



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE AGENDA

THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 2018

<u>PAGE NO.</u>		<u>ACTION</u>
	<u>AGENDA – April 19, 2018</u>	Approve
	<u>Supplementary Agenda</u>	Receive
	<u>MINUTES</u>	
3-5	Agriculture Committee Meeting Minutes - March 8, 2018	Receive
	<u>REPORTS</u>	
6-9	Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator - RDBN Agriculture Coordinator Work Report	Receive
10-12	Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator - Climate Change Regional Adaptation Program	Receive
13-34	Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator - Minutes from the RDBN Beef Workshop	Receive
	<u>CORRESPONDENCE</u>	
35-73	A Growing Concern – How to Keep Farmland in the Hands of Canadian Farmers - Report of the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry	Receive
74	Groundbreakers – Youth on Farms Work Program	Receive
	<u>INVITATION</u>	
75	Northern Agricultural Gala - April 28, 2018 – Smithers, B.C.	Receive
	<u>SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA</u>	
	<u>NEW BUSINESS</u>	

IN-CAMERA MOTION

In accordance with Section 90 of the *Community Charter*, it is the opinion of the Board of Directors that matters pertaining to Section 90(1)(k) - negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a municipal service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality if they were held in public may be closed to the public therefore exercise their option of excluding the public for this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING
(Committee Of The Whole)

Thursday, March 8, 2018

PRESENT: Chair Mark Parker

Directors Chris Beach
Eileen Benedict
Shane Brienen
Mark Fisher
Tom Greenaway
Dwayne Lindstrom
Rob MacDougall
Bill Miller
Rob Newell
Jerry Petersen
Darcy Repen
Gerry Thiessen

Directors Absent Taylor Bachrach, Town of Smithers
Thomas Liversidge, Village of Granisle

Alternate Director Linda McGuire, Village of Granisle

Staff Melany de Weerd, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning
Corrine Swenson, Manager of Regional Economic Development
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

CALL TO ORDER Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 11:51 a.m.

AGENDA Moved by Director Brienen
Seconded by Director Repen

AG.2018-2-1 "That the Agriculture Committee Agenda of March 8, 2018 be adopted."
(All/Directors/Majority) **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

MINUTES

Agriculture Committee Meeting Minutes -January 11, 2018 Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director McGuire

AG.2018-2-2 "That the Minutes of the Agriculture Committee Meeting of January 11, 2018 be received."
(All/Directors/Majority) **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

REPORT

ALR/ALC Revitalization Stakeholder Consultation

Moved by Director Miller
Seconded by Alternate Director McGuire

AG.2018-2-3

"That the Agriculture Committee receive the preliminary comments to be provided to the Ministry of Agriculture's Advisory Committee outlined in the Planning Department staff report dated February 28, 2018."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding the Planning Department's staff report dated February 28, 2018. The Agriculture Committee indicated support for the comments to be provided to the Ministry of Agriculture's Advisory Committee and recommended that staff discuss the importance of Food Security to the region, the need to accommodate small-scale farmers, and the Regional Board's concerns regarding Foreign Ownership.

Beef Workshop Update

Chair Parker commented that the Beef Workshop held in Burns Lake on March 2, 2018 went well with 30 people in attendance including staff. He noted that the quality of the speakers in attendance was exceptional. Kevin Boon, General Manager, BC Cattlemen's Association spoke about the processing plant proposed for Prince George and potential spinoffs from the plant. Andrew Petersen, P.Ag, CID. Regional Resource Specialist, Ministry of Agriculture spoke of small and large-scale irrigation and the *Water Sustainability Act*.

Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator will provide a report to the Regional Board in regard to the Beef Workshop at a future RDBN meeting.

Director Thiessen recognized Chair Parker and Ms. Evans and expressed appreciation for being ambassadors for agriculture in the region.

NEW BUSINESS

College of New Caledonia -Agriculture

Director Thiessen spoke of the need to engage the College of New Caledonia in developing agricultural educational programs.

Director Thiessen attended the Agricultural Skills Training Needs Stakeholder Engagement session in Vanderhoof February 26, 2018 co-partnered by the College of New Caledonia. He mentioned the importance of having input from residents throughout the region. Ms. Evans reported that she attended the session in Burns Lake on February 19, 2018 and had a discussion with the facilitator. She will continue to follow-up.

