted with representatives in those regions in an effort to answer them.
- e. Scan of the Australian Framework has been initiated and is underway.
- f. Octopus Inclusion Inquiry
 - i. Executive determined octopus are out of scope given they are not currently farmed in B.C.

2. ADVISORY COMMITTEE MANDATE-BASED DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUES

- a. The Advisory Committee agreed that the infographics provide a good starting point for describing the Framework which is not currently described in one document. Documenting the Framework and recommending its adoption by the Province is expected to be a key recommendation related to making the Framework more explicit, transparent and accessible. **s. 13**
s. 13
- b. **Action:** Committee members will review the infographics and provide feedback to the Secretariat and copy each other in their responses.
- c. **Action:** The Secretariat will begin developing a brief (approx. 20 page) description of the Framework based on the Infographics for review by the Committee.

- d. **Action:** Key points from the discussion of the key issues and potential recommendations/solutions pathways will be incorporated into a Draft Report Outline by the Facilitation Team and circulated in advance of the next meeting on May 23. The Outline will include the issue & contextual information, the recommendation and accompanying rationale as per the Terms of Reference.

3. ENGAGEMENT PLANNING – GATHERING INFORMATION ON SPECIFIC ISSUES

- a. **Action:** Engage haulers to get their perspectives on the challenges and weak links within the animal transportation system with respect to animal welfare. Kevin Boon and Jack DeWitt will invite their contacts to the May 23rd meeting. And Megan will invite the trucking representative from Manitoba. (Please provide the contact information for these haulers to the facilitation team once they have committed to engage with the Committee).
- b. **Action:** Engage with Cathy Duram, CFIA Cranbrook to get her perspectives on the key animal welfare challenges in the animal transportation system and what she believes can be done to address them.
- c. **Action:** Ask Jennifer Woods, Alberta, to provide a bullet form written response to the questions: What are the problems and possible solutions to ensuring farmed animal welfare related to education; transport; and abattoirs. (The Committee may also ask her to review and comment on their recommendations once drafted).
- d. **Action:** Secretariat to speak to BC's Chief Veterinarian Officer Teresa Burns, to get her perspective on the issue of the shortage of veterinarians.

4. KEY MESSAGES FROM TODAY

- a. The Committee:
 - i. Has made progress working through the issues and discussing recommendations but hasn't landed on anything yet.
 - ii. Agrees that the Framework needs to be explicit and described in one easily accessible document. A description of the Framework is expected to be endorsed by the Committee and recommended for adoption by the Province.
 - iii. **s. 13**
 - iv.
 - v. Is investigating ways and means to improve communications with small lot farmers to improve their awareness of the Framework, and enable ongoing education, oversight, and enforcement.

5. NEXT MEETING AGENDA

- a. May 23 (9am-5PM) Virtual
 - i. Secretariat Housekeeping
 - ii. Progress with describing the Framework in one brief document (including the Infographics)
 - iii. Presentations on alternative enforcement models
 - 1. Megan Bergman – Manitoba Enforcement Mechanisms
 - 2. Mark Siemens - Organized Poultry Enforcement Regime
 - 3. Secretariat – Other Canadian provinces and territories oversight and enforcement
 - 4. Nina – The Victoria Australia enforcement model.
 - iv. Discussion of Enforcement models and potential changes to the current model in BC.
 - v. Engagement with Experts on education/training; transport; and abattoirs
 - 1. Haulers (identified by Jack, Kevin & Megan)
 - 2. Cathy Duram, CFIA Cranbrook
 - 3. Review written responses from Jennifer Woods, Alberta
 - vi. Draft Report Outline – informed by the topics and discussion during May 9th meeting.
 - 1. Further discussion on the key issues and recommendations informed by the presentations and engagement.
 - vii. Determine Engagement Next Steps
 - 1. Is any additional information required from experts?
 - 2. When should constituents be engaged?
 - 3. Does the Committee want to get broader feedback on the package of recommendations before submitting it to the Deputy Minister?

- viii. Key Messages
- ix. Agenda for May 31st meeting.

DM ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR FARMED ANIMAL WELFARE

MEETING #6 SUMMARY DRAFT JULY 5/6, 2023

ATTENDEES:

Facilitators: Alex Grzybowski | Chanda Hunnie

Advisory Committee Members: Calvin Breukelman | Cory
Lepine | David Janssens | Jack DeWit | Jackie Wepruk | Jeffery
Spitters | Kevin Boon | Lisa McCrea | Marcie Moriarty | Mark
Siemens | Richard Harry | Nova Woodbury | Marina von
Keyserlingk | Peter McKenzie | Nicole Sillett | Jennifer Woike

Unavailable: Megan Bergman

Secretariat: Jacqueline Cushing | Gemma Kerr | Stephen
Matick | Lauren Yawney | Tina Bodnar

1. PRESENTATIONS

Slides for the following presentations can be accessed on the [Sharepoint](#):

- o Katie Fraser - Jurisdictional Scan
- o Nina von Keyserlingk – the Victoria, Australia enforcement model
- o Audrey Cameron - National Hog Sector Programming

2. DRAFT REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. **Action:** Alex will revise the draft recommendation on improving inspection, audit and enforcement capacity based on the discussion. The Advisory Committee will review and confirm and the next meeting.
- b. **Action:** A revised draft of the balance of recommendations will be provided in advance of the next meeting. Advisory Committee members are to provide feedback using the comment function in Sharepoint so everyone can view. Review as a Committee to occur at the next meeting. [Click Here](#).

