

11/14/78 MON 17028

2002

TIME FRAME FOR EXPOSURE - CIRCA 1977 PRE & POST  
TIME FRAME FOR RELEASE  
MID WEEK WED/THURS/FRI HUMAN → PIG  
PIG → HUMAN  
HUMAN → HUMAN

X-CONTACT

? NO EVIDENCE FOR FEED CHAIN

COMMERCIAL OUTLET BONES \* PARK \*

? JUST TO INDIVIDUALS

↓  
CLOSING/SEPARATE

LOW RISK FOR FOOD INFECTION

LOW RISK FOR DISEASES

LAB TESTING: lack of availability

lack of benefit

lack of exposure

at RISK → ? DO IT AT

PERFORM LAB

WHY DO IT?

Weak & CIA / RAMP

? CHAIN OF CUSTODY

11 samples from trays on-site

TESTING: ECOLI

HCV HBV/HIV

\* 1-800 - ? MORSELINE

\* Q&As

JOHN STARK - 604 861 2752

SETHWARD HUBNER 604 818 1399

SET JIM COLLANT 604 828 3510

BOUND OF COURT CASE

EXCEEDINGLY LOW RISK FOR HUMAN INF  
→ DROWN CONCERNS & MOD

Followed Lab

MICRO/BASIC  
DAVID / MER  
BARRY

QUIZ VI #

RAMP -- Asst. Fed. Risk Assessment  
SOPR Bioterror Assoc. - DG.

1. Human risk v. low risk ISV.
2. Human meat risk.

RAMP message - did you buy meat from

Cassanova & Paktan <sup>5/11/03</sup>

Bring meat in for evidence in an ongoing ~~investigation~~ <sup>investigation</sup> ~~confirmation~~

Plan A -- Heavily Risk if meat consumed.

Go to market & explain concerns

(\*) NO TALK ABOUT HUTZON MEAT -- Reason to believe (\*)

Need to get meat back for medical purposes

Plan B -- No danger -- go to public & info  
on wanting <sup>cautions</sup>

RAMP WILL NOT CONFIRM OR DENY  
HUTZON MEAT CONTAMINATION

Patricia Ban

15 samples based → the charges

Al Rob Laper

CONCERN OVER ~~CONFIRMATION~~



# PARTIAL PARTS

RAMP ISSUE -

lack of awareness - ECR

Brain & intestines mixed i

1/12 100 RAMP called Mike Ricketts / met Kiyoko - decided on NAC  
Just

\* Human & animal meat mixed together

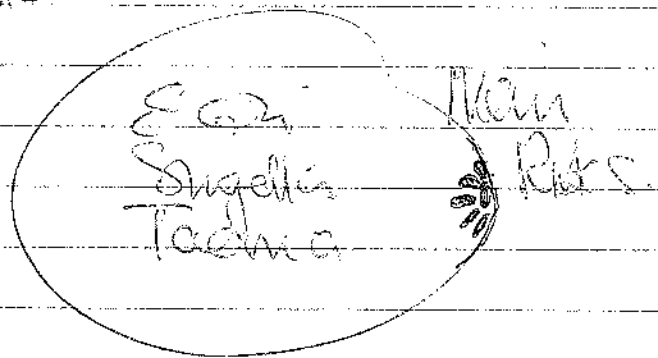
finger bag - FERRAR

HRV - improved TB

IKV -

HRV - 1-3/100,000 RAMP

GD - internal 1/20 million



Refine to JKS who brought

No General Right / Natural Recall

To D17 level 2 HE

Talk to hang

Talk to Med.

Pickup HRV

Wetted

# Penny Monaghan

PRIMAR 5

Two @ Network of teachers @

900000

500000

Police Report -

close friends + 300 photos

Willie Pector - using William's name

Risk  
EXPOSE  
Police

6 Garage / Garage

Types of mail & social media

TB / Brian Davies  
BB / S

Tony Graham



## Berkes, Andrea HLTH:EX

---

**From:** Judy Isaac-Renton <judy.isaac-renton@bccdc.ca>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 8, 2004 9:47 AM  
**To:** Krajden, Mel CDC:IP; Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX; Isaac-Renton, Judy L CDC:IP; Brunham, Robert CDC:IP  
**Subject:** RE: per our earlier conversations

We (Mel, Larry, David, Ed and I) will connect with Perry this morning to discuss coordination, communication and possible lab testing.

Judy

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Mel Krajden [mailto:mel.krajden@bccdc.ca]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 08, 2004 9:23 AM  
**To:** 'Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX'; 'Krajden, Mel CDC:IP'; 'Isaac-Renton, Judy L CDC:IP'; 'Krajden, Mel CDC:IP'; 'Brunham, Robert CDC:IP'  
**Subject:** RE: per our earlier conversations

Haven't received materials yet but have been notified of their availability. As you know this would have limited utility as it represents a limited number of the affected individuals, that even if pathogens were detected the transmission risk would be small and most of the tests are not validated for this type of material. Will await a teleconference with you to decide next steps.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX [mailto:Perry.Kendall@gems9.gov.bc.ca]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 08, 2004 8:29 AM  
**To:** Krajden, Mel CDC:IP; Isaac-Renton, Judy L CDC:IP; Krajden, Mel CDC:IP; Brunham, Robert CDC:IP  
**Subject:** RE: per our earlier conversations  
**Importance:** High

Tony Guilivi just called and asked me to ask you if you had received meat samples from RCMP and to request that you test them for "everything". <sup>s.22</sup>

s.22

Perry

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-----Original Message-----

**From:** Mel Krajden [mailto:mel.krajden@bccdc.ca]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 08, 2004 8:12 AM  
**To:** Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX; Isaac-Renton, Judy L CDC:IP; Krajden, Mel CDC:IP; Brunham,

Robert CDC:IP

**Subject:** RE: per our earlier conversations

I don't know the timing. The Federal RCMP and NML/Health Canada are working with the local RCMP based on my discussions with the local RCMP this weekend. Judy while bacterial agents are clearly possible based on the what the RCMP told me the alleged events date back to 1997, (though material exists for analysis at present), bacterial agents represented a more remote risk. Other than parasites, only HBV is know to be potentially infectious by ingestion.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX [mailto:Perry.Kendall@gems9.gov.bc.ca]

**Sent:** Monday, March 08, 2004 7:36 AM

**To:** Isaac-Renton, Judy L CDC:IP; Krajden, Mel CDC:IP; Brunham, Robert CDC:IP

**Subject:** RE: per our earlier conversations

Mel- do we know the timing of any police release? Is the RCMP or the Vancouver Police the lead?

Perry

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-----Original Message-----

**From:** Judy Isaac-Renton [mailto:judy.isaac-renton@bccdc.ca]

**Sent:** Saturday, March 06, 2004 7:33 PM

**To:** Krajden, Mel CDC:IP; Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX; Brunham, Robert CDC:IP; Isaac-Renton, Judy L CDC:IP

**Subject:** RE: per our earlier conversations

Mel,

Thanks for your update yesterday afternoon. In terms of parasites (T. spiralis, T. solium, T. gondii), BC prevalence is very low though agents are transmissible by ingestion. Salmonella, Shigella, Campy, E. coli O157 less likely than parasites to survive but prevalence again relatively low. Agree that overall risk is low.

I was however paged this weekend re request for testing on small volumes. Have asked Ed to be second re Chain of Custody if this happens. Let's meet with Ed first thing Monday.

Judy

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Mel Krajden [mailto:mel.krajden@bccdc.ca]

**Sent:** Friday, March 05, 2004 5:13 PM

**To:** 'Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX'; 'Krajden, Mel CDC:IP'; 'Brunham, Robert CDC:IP'; 'Isaac-Renton, Judy L CDC:IP'

**Subject:** RE: per our earlier conversations

Good point, but the persona that could do what was done could have done anything. I should listen to my wife and become a vegetarian.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX  
[mailto:Perry.Kendall@gems9.gov.bc.ca]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 05, 2004 1:17 PM  
**To:** Krajden, Mel CDC:IP; Brunham, Robert CDC:IP; Isaac-Renton, Judy L CDC:IP  
**Subject:** RE: per our earlier conversations

The only thing I can think of in addition is that if the meat went through hamburger processing after a pig then raw product could be contaminated with pork parasites and possibly enteric pathogens. Thinking about this is casting a pall over my weekend.  
Perry

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perry.kendall@gems9.gov.bc.ca  
<http://www.healthplanning.gov.bc.ca/pho>

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Mel Krajden [mailto:mel.krajden@bccdc.ca]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 05, 2004 1:12 PM  
**To:** Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX; Brunham, Robert CDC:IP; Isaac-Renton, Judy L CDC:IP  
**Subject:** per our earlier conversations

Dear Perry: Connected with Antonio Giulivi, he sent me to Frank Plummer. Frank will work out who is the federal lead. He has the names & numbers of the local RCMP agents and I gave John Stark from the RCMP your name as the BC lead (his cell 604-861-2752). Both Judy and Mary Jordan have been informed. Some general comments below.

Agents of concern: HIV, HCV, HBV, Mycobacterium Tuberculosis, parasites, prions (extremely remote)

Fully cooked meat products: the risk is zero (or as close to zero as imaginable)

Partially cooked meats: (e.g., rare steak) the risk is close to zero as all viruses and most other microbial agents are very heat sensitive and digestive enzymes destroy most infectious agents. Ingestion is not an effective way to transmit these infections.

Raw meats: (steak tartar) the risk is extremely low as the digestive enzymes destroy most infectious agents and ingestion is not an effective way to transmit these infections.

Public risk is extremely low.

Mel

Mel Krajden MD, FRCP(C)

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Associate Director, Laboratory Services

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[www.bccdc.org](http://www.bccdc.org)

## **Berkes, Andrea HLTH:EX**

---

**From:** James, Pauline HLTH:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, March 8, 2004 12:06 PM  
**To:** Peck, Shaun HLTH:EX; Stewart, Michelle PAB:EX  
**Cc:** Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX; Patrick, David CDC:IP; XT:HLTH Parker, Robert; Isaac-Renton, Judy L CDC:IP; Krajden, Mel CDC:IP  
**Subject:** RE: Picton Farm Food

Great job on this Shaun. Here are a few more Qs that consider emotional impact:

1. Did any restaurants use the affected meat? If so, how can I find out which ones?
2. When I think about what has happened, I get images in my mind, feel nauseated and lose my appetite. What can I do?
3. My spouse/child/friend has stopped eating meat as a result and has been losing weight. Is there someone they can talk to?
4. This situation from the very beginning has not been handled well by the local authorities. Who can I call to complain about this?

**Pauline James, RN, BSN, MN**  
**BCHealthGuide Program**  
Nursing Consultant

Innovation & Sustainability  
Ministry of Health Services  
R5B 4 - 1, 1515 Blanshard Street  
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Office Ph: (250) 952-2473  
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Fax: (250) 952-1570  
<mailto:pauline.james@gems3.gov.bc.ca>

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Peck, Shaun HLTH:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, March 08, 2004 11:51 AM  
**To:** Stewart, Michelle PAB:EX  
**Cc:** Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX; Patrick, David CDC:IP; XT:HLTH Parker, Robert; Isaac-Renton, Judy L CDC:IP; Krajden, Mel CDC:IP; James, Pauline HLTH:EX  
**Subject:** Picton Farm Food

Here is a first cut at questions that we may generate responses for. I will ask the other recipients to send back to me suggested additions or changes.

**Shaun Peck MB BChir MSc FRCPC**  
**Deputy Provincial Health Officer**  
**Ministry of Health Services**  
**4th Floor, 1515 Blanshard St**  
**Victoria BC V8W 3C8**

**P: (250) 952-1330 F: (250) 952-1362 << File: Picton Farm Food sale and distribution.doc >>**

**Cell: (250) 480 9143**

E-mail: [shaun.peck@gems9.gov.bc.ca](mailto:shaun.peck@gems9.gov.bc.ca)

Website: <http://www.healthplanning.gov.bc.ca/pho/>

## Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX

---

**From:** Mel Krajden [mel.krajden@bccdc.ca]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 08, 2004 12:21 PM  
**To:** Peck, Shaun HLTH:EX; Stewart, Michelle PAB:EX  
**Cc:** Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX; Patrick, David CDC:IP; XT:HLTH Parker, Robert; Isaac-Renton, Judy L CDC:IP; Krajden, Mel CDC:IP; James, Pauline HLTH:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Farm Food

Shaun the list is very comprehensive. Items 1 to 5 should be reported by the RCMP based on what information they have or feel is appropriate to divulge. Would probably distinguish cooked vs uncooked risks as with cooking the risks are virtually eliminated. For CJD, would change that to what is the risk of CJD in the population (approx 1:500,000 or less and it usually occurs in older people) therefore risk in a younger person is virtually zero hence transmission risk close to zero. As we discussed the info on the samples we are about to obtain and test may not reflect what might have been in other products produced at the farm over the years. As you know many human agents will not propagate in pigs (if fed human matter) tuberculosis might, as might some parasites if in the right form, but the risks are very small. The non-approved porcine slaughter production might have placed persons at risk of porcine infections.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Peck, Shaun HLTH:EX [mailto:Shaun.Peck@gems9.gov.bc.ca]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 08, 2004 11:51 AM  
**To:** Stewart, Michelle PAB:EX  
**Cc:** Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX; Patrick, David CDC:IP; XT:HLTH Parker, Robert; Isaac-Renton, Judy L CDC:IP; Krajden, Mel CDC:IP; James, Pauline HLTH:EX  
**Subject:** Picton Farm Food

Here is a first cut at questions that we may generate responses for. I will ask the other recipients to send back to me suggested additions or changes.

Shaun Peck MB BChir MSc FRCPC  
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## Berkes, Andrea HLTH:EX

---

**From:** Johnston, Kersteen HLTH:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, March 8, 2004 3:16 PM  
**To:** Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX; Ballem, Penny HLTH:EX; Carman, Carol J PAB:EX; Hazlewood, Andrew HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** Godfrey, Debbie HLTH:EX; Stewart, Michelle PAB:EX; Peck, Shaun HLTH:EX; Halls, Lori HLTH:EX; Dabrowski, Alex PAB:EX; Boomer, Joanne HLTH:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Pickton farm Draft BN

Close but...working within a designated meat inspection area does not involve CFIA. The current Meat Inspection Act and regulation are provincial statutes and set out our "domestic" meat inspection system. In Mr. Picton's case if he could demonstrate that he fell under (a) and was not selling commercially within the province, he would not have been considered illegal. At this stage, we are not clear on that status.

### Restriction on slaughter

2 In areas established to control the slaughter of animals, a person must not slaughter an animal unless the person is

- (a) a genuine farmer slaughtering the person's own animals on the person's own premises, or
- (b) licensed under this Act or registered under the *Meat Inspection Act* (Canada) or any other meat inspection service approved by the minister.

The Pitt Meadows plant however is a federally inspected plant that apparently received live animals from the farm.

Cheers!!

Kersteen Johnston  
Executive Director, Health Protection  
1515 Blanshard Street, Victoria BC V8W 3C8  
Phone: 952-3335 Fax: 952-1713  
Email: Kersteen.Johnston@gems5.gov.bc.ca

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, March 08, 2004 3:03 PM  
**To:** Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX; Ballem, Penny HLTH:EX; Carman, Carol J PAB:EX; Hazlewood, Andrew HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** Godfrey, Debbie HLTH:EX; Stewart, Michelle PAB:EX; Peck, Shaun HLTH:EX; Johnston, Kersteen HLTH:EX; Halls, Lori HLTH:EX; Dabrowski, Alex PAB:EX; Boomer, Joanne HLTH:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Pickton farm Draft BN

Further information.

Although the RCMP informed me that they had no evidence that meat product from the farm entered the commercial market, I understand from Larry Copeland at BCCDC that on occasion live pigs were shipped to slaughter at the Pitt Meadows plant and the meat subsequently shipped out from there, and pork product was sold to Chinese restaurateurs in Vancouver as well as donated to Food banks in Vancouver.