Director Miller reported that in recent months he has received comments in regard to agriculture being a focus in the region. He mentioned the importance of developing educational programs to assist with the increased agricultural focus that is creating more enthusiasm for young farmers.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Brien

AG.2018-2-4

"That the meeting be adjourned at 12:18 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

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REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

Memorandum

TO: Chair Parker and Agriculture Committee
FROM: Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator
DATE: April 9, 2018
SUBJECT: RDBN Agriculture Coordinator Work Report

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an overview of the work of the Agriculture Coordinator in relation to the work plan. A complete record of activities of the position has been recorded under the work plan headings and is available upon request.

The attached document has current work summarized with some examples, future direction and goals to be achieved.

I would be pleased to answer any questions.

RECOMMENDATION:

(All/Directors/Majority)

"That the Agriculture Committee receive the RDBN Agriculture Coordinator Work Report."

RDBN Agriculture Coordinator Work Report

1. **Creating and strengthening relationships with agriculture stakeholders, producers and all levels of Government.**

Current:

From the start of the contract to now have met about 400 people. Have met livestock, vegetable, forage producers and many people interested in agriculture. Strengthening working relationship with BC Min of Agriculture, BC Min FLNRORD staff and other agriculture support groups.

Future:

Continue meeting agriculture producers and supporters and will be concentrating on the west side of the region. Also expanding First Nations contracts throughout the region.

Goal:

To meet agriculture producers at all levels of agriculture as we move into the production months.

2. **Working with agriculture groups to leverage opportunities and support for their activity.**

Current:

While meeting producers and the agriculture communities have heard strengths and weaknesses of which have initiated some further steps to address issues, e.g. Regional Beef Workshop. Have enabled others to lead their specific issues, e.g. Beef Shavings Issue.

Future:

Facilitate, explore other opportunities and support agriculture groups. Example is a potential medium size malting plant co-operative with BC Craft Breweries and RDBN barley producers.

Goal:

To support and facilitate initiatives to completion.

3. **Youth in Agriculture.**

Current:

Have met with Groundbreakers, School District staff, CNC staff, regional 4-H leaders and members and assisting a university student working on master thesis.

Future:

To meet staff of both SD54 and SD91 and explore opportunities to support or expand agriculture initiatives. Sharing 4-H knowledge at 4-H member workshops.

Goal:

To encourage youth to explore future opportunities in agriculture.

4. **Updating use of agriculture land in the RDBN.**

Current:

Expansion of the Agriculture Land Use Inventory for the whole RDBN is cost prohibitive.

Future:

Summer and early fall will be utilizing current maps to record current production on ALR.

Goal:

To build a base snapshot of agriculture to track growth or decreases in future years.

5. **Marketing and promotion of agriculture within the Region.**

Current:

Working on increasing the number of producers in Connecting Consumers and Producers 2018 brochure.

Future:

Utilizing resources from FCC Agriculture More Than Ever to assist groups with agriculture promotion events.

Goal:

To support agriculture awareness in the general public.

6. Building Resources and Updating RDBN agriculture website.**Current:**

Collecting resources and information and drafting updates for the website.

Future:

In May, the website will be updated.

Goal:

Allocating time every week to keep content on the website current and develop the site as a "Go-To" resource.

7. Regional Agriculture Forum.**Current:**

Dates and location are set. Working on Keynote Speaker, presenters and funding opportunities. Forum will be titled "A World of Agriculture Opportunities" and will be held September 20 & 21, 2018.

Future:

Have Forum information and registration package for June 1st. Prepare a "Feast of the Fields" for evening of Sept 20th.

Goal:

To have producers and agriculture stakeholders support Forum for both days and have RDBN website and Directors assist in spreading the invite out to the agriculture community.

8. RDBN Agriculture Committee support.**Current:**

Working with the Committee Chair to prepare information for Ag Committee meetings and follow-up on directions given by the Board.

Future:

To increase communication with Directors for such things as events which are being held in the region.

Goal:

To achieve the support level that the Ag Committee requests throughout the rest of the contract.

9. Emergency Planning for Livestock.**Current:**

Review of 2017 events and lessons learned, participating in EOC learning events and preparing livestock emergency preparedness support materials.

Future:

Completion of RDBN update Emergency Livestock Relocation materials and Emergency Preparedness workshops for large & small livestock owners.

Goal:

In the event of an emergency, to have as many RDBN commercial livestock and small-farm producers prepared with their own evacuation plans and as a staff member of the EOC to be as prepared as possible.