3. [GLOSSARY OF DEFINITIONS OVERVIEW](#)

- a. **Action:** Secretariat will revise the glossary of definitions as per the Advisory Committee feedback.

4. [DESCRIPTION OF THE FRAMEWORK](#)

- a. **Action:** Advisory Committee members are to review and provide feedback on the description of the Framework.

5. ENGAGEMENT

- a. **Action:** Pacific Resolutions to provide a generic slide deck for outreach and engagement use by Advisory Committee members where desirable.
- b. **Action:** After the August 15th meeting, the Advisory Committee Members should be ready to engage with constituents on the draft recommendations with an aim to seeking alignment.
 - i. Is it possible for a Ministry announcement of the consensus Advisory Committee recommendations during AG Days at the end of Oct or early Nov?

6. NEXT MEETINGS WHICH EXTEND THE DURATION OF THE 4-MONTH COMMITMENT

- a. **July 13 (9AM-1PM) Virtual**
 - i. Review the Advisory Committee comments on the revised draft Report Recommendations and refine as necessary.
 - ii. Review and further refine the description of the Framework.
- b. **July 25 (9AM-4PM) Vancouver**
 - i. Will have a new description of the Framework and a new draft Recommendations Report.
 - ii. Discuss the implications for engagement and revisiting the draft recommendation(s) on Indigenous Reconciliation with reference to the Letter from the Union of BC Indian Chiefs.
- c. **August 15 (9AM-5PM) In-Person**
 - i. Peter will join in the morning where the Advisory Committee can discuss the content of the recommendations with him to get his feedback, clarifying any uncertainties.
- d. **September**
 - i. **Action:** Doodle Poll for a meeting date in September – [Click Here](#).
 - ii. Discuss the results of Advisory Committee engagement.



DM ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR FARMED ANIMAL WELFARE

MEETING SUMMARY DRAFT

LOCATION: ZOOM (RECORDING LINK TO MADE AVAILABLE FOR 1 WEEK)

DATE: March 31, 2023

ATTENDEES: **Facilitators:** Alex Grzybowski | Chanda Hunnie
Advisory Committee Members: Calvin Breukelman | Cory Lepine | David Janssens (in-part) | Jack DeWit | Jackie Wepruk | Jeffery Spitters | Jennifer Woike | Kevin Boon | Lisa McCrea | Marcie Moriarty | Mark Siemens | Megan Bergman | Nicole Sillett | Nova Woodbury | Richard Harry
Secretariat: Jacqueline Cushing | Gemma Kerr | Kenneth Roblesky
Unavailable: David Janssens (in-part) | Marina von Keyserlingk | Peter McKenzie

TIME: 9:00 am – 11:45 am

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Action: The Advisory Committee composition will be made public on the Ministry website in the coming weeks.

II. MEETING AGENDA AND MATERIALS REVIEW

III. POLICY REVIEW

See presentation on [FOIPPA and Budget/Travel/Expensing](#)

Action: The Secretariat is setting up Supplier Profiles for Advisory Committee Members ("Members") which is required for travel expense reimbursement. Expect an email shortly with a request for the details required.

Action: Jackie will confirm with the FOI specialist whether private communications between Advisory Committee non-government members can be FOI'd and provide the answer at the April 12th meeting.

IV. TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

The Advisory Committee reviewed the ToR section by section.

There is a spelling mistake otherwise approved.

V. WORKPLAN AND DISCUSSION

- The draft workplan (see final page of the ToR) anticipates 8 meetings of the Advisory Committee over a 4-month period. Two of which are in-person meetings.
- **Action:** Gemma will poll for the #3 Meeting (in-person Vancouver beginning of May).
- **Action:** Planning broader engagement will be discussed in greater detail at the next meeting (Who? How? When?). It is likely to include stakeholders outside BC. A list of those to engage has been compiled but engagement is not limited to the list.

VI. INTRODUCTION TO BACKGROUNDER REPORT

- See overview of [Backgrounder Report](#).
- **Action:** Jackie will indicate to Executive that Members need to share the Backgrounder with select constituents – complete: *Please feel free to share the Backgrounder Report with anyone you deem necessary in order for you to effectively complete your work as an Advisory Committee member.*

Action: Members to consider the following questions while reviewing the [Backgrounder](#) and either send them in advance to the Secretariat or bring them to the #2 Meeting (Industry specialists will join to field questions)

- Is the information clear/does anything require clarification?
- Is the information fulsome/is the level of detail sufficient?
- Is there anything missing that would be beneficial in carrying out the mandate?
- Immediate questions/missing info:
 - How can small lot producers be engaged given the large number of them, lack of organizational structure and the importance of ensuring animal welfare on their farms?
 - Include other provincial jurisdictions in the jurisdictional scan so we can understand how they are addressing these issues.