Also Picton operated within a designated meat inspection area, which meant he should have been inspected by the CFIA, but was operating illegally.

Perry Kendall

P. R. W. Kendall, MBBS, MSc, FRCPC



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-----Original Message-----

**From:** Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, March 08, 2004 1:53 PM  
**To:** Ballen, Penny HLTH:EX; Carman, Carol J PAB:EX; Haziwood, Andrew HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** Godfrey, Debbie HLTH:EX; Stewart, Michelle PAB:EX; Peck, Shaun HLTH:EX; Johnston, Kersteen HLTH:EX; Halls, Lori HLTH:EX; Dabrowski, Alex PAB:EX; Boomer, Joanne HLTH:EX  
**Subject:** Pickton farm Draft BN

**Issue-** By the end of the week commencing March 8th, RCMP will be informing the public that there is some risk to human health associated with meat packaged by and left over from, the Pickton Farm.

The RCMP are primarily seeking to recover meat from the farm for evidentiary purposes. They have found human DNA traces in samples of meat from the farm.

**Background-** RCMP called Dr Mike Rekart at BCCDC about 1 month ago with a query about the transmissibility of human viral pathogens (HIV) through consumption off human flesh. Dr's Rekart and Krajden assessed the risk from cooked pork (a meat which is usually well cooked) as very remote.

On Friday Mar 5th RCMP contacted BCCDC with information that they were preparing to notify 30-40 associates of the Pickton Farm which had received meat from the farm, of the possibility that this meat was contaminated with Human remains.

BCCDC informed the PHO of this and also contacted Health Canada for technical risk assessment.

Further discussions with the RCMP have clarified that the RCMP WILL NEITHER confirm nor deny that human DNA has been found in the meat from the farm. Rather they will position this as a human health concern.

It is possible that the health concern is a stratagem to recover additional meat for evidentiary purposes.

While the RCMP will neither confirm nor deny that human DNA is present in meat distributed for human consumption, this will likely become the focus of media enquiry and speculation.

#### **Issues- 1- Risk to human health.**

The slaughter house facilities at the farm were unlicensed and unregulated and operated with scant regard to hygienic processes. Pickton is reported to have purchased sick pigs for slaughter.

There would have been risks to human health from parasites (Tapeworm) and infectious agents (Ecoli, salmonella etc). It is doubtful that meat frozen for two years poses much of a hazard.

Agents potentially implicated in human to human transmission-

Bacteria- TB, Syphilis

Viral- HIV, HCV, HBV

Prion disease.

For cooked meat all agents pose an extremely remote risk- approaching zero.

For meat consumed raw- risk of HBV infection is a theoretical risk of 1-3/100,000 (Dr Antonio Guilivi HC risk assessment).

Freezing would again presumably reduce risk from meat still in freezers.

Past exposure is more problematic.



Psychological distress is likely to result from learning that one may inadvertently have consumed human remains.

#### **Time frame of exposure**

RCMP have identified DNA in frozen meat from a farm meat locker from one victim s.22

s.22

Operations at the farm ceased in 2002. Activity involving disposal of missing women may have predated 1997

#### **Scope of exposure**

RCMP have no evidence that contaminated meat entered any commercial establishment. However Mr Pickton did distribute meat products to 30-40 associates.

In addition the Pickton Farm was the site of numerous open-invitation BBQ's.

#### **Laboratory work**

BCCDC will work with NML and CFIA to identify best location to test meat for pathogens. NOTE- neither negative nor positive findings will alter the risk assessment (as no tests are standardized for human pathogens in meat). Testing will be conducted for "due diligence" processes.

#### **Legal issues**

Information pertaining to this case is subject to a publication ban.

s.14

#### **Communications**

BC Ministry of Health will seek to coordinate communications strategies with the RCMP.

This may present problems in terms of who can say what about human contamination.

It is anticipated that shortly after the RCMP contact the Pickton Farm associates that this will become a media event.

Key messages are that risk to human health from infection is extremely remote.

We are considering establishing a line for public enquiries related to health through the BC Nurse Line. Anxious individuals will be referred to their physicians for follow up.

Health Canada officials have been involved in developing the risk assessment. It is recommended that they be cited as background.

At this point it is not determined whether this will be a joint RCMP/health release or RCMP with health responding later.

A further teleconference between Ministry, HC, BCCDC and RCMP has been scheduled for Wednesday Mar 10th at 8am PST.

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## Berkes, Andrea HLTH:EX

---

**From:** Parker, Robert Dr. <Robert.Parker@fraserhealth.ca>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 8, 2004 3:43 PM  
**To:** Peck, Shaun HLTH:EX; Stewart, Michelle PAB:EX  
**Cc:** Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX; Patrick, David CDC:IP; XT:HLTH Parker, Robert; Isaac-Renton, Judy L. CDC:IP; Krajden, Mel CDC:IP; James, Pauline HLTH:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Picton Farm Food

I think those are the main questions Shaun.

I think we will obviously be concerned throughout to use language that will not exacerbate the grief suffered by the victims families, though the situation is so horrific the grief can't help but be compounded.

I wonder if we should, for all our discussions and draft documents and if speaking publicly, never use the term "meat" in relation to the human remains of the victims. I think your use of the word "human remains" is perhaps the best, and we use that term solely, or perhaps refer at times as necessary to "muscle tissue" of the human remains.

It just strikes me the term "meat" has too many pejorative connotations.  
We might want to reserve it for use with "animal meats, such as pork".

On the questions related to specific diseases, I assume we would sort out ahead of time which disease agents if any, might be in the human remains-muscle tissue, And also have a theoretical risk of transmission, from consumption.

I would assume the theoretical risk, albeit exceedingly small, would primarily be for the blood-born pathogens (hep B and HIV; other) if the consumed item was undercooked, and via potential oral mucosa lesions.

So there may be some diseases that we don't have to explicitly address, if we decide there is no risk (such as TB - but perhaps my knowledge is inadequate).

I agree for questions 19 and 20, we need to sort out who people are calling (only the BC nurseline?) and who are they able to get testing from (only from their family physician or physician they select).

The other questions are;

1. is Public Health going to be told (mandatory or voluntary) of the "Picton" connection by the GPs, for anyone testing positive for one of the diseases that we may present some risk?
2. what follow-up occurs with anyone who says they were exposed, and subsequently test positive, for one of the diseases we said might be of concern?
3. is there any way (epidemiologically, or by lab testing) to prove definitively one way or the other that a given persons infection, was or was not due to consumption of Picton-related human remains?
4. individuals may come forward immediately, already knowing they are HIV or hep B positive, and claim to have be exposed and therefore got their infection from Picton exposure. (whether or not they have or admit to other higher risk and more likely risk exposures). How do we deal with them?

We will need to get a province-wide Physician Bulletin out immediately on announcement, if we are referring concerned individuals to physicians for testing.

I am sure we will all come up with additional thoughts and questions, as we discuss this more.

-----Original Message-----

From: Peck, Shaun HLTH:EX [<mailto:Shaun.Peck@gems9.gov.bc.ca>]

Sent: Monday, March 08, 2004 11:51 AM

To: Stewart, Michelle PAB:EX

Cc: Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX; Patrick, David CDC:IP; XT:HLTH Parker, Robert; Isaac-Renton, Judy L CDC:IP; Krajden, Mel CDC:IP; James, Pauline HLTH:EX

Subject: Picton Farm Food

Here is a first cut at questions that we may generate responses for. I will ask the other recipients to send back to me suggested additions or changes.

Shaun Peck MB BChir MSc FRCPC

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## Berkes, Andrea HLTH:EX

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**From:** Hazlewood, Andrew HLTH:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, March 8, 2004 3:46 PM  
**To:** Stewart, Michelle PAB:EX; Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX; Johnston, Kersteen HLTH:EX; Carman, Carol J PAB:EX; Dabrowski, Alex PAB:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Draft Issue Note!!

Thanks. A couple of quick notes. We need some context why bccdc indicated no health risk from meat from a "deplorable" plant ?? Time and freezing etc.

Re .. "It is unclear why it was operating without a licence" needs some clarification. I assume that if he was doing the other things that he is alleged to have done this would have been an "underground" operation?? And the HA and CDC would not have known about it.

Fianally the regs won't replace the act .. but will be passed under its authority.

-----  
Andrew Hazlewood  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Population Health and Wellness  
Ministry of Health Planning  
Phone: (250) 952-1731  
Fax: (250) 952-1713

-----Original Message-----

From: Stewart, Michelle PAB:EX <[Michelle.Stewart@gems1.gov.bc.ca](mailto:Michelle.Stewart@gems1.gov.bc.ca)>  
To: Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX <[Perry.Kendall@gems9.gov.bc.ca](mailto:Perry.Kendall@gems9.gov.bc.ca)>; Johnston, Kersteen HLTH:EX <[Kersteen.Johnston@gems5.gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kersteen.Johnston@gems5.gov.bc.ca)>; Hazlewood, Andrew HLTH:EX <[Andrew.Hazlewood@gems4.gov.bc.ca](mailto:Andrew.Hazlewood@gems4.gov.bc.ca)>; Carman, Carol J PAB:EX <[Carol.Carman@gems2.gov.bc.ca](mailto:Carol.Carman@gems2.gov.bc.ca)>; Dabrowski, Alex PAB:EX <[Alex.Dabrowski@gems7.gov.bc.ca](mailto:Alex.Dabrowski@gems7.gov.bc.ca)>  
Sent: Mon Mar 08 15:25:03 2004  
Subject: Draft Issue Note!!

Perry - will rely on your judgement on who should review from BCCDC

Michelle Stewart  
Communications Director  
Health Services  
Phone: 250-952-1423  
Fax: 250-952-1883  
Cell: 250-812-5571  
<mailto:michelle.stewart@gems1.gov.bc.ca>

## Berkes, Andrea HLTH:EX

---

**From:** Judy Isaac-Renton <judy.isaac-renton@bccdc.ca>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 8, 2004 4:56 PM  
**To:** Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX; Krajden, Mel CDC:IP; Isaac-Renton, Judy L CDC:IP; Patrick, David CDC:IP; Brunham, Robert CDC:IP  
**Cc:** Peck, Shaun HLTH:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Pickton farm Draft BN

We met with the techs and clarified the testing plan -point person's) defined. Items (11) arrived this afternoon and the technologists have just completed Chain of Custody work. Testing now starting for parasites, bacteria and viruses. Results will come to Mel and I.  
Ed is liaising with RCMP.

Judy

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX [mailto:Perry.Kendall@gems9.gov.bc.ca]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 08, 2004 2:24 PM  
**To:** Krajden, Mel CDC:IP; Isaac-Renton, Judy L CDC:IP; Patrick, David CDC:IP; Brunham, Robert CDC:IP  
**Cc:** Peck, Shaun HLTH:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Pickton farm Draft BN

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Perry  
Perry

P. R. W. Kendall, MBBS, MSc, FRCPC  
Provincial Health Officer  
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<http://www.healthplanning.gov.bc.ca/pho>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX

> Sent: Monday, March 08, 2004 1:53 PM

> To: Ballem, Penny HLTH:EX; Carman, Carol J PAB:EX; Hazlewood, Andrew  
> HLTH:EX

> Cc: Godfrey, Debbie HLTH:EX; Stewart, Michelle PAB:EX; Peck, Shaun  
> HLTH:EX; Johnston, Kersteen HLTH:EX; Halls, Lori HLTH:EX; Dabrowski,  
> Alex PAB:EX; Boomer, Joanne HLTH:EX

> Subject: Pickton farm Draft BN

>

> Issue- By the end of the week commencing March 8th, RCMP will be informing  
> the public that there is some risk to human health associated with meat  
> packaged by and left over from, the Pickton Farm.

> The RCMP are primarily seeking to recover meat from the farm for  
> evidentiary purposes.

> They have found human DNA traces in samples of meat from the farm.

> Background- RCMP called Dr Mike Rekart at BCCDC about 1 month ago with a  
> query about the transmissibility of human viral pathogens (HIV) through  
> consumption off human flesh.

> Dr's Rekart and Krajden assessed the risk from cooked pork (a meat which  
> is usually well cooked) as very remote.

> On Friday Mar 5th RCMP contacted BCCDC with information that they were  
> preparing to notify 30-40 associates of the Pickton Farm which had  
> received meat from the farm, of the possibility that this meat was  
> contaminated with Human remains.

> BCCDC informed the PHO of this and also contacted Health Canada for  
> technical risk assessment.

> Further discussions with the RCMP have clarified that the RCMP WILL  
> NEITHER confirm nor deny that human DNA has been found in the meat from  
> the farm. Rather they will position this as a human health concern.

> It is possible that the health concern is a stratagem to recover  
> additional meat for evidentiary purposes.

> While the RCMP will neither confirm nor deny that human DNA is present in  
> meat distributed for human consumption, this will likely become the focus  
> of media enquiry and speculation.

>

> Issues- 1- Risk to human health.

> The slaughter house facilities at the farm were unlicensed and unregulated  
> and operated with scant regard to hygienic processes. Pickton is reported  
> to have purchased sick pigs for slaughter.

> There would have been risks to human health from parasites (Tapeworm) and  
> infectious agents (Ecoli, salmonella etc). It is doubtful that meat frozen  
> for two years poses much of a hazard.

> Agents potentially implicated in human to human transmission-

> Bacteria- TB, Syphilis

> Viral- HIV, HCV, HBV

> Prion disease.

> For cooked meat all agents pose an extremely remote risk- approaching  
> zero.

> For meat consumed raw- risk of HBV infection is a theoretical risk of  
> 1-3/100,000 (Dr Antonio Guilivi HC risk assessment).

> Freezing would again presumably reduce risk from meat still in freezers.

> Past exposure is more problematic.

> Psychological distress is likely to result from learning that one may

- > inadvertently have consumed human remains.
- > Time frame of exposure
- > RCMP have identified DNA in frozen meat from a farm meat locker from one victim s.22 Operations at the farm ceased in 2002.
- > Activity involving disposal of missing women may have predated 1997
- > Scope of exposure
- > RCMP have no evidence that contaminated meat entered any commercial establishment. However Mr Pickton did distribute meat products to 30-40 associates.
- > In addition the Pickton Farm was the site of numerous open-invitation BBQ's.
- > Laboratory work
- > BCCDC will work with NML and CFIA to identify best location to test meat for pathogens. NOTE- neither negative nor positive findings will alter the risk assessment (as no tests are standardized for human pathogens in meat). Testing will be conducted for "due diligence" processes.
- > Legal issues
- > Information pertaining to this case is subject to a publication ban.

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- >
- > Communications
- > BC Ministry of Health will seek to coordinate communications strategies with the RCMP.
- > This may present problems in terms of who can say what about human contamination.
- > It is anticipated that shortly after the RCMP contact the Pickton Farm associates that this will become a media event.
- > Key messages are that risk to human health from infection is extremely remote.
- > We are considering establishing a line for public enquiries related to health through the BC Nurse Line. Anxious individuals will be referred to their physicians for follow up.
- > Health Canada officials have been involved in developing the risk assessment. It is recommended that they be cited as background.
- > At this point it is not determined whether this will be a joint RCMP/health release or RCMP with health responding later.
- > A further teleconference between Ministry, HC, BCCDC and RCMP has been scheduled for Wednesday Mar 10th at 8am PST.
- > P. R. W. Kendall, MBBS, MSc, FRCPC
- > Provincial Health Officer
- > Ministry of Health Planning
- > 4th Floor, 1515 Blanshard Street
- >
- > Victoria BC V8W 3C8
- > Phone: 250 952-1330
- > Fax: 250 952-1362
- > perry.kendall@gems9.gov.bc.ca
- > http://www.healthplanning.gov.bc.ca/pho
- >

## Berkes, Andrea HLTH:EX

---

**From:** Larry Copeland <larry.copeland@bccdc.ca>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 8, 2004 4:57 PM  
**To:** Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX; Krajden, Mel CDC:IP; Stewart, Michelle PAB:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Draft Issue Note!!