10. Updating the RDBN Agriculture Plan 2012.**Current:**

Reviewed the 2012 Agriculture Plan and flagged where updates are needed.

Future:

Late fall 2018 and winter into early 2019 update the Agriculture Plan for a 2019 edition.

Goal:

That the RDBN Agriculture Plan is reviewed and updated every 5-7 years.

11. ALR**Current:**

Met with ALC staff at the office and at the AAC workshop in Langley and assisted in the draft of the RDBN input into the independent Revitalization of the ALR & ALC.

Future:

Waiting for the outcomes of the review and potential changes to update the RDBN Agriculture Plan and website.

Goal:

Support to the Planning Department and producers to retain agriculture land for agriculture production.

12. UBCM RDBN Agriculture Presentation 2018**Current:**

Have received many requests from outside the region to share information about the RDBN agriculture coordinator role. Plan is to have an agriculture presentation at UBCM.

Future:

UBCM Convention session proposal process will open in late April and close mid June. Work with CAO & Directors on an application about agriculture support and possibly include similar support held in Creston & Cowichan.

Goal:

To have presentation as part of the 2018 UBCM Convention in Whistler.



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

Memorandum

TO: Chair Parker and Agriculture Committee
FROM: Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator
DATE: April 9, 2018
SUBJECT: Climate Change Regional Adaptation Program

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update to the agriculture Committee regarding the Climate Change Regional Adaptation Program and RDBN Expression of Interest for April 1, 2018.

Background

On January 11, 2018 the Agriculture Committee recommended that the RDBN Board of Directors direct staff to prepare an RDBN Expression of Interest for the Climate Change Regional Adaptation Program for the April 1, 2018 funding intake for Canadian Agricultural Partnership program funding. The recommendation was passed at the January 25, 2018 RDBN Board of Directors meeting.

The attached Expression of Interest was submitted to the BC Agriculture & Food Climate Action Initiative.

On March 29, 2018, an update was received from the initiative and is attached for information.

I would be please to answer any questions.

RECOMMENDATION:	(All/Directors/Majority)
<p>“That the Agriculture Committee receive the update on the Climate Change Regional Adaptation Program.”</p>	



37, 3RD AVE, PO Box 820
BURNS LAKE, BC
VOJ 1E0

REGIONAL DISTRICT
OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO
"A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN OUR REGION"

March 21, 2018

BC Agriculture & Food Climate Action Initiative
P.O. Box 8248
Victoria, B.C.
V8W 3R9

To whom it may concern,

RE: Expression of Interest – Climate Change Regional Adaptation Program – Canadian Agricultural Partnership Program funding

At its January 25, 2018 Board meeting, the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors resolved the following:

"That the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors direct staff to prepare a Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Expression of Interest for the Climate Change Regional Adaptation Program for the April 1, 2018 funding intake for Canadian Agricultural Partnership program funding."

The Regional Board recognizes the significant impact and potential opportunities that changes in climate can have across the agriculture sector. Being prepared and having resources to assist the industry to adapt to future changes is a benefit to all residents in the region and will assist in providing long term sustainable food security and stability to the region. The Regional Board understands the value and importance of agriculture and by forming an Agriculture Committee and creating partnerships to implement a pilot project for a two year Agriculture Coordinator, is taking strides in providing support to the agriculture sector in the region.

On behalf of the Regional Board, thank you for the opportunity to provide an expression of interest for the Climate Change Regional Adaptation Program.

Yours truly,


Bill Miller
Chair

www.rdbn.bc.ca

www.mining.rdbn.bc.ca

MUNICIPALITIES:

SMITHERS FORT ST. JAMES
VANDERHOOF FRASER LAKE
HOUSTON TELKWA
BURNS LAKE GRANISLE

ELECTORAL AREAS:

A - SMITHERS RURAL E - OOTSA LAKE/FRANCOIS LAKE
B - BURNS LAKE RURAL F - VANDERHOOF RURAL
C - FORT ST. JAMES RURAL G - HOUSTON RURAL
D - FRASER LAKE RURAL

INQUIRIES@RDBN.BC.CA

WWW.RDBN.BC.CA

PH: 250-692-3195

FX: 250-692-3305

TF: 800-320-3339

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Debbie Evans

From: Emily MacNair <emily@bcagclimateaction.ca>
Sent: March 29, 2018 9:59 AM
To: Debbie Evans
Subject: Re: RDBN Expression of Interest
Attachments: image001.jpeg; ATT00001.htm; Expression of Interest Canadian Agricultural Partnership Prgrm Funding-signed.pdf; ATT00002.htm

Hi Debbie,

Thank you very much for submitting the letter expressing interest from the Regional District in participating in the Regional Adaptation programming. We are currently going through the transition from Growing Forward 2 funding into the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, but I anticipate that this process will be more or less completed within the next several weeks. Until the new programming is up and running, no firm decisions will be made about regional participation. I have shared the letter you supplied and I have expressed the view that the Bulkley Nechako/Fraser Fort George area would be good candidate for a planning process.