VII. MEETING #2 AGENDA

- Meeting #2 April 12th (1-4:30PM)
 1. Presentation & discussion of the Backgrounder
 2. Stakeholder engagement architecture

Note: Nicole & Jennifer are unavailable and are fine to proceed if the session can be recorded. Recordings will be determined on a meeting-by-meeting basis and deleted after a time period of 1 week.

VIII. DEPUTY MINISTER WELCOME & APPRECIATION

IX. KEY MESSAGES

- A standing agenda item meant to provide a common understanding of progress that the Advisory Committee has made. So far, you've been through the Terms of Reference (ToR) which includes the mandate. I.e. the ToR is the basis of our collective understanding of the mandate.

X. CONTACTS FOR PACIFIC RESOLUTIONS

- Alex Grzybowski's cell 250-888-1534
- Chanda Hunnie's cell 204-995-1555

DM ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR FARMED ANIMAL WELFARE

MEETING #4 SUMMARY DRAFT MAY 23, 2023

ATTENDEES:

Facilitators: Alex Grzybowski | Chanda Hunnie

Advisory Committee Members: Calvin Breukelman | Cory
Lepine | David Janssens | Jack DeWit | Jackie Wepruk | Jeffery
Spitters | Kevin Boon | Lisa McCrea | Marcie Moriarty | Mark
Siemens | Megan Bergman | Nova Woodbury | Marina von
Keyserlingk | Peter McKenzie | Nicole Sillett | Jennifer Woike

Unavailable: Richard Harry

Secretariat: Jacqueline Cushing | Gemma Kerr | Lauren
Yawney | Diana Berry

1. HOUSEKEEPING

- a. **Action:** Reminder to submit your travel expenses.
- b. Noted: The virtual platform is a challenge for this very meaningful and important work.

2. PROGRESS WITH DESCRIBING THE FRAMEWORK

- a. Diana Berry will lead development. Information gathered thus far will be presented at the next meeting in bullet form and feedback requested. A first full draft for review and input is expected for the July 5/6 meeting and will revise until the final Committee meeting.
- b. **Action:** Provide feedback on the [outline](#) in advance of the next meeting.
- c. Issue: Describing the Framework doesn't testify to the adequacy of any part of it. The Framework continues to evolve and the recommendations the Committee makes will adjust or change its various components. How do we describe it without implying that everything is functioning perfectly while enabling people to understand that there is a Framework and here is how it works?
- d. **Action:** Review the infographics.

3. PRESENTATIONS ON ALTERNATIVE ENFORCEMENT MODELS (see slides by clicking the link)

- a. [Jurisdictional scan](#)
- b. [Manitoba enforcement mechanisms](#)
- c. [Organized poultry enforcement regime](#)
- d. **Action:** The Victoria, Australia model <https://engage.vic.gov.au/new-animal-welfare-act-victoria> will be presented fully on May 31.
- e. **Action:** Jennifer Woike will present proposed recommendations next week which will be forwarded as part of the agenda package.

4. ENGAGEMENT WITH EXPERT ON TRANSPORT

- a. Bill Rempel, CEO, Steve's Livestock Transport (MB)
 - i. **s. 13**

s. 13

ii.

- b. **Action:** Secretariat to seek Cathy Durham's (CFIA), participation at the next meeting and get her feedback on the 2 recommendations above as well as other observations about how to improve farmed animal welfare.
- c. The Committee also discussed a recommendation that the DM advocate for the CFIA to do more/better enforcement.

5. DISCUSSION

a. s. 13

b.

- i. **Action:** Marcie to provide a deeper dive into the obligations of the PCA Act and how the inspections and enforcement gap can be filled if the role of the SPCA is restricted to companion animals and farms with a limited number of animals.
- c. **Action:** The Committee discussion will be reflected in a revised draft of the Report Outline to be circulated and reviewed at the next meeting. It will include progress on recommendations:
 - i. Establish a minimum standard for livestock transport.
 - ii. Develop a third-party audit system/office to reinforce and increase public confidence in the Framework.
 - iii. Expand publicly funded capacity for implementation of the PCA Act (could be a new agency that takes responsibility for farms with more than X number of animals while the SPCA focuses on farms with less than X number and companion animals.
 - iv. Expand oversight, auditing, and training of workforce associated with abattoirs.
- d. **Action:** Committee to contemplate what an enhanced third-party audit could look like for discussion at the next meeting.
- e. **Action:** Nova and Megan to write down potential recommendations wrt abattoirs. Please send them to Alex and Chanda who will incorporate them into the draft Report Outline.
- a. **Action:** Secretariat to follow up with Jennifer Woods to get her written responses to questions posed at the last meeting: What are the problems and possible solutions to ensuring farmed animal welfare related to education; transport; and abattoirs. (The Committee may also ask her to review and comment on their recommendations once drafted).