DENY - the only information I have seen/heard is from the RCMP - 2 sources within the RCMP have confirmed they cannot at this time corroborate that meat from the farm was sent to retail outlets or food banks. That's not to say that it didn't happen only that their interviews were unable to confirm those links at this time.

Regards

Larry Copeland, Director  
Food Protection Services  
BC Centre For Disease Control  
Phone: 604-660-5357 Fax: 604-660-0697  
email: [larry.copeland@bccdc.ca](mailto:larry.copeland@bccdc.ca)

-----Original Message-----

From: Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX [<mailto:Perry.Kendall@gems9.gov.bc.ca>]  
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2004 4:42 PM  
To: Krajden, Mel CDC:IP; Stewart, Michelle PAB:EX; Copeland, Larry CDC:IP  
Subject: RE: Draft Issue Note!!

Info on shipping reportedly comes from Larry-can he confirm or deny?  
Perry

P. R. W. Kendall, MBBS, MSc, FRCPC  
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<http://www.healthplanning.gov.bc.ca/pho>

-----Original Message-----

From: Mel Krajden [<mailto:mel.krajden@bccdc.ca>]  
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2004 4:40 PM  
To: Stewart, Michelle PAB:EX  
Cc: Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX  
Subject: RE: Draft Issue Note!!



Re: bullet #3 Key facts. Consider.... BCCDC officials assessed no measurable risk of disease transmission based on the fact pork products are typically well cooked and this is known to effectively destroy most infectious agents. Consider getting rid of statement that health official say that it is doubtful that meat frozen for 2 years poses no risk to human health. Freezing does not effectively destroy pathogens though some parasites may be destroyed.

Re: bullet #6 the RCMP notified BCCDC that live pigs were shipped to slaughter at the Pitt Meadows plant. RCMP are apparently unable to confirm that pork was shipped to specific restaurants and food banks.

Bullet # 2 Benefits from position taken.  
consider

. The public should be assured there is no evidence of any disease transmission related to people who may have consumed products from the farm.  
Add... The risks to human health would be extremely remote.

Comments from Larry Copeland and Mel Krajden

-----Original Message-----

From: Stewart, Michelle PAB:EX [<mailto:Michelle.Stewart@gems1.gov.bc.ca>]  
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2004 4:09 PM  
To: Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX; Patrick, David CDC:IP; Krajden, Mel CDC:IP; Copeland, Larry CDC:IP  
Subject: RE: Draft Issue Note!!

Revised version attached!

<<IN - March 8 - Meat inspection - picton.doc>>  
Michelle Stewart  
Communications Director  
Health Services  
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Fax: 250-952-1883  
Cell: 250-812-5571  
<mailto:michelle.stewart@gems1.gov.bc.ca>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX  
> Sent: Monday, March 08, 2004 4:07 PM  
> To: Patrick, David CDC:IP; Krajden, Mel CDC:IP; Copeland, Larry CDC:IP  
> Cc: Stewart, Michelle PAB:EX  
> Subject: FW: Draft Issue Note!!  
> Importance: High  
>  
> Please review for accuracy and get any comments back to Michelle.  
> Thanks Perry  
>  
>

>  
> P. R. W. Kendall, MBBS, MSc, FRCPC  
> Provincial Health Officer  
> Ministry of Health Planning  
> 4th Floor, 1515 Blanshard Street  
> Victoria BC V8W 3C8  
> Phone: 250 952-1330  
> Fax: 250 952-1362  
> [perry.kendall@gems9.gov.bc.ca](mailto:perry.kendall@gems9.gov.bc.ca) <http://www.healthplanning.gov.bc.ca/pho>

>  
> -----Original Message-----  
> From: Stewart, Michelle PAB:EX  
> Sent: Monday, March 08, 2004 3:25 PM  
> To: Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX; Johnston, Kersteen HLTH:EX; Hazlewood,  
> Andrew HLTH:EX; Carman, Carol J PAB:EX; Dabrowski, Alex PAB:EX  
> Subject: Draft Issue Note!!  
> Importance: High

>  
> Perry - will rely on your judgement on who should review from BCCDC

>  
> << File: IN - March 8 - Meat inspection - picton.doc >>

>  
> Michelle Stewart  
> Communications Director  
> Health Services  
> Phone: 250-952-1423  
> Fax: 250-952-1883  
> Cell: 250-812-5571  
> <mailto:michelle.stewart@gems1.gov.bc.ca>

>

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

### CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

Ministry of Health Services

Date: Mar 8, 2004

Minister: Colin Hansen

## Meat Inspection/Pickton Farm Investigation

### KEY FACTS REGARDING THE ISSUE:

- The RCMP are consulting with Health Canada, the BC Centre for Disease Control and the Provincial Health Officer regarding human health risks associated with meat slaughtering/processing activity on the former Pickton farm.
- RCMP initially approached BCCDC approximately one month ago, to inquire about the theoretical human health risk of consuming meat products from the farm-describing the condition of the slaughter house as 'deplorable'.
- Health officials say potential health risks related to consumption of pork products from a farm operating without regard to appropriate hygiene measures would include: parasites (tapeworm) and infections agents such as e-coli and salmonella. However, BCCDC officials no measurable risk of disease transmission based on the fact pork products are typically well cooked – and this is known to effectively destroy most infectious agents. However a more formal risk assessment is underway and further testing of meat samples will be undertaken to identify any disease pathogens.
- RCMP are planning to hold a press conference later this week to appeal to those people who may still have meat products that originated on the farm, to provide those products to the RCMP.
- RCMP have identified between 30-40 known recipients of meat processed at the farm, though they believe it may have also been distributed to others in the community.
- Officials at BCCDC have confirmed from RCMP that on occasion live pigs were shipped to slaughter at the Pitt Meadows plant (a federally regulated slaughterhouse) and the meat was subsequently shipped out from there.

### MEAT INSPECTION ISSUES:

- The Pickton farm was **not** a licensed meat processing facility, but was operating in a designated Meat Inspection Area – which would have required that it be licensed under the Meat Inspection Act.
- Currently, most meat (95 to 98 per cent) sold in B.C. is inspected, however, much of that is imported from other provinces and subject to federal inspection. In smaller communities where inspections are not mandatory, the percentage of non-inspected meat could be much higher.
- Fifteen abattoirs in B.C. are licensed under the regulations and undergo veterinary inspections. A survey by health authorities identified 38 non-licensed meat processing plants where inspections are not required.
- In non-inspection areas, health authorities are responsible for plant and facility inspections under B.C.'s slaughterhouse regulations. Because they are not animal inspections, these inspections meet a different standard from those applied under the meat inspection regulation.
- The province has responsibility for inspecting meat produced and distributed within B.C., most of which is not sold in larger or chain stores.
- The Ministry of Health Services is actively working on improving meat inspection procedures and has developed new draft meat inspection regulations.
- Consultation began last fall when the Ministers of Health Services and Agriculture, Food and Fisheries requested feedback from B.C.'s food animal industry on how to implement the draft regulation.
- The regulation, falls under the new Food Safety Act passed in 2002 and will result in a uniform meat inspection system.

### BENEFITS FROM POSITION TAKEN:

- The public should be assured there is no evidence of any disease transmission related to people who may have consumed products from the farm and the risk to human health is extremely remote.

## **ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:**

- The Provincial Health Officer, the BC Centre for Disease Control, and officials with Health Canada are working cooperatively with the RCMP to assess any public health issues related to meat products processed at the farm.
- The public should be assured there is no evidence of any disease transmission related to people who may have consumed products from the farm and the risk to human health is extremely remote.
- If people have specific questions or concerns, they can contact the BC Nurseline or their family physician.
- We recognize the sensitivity around these matters and the emotional impact of raising these issues for the families of the victims and the community at large.
- We also appreciate these issues are tied to an ongoing police investigation, so any other questions should be directed to the RCMP or the Solicitor General.

## **MEAT INSPECTION ISSUES:**

- Our government is committed to ensuring British Columbians have confidence in the continued safety of the food supply.
- It is because we recognized inconsistencies in meat inspection practices that we passed the new Food Safety Act in 2002 – and developed new draft regulations to strengthen public confidence.
- Ministry of Health Services staff are reviewing input from stakeholders around the specific regulations and we hope to implement the new rules shortly.
- In the interim, if people had concerns about a specific meat processing facility in the province – they should contact their local health authority – and those concerns would be investigated.

## **STRATEGIC LINKAGES:**

- PROVINCIAL HEALTH OFFICER IS MANDATED TO WORK WITH THE B.C. CENTRE FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICERS TO FULFILL THEIR LEGISLATED HEALTH PROTECTION AND DISEASE CONTROL MANDATES.

Communications Contact:	Michelle Stewart	2-1897
Program Area Contact:	Kersteen Johnston/Perry Kendall	
File Created:	March 8, 2004	
File Updated:		
File Location:	K:\medstrat\REF-BOOK\2004\Public Health\Food Quality\IN - Mar 8 - Meat inspection - picton.doc	

Minister's Office	Program Area	Deputy	Comm. Dir
	Health Protection Planning		Michelle Stewart

## **Picton Farm Food sale and distribution**

### **Questions:**

- 1. What food items sold or distributed from the Picton farm are of potential concern for human health?**
- 2. What food was sold or distributed from the Picton farm?**
- 3. How was the food sold or distributed?**
- 4. Over what period of time was the food sold or distributed?**
- 5. How do we know that some of the food may have been human remains?**
- 6. What concerns are there for human health from eating human remains?**
- 7. What diseases can be transmitted from eating pork?**
- 8. What diseases can be transmitted from eating human remains?**
- 9. Does adequate cooking of meat (human or other) prevent the transmission of food born illness?**
- 10. What is the risk of acquiring HIV from eating human meat that was infected with HIV?**
- 11. What is the risk of acquiring Hepatitis B from eating human meat that was infected with Hepatitis B?**
- 12. What is the risk of acquiring Syphilis from eating human meat that was infected with Syphilis?**
- 13. What is the risk of acquiring TB from eating human meat that was infected with TB?**
- 14. What is the risk of acquiring Creutzfeld Jacob Disease (CJD) from eating human meat from a person that had CJD?**
- 15. What infections may have been present in human meat on the Picton Farm?**
- 16. Do we have information from laboratory tests as to what infections the human meat may have?**
- 17. If human meat was fed to pigs could diseases be transmitted to humans who ate the pork?**
- 18. If someone has eaten meat that has come from the Picton farm should they be tested?**
- 19. If someone has eaten meat that has come from the Picton farm should they seek medical advice?**
- 20. Where can someone get further information if they have concerns?**

**DRAFT 2004/Mar/08 11:43 AM**

## **Picton Farm Food sale and distribution**

**We appreciate that this issue may give rise to widespread public disgust and concern because of human remains may have been consumed by the public in British Columbia arising from the Picton Farm.**

**Any public advise should be prefaced by sympathy for those who may have consumed human remains but more importantly for the relatives of the victims who are the subject of the ongoing murder investigation.**

### **Questions:**

- 1. Q. What food items sold or distributed from the Picton farm are of potential concern for human health?**

**A. Any food that has been eaten uncooked or partially cooked is of potential concern. Adequate cooking kills microorganisms that cause human illness.**

- 2. Q. What food was sold or distributed from the Picton farm?**

**A. The RCMP will provide details of what animal or human food products are believed to have been sold or distributed from the Picton farm. We have been informed that human DNA was identified in 2 out of 11 specimens found in a freezer raising the question that human remains may have been offered for sale or for human consumption.**

**We are aware that live pigs from the Pickton farm were shipped to a Pitt Meadows plant for slaughter. We have been told that a pork product was sold to Chinese Restaurantuers in Vancouver and distributed to food banks.**

**Mr Picton is alleged to have distributed meat products to 30-40 associates.**

**The Picton farm was the site of numerous open invitation BBQs.**

**3. Q. How was the food sold or distributed?**

**A. There were public Barbeques held in a barn on the site. It is possible that the food was sold or distributed off the site.**

**4. Q. Over what period of time was the food sold or distributed?**

**A. It appears to have been over a ten year period – till at least 1997 (7 years ago).**

**5. Q. How do we know that some of the food may have been human remains?**

**A. The RCMP will provide specifics. Testing has shown that some specimens that were in a freezer that were expected to be sold as food was in fact human remains.**

**6. Q. What concerns are there for human health from eating human remains?**

**A. Adequate cooking kills microorganisms that cause human illness.**

**If the food is not cooked there is a potential for transmission of some infections such as HIV, Hepatitis A and B, Syphilis, Creutzfeld Jacob disease. The risk however for all these infections is considered to be very low since most of what we know of the risk relates to eating fresh food that has been contaminated.**

**7. Q. What diseases can be transmitted from eating pork?**

**A. Adequate cooking kills microorganisms that cause human illness.**

**Some parasites e.g.....**

**8. Q. Does adequate cooking of remains (human or other) prevent the transmission of food born illness?**

**a. Adequate cooking kills microorganisms that cause human illness.**

**9. Q. Does normal digestion kill infectious agents.**

**A. Stomach acid and other digestive juices kill most infectious agents that have not been killed by adequate cooking of food.**

**10. Q. What is the risk of acquiring HIV from eating human remains that was infected with HIV?**

**A. Adequate cooking kills microorganisms that cause human illness.**

**It is very low except for fresh food that may have been recently contaminated.**

**11. Q. What is the risk of acquiring Hepatitis B from eating human remains that was infected with Hepatitis B?**

**A. Adequate cooking kills microorganisms that cause human illness.**

**It very low unless the remains is eaten fresh – Hepatitis B has been known to be transmitted from food containing fresh blood.**

**12. Q. What is the risk of acquiring Syphilis from eating human remains that was infected with Syphilis?**

**A. Adequate cooking kills microorganisms that cause human illness.**

**?**

**13. Q. What is the risk of acquiring TB from eating human remains that was infected with TB?**



**A. Adequate cooking kills microorganisms that cause human illness.**

**14. Q. What is the risk of acquiring Creutzfeld Jacob Disease (CJD) from eating human remains from a person that had CJD?**

**a. CJD is caused by a prion (protein like substance). It is an exceptionally rare disease (1:1 Million Population). In Europe a new form of CJD known as New Variant CJD or nvCJD has been attributed the prion that causes Mad Cow Disease or Bovine Spongiform Encephalitis. This prion has been identified in humans. The risk of humans acquiring CJD or nvCJD in Canada from whatever the source of the remains is virtually zero.**

**15. Q. What infections may have been present in human remains on the Picton Farm?**

**A. From what has been reported by the RCMP it is possible that the human remains could have been infected with HIV, Hepatitis A and B and Syphilis.**

**16. Q. Do we have information from laboratory tests as to what infections the human remains may have?**

**A. ?????**

**17. Q. If human remains was fed to pigs could diseases be transmitted to humans who ate the pork?**

**A. It is virtually unknown for infectious diseases to be spread from animal food products to humans. This is because the normal digestive process in an animal kills microorganisms.**

**18. Q. If someone has eaten remains that has come from the Picton farm should they be tested?**

- a. We are not recommending any special testing at this time. If someone has a special concern they should contact the BC Nurse line at 1-866-215-4700 – in Greater Vancouver 1-604-215- 4700. The Nurse line will be provided with any updates as they become available.**
- 19. Q. If someone has eaten remains that has come from the Picton farm should they seek medical advice?**
  - a. A. If someone has a special concern they should contact the BC Nurse line at 1-866-215-4700 – in Greater Vancouver 1-604-215- 4700. The Nurse line will be provided with any updates as they become available. They may also contact their physician.**
- 20. Q. Where can someone get further information if they have concerns?**
  - a. If someone has a special concern they should contact the BC Nurse line at 1-866-215-4700 – in Greater Vancouver 1-604-215- 4700. The Nurse line will be provided with any updates as they become available.**
- 21. Q. Did any restaurants serve the affected remains? If so how can I find which ones?**
  - a. ??????**
- 22. Q. When I think about what has happened, I get images in my mind, feel nauseated and lose my appetite. What can I do?**
  - a. A. The first thing you should do is to talk it over with a friend or family member. If someone has a special concern they should contact the BC Nurse line at 1-866-215-4700 – in Greater Vancouver 1-604-215- 4700. The Nurse line will be provided with any updates as they become available.**

- 23. Q. My spouse/child/friend has stopped eating meat as a result of this news and has been losing weight. Is there someone they can talk to?**
- a. If someone has a special concern they should contact the BC Nurse line at 1-866-215-4700 – in Greater Vancouver 1-604-215- 4700. The Nurse line will be provided with any updates as they become available.**
- 24. Q. This situation from the very beginning has not been handled well by the local authorities. Who can I call to complain about this?**
- a. If someone has a special concern they should contact the BC Nurse line at 1-866-215-4700 – in Greater Vancouver 1-604-215- 4700. The Nurse line will be provided with any updates as they become available. There has been a coordinated response between the RCMP the BC Center for Disease, Health Protection in the Ministry of Health Services and the Provincial Health Officer. You may call the Provincial Health Officers Office if you wish at 250 952 1330 and they will respond to your concerns.**

**2004/Mar/08 5:06 PM**

~~Fiona~~ Giulini MAR '09

\* 6329181

358 8453

\* Fiona & Kim

Risk Assessment finished

TANIA &  
TRICHINELLA } FREE

Deposition from RCMP → Frank

how to mod. risk bacteria = 4 z weevils / row

Risks after 2 year freezing -

Viruses - ~~Survival unlikely~~  
Bacteria - likely to survive & infect  
Parasites - likely survive.