I will definitely be in touch with you as soon as we have more details and information to share about how the programming will move forward and I appreciate the interest of the region and your efforts in securing the letter.

Sincerely,
Emily MacNair
Manager, Adaptation Programming
BC Agriculture & Food Climate Action Initiative
(250) 361-5410

On Mar 22, 2018, at 3:26 PM, Debbie Evans <debbie.evans@rdbn.bc.ca> wrote:

Hello Emily,
Attached is the Expression of Interest from the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako for a Regional Adaptation Strategy.
Thank you



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

Memorandum

TO: Chair Parker and Agriculture Committee
FROM: Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator
DATE: April 9, 2018
SUBJECT: Minutes from the RDBN Beef Workshop

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to share the minutes from the RDBN Beef Workshop held on March 2, 2018. The minutes are for receipt and will be shared with beef producers and industry stakeholders as well as posted on the RDBN website.

I would be pleased to answer any questions.

RECEIPT	(All/Directors/Majority)



RDBN Beef Workshop Summary

A total of 30 people attended the Beef Workshop held on March 2, 2018 at the Tweedsmuir Rod & Gun Club in Burns Lake BC. There were 25 beef producers, including Regional District Board of Directors Chair Bill Miller and Regional Agriculture Committee Chair Mark Parker. Special guests were Andrew Petersen, Water Specialist from the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Kevin Boon, General Manager of the BC Cattlemen's Association. Also, in attendance from the BC Ministry of Agriculture was John Stevenson, Regional Agrologist from the Smithers office. Event organizer was the Regional Agriculture Coordinator, Debbie Evans with assistance from Kendra Kinsley and Cheryl Anderson from the RDBN office.

A welcoming address was given by Mark Parker. An overview of the day was presented by Debbie Evans. Debbie introduced first guest speaker Andrew Petersen, Water Specialist with the BC Ministry of Agriculture.

Andrew gave a presentation which started with the Water Sustainability Act. He covered water licensing & rights that is summarized as follows:

Water Licensing & Rights:

- A water right is the authorized use of surface water or groundwater. All water in British Columbia is owned by the Crown on behalf of the residents of the province.
- If you own land that contains or has access to surface water or groundwater, in most cases you must apply to the province for the right to use the water and pay an annual rental fee for that use.

New Requirements for Groundwater Users:

- If you divert and use groundwater for non-domestic purposes, you must now obtain a water licence and pay water fees and rentals. This change came into force with the Water Sustainability Act (WSA) on February 29, 2016.
- Groundwater licensing establishes equity between stream water and groundwater users and provides additional benefits.
- If you are a groundwater user, licensing clarifies how much water you can legally use, and increases the security of your access to that water. Licensing establishes rights to groundwater based on the same priority scheme that currently exists for surface water and will help to reduce conflicts between water users in times of scarcity.

Transitioning to Groundwater Licensing:

- The first three years of the WSA are a transition period to bring in approximately 20,000 existing non-domestic groundwater users into the current water licensing scheme and its first-in-time, first-in-right (FITFIR) priority system.
- If you are an existing non-domestic groundwater user, you are encouraged to apply within the three-year transition period to maintain your date of precedence.
- If you submit your application on or before March 1, 2019, your one-time application fees will be waived.

Andrew supplied a handout on Licensing Groundwater in BC (Attachment 1)

Andrew was asked many questions about licensing groundwater and dugout questions. To clarify water storage and the use of water in dugouts attached is a Water Policy Bulletin issued by the Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy and the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development. (Attachment 2).

Question was asked about licensing water and who is responsible if it stagnates in the summer and blue-green algae (cyanobacteria) and livestock die?

Andrew was asked to prepare a Bulleted List of Water Licensing and Dugout information. Debbie will follow up and get this list from Andrew and send out to Sandy Anaka, Sheri Pebbles and Nechako Valley distribution contacts.