6. NEXT MEETING AGENDA

- a. **Action:** A draft meeting agenda will be circulated.

DM ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR FARMED ANIMAL WELFARE

MEETING #5 SUMMARY DRAFT MAY 31, 2023

ATTENDEES:

Facilitators: Alex Grzybowski | Chanda Hunnie

Advisory Committee Members: Calvin Breukelman | Cory
Lepine | David Janssens | Jack DeWit | Jackie Wepruk | Jeffery
Spitters | Kevin Boon | Lisa McCrea | Marcie Moriarty | Mark
Siemens | Megan Bergman | Nova Woodbury | Marina von
Keyserlingk | Peter McKenzie | Nicole Sillett | Jennifer Woike

Unavailable: Richard Harry

Secretariat: Jacqueline Cushing | Gemma Kerr | Katie (in-part)

1. HOUSEKEEPING

a. s. 13

- b. **Jurisdictional scan:** Katie, Senior Policy Analyst - The engagement phase is starting with other provinces focused on inspection and enforcement and will occur between June 5-16th.
 - i. Questions that will be asked include: what are the methods provinces are using for compliance e.g. inspections, third-party inspections (how often, who is responsible, are they pre-determined); who enforces the framework (is it different for farmed vs companion animals, rural vs not and how effective are those frameworks); what do the legislative responsibilities look like and what are the strengths and weaknesses; how much does it cost; what does reporting look like (and what information is included); which provinces are incorporating Codes of practice by reference and if they aren't, why (And 'how' do they use the codes)?
 - ii. Katie hopes to present the findings July 5/6. **Action:** If there is anything else the AC wants to know, let Jackie and Katie know.

2. PRESENTATIONS

- a. Nina will present on the Victoria, Australia enforcement model on July 5/6 (has taken longer given the time zone difference and the need to speak with Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria and both the government and SPCA in each).
- b. Marcie (see slides)
 - i. s. 13
 - ii.

iii. s. 13

c. Mark – enhancing the third-party audit function.

i. s. 13

ii.

iii.

iv.

d. Megan and Nova – proposed recommendations for abattoirs

i. s. 13

ii.

e. Jennifer (see bullets for discussion. Third bullet to be revisited at the next meeting)

f. Discussion

i. s. 13

ii.

iii.

iv.

v.

vi.

vii.

s. 13

viii. s. 13, s. 14

ix. s. 13

- x. **Action:** Secretariat will provide a glossary of definitions based on the list the Advisory Committee provides i.e. audit, inspection, regulated, supply managed (E.g. *Auditor* is related to markets. *Inspector* is government oversight - legal attachment. Inspector is to a regulation and auditor is to a standard).). So let's not invent definitions that exist already. We can then be disciplined about using them in the correct application.
- xi. **Action:** Alex would like to work with Mark, Jack, Kevin, and Marcie to articulate a starting point for a recommendation on changes to the inspection, enforcement, and third-party audit capacity within the Framework to discuss at the next meeting.

3. ENGAGEMENT WITH CFIA ON EDUCATION/TRAINING; TRANSPORT; ABATTOIRS

a. Clarity on CFIA jurisdiction

i. s. 13

b. s. 13

c. Other

- i. The Advisory Committee shared with CFIA the potential recommendations for transportation and abattoirs that are being considered but specific feedback wasn't provided.
- ii. s. 13

s. 13

- iii. **Action:** CFIA offered to present nationally developed PPT to provide a comprehensive overview if there is interest. And are always happy to chat one-on-one and want to be a partner.
- iv. **Action:** Other provinces have agreements with the federal government related to inspection and enforcement of animals in transit. Secretariat will have details from the jurisdictional scan and if any of these agreements are public, they will be distributed to the Advisory Committee.

4. DRAFT REPORT OUTLINE

- a. Advisory Committee discussed the other items under consideration and a revised draft will reflect those comments.
- b. **Action:** Ask Jennifer Woods to respond to recommendations and add any additional input.

5. FRAMEWORK DESCRIPTION

- a. A draft is in the [Sharepoint](#). **Action:** The Advisory Committee can comment on it now but Diana recommends you withhold comment until the next draft is provided in advance of the July 5/6 meeting (sometime in June).
 - i. Engagements with take place with some stakeholders to fill in the gaps, and it may be valuable to have some of the Committee members participate. **Action:** Secretariat will let the Advisory Committee know who they are engaging with, and representatives can volunteer to participate or not.
- b. Note: The limitations section upfront tries to contextualize that the description of the Framework is intended to make it more accessible and not testify to the merits of the Framework itself.
- c. Given the Advisory Committee is likely to recommend changes to the Framework, you may also want to recommend that once they are accepted, they be reflected in the Description of the Framework.

6. ENGAGEMENT

- a. Many are, or are about to, engage internally e.g. NFACC, BCSPCA and want to be able to communicate what the group has been working on. I.e. The Advisory Committee is exploring possibility for recommendations on X, Y, Z (reference Report Outline) and are making progress.
- b. Everyone here has accountability to their constituents, and no one is intending to surprise anyone with a final report to the DM of recommendations that will not be broadly supported.