\* 2,500 people in contact  
over 10 years.

REDE -

RCMP requested ABU REV TV  
also looking for culture  
& tissue preservatives

\* Low - Moderate Risk

INFECTION.

(CTB) - needs more sample - 100gm possible

He Rogers can only speak about Risk Assessment.

Fiona Gow 358 8453

## Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX

---

**From:** Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 09, 2004 1:28 PM  
**To:** Peck, Shaun HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Pickton farm- issues of concern

**Importance:** High

FYI

P. R. W. Kendall, MBBS, MSc, FRCPC  
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<http://www.healthplanning.gov.bc.ca/pho>

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 09, 2004 1:28 PM  
**To:** Ballem, Penny HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** Carman, Carol J PAB:EX  
**Subject:** Pickton farm- issues of concern  
**Importance:** High

s.14

Perry

Page 34

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.14

## Berkes, Andrea HLTH:EX

---

**From:** Ballem, Penny HLTH:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 9, 2004 1:52 PM  
**To:** Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Pickton farm- issues of concern

perry will talk right now to alan seckel pb

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 09, 2004 1:28 PM  
**To:** Ballem, Penny HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** Carman, Carol J PAB:EX  
**Subject:** Pickton farm- issues of concern  
**Importance:** High

s.14

Perry

P. R. W. Kendall, MBBS, MSc, FRCPC  
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4th Floor, 1515 Blanshard Street  
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Phone: 250 952-1330  
Fax: 250 952-1362  
[perry.kendall@gems9.gov.bc.ca](mailto:perry.kendall@gems9.gov.bc.ca)  
<http://www.healthplanning.gov.bc.ca/pho>

## Berkes, Andrea HLTH:EX

---

**From:** Larry Copeland <larry.copeland@bccdc.ca>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 9, 2004 2:41 PM  
**To:** Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX; Carman, Carol J PAB:EX; Stewart, Michelle PAB:EX; Hazlewood, Andrew HLTH:EX; Johnston, Kersteen HLTH:EX; Patrick, David CDC:IP; Peck, Shaun HLTH:EX  
**Subject:** RE: more of PF

Perry I wonder if it was all or some of the pigs, and if there were more than occasion. If it was a single shipment with only some bad ones it would no doubt invoke a different response than arrival of continued poor stock. As a federally registered plant the inspection staff are certainly well informed about reportable animal diseases, and their CFIA colleagues who follow them up. I believe their legal obligation would be limited to reportable diseases. One would hope however there is sensitivity to inform colleagues in MAFF and their own if they suspect a trend in poor farm practise.

Regards  
Larry Copeland, Director  
Food Protection Services  
BC Centre For Disease Control  
Phone: 604-660-5357 Fax: 604-660-0697  
email: [larry.copeland@bccdc.ca](mailto:larry.copeland@bccdc.ca)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX [<mailto:Perry.Kendall@gems9.gov.bc.ca>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 09, 2004 1:45 PM  
**To:** Carman, Carol J PAB:EX; Stewart, Michelle PAB:EX; Copeland, Larry CDC:IP; Hazlewood, Andrew HLTH:EX; Johnston, Kersteen HLTH:EX; Patrick, David CDC:IP; Peck, Shaun HLTH:EX  
**Subject:** more of PF

I learned from Tony Giulivi that according to RCMP the Pitt Meadows slaughter house rejected the pigs from the Pickton farm as they were not up to standard- e.g. had abscesses etc. So they may not have entered the BC foodchain- but it does raise the issue of whether Pitt Meadows slaughter-house had any obligation to inform any regulatory agency about the substandard product that was shipped to them.

Perry

P. R. W. Kendall, MBBS, MSc, FRCPC  
Provincial Health Officer  
Ministry of Health Planning  
4th Floor, 1515 Blanshard Street  
Victoria BC V8W 3C8  
Phone: 250 952-1330  
Fax: 250 952-1362



Perry This is for you for now. To be used in future if needed

**Office of the Provincial Health Officer**

**Advice to the Provincial Health Officer from the Deputy Provincial Health Officer. DRAFT 2004/Mar/09 3:27 PM**

**Subject : Pickton Farm Food sale and distribution**

**This issue may give rise to widespread public concern because of information provided by the RCMP Missing Womens Task Force.**

**Any public advice should be prefaced by sympathy for relatives of the missing women and anyone concerned about this investigation.**

**(The information in this document is for Public Health Officials, to inform decision making and is intended to discover as many of the facts that are known to the Provincial Health Officer. The document may be used in the future to create suitable messaging for the BC Nurse Line and for Public Communications. Because some information known to the RCMP is subject to criminal court proceedings it may not be legal to publicize the information that has been provided to the Provincial Health Officer. Some information is subject to court declared ban on publication).**

**The following is from the Health Act:**

(2) The Provincial health officer must monitor the health of the people of British Columbia and provide to the people of British Columbia information and analyses on health issues.

(3) If the Provincial health officer considers that the interests of the people of British Columbia are best served by making a report to the public on health issues in British Columbia, or on the need for legislation or a change of policy or practice respecting health in British Columbia, the Provincial health officer must make that report in the manner the Provincial health officer considers most appropriate.

**Provincial health officer as a witness**

5 The Provincial health officer must not, insofar as the laws of British Columbia apply, give or be compelled to give evidence in a court or in proceedings of a

judicial nature concerning knowledge gained in the exercise of a power or duty under this Act.

(note: the matter before the court is the subject of Federal Law - the Criminal Code).

#### Immunity

6 (1) No action for damages lies or may be brought against the Provincial health officer because of anything done or omitted in good faith

(a) in the performance or purported performance of any duty under this Act, or

(b) in the exercise or purported exercise of any power under this Act.

(2) Subsection (1) does not absolve the government from vicarious liability for an act or omission for which it would be vicariously liable if this section were not in force.

#### Questions:

**1. Q. What food was sold or distributed from the Pickton farm?  
What food items sold or distributed from the Pickton farm  
are of potential concern for human health?**

**A. Pork meat was sold and distributed from the farm.  
The RCMP have informed the Provincial Health Officer  
there is a likely health concern with the meat. Any  
food that has been eaten uncooked or partially  
cooked is of potential concern. Adequate cooking  
kills microorganisms that cause human illness.**

**B. The RCMP will provide details of what animal or  
human food products are believed to have been sold  
or distributed from the Pickton farm. We have been  
informed that human DNA was identified in 2 out of 11  
specimens found in a freezer raising the question that  
human remains may have been offered for sale or for  
human consumption.**

**We are aware that live pigs from the Pickton farm were shipped to a Pitt Meadows plant for slaughter. We have been told that a pork product was sold to Chinese Restaurateurs in Vancouver and distributed to food banks. We have been unable to confirm at this time that this occurred.**

**Mr Pickton is alleged to have distributed meat products to 30-40 associates.**

**We have been informed that the Pickton farm was the site of numerous open invitation BBQs.**

**3. Q. How was the food sold or distributed?**

**A. There were public Barbeques held in a barn on the site. It is possible that the food was sold or distributed off the site. (see above).**

**4. Q. Over what period of time was the food sold or distributed?**

**A. It appears to have been over a ten year period – till at least February 2002 (2 years ago).**

**5. Q. How do we know that some of the food may have been human remains?**

**A. The RCMP will provide specifics. Testing has shown that some specimens that were in a freezer that were expected to be sold as food did in fact test positive for human tissue.**

**6. Q. What concerns are there for human health from eating human remains? Are some cuts/portions of meat more susceptible to contamination than others?**

**A. Adequate cooking kills microorganisms that cause human illness.**

**If the food is not cooked there is a potential for transmission of some infections such as HIV, Hepatitis A and B, Syphilis, Creutzfeldt Jacob disease. The risk however**

**for all these infections is considered to be very low since most of what we know of the risk relates to eating fresh food that has been contaminated.**

**Cuts of meat can be contaminated during the food preparation process and in the slaughtering process.**

**7. Q. What diseases can be transmitted from eating pork?**

**A. Adequate cooking kills microorganisms that cause human illness.**

**Pork meat is considered to be very safe to eat when cooked, whatever the diet of the pigs. In Canada parasites such as Taenia and Trichinella are exceptionally rare. Specimens of food are being tested for Tissue parasites.**

**8. Q. Does adequate cooking of remains (human or other) prevent the transmission of food born illness?**

**a. Adequate cooking kills microorganisms that cause human illness.**

**9. Q. Does normal digestion kill infectious agents.**

**A. Stomach acid and other digestive juices kill most infectious agents that have not been killed by adequate cooking of food.**

**B. Pigs have a very effective digestive system that enables them to eat all sorts of infected material but the pork once slaughtered and adequately cooked is risk free.**

**10. Q. What is the risk of acquiring HIV from eating human remains that was infected with HIV?**

**A. Adequate cooking kills microorganisms that cause human illness.**

**It is very low except for fresh food that may have been recently contaminated.**

- 11. Q. What is the risk of acquiring Hepatitis B from eating human remains that was infected with Hepatitis B?**

**A. Adequate cooking kills microorganisms that cause human illness.**

**It very low unless the remains is eaten fresh – Hepatitis B has been known to be transmitted from food containing fresh blood.**

- 12. Q. What is the risk of acquiring Syphilis from eating human remains that was infected with Syphilis?**

**A. Adequate cooking kills microorganisms that cause human illness.**

**???**

- 13. Q. What is the risk of acquiring TB from eating human remains that was infected with TB?**

**A. Adequate cooking kills microorganisms that cause human illness.**

**???**

- 14. Q. What is the risk of acquiring Creutzfeld Jacob Disease (CJD) from eating human remains from a person that had CJD?**

- a. CJD is caused by a prion (protein like substance). It is an exceptionally rare disease (1:1 Million Population). In Europe a new form of CJD known as New Variant CJD or nvCJD has been attributed the prion that causes Mad Cow Disease or Bovine Spongiform Encephalitis. This prion has been identified in humans. The risk of humans**

**acquiring CJD or nvCJD in Canada from whatever the source of the remains is virtually zero.**

**15. Q. What infections may have been present in human remains on the Pickton Farm?**

**A. From what has been reported by the RCMP it is possible that the human remains could have been infected with HIV, Hepatitis A and B and Syphilis.**

**16. Q. Do we have information from laboratory tests as to what infections the human remains may have?**

**A. ?????**

**17. Q. If human remains was fed to pigs could diseases be transmitted to humans who ate the pork?**

**A. It is virtually unknown for infectious diseases to be spread from animal food products to humans. This is because the normal digestive process in an animal kills microorganisms.**

**18. Q. If someone has eaten remains that has come from the Pickton farm should they be tested?**

**a. We are not recommending any special testing at this time. If someone has a special concern they should contact the BC Nurse line at 1-866-215-4700 – in Greater Vancouver 1-604-215- 4700. The Nurse line will be provided with any updates as they become available.**

**19. Q. If someone has eaten remains that has come from the Pickton farm should they seek medical advice?**

**a. A. If someone has a special concern they should contact the BC Nurse line at 1-866-215-4700 – in Greater Vancouver 1-604-215- 4700. The Nurse line will be provided with any updates as they become available. They may also contact their physician.**

**20. Q. Where can someone get further information if they have concerns?**

**a. If someone has a special concern they should contact the BC Nurse line at 1-866-215-4700 – in Greater Vancouver 1-604-215- 4700. The Nurse line will be provided with any updates as they become available.**

**21. Q. Did any restaurants serve the affected remains? If so how can I find which ones?**

**A. We are aware that live pigs from the Pickton farm were shipped to a Pitt Meadows plant for slaughter. We have been told that a pork product was sold to Chinese Restaurateurs in Vancouver and distributed to food banks. We have been unable to confirm at this time that this occurred.**

**Mr Pickton is alleged to have distributed meat products to 30-40 associates.**

**We have been informed that the Pickton farm was the site of numerous open invitation BBQs.**

**22. Q. When I think about what has happened, I get images in my mind, feel nauseated and lose my appetite. What can I do?**

**a. A. The first thing you should do is to talk it over with a friend or family member. If someone has a special concern they should contact the BC Nurse line at 1-866-215-4700 – in Greater Vancouver 1-604-215- 4700. The Nurse line will be provided with any updates as they become available.**

**23. Q. My spouse/child/friend has stopped eating meat as a result of this news and has been losing weight. Is there someone they can talk to?**

**a. If someone has a special concern they should contact the BC Nurse line at 1-866-215-4700 – in Greater**

**Vancouver 1-604-215- 4700. The Nurse line will be provided with any updates as they become available.**

**24. Q. This situation from the very beginning has not been handled well by the local authorities. Who can I call to complain about this?**

**a. If someone has a special concern they should contact the BC Nurse line at 1-866-215-4700 – in Greater Vancouver 1-604-215- 4700. The Nurse line will be provided with any updates as they become available. There has been a coordinated response between the RCMP the BC Center for Disease, Health Protection in the Ministry of Health Services and the Provincial Health Officer. You may call the Provincial Health Officers Office if you wish at 250 952 1330 and they will respond to your concerns.**

**25. Q. What is the result of the risk assessment carried out by Health Canada?**

- A. Consumption of tissues processed on the pig farm. “There is a very low risk of an individual contracting hepatitis B, and an infinitesimally small risk to an individual of contracting hepatitis C, and/or HIV from tissues processed and distributed by the pig farm currently under investigation by the RCMP in Vancouver. Cooking of the material prior to human consumption further reduces the risk.”**
- B. Poor hygiene on the farm. “While higher than for the viral agents noted above, there remains a low to medium risk of infection by bacterial and parasitic agents to the individuals exposed because of the poor hygiene in the area where the meat was processed on the farm. Cooking material prior to human consumption further reduces the risk.”**



**Berkes, Andrea HLTH:EX**

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**From:** Larry Copeland <larry.copeland@bccdc.ca>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 9, 2004 4:39 PM  
**To:** Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Avian Flu Issues: Update

Yes will do.

Regards

Larry Copeland, Director  
Food Protection Services  
BC Centre For Disease Control  
Phone: 604-660-5357 Fax: 604-660-0697  
email: larry.copeland@bccdc.ca

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX [mailto:Perry.Kendall@gems9.gov.bc.ca]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 09, 2004 4:29 PM  
**To:** Copeland, Larry CDC:IP  
**Subject:** RE: Avian Flu Issues: Update

I am thinking that this will come as a series of questions- you learned that this processor was unhygienic, processing diseased and dead animals- what steps did you take to find out the extent of a possible public health risk?. You learned that some animals were sent to Pitt Meadows and rejected. Did you satisfy yourself that no animals got into the food chain?  
Can you follow up?  
Perry

P. R. W. Kendall, MBBS, MSc, FRCPC  
Provincial Health Officer  
Ministry of Health Planning  
4th Floor, 1515 Blanshard Street  
Victoria BC V8W 3C8  
Phone: 250 952-1330  
Fax: 250 952-1362  
perry.kendall@gems9.gov.bc.ca  
<http://www.healthplanning.gov.bc.ca/pho>

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Larry Copeland [mailto:larry.copeland@bccdc.ca]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 09, 2004 4:25 PM  
**To:** Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Avian Flu Issues: Update

Or refer to CFIA for response - the follow up of sick animals is CFIA/MAFF responsibility - we rarely get involved except avian flu etc. - if pressed we could certainly ask the CFIA in short order.