Andrew was an irrigation specialist before joining the BC Ministry of Agriculture and divided his presentation to give a Forage Irrigation overview. There were 4 producers at the meeting who are currently using irrigation systems. With potential climate change, irrigation might be considered by many producers in the future.

Andrew supplied a handout on Forage Irrigation Systems North, Crop, Soil and Climate (Attachment 3). He also supplied a handout on Farm Irrigation Systems, Sprinkler Irrigation Assessment (Attachment 4).

At the end of Andrew's presentation there were some general comments. An interesting comment was that in a stream that formerly dried up in the summer months and its water was dirty, since surrounding forest has had less trees due to pine beetle kill, the stream is running year-round and the water is clear. Andrew is going to follow-up on this positive, abnormal situation.

Thank you to the BC Ministry of Agriculture for their in-kind contribution to the RDBN for Andrew's participation and travel costs.

The second guest speaker was Kevin Boon, the General Manager of the BC Cattlemen's Association.

Kevin gave a presentation about the BC Cattlemen's Association (BCCA):

1. BCCA is the official voice of BC ranchers since 1929. Membership is voluntary with almost 1,200 members. BCCA maintains and strengthens the sustainability of the B.C. beef industry.
2. BCCA Governance has a 13-member Board of Directors with representatives from 7 zones. There are 5 Standing Committees; Environmental Stewardship, Land Stewardship & Aboriginal Affairs, Livestock Industry Protection, Public Affairs & Education and Research & Development. There are also Ad Hoc Committees as needed with current Ad Hoc committees of Water, Wildfire and Agricultural Land Commission.
 - Research & Development: The committee provides the directors and members of the BCCA with the latest information on current research projects, their progress and final outcome. Research is completed through external sources such as the Beef Cattle Research Council and the Thompson Rivers University Chair in Cattle Industry Sustainability.
 - Water: Ensuring access to water is a significant priority for cattle producers and BCCA has made this a top priority. A water sub-committee was created in 2013 to focus on the Province's new Water Sustainability Act and regulation development.
 - Wildfire: Following the 2017 wildfire season, BCCA put together an adhoc committee to debrief on what transpired during the emergency wildfire situation. A big focus of the committee is the recovery phase.
 - ALC: A new adhoc committee established in January 2018 in response to the Province's review and "revitalization" of the Agriculture Land Commission.
3. BCCA works on issues of importance to the members. One of the important roles of the association is to ensure the rancher's voice is heard with government, whether it is something the BCCA is championing or an initiative of the provincial or federal government.
 - BC Beef Day was established through the ranching task force and has served to build relationships with government – dedicating a day where ranchers and government meet to discuss issues and solutions.

- In July 2017 BCCA met with the newly formed BC NDP/Green Party minority government.
 - Due to the wildfires in BC, BCCA met with the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Forest, Lands, Natural Resource Operation and Rural Development of the summer of 2017. This was an opportunity to discuss the devastation of the wildfire situation on the ranching community and provide ideas for recovery. The meetings were not limited to wildfires and BCCA had the opportunity to bring forward some of their other challenges and potential solutions.
 - BC Beef Day did not occur in 2017, but the BCCA sent a delegation to Victoria in September 2017 to meet with Ministers and ministry staff. A joint meeting was held with the Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure and Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliations. In additions, individual meetings with Ministers Popham, Fraser, Donaldson, Heyman, the Green Party of BC, Liberal MLAs and Forest Practices Board while in Victoria. Topics brought forward were numerous such as wildfire recovery, water storage, water licensing, invasive weeds, ag waste regulation as well as continued funding for the Livestock Protection Program and the Highway Fencing Program.
 - BCCA General Manager presented to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services in October. BCCA's submission focused on forage enhancement in wildfire areas, water storage for climate adaptation and highway fencing.
 - In November 2017, BCCA representatives attended BC Ag Days, coordinated by the BC Ag Council, in Victoria as part of an eighty-farmer delegation that included representatives from a variety of stakeholder groups.
4. BCCA has support for producers for the Groundwater Licensing which includes:
 - Preparing DIY handout
 - Hiring individuals to assist members with licensing
 - Funding, through CIDC, regional workshops
 - Featuring articles in Beef in BC on new regulations and tips to apply.
 5. BCCA has conducted a consultation on the Livestock Watering Regulations and has submitted to the Livestock Water Intentions Paper. The deadline was February 16, 2018.
 6. Agricultural Waste Control Regulation (AWCR) has had the BCCA actively participating in the Industry-Government Working group on regulation since

2012. In November 2017 the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy released its third Intentions Paper. This third intention's paper had a deadline of January 15th to consult on the ministry's proposed changes to the AWCR in response to the POLIS Project on Ecological Governance Recommendations Report "From Crisis to Solutions: Towards Better Source Water Protection and Nutrient Management in the Hullcar Valley".