7. KEY MESSAGES

- a. The Advisory Committee is making progress on the types of recommendations everyone expected to make when they volunteered for this process. If this is not the case, the facilitator should be made aware of this.

8. AGENDA

- a. Meeting July 5 (pm), 6 (all-day) Richmond with hotel catering
 - i. Presentations (1-3PM)
 - 1. Nina, Victoria Australia Enforcement Model
 - 2. Audrey Cameron, National Hog Sector Programming (30 mins **Action:** Jack to arrange)
 - 3. Jennifer Woods, J Woods Livestock Services Alberta (**Action:** Secretariat to confirm)
 - 4. Jennifer Woike, third point for discussion
 - 5. Dr. Burns, Chief Veterinary Officer (confirmed)
 - 6. Jurisdictional scan, Secretariat
 - ii. Report Review & Refinement (start on day 1 and work on a revised draft overnight)
 - iii. Day 2 flesh-out report

DM ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR FARMED ANIMAL WELFARE

MEETING #9 SUMMARY DRAFT AUG 10, 2023

ATTENDEES:

Facilitators: Alex Grzybowski | Chanda Hunnie

Advisory Committee Members: Megan Bergman (in-part) |
Cory Lepine | David Janssens | Jack DeWit | Jackie Wepruk |
Jeffery Spitters | Kevin Boon | Marcie Moriarty | Mark
Siemens | Nova Woodbury | Marina von Keyserlingk |
Jennifer Woike

Unavailable: Calvin Breukelman | Lisa McCrea | Peter
McKenzie | Nicole Sillett | Richard Harry

Secretariat: Peter Pokorney (in-part) | Gemma Kerr | Stephen
Matick | Lauren Yawney | Tina Bodnar

I. Discussion with the DM

- The purpose of the conversation with Peter was to ensure that he understood the recommendations and to provide feedback on any questions he may have as well as discuss the implementation path.
- When received, Peter will take the Recommendations Report and first discuss it with the Minister. He then needs to pursue paths at all levels including regulatory and treasury. This is a months-long, versus years-long process.
- It should be assumed that the Recommendations Report will be in the public domain e.g., via government website.
- The Ministry would like to communicate outwardly, e.g., with the media, in partnership with the Advisory Committee. The next meeting will include the development of speaking points.
- The Minister may wish to reconvene the Advisory Committee members at some point down the road to report on implementation progress and any unforeseeable issues encountered.

II. Advisory Committee Discussion

- An edit of the Recommendations Report was undertaken. A few additions will need to be made given the Report is assumed to be public facing. **Action:** Alex and Chanda will add an introduction that describes the mandate, defines the Framework, and indicates that the Framework was not evaluated for its effectiveness.
- **Action:** The Secretariat will take the revised recommendations language and update the engagement slide deck. The rationale for each will be included in the notes.
- **Action:** Tina will coordinate an engagement session with those who are interested but not represented on the AC for 2 hours after August 28th. Alex will lead, Marcie will assist, and other AC members are encouraged to attend and contribute.
- **Action:** For any media inquiries, the status remains the same until after the September 19th meeting (The ToR commits AC members to avoid communicating with the media except to refer to the ToR). As mentioned, speaking points will be developed at that time.
- **s. 13**
- **Decision:** Nina will be named as a scientific advisor to the AC and labelled as such. This is a provisional consensus and to be confirmed with those not present as per the ToR. Everyone else confirms they are negotiating recommendations that they will sign off on i.e., there is a signature line with AC signature.

III. Next Meeting September 19th in Vancouver (downtown)

- Nina (AM only), Jackie unavailable.

- **Action:** The AC members will have completed constituent engagement and will report out during this meeting. Please let Alex know if you are encountering any issues that arise in advance of the next meeting.
- Peter may be available to attend a portion of the meeting (Tina to confirm).
- A dinner is being arranged.

DM ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR FARMED ANIMAL WELFARE

MEETING #10 SUMMARY DRAFT SEP 19, 2023

ATTENDEES:

Facilitators: Alex Grzybowski | Chanda Hunnie

Advisory Committee Members: Megan Bergman | Cory
Lepine | David Janssens | Jack DeWit | Jeffery Spitters | Kevin
Boon | Marcie Moriarty | Mark Siemens | Nova Woodbury |
Marina von Keyserlingk (in-part) | Jennifer Woike | Lisa
McCrea | Peter McKenzie

Unavailable: Calvin Breukelman | Nicole Sillett | Richard Harry
| Jackie Wepruk

Secretariat: Peter Pokorney (in-part) | Gemma Kerr | Stephen
Matick | Lauren Yawney | Tina Bodnar

I. SECRETARIAT HOUSEKEEPING

- **Action:** Advisory Committee members to delete all transitory documentation and communication. The Secretariat will do the same on Sharepoint.