Regards  
Larry Copeland, Director  
Food Protection Services  
BC Centre For Disease Control  
Phone: 604-660-5357 Fax: 604-660-0697  
email: larry.copeland@bccdc.ca

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX [mailto:Perry.Kendall@gems9.gov.bc.ca]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 09, 2004 4:02 PM  
**To:** Copeland, Larry CDC:IP  
**Subject:** RE: Avian Flu Issues: Update

It might be something that was useful to have-depends if the media enquiries go there. We would probably rather say we had done due diligence than we didn't know?  
Perry

P. R. W. Kendall, MBBS, MSc, FRCPC  
Provincial Health Officer  
Ministry of Health Planning  
4th Floor, 1515 Blanshard Street  
Victoria BC V8W 3C8  
Phone: 250 952-1330  
Fax: 250 952-1362  
perry.kendall@gems9.gov.bc.ca  
<http://www.healthplanning.gov.bc.ca/pho>

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Larry Copeland [mailto:larry.copeland@bccdc.ca]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 09, 2004 3:58 PM  
**To:** Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Avian Flu Issues: Update

Okay that would take some chasing down and whether the CFIA would release their inspection reports.

Regards  
Larry Copeland, Director  
Food Protection Services  
BC Centre For Disease Control  
Phone: 604-660-5357 Fax: 604-660-0697  
email: larry.copeland@bccdc.ca

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX [mailto:Perry.Kendall@gems9.gov.bc.ca]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 09, 2004 3:41 PM

**To:** Copeland, Larry CDC:IP  
**Subject:** RE: Avian Flu Issues: Update

Sorry - I meant details on meat shipments from PF to Pitt Meadows.  
Perry

P. R. W. Kendall, MBBS, MSc, FRCPC  
Provincial Health Officer  
Ministry of Health Planning  
4th Floor, 1515 Blanshard Street  
Victoria BC V8W 3C8  
Phone: 250 952-1330  
Fax: 250 952-1362  
perry.kendall@gems9.gov.bc.ca  
<http://www.healthplanning.gov.bc.ca/pho>

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Larry Copeland [mailto:larry.copeland@bccdc.ca]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 09, 2004 3:31 PM  
**To:** Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Avian Flu Issues: Update

Sorry Perry which details - the avian details as much as we have are in the note that follows from Aleina Tweed.

Regards  
Larry Copeland, Director  
Food Protection Services  
BC Centre For Disease Control  
Phone: 604-660-5357 Fax: 604-660-0697  
email: larry.copeland@bccdc.ca

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX  
[mailto:Perry.Kendall@gems9.gov.bc.ca]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 09, 2004 3:20 PM  
**To:** Copeland, Larry CDC:IP; Hazlewood, Andrew HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** Johnston, Kersteen HLTH:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Avian Flu Issues: Update

Thanks Larry. Wish I had the details.

P. R. W. Kendall, MBBS, MSc, FRCPC  
Provincial Health Officer  
Ministry of Health Planning  
4th Floor, 1515 Blanshard Street  
Victoria BC V8W 3C8  
Phone: 250 952-1330  
Fax: 250 952-1362

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Larry Copeland [mailto:larry.copeland@bccdc.ca]

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 09, 2004 2:50 PM

**To:** Hazlewood, Andrew HLTH:EX

**Cc:** Johnston, Kersteen HLTH:EX; Kendall, Perry  
HLTH:EX

**Subject:** FW: Avian Flu Issues: Update

Andy as requested here's the latest update as requested on the Avian Flu issue. The release of the high pathogenicity news does alter anyone's response to date. No additional measures are required either on the farm or with person's exposed beyond what has already been carried out.

On the new situation as a heads up I am advised that we and the local MHO are still being frustrated by MAFF's refusal to give the name/ location of the suspect farm. I have just been contacted by the CFIA who advised that they have been contacted by the local MHO, and will be giving the identity to the MHO for public health follow up. The CFIA is very uncomfortable with MAFF's continued reluctance to share the vital information.

Regards

Larry Copeland, Director

Food Protection Services

BC Centre For Disease Control

Phone: 604-660-5357 Fax: 604-660-0697

email: larry.copeland@bccdc.ca

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Aleina Tweed [mailto:aleina.tweed@bccdc.ca]

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 09, 2004 1:17 PM

**To:** Larry Copeland; brian.emerson@gems1.gov.bc.ca;  
Halpert, Christine; Arlene King; 'Stewart, Michelle  
PAB:EX'; Ron.Lewis@gems3.gov.bc.ca; Samara Berger

**Cc:** aleina.tweed@bccdc.ca

**Subject:** RE: Avian Flu Issues: Update

An update to earlier emails: The CFIA press release is currently due to be released this afternoon. It confirms that a **high pathogenicity H7N3** virus was found in the 2nd (younger) poultry flock on the Fraser Valley Farm. They have **not** found H7N1 on this farm. The determination of a high path H7N3 is somewhat less troublesome than the earlier information indicating that two completely different strains had been identified on the same farm.

The CFIA believes that the virus mutated while on the farm, changing from low pathogenicity (in the older flock) to high pathogenicity. According to the CFIA press release, this is "not unheard of but is rare."

The press release is **also** going to announce that CFIA "has quarantined a second farm where a low level of illness appears to exist among some of the birds. Testing is currently underway." Preliminary testing -- **not yet public** -- indicates that this illness is avian influenza.

Cheers,

Aleina Tweed  
Surveillance Epidemiologist, Vaccine-Preventable  
Diseases  
Epidemiology Services  
BC Centre for Disease Control  
(604) 660-3162  
[aleina.tweed@bccdc.ca](mailto:aleina.tweed@bccdc.ca)

Page 50

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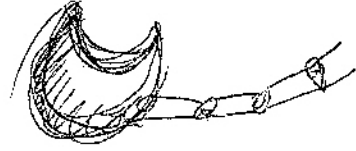
s.14

BCCDC / PHO

Patient T/c

MAR 09.

Testing Unlabeled - Viral 24-48 hrs  
- Enterics → 7 days.



- Testing requested by frame team of RCMP - HIV/HEV/HBV/  
also doing enterics  
- chain of evidence tracking in place - TB (if any) & Tissue  
Have Evidence # & an Investigative #. + BCCDC lab #.

## Berkes, Andrea HLTH:EX

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**From:** David Patrick <david.patrick@bccdc.ca>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 10, 2004 8:46 AM  
**To:** antonio.giulivi@hc-sc.gc.ca  
**Cc:** Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX  
**Subject:** Prevalence estimates for Missing Women

**Importance:** High

Dear Tony:

Here's a bit more local information that may help. I'm going on my knowledge of the missing women, which is that virtually all were injecting drug using sex trade workers abducted from the Downtown Eastside. On that basis, the following information comes from a population based cohort in this population:

- HCV prevalence about 70%
- HIV prevalence about 30%
- PPD reactivity (current or previously demonstrated) - 24%
- Active TB rate - about 0.5 per 100 person years
- HBV SAg carriage is still pretty rare 3-5%

I don't think any of this changes your overall conclusion of diminishingly low risk.

Dr. David Patrick  
Associate Professor and Director, Epidemiology Services  
UBC Centre for Disease Control  
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4R4 Canada  
PH: 604-660-3199  
FX: 604-660-0197  
[david.patrick@bccdc.ca](mailto:david.patrick@bccdc.ca)  
[www.bccdc.org](http://www.bccdc.org)



## Berkes, Andrea HLTH:EX

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**From:** Larry Copeland <larry.copeland@bccdc.ca>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 10, 2004 1:07 PM  
**To:** Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** Hazlewood, Andrew HLTH:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Pitt Meadow Meats

I was able to reach Stuart and alert him this was coming - he's out in Abbotsford re the avian flu situation. As I indicated to Andy his ability to reply in the timelines may be very difficult, if at all for the farm questions, and for the other the politics within the CFIA as reflected I understand during your call this morning. In any event will keep you posted.

Regards

Larry Copeland, Director  
Food Protection Services  
BC Centre For Disease Control  
Phone: 604-660-5357 Fax: 604-660-0697  
email: [larry.copeland@bccdc.ca](mailto:larry.copeland@bccdc.ca)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX [<mailto:Perry.Kendall@gems9.gov.bc.ca>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 10, 2004 12:26 PM  
**To:** Copeland, Larry CDC:IP  
**Subject:** RE: Pitt Meadow Meats

Thanks Larry.  
Perry

P. R. W. Kendall, MBBS, MSc, FRCPC  
Provincial Health Officer  
Ministry of Health Planning  
4th Floor, 1515 Blanshard Street  
Victoria BC V8W 3C8  
Phone: 250 952-1330  
Fax: 250 952-1362  
[perry.kendall@gems9.gov.bc.ca](mailto:perry.kendall@gems9.gov.bc.ca)  
<http://www.healthplanning.gov.bc.ca/pho>

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Larry Copeland [<mailto:larry.copeland@bccdc.ca>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 10, 2004 12:02 PM  
**To:** stu wilson; [bceocbceoc@inspection.gc.ca](mailto:bceocbceoc@inspection.gc.ca)  
**Cc:** Hazlewood, Andrew HLTH:EX; Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX  
**Subject:** Pitt Meadow Meats  
**Importance:** High

Stuart please accept this as a confidential, urgent request for information that has been requested by Dr. Perry Kendall, Provincial Health Officer to support public health assessment in regards to the Pickton matter. This information is urgently required for a meeting tomorrow afternoon. Any and all responses would be appreciated before noon tomorrow.

It has emerged from the Pickton investigation that a significant number of animals were potentially received at the farm, and live animals were shipped to Pitt Meadow Meats for slaughter. This poses concern that animals that were potentially fed human remains may have entered the commercial food chain, provincially, nationally and perhaps internationally. The following questions are of vital importance to developing responses to potential questions that may be posed to Public Health Authorities.

- are there any CFIA or Agriculture records as to how many animals that were purchased by Mr. Pickton and shipped to the farm.
- was a feed licence issued and subsequently revoked for the farm by either the CFIA or Agriculture Canada. If so when was the licence issued/revoked, and on what grounds was it revoked. What follow up actions were undertaken to resolve concerns/violations at the farm.
- were pigs from the Pickton Farm received at Pitt Meadows Meats, if so how many times/dates and how many animals were received at these times.
- were the animals accepted for slaughter, and how many were either passed or rejected.
- was there any evidence of the animals being sick/in ill health. Was there any consideration given to inspecting the farm to investigate poor farm practises based on ill health of the animals.

Thank you and appreciate your assistance in this regard.

Regards  
Larry Copeland, Director  
Food Protection Services  
BC Centre For Disease Control  
Phone: 604-660-5357 Fax: 604-660-0697  
email: [larry.copeland@bccdc.ca](mailto:larry.copeland@bccdc.ca)

## Berkes, Andrea HLTH:EX

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**From:** Stewart, Michelle PAB:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 10, 2004 1:34 PM  
**To:** Chan, Kim J HLTH:EX; Carman, Carol J PAB:EX; Ballem, Penny HLTH:EX; Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** XT:HLTH SALLY GREENWOOD@BCTS.HINET.BC.CA; Hamilton, Becky PAB:EX  
**Subject:** DRAFT TWO!!!  
  
**Importance:** High

This draft has been signed off by the RCMP....



ZPHO -  
Picton.doc

Michelle Stewart  
Communications Director  
Health Services  
Phone: 250-952-1423  
Fax: 250-952-1883  
Cell: 250-812-5571  
<mailto:michelle.stewart@gems1.gov.bc.ca>

Info Bulletin Draft #2  
For Immediate Release  
[release number]  
March 10, 2004

Ministry of Health Services

**PROVINCIAL HEALTH OFFICER ISSUES ALERT**

VICTORIA – Following new information from the RCMP, B.C. Provincial Health Officer Dr. Perry Kendall is calling on anyone who may still possess frozen pork meat products from the Port Coquitlam farm of Robert Pickton, to return those products to police.

Dr. Kendall says RCMP approached the B.C. Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) to inquire about potential health risks for individuals who may have consumed pork meat processed or slaughtered at the farm, given the conditions they discovered at the site.

On Friday, March 5 the Provincial Health Officer, in close cooperation with the B.C.C.D.C. and senior officials at Health Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency immediately launched a formal assessment of the risk to any individuals who have been exposed to food-borne or other illness through the consumption of the products.

While a more detailed risk assessment continues, health officials have stressed there is no evidence of any disease transmission related to products from the farm. BCCDC officials have added the risk to human health for those who consumed the products is extremely remote, based on the fact most pork products are typically well cooked, which is known to effectively destroy most infectious agents. However, Dr. Kendall says under the circumstances, he has an obligation to the public under the Health Act to ensure those products are not consumed.

The RCMP have evidence that some products were handed out by Mr. Pickton to friends and acquaintances in and around the Lower Mainland, prior to his arrest in February 2002. The alert is focussed on these individuals.

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-30-

This information bulletin is online at

Contact: Public Affairs Bureau  
Ministry of Health Services  
250 952-1881

Catherine Galliford  
RCMP Corporal  
604 789-5479

## Berkes, Andrea HLTH:EX

---

**From:** Gear, Robin <Robin.Gear@fraserhealth.ca>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 10, 2004 2:09 PM  
**To:** XT:HLTH Parker, Robert; XT:HLTH Guasparini, Roland; Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX; Bower, Donald; XT:HLTH Carkner, Helen  
**Cc:** XT:HLTH Shum, Tim  
**Subject:** RE: Illegal Slaughtering at picton Farm complaint to FHA - 1995  
**Attachments:** Picton.doc

The information obtained from Dave Curries log book complete and is attached.

<<Picton.doc>>

Mrs. Robin Gear  
Manager, Environmental Health Service  
Health Protection  
Tri-Cities/Ridge Meadows  
Suite 300-205 Newport Drive  
Port Moody, B.C.  
V3H 5C9  
Ph: 604-949-7718  
Fax: 604-949-7706

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Parker, Robert Dr.

> Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2004 1:41 PM

> To: Guasparini, Dr. Roland; 'Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX'; Bower, Donald;  
> Carkner, Helen

> Cc: Gear, Robin; Shum, Tim

> Subject: RE: Illegal Slaughtering at picton Farm complaint to FHA -  
> 1995

>

> Our Tri-cities EH manager (Robin Gear) has just informed me that she  
> has just found out that in 1995 our TriCities Env. Health staff (Simon  
> Fraser Health Unit at that time) did respond to a complaint of illegal  
> animal slaughtering on the Picton farm (see initial limited note  
> attached; more forthcoming). Robin will be reviewing more details of  
> this instance, and checking with EH Director Tim Shum and Larry  
> Copeland so that they are clear where Public Health responsibilities  
> begin and end, in instances such as this.

>

> << File: Picton.doc >>

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Gear, Robin

> Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2004 1:24 PM

> To: Guasparini, Dr. Roland; Parker, Robert Dr.

> Subject: Illegal Slaughtering

>

>

> Here is the limited info.

>

> I still need to contact Jeet and finish getting Dave Curries log book  
> comments.  
>  
> Rob  
>  
> << File: Picton.doc >>  
>  
>  
>  
> Mrs. Robin Gear  
> Manager, Environmental Health Service  
> Health Protection  
> Tri-Cities/Ridge Meadows  
> Suite 300-205 Newport Drive  
> Port Moody, B.C. ,  
> V3H 5C9  
>  
> Ph: 604-949-7718  
> Fax: 604-949-7706  
>

Dave Currie - Illegal slaughtering complaint

July 19, 1995 - Received a complaint with respect to illegal slaughtering of animals at

Original complaint was regarding trucks being used to transport live animals to the property for slaughtering.