- The goals of the AWCR are to:
 - Enhance and improve water and air quality by requiring that good, environmentally protective agricultural practices are followed.
 - Ensure watercourses and groundwater are protected through proper storage and use of manure, other nutrient sources and agricultural materials.
 - Prove certainty – through clear, unambiguous requirements – focused on desired environmental outcomes.
 - Update guidance to facilitate appropriate and beneficial use of manure and other agricultural by-products.

- The BCCA has been actively involved in the working group and advocacy for:
 - AWCR to be reasonable and achievable.
 - AWCR to be flexible with requirements based on risk (low/med/high)
 - AWCR to recognize that qualified professionals are costly and limited access in rural areas.
 - AWCR to avoid enforcement action where possible, except with repeat offenders.

The BCCA believe that the Intentions Paper has incorporated the majority of BCCA's recommendations.

7. Wildfire Recovery and the Wildfire Response to Access, Feed and Fencing. AgriRecovery which had a deadline of January 31, 2108 and also the AgriStability Enhanced Program.
 - The wildfires in 2017 quickly took priority for BCCA. In the early days and throughout the summer as the fires continued to grow and new fires started, the association worked on many levels, starting with emergency response and coordinating with Emergency Operation Centers (EOC), groups transporting animals out of evacuation zones, creating an emergency feed database, responding to producer calls, assessing and rebuilding fences in fire zones (to prevent cattle from getting onto highways and causing a public safety issue)
 - One of the biggest successes BCCA had during Emergency Response phase, was the ability to work with the Cariboo EOC to get producers assess permits to do essential work like animal care and haying. Reg Steward, AgSafe BC, was

right in the Cariboo Emergency Operation Center to facilitate permits for ranchers. The BC Ministry of Agriculture Premise ID system was an integral part of the issuing of permits.

- At the same time, BCCA worked with the Federal and Provincial governments to build an AgriRecovery program that would help ranchers impacted by the forest fires stay operational. The BCCA believe that that they got the best program possible – it is not perfect and ranchers will not get rich off the program – it is as comprehensive as BCCA could make it.

AgriRecovery deadline was January 31, 2108 and it covered 70% of shortages in feed required, it was not designed to cover losses.

- An AgriStability Enhancement Program was announced in January 2018. This new program will enhance the existing AgriStability program by allowing late sign-up, eliminating the current Reference Margin Limit and increasing the compensation rate on positive margins from 70% to 80%. It is expected to provide \$8 to \$10 million of support to agricultural producers. This is in addition to the estimated \$10 million the existing federally and provincially funded AgriStability program is expected to pay.

Producers currently not enrolled in AgriStability were encouraged to enrolling the 2017 British Columbia AgriStability Enhancement program and the deadline for enrollment is April 30, 2018. Those agricultural producers who are currently in AgriStability, do not need to re-enroll as the enhanced benefits will automatically be applied by the program administration.

8. Wildfire Recovery had the BCCA establish an Adhoc Wildfire Committee. This committee submitted discussion paper to government outline pre-fire, during fire and post fire recommendation in January. The committee met with senior government tasked with reviewing 2017 wildfires.
 - The goal of the committee is to look at what lessons have been learned by ranchers, provide government with some key recommendations and priorities to improve upon current practices during wildfire emergencies, and insure that land impacted by firefighting activities is properly reclaimed. This last one was right that the BCCA was hoping to get areas reseeded this fall, but that hasn't happened yet. BCCA also want the government to look at how the landscape in the burned areas has changed and try to use that to develop some wildfire prevention (adding more grass areas, less trees, etc.).
 - In addition, BCCA received funding from Imperial Oil and Horse Council BC and will be hosting 12 one-day Emergency Management Workshops this spring.