II. FRAMEWORK DESCRIPTION

- The Framework will be part of the public package along with the Report Recommendations.

III. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES & EDITS TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT

- The Advisory Committee reported on the outcomes of their engagement and made edits to the Recommendations Report.
- **Action:** Jeff, Mark and Jen need to go back to their constituents and will notify the Advisory Committee by Friday, Sep 22 if they are ready to execute or whether another discussion is required.
- **Action:** To follow will be a final PDF version of the report with a signature page for everyone to sign through docusign. Once all the Advisory Committee signatures are received, the Recommendations Report will be submitted to Peter.

IV REPORT ROLL-OUT

- Advisory Committee members and scientific advisor are committed to the narrative of the Recommendations Report.
- Peter is expecting a roll-out i.e., likely posting the report on the Ministry website and when asked he will indicate the report is well received with appreciation for the hard work and is under consideration.
- A more substantial response anticipated after consideration is complete. The timing of this is uncertain.

From: Evers, Charlene AF:EX(Charlene.Evers@gov.bc.ca)
To: Pokorny, Peter AF:EX (Peter.Pokorny@gov.bc.ca); Kristianson, Eric AF:EX (Eric.Kristianson@gov.bc.ca)
Subject: FW: For DM/ADM review - Farmed Animal Welfare KMQA
Sent: 01/11/2024 20:05:22
Attachments: KMQA_Farmed Animal Welfare_Jan 11_830AM_DRAFT.docx

Meeting is tomorrow at 1:30pm – it was the only time both of them were available, so, sorry Peter, I know this will be a quick turnaround for you leaving Govt House and getting back to the office. I can check to see if they are available on Monday but you don't have a lot of options at the moment (I'm looking so see if we can release the Minister meeting holds)

Char

From: Kristianson, Eric AF:EX <Eric.Kristianson@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Thursday, January 11, 2024 10:05 AM
To: Evers, Charlene AF:EX <Charlene.Evers@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: For DM/ADM review - Farmed Animal Welfare KMQA

Char, could you set up a 30-minute call with Craig and Marcie from the BCSPCA, Peter and me to discuss the Farmed Animal Welfare report communications plan?

Thanks

Eric Kristianson
Assistant Deputy Minister
Science, Policy and Inspection Division
Ministry of Agriculture and Food
778-584-1248 (cel)

From: Cotton, Brian GCPE:EX <Brian.Cotton@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Thursday, January 11, 2024 9:00 AM
To: Pokorny, Peter AF:EX <Peter.Pokorny@gov.bc.ca>; Kristianson, Eric AF:EX <Eric.Kristianson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: For DM/ADM review - Farmed Animal Welfare KMQA

Arlene and team have reviewed the attached and we've incorporated their edits. Most changes were to use language such as "ensuring" and "evolving" rather than "strengthening."

I'll share with MO once you've reviewed. Also, BC SPCA contacted us again yesterday afternoon hoping to chat about "proactive comms" and they'd like to see our messaging too, so please let me know if you've had a chance to talk to Craig and if/when some of this messaging can be shared with them.

Thanks,
Brian

Farmed Animal Welfare Framework and Advisory Committee Recommendations

Key Messages

- **People expect farmed animals in B.C. to be treated ethically and with care which is a priority our government shares.**
- **This is why we have been working collaboratively for the past year with B.C. producers and the SPCA to evolve B.C.'s farmed animal welfare framework.**
- **An Advisory Committee has delivered a set of recommendations to the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food, and work is underway to see how the objectives can best be achieved.**
- **This includes looking at how government can enhance farmed animal welfare by inspecting and enforcing animal welfare requirements on B.C. farms.**
- **This is, and will continue to be, a comprehensive process and we look forward to making progress on the recommendations, and ensuring B.C. has a strong, transparent and accountable farmed animal welfare framework.**
- **Farmed animal welfare in B.C. is a cooperative effort, and B.C. producers, the SPCA, and animal welfare leaders have all been instrumental and supportive in this process, and we thank each of them for their dedication and commitment to animal care in our province.**

Questions and Answers

1. Why was this work undertaken? When did it begin?

- Ensuring animals are treated ethically and with care is a priority for government and this includes evolving B.C.'s farmed animal welfare framework, which is why the Deputy Minister initiated a review in August 2022.
- Ministry staff consulted extensively with the BC SPCA, animal welfare experts, producers, and farming organizations with the goal of ensuring B.C. has a strong framework in place to protect the welfare of farmed animals.
- The assessment included policy analysis, jurisdictional scans, and consultations with a diverse set of stakeholders.
- Over the past several months, an advisory committee comprised from these groups reviewed this information and held meetings. They have now made nine recommendations to the ministry, which they delivered in January 2024.

2. Will the ministry accept all 9 recommendations?

- The ministry is committed to ensuring the welfare of farmed animals in B.C. and will be looking at how the objectives of each recommendation can best be achieved.
- Some recommendation will require collaboration with federal agencies, local governments as well as other provincial ministries.
- The ministry has already adopted recommendation #8 and have publicly posted a transparent description of B.C.'s Farmed Animal Welfare Legislative Framework that was developed in consultation with various stakeholders, including DFO, CFIA, Marketing Boards, and the Office of the Chief Veterinarian.