July 20, 1995 - Inderjeet Gill and Dave Currie went to the property, but did not go onto the property and did not observe any animals in the grazing area.

July 21, 1995 - Dave Currie went back to the site and walked on the adjacent property around the farm land and did not observe any animals.

July 26, 1995 - Dave Currie met with Kier Corder and Inderjeet Gill in office.

August 1, 2004 - Dave Currie spent most of morning on adjacent property observing the Picton farm and there were a couple of horses in the field, no other animals outside were observed. No sounds that would indicate slaughtering.

August 2, 1995 - Dave Currie observed dirt trucks coming and going.

August 3, 1995 - Kier Corder and Dave Currie went back to the property and observed for a period of time. Later they entered the property and identified themselves and spoke with Willie Picton at the barn and explained the nature of the complaint regarding illegal slaughtering. He voluntarily invited the Dave and Keir to inspect the property. They only observed one penned animal (a large pig) and no visible signs of a slaughter operation. The entire area was extremely clean. A walk in cooler was empty and clean and did not appear to be in operation.

There was also a chest freezer that was empty and clean and also not in operation.

August 4, 1995 Dave Currie returned and observed from an adjacent property and did not find any evidence of slaughtering.

August 9, 1995 Dave Currie returned and still did not find any evidence of slaughtering.

I have spoken to Jeet and his recollection confirmed Dave's log entries that there was no evidence to confirm the complaint.

## Berkes, Andrea HLTH:EX

---

**From:** Stewart, Michelle PAB:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 10, 2004 2:35 PM  
**To:** Cunningham, David J PREM:EX  
**Cc:** Carman, Carol J PAB:EX; Hamilton, Becky PAB:EX; Kendail, Perry HLTH:EX  
**Subject:** RE: further to your conversation with Carol...

**Importance:** High

Slight word change from Perry...



3PHO -  
Picton.doc

Draft three

Michelle Stewart  
Communications Director  
Health Services  
Phone: 250-952-1423  
Fax: 250-952-1883  
Cell: 250-812-5571  
<mailto:michelle.stewart@gems1.gov.bc.ca>

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Stewart, Michelle PAB:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 10, 2004 2:24 PM  
**To:** Cunningham, David J PREM:EX  
**Subject:** further to your conversation with Carol...  
**Importance:** High

Have to be prepared to release this around 4pm.....(according to Carol)

<< File: 2PHO - Picton.doc >>

Michelle Stewart  
Communications Director  
Health Services  
Phone: 250-952-1423  
Fax: 250-952-1883  
Cell: 250-812-5571  
<mailto:michelle.stewart@gems1.gov.bc.ca>



Info Bulletin Draft #2  
For Immediate Release  
[release number]  
March 10, 2004

Ministry of Health Services

**PROVINCIAL HEALTH OFFICER ISSUES ALERT**

VICTORIA -- Following new information from the RCMP, B.C. Provincial Health Officer Dr. Perry Kendall is calling on anyone who may still possess frozen pork meat products from the Port Coquitlam farm of Robert Pickton, to return those products to police.

Dr. Kendall says RCMP approached the B.C. Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) to inquire about potential health risks for individuals who may have consumed pork meat processed or slaughtered at the farm, given the conditions they discovered at the site.

On Friday, March 5 the Provincial Health Officer, in close cooperation with the BCCDC and senior officials at Health Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency launched a formal assessment of the risk to any individuals who have been exposed to food-borne or other illness through the consumption of the products.

While a more detailed risk assessment continues, health officials have stressed there is no evidence of any disease transmission related to products from the farm. BCCDC officials have added the risk to human health for those who consumed the products is extremely remote, based on the fact most pork products are typically well cooked, which is known to effectively destroy most infectious agents. However, Dr. Kendall says under the circumstances, he has an obligation to the public under the Health Act to ensure those products are not consumed.

The RCMP have evidence that some products were handed out by Mr. Pickton to friends and acquaintances in and around the Lower Mainland, prior to his arrest in February 2002. The alert is focussed on these individuals.

Anyone who may still have frozen products from the Pickton farm is asked to contact the Missing Women's Task Force at 1-877-687-3377. Those individuals who may have consumed products in the past and who have health questions or concerns are urged to contact either their family physician or the B.C. Nurseline at 1-866-215-4700.

-30-

This information bulletin is online at

Contact: Public Affairs Bureau  
Ministry of Health Services  
250 952-1881

Catherine Galliford  
RCMP Corporal  
604 789-5479

## Berkes, Andrea HLTH:EX

---

**From:** Barbara Findlay <bfindlay@TCMTelecare.ca>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 10, 2004 4:33 PM  
**To:** Halls, Lori HLTH:EX; Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** James, Pauline HLTH:EX; Boomer, Joanne HLTH:EX  
**Subject:** RE: BC NurseLine initial response re: Contaminated Pork  
**Attachments:** Contaminated Pork.doc

I have revised the BCNL document based on the info we recieved in the MOH press release a few minutes ago and attached the latest draft.

Barb <<Contaminated Pork.doc>>

> -----Original Message----- ,

> From: Lori Halls

> Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2004 4:29 PM

> To: Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX

> Cc: Pauline James; Boomer, Joanne HLTH:EX; Barbara Findlay

> Subject: BC NurseLine initial response re: Contaminated Pork

>

> Perry...here is the initial response drafted by the BC NurseLine per our discussion. If you have any concerns/questions, please contact me on my cell at 216-1436. I have asked Communications to share with us any FAQs that are developed so that the BC NurseLine is speaking from the same songsheet.

> << File: Contaminated Pork1.doc >>

>

>

> Lori Halls

> Executive Director

> BC HealthGuide Program

> Population Health and Wellness

> PHONE: (250) 952-3207

> FAX:(250) 952-1570

> Cell: (250) 216-1436

> <mailto:lori.halls@gems2.gov.bc.ca>

>

>

>

### **Contaminated Pork**

We may get calls tonight related to news that contaminated food products (pork) were distributed from the Pickton farm at some point prior to his arrest 2 years ago.

The Ministry of Health is preparing an official press release in response that we will provide to you as soon as it is available.

The two main issues we may need to address are:

1. Symptom calls related to contamination of food products (food poisoning concerns)
2. The issue of 'cross contamination' between human remains and the pork products in question.

**Symptom calls should be handled as usual, according to HWKB protocols**

**Information that we can provide to callers immediately:**

- Reinforce proper food handling techniques  
<http://www.bchealthguide.org/healthfiles/hfile59.stm>
- Exposure likely to have been more than 2 years ago, unless product has been stored/frozen by recipients
- Contaminated food product has not been manufactured or sold on a large, public scale. This issue likely affects a very small number of people.
- Anyone who may still have frozen products from the Pickton farm is asked to contact the Missing Women's Task Force at 1-877-687-3377.

**Only if callers ask...**

- There is an extremely remote risk of contracting Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, HIV, TB or Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease if they ate cooked, contaminated food products. The risk remains very remote if the product was eaten raw.
- Refer people to their family physicians for further assessment if required.

**BC Nurse Line's role is to:**

1. Reassure the public and address 'emotional' issues as they arise
2. Provide information in the MOH press release as it becomes available
3. Talk about the 'risk assessment' done by BCCDC only if the caller asks for this info

MARCH 10

RCMP

(7)

Karen Dadds Clerk  
Tang Giniini + PCCO

Wend Limbeyer  
Dan Adams - 1/2 MONT.F  
Murray Huel  
Shirley Sullivan  
Kati Gallagher ) P.  
Mr Petrie

BC  
Kendall  
Liam Hall  
Anely H.  
Carol Cannon  
Alex Dufresne  
Michelle Stewart  
Hona Gow  
Keribah Anderson  
Shan Peet

Shirley Chan  
Patsy Mok  
Ran Parkhurst

+ CHIA

Karen RCMP update Don Adams

4 things

- (1) Health concerns
- (2) Evidence gathering
- (3) Mountain org. integrity
- (4) Fair Trial precepts

What up do RCMP have about volumes of food? Types of food?  
- have to expect that for 10km. Section ran backyard slaughterhouse.  
→ non-commercial distribution. Some live pigs went to Pitt Meadows  
meat. Some rejected as unfit.  
NOFV

Traditional Food Safety concerns  
- RCMP 80's or earlier

— Victims incorporated into food.  
— ? volume.

at least back to 1995 & forward to '02  
possibly in early 90's.

Hand packaged meat packages

11 bags - ground up mixtures Pork & Haman

2 empty skulls = 10 brains

(2)

11 DNA in freezers  
30 murdered @ the farm.

BCCDC looking at entire  
records for POCO.

BCCDC Testing

HEV - NEG

HBV - Additional testing

HBV - including + parasites, enterics & T.B.

VALIDITY & UTILITY/  
OF TESTING UNKNOWN

Cannot test for CJD

Risk Assessment

- ? Retrospective or Prospective  
Risk assessment

POMP IF Pickton gave meat out in packages & they are in  
freezers.

Pickton's freezer sample  
dated from 1997-1998.

(\*) - Thousands of interviews - 12 people ate meat that  
tasted "funny" - all close associates

(\*) 30-40 were given packaged meat - Don't know  
how many still have  
packaged meat

(\*) Italian experience is that human &  
pork meat taste the same.

NO EVIDENCE THAT PICKTON FED VICTIMS IN THE TENT  
36 CLOSE ASSOCIATES.

EVIDENCE OF BROTHERS PORK & HUMAN FLESH.

ASSUME GROUND UP HUMAN & NOT JUST CONTAMINATION.

HUMAN MEAT LOOKS DIFFERENT - due to fat content.

(3)

NO FOLLOW UP ON SPOCKE THEORY.

(\*) 2 year old non-commercially frozen meat is not likely to be of good quality - But WP's close associates might eat it.

(\*) Sales Slips for 1997 - 1600 sales slips - Check Pitt Meadows record.

WP Was buying smaller pigs for BBQ spots ~~outside~~.  
Filippine Assoc & Thriving market in Filipino Community

Q - Wendell RMP discovers human remains in food?  
HK/Ford Products & CFIA - involved FBI - MAR 5.

Q - Geographic area for distribution - No indication of X border.  
Don't know WP wait say.  
How many exposed - close associates in POCO → lower mainland.  
Criminology strategy?

---

\* FOLLOWUP Needed & Pitt Meadows.

④

• REMP approach - at a minimum need product recall

Close contact between ACRB, PTO, & CROWN -

- NO IMMEDIATE HEALTH CONCERN. ① Re Refine Risk Assessment

→ Time frame

Meet @ 8 a.m

Review @ 7/6 Thursday p.m. - 1 p.m. bc

Work on Plan B.

→ Respond to leak.  
Holding Lines Needed.

Meeti Vunemew  
HC, REMP, BCEDC  
PTO, PAB

Info Bulletin Draft #2  
For Immediate Release  
[release number]  
March 10, 2004

Ministry of Health Services

**PROVINCIAL HEALTH OFFICER ISSUES ALERT**

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Dr. Kendall says RCMP approached the B.C. Centre for Disease Control(BCCDC) to inquire about potential health risks for individuals who may have consumed pork meat processed or slaughtered at the farm, given the conditions they discovered at the site.

On Friday, March 5 the Provincial Health Officer, in close cooperation with the B.C.C.D.C. and senior officials at Health Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency immediately launched a formal assessment of the risk to any individuals who have been exposed to food-borne or other illness through the consumption of the products.

While a more detailed risk assessment continues, health officials have stressed there is no evidence of any disease transmission related to products from the farm. BCCDC officials have added the risk to human health for those who consumed the products is extremely remote, based on the fact most pork products are typically well cooked, which is known to effectively destroy most infectious agents. However, Dr. Kendall says under the circumstances, he has an obligation to the public under the Health Act to ensure those products are not consumed.

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-30-

This information bulletin is online at

Contact:      Public Affairs Bureau  
                 Ministry of Health Services  
                 250 952-1881

Catherine Galliford  
RCMP Corporal  
604 789-5479



March 10, 2004

Thank you for your patience and for giving me the opportunity to respond to media interest in this way.

This afternoon my office put out a news release related to meat products distributed from the Pickton Farm prior to 2002.

As a result of information recently received from the RCMP I have reason to believe that there is a possibility that some of this produce may still be sitting in some people's freezers in the Lower Mainland. We also know- as a result of conditions at the farm- which was operating for a number of years as an unlicensed facility- and from the risk assessment conducted by Health Canada, that any meat in storage does pose some risk to human health.

It is therefore important that this meat be recalled and returned. The risks are primarily related to exposure to bacterial pathogens and would be heightened by consumption of raw or uncooked meat. The risk posed by thoroughly cooked meat is minimal.

BCCDC have examined their records and we have found no evidence of outbreaks of illness that are related to consumption of pork or products from the farm.

This recall is a precautionary measure.

Perry Kendall  
Provincial Health Officer

## Berkes, Andrea HLTH:EX

---

**From:** Parker, Robert Dr. <Robert.Parker@fraserhealth.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 11, 2004 11:53 AM  
**To:** Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** XT:HLTH Guasparini, Roland  
**Subject:** RE: Excellent press conference and media coverage

Perry, as per Roland's suggestion below, fyi... I received a call this morning from a young woman. She didn't want to leave her name, but lived in the Port Coquitlam area. She said when she was a teenager s.22 she used to party at her girlfriends house s.22 apparently named in some of the past Pickton press coverage). s.22 used to get meat packages (roasts mostly) which were fed to the party groups at the s.22 house, as well as the adults and children members of the household.

She just wanted to know about the "small but theoretical CD risks", and I went over the pork theoretical risks, and human remains risks. I offered her the Prov Nurseline number, but she didn't want to go that way; she wanted to talk to a doctor, and she was upset, so I went through it with her.

She didn't have any leftover meat products, and she wasn't in contact with s.22 any more.

I don't know how much you want to hear about these specific contacts (versus the odd worried well with no likely or specific contact, which we wouldn't bother you with obviously).

Ps - if you could get one of the PHO office secretaries to email the MHO group the Prov Nurseline script/Q&A they are using, that would be very helpful.

Pps - I too thought you did an excellent job in managing this issue, and the press conference/media interviews, in what was obviously a very difficult circumstance given the interaction of the public health and legal issues.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Guasparini, Dr. Roland  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 11, 2004 11:39 AM  
**To:** Parker, Robert Dr.  
**Subject:** FW: Excellent press conference and media coverage

Roland Guasparini  
604 572 2607, fax 572 2609  
after hours Public Health emergency on-call number is 604-527-4806

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX [<mailto:Perry.Kendall@gems9.gov.bc.ca>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 11, 2004 11:38 AM  
**To:** XT:HLTH Guasparini, Roland  
**Subject:** Re: Excellent press conference and media coverage

Thanks Roland for both items.  
Perry

P. R. W. Kendall, MBBS, MSc, FRCPC  
Provincial Health Officer  
Ministry of Health Planning  
4th Floor, 1515 Blanshard Street  
Victoria BC V8W 3C8  
Phone: 250 952-1330  
Fax: 250 952-1362  
[perry.kendall@gems9.gov.bc.ca](mailto:perry.kendall@gems9.gov.bc.ca)

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

-----Original Message-----

From: Guasparini, Dr. Roland <[Roland.Guasparini@fraserhealth.ca](mailto:Roland.Guasparini@fraserhealth.ca)>  
To: Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX <[Perry.Kendall@gems9.gov.bc.ca](mailto:Perry.Kendall@gems9.gov.bc.ca)>  
Sent: Thu Mar 11 11:35:39 2004  
Subject: Excellent press conference and media coverage

Media seems to have responded very well to your excellent press conference.  
Rob will send you a note about any calls we are getting from affected  
people....I assume you want to know.