3. The Advisory Committee notes there are several ways to achieve the objectives and outcomes of their recommendations with one exception – creating a new enforcement and inspection function in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. Will the ministry commit to this and what would the timing look like?

- The ministry recognizes the need for this shift in responsibility and will be looking at options on how to achieve it both financially and operationally.
- Any change would include legislative amendments to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (PCA Act) as well as the time needed for consultation and review, so the timeline is yet to be determined.
- The BC SPCA will continue to hold the legislated responsibility for inspection and enforcement until these changes are made.

4. Is moving away from BC SPCA enforcement and inspection of the PCA Act an indicator that the current system just isn't working?

- The BC SPCA is a valued partner and they have done good, important work with respect to the inspection and subsequent enforcement of on-farm animal welfare complaints and issues.
- However, the BC SPCA, farmers and animal welfare stakeholders have all publicly stated their desire for government to take over this responsibility.
- The Advisory Committee's recommendations represent a good opportunity for the ministry to explore how to best achieve this change so that we ensure the welfare of our farmed animals.
- As per the Advisory Committee's recommendation, the BC SPCA would still have responsibility under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* for companion animals, wildlife in captivity and exotic pets.
- This hybrid model of enforcement, with responsibility for farmed animals coming under a government agency, is reflected in other jurisdictions in Canada.
- As we work towards this new model, there will be close collaboration between the BC SPCA and the ministry, ensuring there is accountability and transparency with annual reporting on all animal enforcement activity.

5. Will government provide the necessary funding to ensure there is a robust inspection and enforcement model?

- The ministry is committed to ensuring the welfare of farmed animals in B.C. and will be looking at how the objectives of each recommendation can best be achieved.
- This process will include looking at the funding needed to ensure we have high standards of farmed animal care and welfare well into the future.

6. Currently the BC SPCA receives no provincial funding for inspection and enforcement, so will government commit to funding them so they can continue to investigate animal welfare in companion animals?

- One of the recommendations calls for the Province to provide financial support to the SPCA to investigate animal welfare in companion animals, and we will be looking at it, and the other recommendations carefully.
- The goal of the Ministry and the SPCA is to enhance the level of animal welfare across the province, and we'll continue to work together to achieve it.
- While the BC SPCA receives no provincial operational funding, the Province does provide capital funding from time to time. For example, in 2023, the Province provided BC SPCA with \$12 million towards four of its rescue centres.

7. When will the new Ministry-led enforcement system be in place?

- It's very much dependent on the structure and financial commitments required to implement the system once it is developed.
- We don't have a detailed timeline, but we anticipate this will be a multi-year comprehensive process.

From: Evers, Charlene AF:EX(Charlene.Evers@gov.bc.ca)
To: Pokorny, Peter AF:EX (Peter.Pokorny@gov.bc.ca); Kristianson, Eric AF:EX (Eric.Kristianson@gov.bc.ca)
To: Manuel, Noriko AF:EX (Noriko.Manuel@gov.bc.ca)
Subject: FW: BC SPCA's Key Messages / Farmed Animal Advisory Committee Recommendations
Sent: 01/12/2024 21:25:07
Attachments: KM - Farmed Animal Advisory Committee Recommendations - FINAL - 01-12-24.pdf

Please see attached for your 1:30pm meeting today

From: Carol-Ann Leeson <cleeson@spca.bc.ca>
Sent: Friday, January 12, 2024 1:24 PM
To: Evers, Charlene AF:EX <Charlene.Evers@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: BC SPCA's Key Messages / Farmed Animal Advisory Committee Recommendations
Importance: High

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

Hi Charlene,

In advance of this afternoon's meeting with Deputy Minister Peter Pokorny, please find attached the BC SPCA's key messages.

Thank you.

Kind regards,

Carol-Ann Leeson (She/Her)
Board Secretary and Executive Assistant to Craig Daniell, CEO
Guardian to Brûlée, Lilia, Simba aka Sunshine, et al.