Roland Guasparini  
604 572 2607, fax 572 2609  
after hours Public Health emergency on-call number is 604-527-4806

## Berkes, Andrea HLTH:EX

---

**From:** Stewart, Michelle PAB:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 11, 2004 12:33 PM  
**To:** Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX; Carman, Carol J PAB:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Van sun

**Importance:** High

Perry - Sally Greenwood at BCCDC received a call from a <sup>s.22</sup> who said he represented the Canadian Council of Grocers. <sup>s.22</sup> wanted to speak to you about his concerns around the Pickton story - specifically his concerns that in his opinion it has not been stated clearly enough that these products didn't make it in to the commercial market. (Given our discussion with Penny yesterday, I don't know how confident or explicit we can be, beyond what you said yesterday....) <sup>s.22</sup>  
Could you return <sup>s.22</sup> call? <sup>s.22</sup>

Michelle Stewart  
Communications Director  
Health Services  
Phone: 250-952-1423  
Fax: 250-952-1883  
Cell: 250-812-5571  
<mailto:michelle.stewart@gems1.gov.bc.ca>

-----Original Message-----

From: Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX  
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2004 12:23 PM  
To: Carman, Carol J PAB:EX  
Cc: Stewart, Michelle PAB:EX  
Subject: Van sun

Calls from Vancouver Sun focussed on who knew what when <sup>s.22</sup> and risk numbers <sup>s.22</sup> Also from <sup>s.22</sup>  
much questioning about the auctions records of Pickto selling pigs at auction that might then have entered food chain.  
Referred him to RCMP or CFIA while reiterating zero risk from cooked pig. He obviously pursuing people eat pigs that  
ate ...etc. I will let RCMP know about this line of Q's.  
Perry

P. R. W. Kendall, MBBS, MSc, FRCPC  
Provincial Health Officer  
Ministry of Health Planning  
4th Floor, 1515 Blanshard Street  
Victoria BC V8W 3C8  
Phone: 250 952-1330  
Fax: 250 952-1362  
[perry.kendall@gems9.gov.bc.ca](mailto:perry.kendall@gems9.gov.bc.ca)

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

## **Berkes, Andrea HLTH:EX**

---

**From:** Antonio Giulivi <Antonio\_Giulivi@hc-sc.gc.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 11, 2004 12:45 PM  
**To:** Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX; ward.lymburner@rcpm-grc.gc.ca  
**Cc:** Eleonore El-Zarka  
**Subject:** Final Risk Assessment - March 11, 2004  
**Attachments:** Final Risk Assessment March 11 04.doc

**Importance:** High

Perry/Ward,  
Find attached the final Risk Assessment.  
(See attached file: Final Risk Assessment March 11 04.doc) tony

# **FINAL RISK ASSESSMENT FOR MAJOR VIRAL AND BACTERIAL PATHOGENS FROM TISSUES PROCESSED AND DISTRIBUTED BY A PIG FARM CURRENTLY UNDER INVESTIGATION BY RCMP IN VANCOUVER**

**Blood Safety Surveillance and Health Care Acquired Infections Division  
Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control**

**Date: March 11, 2004**

## **ISSUE**

### **First issue**

Possible transmission of pathogens including Hepatitis viruses B and C (HBV, HCV), Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD), Tuberculosis (TB) and various bacterial and parasitic agents through human tissues in the context of the RCMP investigation in Vancouver, British Columbia.

### **Second issue**

Possible risk to the food supply of feeding human remains to pigs.

### **Third issue**

Possible transmission of bacterial pathogens from an unsafe food processing facility.

## **PURPOSE**

To provide scientific background information and probability estimates on the transmission of the pathogens listed above, and the possible transmission of animal pathogens to human, through a preliminary risk analysis.

## **BACKGROUND**

At the time of the production of this risk assessment, the information available indicated that the tissue in question was supplied only to private customers or associates of the individual under investigation. The size of the group which is potentially at risk from this exposure is estimated to be approximately 2,500 individuals over 10 years. Moreover, the material handling and food processing was done in a facility that was unlicensed and had very poor environmental hygiene. This last fact is important for bacterial cross-contamination into the process that pork products undergo prior to human consumption. Note that the BCCDC will test samples of the material in question for the viruses, bacteria and parasites described below. The National Microbiology Laboratory will provide any necessary back up for the testing.

It is believed that there is the possibility that human remains were fed to pigs. This poses no known risks to the food supply. The viruses noted above do not cross the species barrier and would be inactivated by the pig digestive system. Prions are not transmissible from humans to pigs.

## **(1) HIV/AIDS Epidemiology and Temperature Resistance**

Transmission of HIV can occur through a number of possible routes. These include sexual intercourse, injection drug use (IDU), transfusion of blood and blood products, exposure to HIV-contaminated blood or body fluid, and perinatal transmission. Horizontal spread of HIV occurs almost exclusively when virus-containing materials is directly injected or is deposited on mucous membranes or damaged skin (Richardson et al., 2003).

In Canada, an estimated 7,700 women were living with HIV/AIDS at the end of 2002 (Canada's Report on HIV/AIDS 2003). A cumulative incidence rate of 16.6% over 48 months has been reported for HIV in female Injection Drug Users (IDUs) in Vancouver area (Spittal et al., 2002). It has been suggested that majority of prostitutes are also IDUs.

It has been demonstrated that HIV can survive at room temperature under a variety of environmental conditions (Barre-Sinoussi, 1985; Van Bueren et al, 1994). HIV has been isolated at autopsy up to six days postmortem, and can survive for several days within cadavers stored refrigerated or non-refrigerated (Puschel et al., 1991). However, it was shown that HIV can be inactivated by exposure to a temperature of 80°C for 45 minutes by heat (Pruss, A, et al, 2003). Gala (1997) collected fresh and cryopreserved post-mortem skin samples repeatedly between 1 and 5 days in 7 HIV-1 patients. The results demonstrated the potential viral infectivity of fresh or stored postmortem samples in HIV infected patients (Gala, 1997). Plasma infected with HIV is more resistant since the virus is surrounded by protein.

## **(2) HBV and HCV Epidemiology and Temperature Resistance**

The number of infectious HBV and HCV particles in the blood of infected individuals can be as high as  $10^9$ /ml and  $10^6$ /ml, respectively. Transmission of HCV typically occurs through injection drug use, or exposure to infected blood or blood products (e.g. during childbirth or sexual activity). In the case of HBV, transmission of the virus can occur through IDU, sexual contact with infected individuals, or vertically from mother to child at the time of birth. HBV can not be transmitted through ingestion, except under specific circumstances where individuals have damage to the tissues of their mouth or digestive tract. In any of these circumstances, the potential for transmission following exposure will depend on the concentration of the virus in the blood or bodily fluid.

The infectivity of HBV in albumin is inactivated at 60°C for 10 hours, or exposure to dry heat at 160°C for 1 hour (Hollinger, 2002). HCV in plasma is inactivated at 80 – 100 °C for 30 minutes and is relatively unstable to storage at room temperature or repeated freezing and thawing.

In Canada, the number of chronic HBV carriers is estimated to be approximately 100,000, with newly identified infections in British Columbia for the year 2000 calculated at 8.08/100,000 persons (NDRS). For HCV, the total number of cases in Canada may be as high as 270,000, with

newly identified cases in British Columbia for the year 2000 calculated at 116.57/100,000 persons (NDRS).

### **(3) Human Enteric Pathogens: Epidemiology and Temperature Resistance**

The most important human enteric pathogens in Canada as of 2002 were *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*, *Escherichia coli*, *Shigella* and *Aeromonas*. It has been shown that when hamburger is cooked at 71°C for 2 minutes, *Salmonella* and *E. coli* will be reduced by a factor of 6 log and 7 log. *Aeromonas* cells are also less resistant to heat in hamburger steaks.

*Aeromonads* are very common in various kinds of food (Nishikawa, 1993).

An unlicensed food processing facility with poor hygiene, as is in this specific scenario, will always lead to cross-contamination of bacteria onto the food being processed within that facility. While there are many bacteria which may be present in this particular instance, the specific pathogens which may be most significantly associated with the circumstances prompting this report are *E. coli* O157:H7, *Campylobacter*, *Shigella*, *Yersinia*, *Aeromonas*, and *Plesiomonas*. These are all illnesses that can infect humans, and are primarily associated with the consumption of undercooked ground meat which has been contaminated. The prevalence of these pathogens in British Columbia in the year 2001 is described in the tables below.

### **(4) Parasite Epidemiology and Temperature Resistance**

There is limited data on cadaveric transmission of parasites. Follow-up on organ transplant recipients has shown that parasites can be transmitted by tissue and organs (Mejia, 1983). The prevalence of the 4 specific parasitic agents deemed to be the most significant to these circumstances is as follows: *Cryptosporidium*, *Cyclospora*, *Entamoeba*, and *Giardia*: 10/10,000 population (each).

## **RISK ESTIMATES**

### **(1) Assumptions for calculating the risk for raw ground meat**

1. Probability of oral lesions in an individual is low (transmission of viruses is facilitated by oral mucosal damage).
2. Several of the missing women identified were HIV and/or hepatitis positive.
3. The prevalence rates of HBV, HCV and HIV in the prostitute sub-population are approximately 3-5%, 10-70% or 10-30%, respectively.
4. Transmission of HBV, to an individual through oral route is approximately 0.1%. For HCV or HIV is approximately 0.001%. (assuming the tissue has a high virus concentration).
5. CJD: Incidence rate is 1 per 20 million per year. (For population less than 40 years old)
6. The prevalence rate of TB is approximately 5/1,000. The risk of contracting TB through oral route is 1%.
7. Transmission of *Campylobacter*, *E. coli* O157:H7, *Aeromonas*, *Plesiomonas* or *Entamoeba* to an individual through oral route is estimated to be approximately 30-50%



of total cases of each group. (meaning between 30-50% of people who consume contaminated food would get infected)

**Thus, the risks of contracting HBV, HCV, HIV, TB, bacterial and parasitic agents, as a result of a single consumption of the contaminated food (uncooked) are:**

	Prevalence rate	Risk for an individual
HBV	3-5% (in prostitute sub-population)	1-3/20,000
HCV	10-70% (in prostitute sub-population)	1-7/1,000,000
HIV	10-30% (in prostitute sub-population)	1-3/1,000,000
TB	5/1,000 persons	1-5/100,000
Campylobacter	3/1,000 persons	1.5/1,000
E. coli O157:H7	2/10,000 persons	1.0/10,000
Shigella	2/10,000 persons	1.0/10,000
Yersinia	2/10,000 persons	1.0/10,000
Aeromonas and Plesiomonas	9/100,000 persons	5/100,000
Cryptosporidium, Cyclospora, Entameoba and Giardia	10/10,000 persons	5/10,000

***Group Risk: The risk of infection with most of the above agents is estimated to be less than one case in the exposed group of 2,500 individuals.***

There is a theoretical risk of transmission of CJD, with a probability of less than 1 in 100 million.

## **(2) Assumptions for calculating the risk for cooked ground meat:**

1. HBV, HCV and HIV: Prevalence rates in the prostitute sub-population is approximately 3-5%, 10-70% or 10-30%, respectively.
2. Probability of oral lesions in an individual is low (transmission of viruses is facilitated by oral mucosal damage).
3. Several of the missing women identified were HIV and/or hepatitis positive.
4. CJD: Incidence rate is 1 per 20 million per year. (For population less than 40 years old)
5. Transmission of HBV, to an individual through oral route is approximately 0.1% (meaning 99.9% of people do not get infected via oral route). For HCV or HIV is approximately 0.001% (meaning 99.999% of people do not get infected via oral route) (assuming the food has a high virus concentration) Approximately 1% of virus, or 5% of bacteria, remains infectious after normal cooking conditions, e.g. 100°C for 5 minutes.
6. The prevalence rate of TB is approximately 5/1,000. The risk of contracting TB through oral route is 1%.

newly identified cases in British Columbia for the year 2000 calculated at 116.57/100,000 persons (NDRS).

### **(3) Human Enteric Pathogens: Epidemiology and Temperature Resistance**

The most important human enteric pathogens in Canada as of 2002 were *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*, *Escherichia coli*, *Shigella* and *Aeromonas*. It has been shown that when hamburger is cooked at 71°C for 2 minutes, *Salmonella* and *E. coli* will be reduced by a factor of 6 log and 7 log. *Aeromonas* cells are also less resistant to heat in hamburger steaks.

*Aeromonads* are very common in various kinds of food (Nishikawa, 1993).

An unlicensed food processing facility with poor hygiene, as is in this specific scenario, will always lead to cross-contamination of bacteria onto the food being processed within that facility. While there are many bacteria which may be present in this particular instance, the specific pathogens which may be most significantly associated with the circumstances prompting this report are *E. coli* O157:H7, *Campylobacter*, *Shigella*, *Yersinia*, *Aeromonas*, and *Plesiomonas*. These are all illnesses that can infect humans, and are primarily associated with the consumption of undercooked ground meat which has been contaminated. The prevalence of these pathogens in British Columbia in the year 2001 is described in the tables below.

### **(4) Parasite Epidemiology and Temperature Resistance**

There is limited data on cadaveric transmission of parasites. Follow-up on organ transplant recipients has shown that parasites can be transmitted by tissue and organs (Mejia, 1983). The prevalence of the 4 specific parasitic agents deemed to be the most significant to these circumstances is as follows: *Cryptosporidium*, *Cyclospora*, *Entamoeba*, and *Giardia*: 10/10,000 population (each).

## **RISK ESTIMATES**

### **(1) Assumptions for calculating the risk for raw ground meat**

1. Probability of oral lesions in an individual is low (transmission of viruses is facilitated by oral mucosal damage).
2. Several of the missing women identified were HIV and/or hepatitis positive.
3. The prevalence rates of HBV, HCV and HIV in the prostitute sub-population are approximately 3-5%, 10-70% or 10-30%, respectively.
4. Transmission of HBV, to an individual through oral route is approximately 0.1%. For HCV or HIV is approximately 0.001%. (assuming the tissue has a high virus concentration).
5. CJD: Incidence rate is 1 per 20 million per year. (For population less than 40 years old)
6. The prevalence rate of TB is approximately 5/1,000. The risk of contracting TB through oral route is 1%.
7. Transmission of *Campylobacter*, *E. coli* O157:H7, *Aeromonas*, *Plesiomonas* or *Entamoeba* to an individual through oral route is estimated to be approximately 30-50%

7. Transmission of Arcobacter, Campylobacter and Helicobacter, E. coli 0157:H7, Aeromonas, Plesiomonas, or Entameoba to an individual through the oral route is estimated at approximately 30-50% of total cases for each group (meaning between 30-50% of people who consume contaminated food would get infected).

**Therefore, the risks of contracting HBV, HCV, HIV, TB, Bacterial and Parasitic Agents, as a result of a single consumption of the contaminated food (cooked) are:**

	<b>Prevalence Rate</b>	<b>Risk for an individual</b>
HBV	3-5% (in prostitute sub-population)	1/2,000,000
HCV	10-70% (in prostitute sub-population)	1-7/1,000,000,000
HIV	10-30% (in prostitute sub-population)	1-3/1,000,000,000
TB	5/1,000 persons	2.5/1,000,000
Campylobacter	3/1,000 persons	1/10,000
E. coli 0157:H7	2/10,000 persons	1/120,000
Shigella	2/10,000 persons	1/120,000
Yersinia	2/10,000 persons	1/120,000
Acromonas	9/100,000 persons	1/250,000
Entameoba	10/10,000 persons	1/250,000

***Group Risk: The risk of infection with any of the above agents is estimated to be less than one person in the exposed group of 2,500 individuals.***

## CONCLUSION

1. There is a very low risk to an individual contracting hepatitis B, and infinitesimally small risk to an individual of contracting hepatitis C, and/or HIV from ground tissues (cooked and uncooked) and distributed by the pig farm currently under investigation by RCMP in Vancouver. Cooking of the material prior to human consumption further reduces the risk.
2. While higher than for the viral agents noted above, there remains a **low to medium** risk of infection by bacterial and parasitic agents to the individuals exposed (including food handlers and consumers) because of the **poor hygiene** in the area where the meat was processed on the farm. Cooking of the material prior to human consumption reduces the risk.