BC SPCA

1245 East 7th Avenue
Vancouver BC V5T 1R1
Mobile: 604-308-7323

cleeson@spca.bc.ca • spca.bc.ca

Animal Cruelty and Wildlife Hotline: 1.855.622.7722

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



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

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

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

Farmed Animal Advisory Committee Recommendations

Key Messages

- **The BC SPCA has called upon the provincial government to review existing laws and practices to ensure the safe, humane treatment of farmed animals while supporting the viability of B.C. producers for many years.**
 - For some time, the BC SPCA has been calling on the Ministry of Agriculture to implement a proactive, independent, third-party inspection program for all agricultural sectors involving animals and to incorporate socially accepted minimum standards (e.g. Codes of Practice) for farmed animals as prescriptive standards under provincial law.
 - Since June 2019, when the Government of British Columbia amended the PCA Act expanding *Section 15.1 – Inspection*, which allows for broad proactive inspection powers in on farms raising animals, the BC SPCA has been calling on the government to implement the well-funded system necessary to conduct proactive inspections at this scale. This includes advocating for improved protocols and a third-party auditing system on farms as a critical way to ensure good animal welfare in these facilities.
 - While the BC SPCA has the authority granted under the PCA Act to conduct investigations on farms, pro-actively auditing more than 10,000 commercial farms in British Columbia far extends past the scope and capacity of the non-profit organization.
 - A regular inspection and monitoring system must be put in place to allow for preventative measures that benefit animal welfare before an incident happens, rather than the current system which relies on enforcement of the existing laws following receipt of a complaint where animal mistreatment may already be happening.
- **For decades, the BC SPCA has enforced laws pertaining to farmed animal welfare through authority granted under the PCA Act, but the Society firmly believes a new inspection and enforcement function within the Ministry of Agriculture would be a more suitable and appropriately funded body to provide oversight of this work.**
 - As a not-for-profit organization, funded almost entirely by the generosity of donors and animal lovers in British Columbia, the BC SPCA does not feel it is appropriate to use these funds to support the regulation of a for-profit farming industry. The implementation of this new inspection function would allow the BC SPCA to reallocate these resources towards other programs and services benefiting animal welfare, including advocating for stronger laws and standards for farmed animals.
 - A growing movement in the animal protection space across North America shows that animal protection within the farmed animal welfare system, which is by in large a food-based system, is more appropriately funded by government than through donor dollars.
- **The BC SPCA is not abdicating its responsibility to farmed animal welfare as the organization will be closely involved in the creation of a new inspection and enforcement function for commercial farms if the recommendations are accepted.**

- In 2023, the BC SPCA participated in a committee formed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food to assess the farmed animal welfare framework in British Columbia. This committee was tasked with making the farmed animal framework more explicit and transparent, providing recommendations to promote higher standards of farmed animal welfare, and supporting those involved in delivering these standards.
- The recommendations formed by the committee, which the BC SPCA fully supports provided they are read in totality and actioned collaboratively, have been submitted to the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food.
- The committee believes that, when actioned collaboratively with transparency and accountability, a new inspection and enforcement function within the Ministry of Agriculture will provide the same, if not a more significant, level of enforcement of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act as is currently provided by the BC SPCA.
- The BC SPCA will work closely with the provincial government and the other committee members to ensure the system which is put in place is well-executed, closely parallels the level of expertise that the BC SPCA has provided for decades and offers a stronger reporting structure for transparency and accountability.
- With this new function assuming oversight of commercial farm inspection and enforcement, it allows the BC SPCA to become stronger advocates for farmed animals and to further explore recommendations to make farmed animal welfare laws and standards stronger without being in an alleged position of conflict with industry.
- **Year-over-year, the BC SPCA has dedicated 20 per cent of all enforcement work conducted by the Society to complaints received about farmed animal activities. Included in this significant volume of work, the BC SPCA has led investigations for a number of precedent-setting convictions in Canada, such as the Chilliwack Cattle Sales Ltd. case where both the owners and operators were held accountable for the animal mistreatment happening in their facilities.**

Key Messages – Avian Influenza

- **This is an incredibly difficult time for B.C. poultry farmers and we're here to help them.**
- **While the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) leads the overall response, there is provincial support for testing, mapping, surveillance, and disposal.**
- **We saw the cases rise during last fall's migration, similar to what we're seeing this year, which is why we proactively introduced a new \$5 million animal diseases response and prevention fund in the spring.**
- **This investment is supporting farmers with new prevention strategies and stronger biosecurity measures on their farms.**
- **Ministry staff and our Chief Veterinarian also have been working closely with the CFIA and B.C. poultry producers since late summer to ensure farms have enhanced prevention measures in place.**
- **While we are doing our best to prepare farms and prevent the disease from spreading, this virus has the ability to adapt and spread so we must remain vigilant.**
- **B.C.'s egg and poultry farmers have shown great dedication to ensuring they have the necessary safety measures in place, and we will continue to work closely with them to protect their animals and our overall food security.**

Key Messages – Animal Welfare

- **All animals deserve to be treated ethically with care and respect.**
- **This is a priority for our government and B.C. producers which is why my Deputy Minister is overseeing a comprehensive review of B.C.'s farmed animal welfare framework to ensure it is strong and remains strong in the future.**
- **Over the past year, ministry staff have done extensive consultation with animal welfare experts and farming organizations with the goal of developing an inspection system that is fair, and that all parties can understand and support.**
- **An advisory committee (including representation from the agricultural industry and BC SPCA) are in the process of submitting recommendations for Ministry staff to review.**
- **We will then be looking at next steps that will strengthen and evolve B.C.'s farmed animal welfare framework.**
- **Anyone with concerns about animal welfare should contact the BC SPCA directly as they have the legislated authority to respond to animals in distress and investigate any concerns.**
- **We will continue to work on this important issue to ensure robust animal welfare policies are in place in B.C.**