3. There is no risk of transmission of infectious diseases such as HBV, HCV, HIV, CJD, by feeding human remains to pigs.

**Note:** This risk assessment may be revised should further information become available.

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MAR 11 TH

1

HC Tally, June Wad. Risk Ass. Karen Doolittle  
Tung Schmitz PCO.  
Helin Clinton

CFIA  
RCMP  
Dan Adams  
BC Census

- Debrief
- Assessment
- What next.
- Risk Ass

CHRONICITY

Vietnam Veterans - n=300.

Contact made  
very early.

HC debrief - no calls yet  
- All in the way.

PRIOR RISK - ZERO

HYPOTHETICAL RISK DISCUSSION  
IN FEB 12-17TH

BCMA

Muscular

Stick to medical lines already out.

\* Risk assessment coming out today

(2)

Carl Cannon - 2 reports believe that RCMP knew about  
x cadaver in a jar ago


PCO - Who - Supreme Father of the Police

NEXT STEPS - Families - some are very close contact  
- reports  
Want this into a story.

Comments - no more who there is already out there.

RCMP will ultimately answer questions a finding.

BCMA & NURSELINE. ✓

Issue of letting law enforcement - there is a case of action  
that could be followed if necessary 

Do we need any joint follow up?  
→ Not unless an issue arises.  
- Regional Health Unit  
- CFIP & Pitt Meadows.  
- CFIP going back two records.

Communication Strategy - Call RCMP - how many tips  
Call Nurseline - how many calls etc.

Outcomes from this meeting  
Met to discuss  
Review protocols communication  
Review Risk assessment  
No changes.



March 11, 2004

490220

All BC Physicians

Dear Doctor:

**Re: Public Health Advisory on the Robert Pickton Farm**

On March 10, 2004, I made a public health advisory about pork meat that had been distributed from the Robert Pickton Farm in Port Coquitlam (<http://www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/pho/advisory.html>).

As you are aware this farm has been the subject of an ongoing investigation by the RCMP Joint Missing Women's Task Force.

The RCMP have informed me that some of the pork meat from this farm may have been sold or given to the public and it is possible that the meat may still reside in freezers.

Anyone who has meat from the farm is asked to contact the police so it can be examined.

At the request of the RCMP, the BC Centre for Disease Control and Health Canada conducted a detailed health risk assessment as to possible transmission of human and animal diseases from the meat product. One hypothetical scenario dealt with possible contamination with human remains.

The risks of transmission for HIV, hepatitis B (HBV) and C, tuberculosis and Creutzfeld Jacob Disease (CJD) have been examined and the conclusion is that the transmission of these infectious agents is only a remote and likely theoretical possibility. This is on the assumption that any meat would have been adequately cooked.

Consumption of fresh raw product carries a very low risk of transmission of HBV.

Experts from Health Canada consider the risks of CJD to be zero.

The greatest risk for contamination of the meat would have been from the extremely unsanitary conditions found on the farm. This could give rise to the usual enteric infectious diseases (E.Coli, salmonella, etc.).

As you are aware these enteric diseases are prevented by adequate cooking of food.

.../2



-2-

The RCMP and my office have directed individuals with health concerns to either the BC Nurse Line (1-866-215-4700 or 604-215-4700 on the lower mainland) or their medical practitioner.

I am not recommending any testing of individuals. I am leaving it to your clinical judgment to conduct tests on a patient if an assessment of symptoms warrant such action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. R. W. Kendall', with a horizontal line drawn underneath the signature.

P. R. W. Kendall  
MBBS, MSc, FRCPC  
Provincial Health Officer

K:\SHAUN - ALL FILES\shpeck2004\BC Physicians\_Pickton Farm\_490220.doc

## Berkes, Andrea HLTH:EX

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**From:** Guasparini, Dr. Roland <Roland.Guasparini@fraserhealth.ca>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 12, 2004 11:36 AM  
**To:** XT:HLTH Parker, Robert; Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX; XT:HLTH Loewen, Nadine  
**Subject:** RE: Historical Public health contact with Pickton farm

I suggested to robin she recall this note, as I thought the paragraph about parties and knowledge wasn't very clear and could easily be misinterpreted in any foi request.

Roland Guasparini  
604 572 2607, fax 572 2609  
after hours Public Health emergency on-call number is 604-527-4806

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Parker, Robert Dr.  
**Sent:** Friday, March 12, 2004 11:22 AM  
**To:** 'Perry.Kendall@gems9.gov.bc.ca'  
**Cc:** Guasparini, Dr. Roland; Loewen, Nadine  
**Subject:** Historical Public health contact with Pickton farm  
**Importance:** High

Perry, attached below, just so you are aware, for your background information.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Gear, Robin  
**Sent:** Friday, March 12, 2004 10:42 AM  
**To:** Parker, Robert Dr.; Dumont, Judy; Halpert, Christine; McKay, Denise; Poirier, Linda; Shum, Tim; Loewen, Nadine; Gustafson, Larry; Hutcheon, Marian; Martin, Steve; Embree, Glen  
**Cc:** Pelletier, Marc; O'Donovan, Terry; Bower, Donald; Carkner, Helen; Guasparini, Dr. Roland; Martin, Steve  
**Subject:** RE: PHO press release this afternoon - Picton farm - URGENT FHA Public health teleconference 3:30 pm  
**Importance:** High

Just a quick update.

The inspector for the Port Coquitlam area from 1974 to 1989 was Steve Martin. following Steve was Dave Currie. In discussion with Steve Martin he recalls that he was out to the Picton farm for an animal welfare issue and does not recall any permits for food related events.

Dave Currie has determined from log book entries, that he investigated 2 illegal slaughtering complaints, first in 1993 and second in 1995. No evidence to support the complaint was found in either incident.

We have reviewed Temporary permit files back to the early 1991's without finding any applications or permits issued for this site.

It is evident that there were numerous parties held at the Burns road site and I understand that Mr. Picton (I believe Robert Picton) charged \$10.00 entry fee which included a buffet with a roast pig. This was well known in the community however at no time was health advised or a permit requested/issued according to our records and recollection from the previous inspectors.

The remaining records are off site and will not be recalled at this point since for the past 9 years from 1991 to 2000 there is no record of a permit issued. It is felt that it would be highly unlikely that Health would have received an application to operate a food premise in the previous years in view of the information above.

If you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thanks,  
Robin

Mrs. Robin Gear  
Manager, Environmental Health Service  
Health Protection  
Tri-Cities/Ridge Meadows  
Suite 300-205 Newport Drive  
Port Moody, B.C.  
V3H 5C9

Ph: 604-949-7718  
Fax: 604-949-7706

## Berkes, Andrea HLTH:EX

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**From:** Antonio Giulivi <Antonio\_Giulivi@hc-sc.gc.ca>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 27, 2004 11:03 AM  
**To:** Diane de la Chevrotière  
**Cc:** Don.Adam@rcmp-grc.gc.ca; Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX; Frank Plummer; Bersabel Ephrem  
**Subject:** Urgent - Re: Consultation from the Ministry of Health Services, British Columbia on an ATI request

**Importance:** High

Hi Diane,

Please advise BIIIS that they should hold this document until further notice. The RCMP has some issues related to the ban which should be solved and finalized before the release.

thanks,

tony

Eleonore El-Zarka

To: Diane de la Chevrotière/HC-SC/GC/CA  
2004-04-26 09:01 cc: Don.Adam@rcmp-grc.gc.ca, michellmitchell@rcmp-grc.gc.ca  
AM Subject: Re: Consultation from the Ministry of Health Services, British Columbia on an ATI request

Hi Diane,

This request should be send to HC lawyers and the lawyers should contact the RCMP for the release due to the publication ban of this case.

Thank you,

Eleonore  
(613) 954-5205

----- Forwarded by Eleonore El-Zarka/HC-SC/GC/CA on 2004-04-26 08:55 AM

Eleonore El-Zarka

To: Diane de la Chevrotière/HC-SC/GC/CA@HWC  
2004-04-23 01:29 cc: Maura Ricketts/HC-SC/GC/CA@HWC, Jun Wu/HC-SC/GC/CA@HWC  
PM Subject: Re: Consultation from the Ministry of Health Services, British Columbia on an ATI request(Document link: Eleonore El-Zarka)

Diane,

We will wait for Tony to respond to this request. Health Canada , Food Directorate (Dr. Karen Dodds) within HPFB were also involved.

Thanks,

Eleonore

Diane de la  
Chevroitière      To:    Eleonore El-Zarka/HC-SC/GC/CA@HWC  
cc:  
2004-04-23 11:02      Subject: Consultation from the Ministry of Health Services, British Columbia on an  
ATI  
AM                      request

Eleonore:

I am faxing you the document in a minute. Please have it reviewed by someone in your Division and tell us if there are any disclosure problems.

Diane de la Chevroitière  
A/Executive Correspondence Officer  
Office of the Director General  
Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control  
Telephone: 946-5075  
Fax: 946-5070  
----- Forwarded by Diane de la Chevroitière/HC-SC/GC/CA on 2004-04-23 11:00  
-----

Roberta Dimitrov  
To:    Diane de la Chevroitière/HC-SC/GC/CA@HWC, Audrey Genaille/HC-SC/GC/CA@HWC  
2004-04-23 10:17      cc:  
Subject: ATI Consultation from Ministry of Health Services - British Columbia

Diane and Audrey:

We have received a consultation from the Ministry of Health Services in British Columbia. They have received a FOIP (Freedom of Information and Privacy) request for records relating to Pickton Farm. As a result of the request, a record that is of interest to Health Canada has been identified as relevant.

The Ministry has sent the record to us for review. I will be faxing it over to you momentarily. Please review the record and advise me of any concerns you have regarding disclosure no later than Wednesday, April 28, 2004. As you know, the final decision regarding disclosure rests with the consulting department. We cannot change or modify a record, we are only asked to review it and advise of any proposed exemptions.

Please let me know if this request should go anywhere else in PPHB.

Thanks

Roberta

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Page 91 to/à Page 94

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.14

## Berkes, Andrea HLTH:EX

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**From:** Jackie Monaghan <Jackie.Monaghan@phac-aspc.gc.ca>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 29, 2004 8:50 AM  
**To:** Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Picton Risk Assessment

The 40 represents the people that consumed privately. From the investigation, it was determined that all other was hearsay and no evidence or even possible evidence suggesting anything else.

If you want to discuss this with Tony, he would be happy to talk with you.  
Please page him at 1-643-780-1170. Thanks

Jackie for Tony

"Kendall, Perry  
HLTH:EX" To: "'Jackie.Monaghan@phac-aspc.gc.ca'" <Jackie.Monaghan@phac-aspc.gc.ca>  
<Perry.Kendall@gems9.gov.bc.ca> cc:  
.gov.bc.ca> Subject: Re: Picton Risk Assessment

2004-10-29 11:02 AM

What does the number 40 refer to. In the paper cpl Galliford implies it was the number of private customers. But who knows what went into his sausages that were served at many well-attended BBQs over a number of years.  
Perry

P. R. W. Kendall, MBBS, MSc, FRCPC  
Provincial Health Officer  
Ministry of Health Planning  
4th Floor, 1515 Blanshard Street  
Victoria BC V8W 3C8  
Phone: 250 952-1330  
Fax: 250 952-1362  
[perry.kendall@gems9.gov.bc.ca](mailto:perry.kendall@gems9.gov.bc.ca)

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

-----Original Message-----

From: Jackie Monaghan <Jackie.Monaghan@phac-aspc.gc.ca>  
To: Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX <Perry.Kendall@gems9.gov.bc.ca>  
CC: [aagiulivi@synapse.net](mailto:aagiulivi@synapse.net) <[aagiulivi@synapse.net](mailto:aagiulivi@synapse.net)>; Antonio Giulivi <[Antonio.Giulivi@phac-aspc.gc.ca](mailto:Antonio.Giulivi@phac-aspc.gc.ca)>



Sent: Fri Oct 29 07:55:19 2004  
Subject: Re: Picton Risk Assessment

The information that Tony got from the RCMP was that it was hundreds that had to be interviewed. They did not have the numbers of how many people ate at that time, only after the interviews.

Our risk assessment is based on 40 people. We do use the 2500 as a precaution but our conclusion that was sent to RCMP was 40. That is the information that we had at that time.

I do agree with you on the meat that was still in freezers.

Jackie for Tony

"Kendall, Perry

HLTH:EX" To:  
"Jackie\_Monaghan@phac-aspc.gc.ca" <Jackie\_Monaghan@phac-aspc.gc.ca>

<Perry.Kendall@gems9 cc:

.gov.bc.ca> Subject: Re: Picton Risk  
Assessment

2004-10-29 10:44 AM

Was anyone at risk interviewed?

According to the RCMP hundreds-perhaps thousands of people ate meat at or from the Pickton farm. Therefore the number exposed to potential Xcontamination could be large. However that is irrelevant if the transmission risk approaches zero.

The issue was-if as rcmp suggested, Pickton meat was still in freezers in the community-the holders of that meat needed to be advised to get rid of it-ideally to the rcmp who could use it as an evidentiary base.

Do you disagree?

Perry

P. R. W. Kendall, MBBS, MSc, FRCPC  
Provincial Health Officer  
Ministry of Health Planning  
4th Floor, 1515 Blanshard Street  
Victoria BC V8W 3C8

Phone: 250 952 1330  
Fax: 250 952-1362  
[perry.kendall@gems9.gov.bc.ca](mailto:perry.kendall@gems9.gov.bc.ca)

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

-----Original Message-----

From: Jackie Monaghan <[Jackie\\_Monaghan@phac-aspc.gc.ca](mailto:Jackie_Monaghan@phac-aspc.gc.ca)>  
To: Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX <[Perry.Kendall@gems9.gov.bc.ca](mailto:Perry.Kendall@gems9.gov.bc.ca)>  
Sent: Fri Oct 29 07:22:30 2004  
Subject: Picton Risk Assessment

Perry,

Quick note concerning your comment for the risk assessment for 2005 for people being exposed in incorrect.

What you noted was the the number of "possible people exposed" that were to be interviewd. Post the interviews, the number was decreased to 40.

Best regards,

Tony

## Berkes, Andrea HLTH:EX

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**From:** s.22  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 17, 2004 9:24 AM  
**To:** Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Pickton Farm

Hi Mr Kendall., there is a problem with this theory.. as you have only looked at.. pork.. Mr Pickton also sold.. calves .. sheep .., mutton.,horse., goat, emu. meat., s.22

s.22  
s.22 it is easy to verifiey what he bought at auction over the years., as he got these animals from fraser valley auctions.,in langley., i am suprised that the task force never told you this., s.22

s.22  
s.22 and it is a horrible, terrifying thought., most people eat lamb., or calf or beef rare., i know i do., thank you for your time and concern/ s.22

s.22  
----- Original Message -----

From: "Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX" <Perry.Kendall@gems9.gov.bc.ca>  
To: s.22  
Cc: "Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX" <Perry.Kendall@gems9.gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: Wednesday, November 17, 2004 8:55 AM  
Subject: RE: Pickton Farm

s.22  
Dear Thank you for your note. The risk assessment for HCV from eating contaminated foods actually came from Health Canada, but our own BC experts agree with them, that the risk from this source is in the order of

1  
in several million.

This does not mean that it is impossible- just very unlikely to have occurred. The issue is that there are many other ways of contracting HCV- some of which an individual might be completely unaware of- such as sharing an infected toothbrush.

I agree also that many people who are infected are likely unaware of their condition.

Best wishes  
Perry Kendall

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<http://www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/pho>

-----Original Message-----

From: s.22

Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2004 1:03 PM

To: Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX

Subject: Pickton Farm

s.22

i find that your finding on hepatitis c are wrong.,

s.22

s.22

....., as you know yourself mr pickton was not a very clean person i also have worries that many people might not be tested as they do not know the risk factors thank you s.22

s.22

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