BCCA staff will be working with Reg Steward from AgSafe BC. March 1 was in Vanderhoof and March 3 will be in Smithers. The workshops will include:

- How to safeguard your property
 - Creating a safety plan for your property and your community
 - Community planning and delegation
 - What to do in the midst of an emergency
 - Resources and best practices
 - As well as general information on dealing with natural disasters.
9. Livestock Protection Program (LPP) has been operating since 2016 with funding from the BC Ministry of Agriculture. As of October 2017, 50 wildlife specialists are available to respond to calls. Producers can report a livestock predator loss by calling 1-844-852-5788. The program had 758 verification files actioned, and 337 wolves and 128 coyotes were removed. All other predation issues will continue to be handled by the Conservation Officer Service. One of the requirements of the LPP is that producers are adopting Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce predation in order to receive mitigation. The LPP Coordinator is responsible for reviewing the management practices utilized on the farm or ranch, and to discuss any recommendations with the livestock owner.

There were questions about verification times as hard to keep deceased animal intact until a verifier can come. Kevin said to call the toll free LPP line to initiate a claim and try to get some pictures. Do we need more verifiers in the area? Wherever possible, the program aims to inspect and verify a predator kill within 36 hours of being found and mitigation measures initiated within 24-48 hours of positive verification of predation.

Verification can be done by producers who have completed the Verification Training Course offered by the CO Service and can self-verify predator attacks by completing the Verification/Compensation Request Form. For livestock owners who cannot self-verify, a Wildlife Specialist will be dispatched to conduct an on-site verification of the predator attack. Verification reports will be reviewed by the LPP coordinator prior to proceeding with mitigation. The LPP coordinator will review the reported BMPs employed by the livestock producer and make a final decision about whether additional prevention measures need to be implemented. If the LPP coordinator is not satisfied that sufficient measures have been implemented, claims for verification, mitigation and compensation may be denied.

Once verification has been completed, either by self-verification or by a Wildlife Specialist, and the review indicates that predation is the result of a wolf or coyote attack, the verification/compensation request will be forwarded to the Business

Risk Management Branch of the BC Min of Ag to initiate a compensation claim payment. The compensation will be provided based on age of animals involved and market value. Verification forms and compensation claims for all other wildlife (bear, cougar, dogs, etc.) will be reviewed and submitted by the CO service.

Upon approved verification of a wolf or coyote attack, the LPP coordinator will dispatch a wildlife specialist to initiate mitigation activities. The Wildlife Specialist will report to the LPP coordinator outlining mitigation activities completed. Wherever possible, mitigation will begin within 24-48 hours of verified wolf/coyote attack.

Elk damage from Eileen Benedict was presented: "We have had 3 bulls injured this winter from the Elk coming into the feeder and using their horns to push the bulls out of the way. One of the bulls had a puncture in the hind flank, one had two puncture wounds on the right side just behind his front leg and the third yesterday had a puncture on the left side. Our neighbour had her horse injured last winter in the same manner, it was a deep stab wound in the hind quarter and it took months for her to get the infection under control. What do we do to protect our animals? These big bull elk are dangerous and are no match for cattle or horses." Kevin's response was that currently Elk are not considered a predator and that he knows of other situations where elk have challenged ranch employees. Currently there is no initiative to address this problem as a predator or wildlife management.

10. Provincial Livestock Fencing Program was launched in 2010 and \$16 million has been invested in the program. As of this spring, more than 900 kilometres of livestock fencing will have been built along B.C. highways. The program has been extended for another 5 years in which the BCCA will receive \$1 million annually.

The program was developed by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI), in partnership with Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD). The BC Cattlemen's Association Program Delivery Inc is responsible for delivery of the program.

Program eligibility requirements from 2017 were: Schedule 2 Highways, Schedule 1 Highways, Railway corridors. Must be a livestock producer and the fence must be located along the highway or railway and form part of an existing system to contain livestock. **A question was asked about Railway Corridor fencing. Will 2018 funding be continuing the 2017 program eligibility?**

The Provincial Livestock Fencing Program has played a pivotal role in the rapid replacement of fencing that was either damaged or destroyed during the wildfires in 2017. The B.C. government invested \$6.2 million to support the necessary replacement of livestock fencing and Crown range infrastructure after the 2017

fires. The BCCA worked quickly with local contractors involved in the program and nearly 100 kilometers of fencing have been repaired or assessed in less than seven months.

11. New initiatives: Invasive Plants and Dams & Water Security

Invasive Plants has additional funding for on-ground treatment, including on Crown Land and currently has a three-year Nicola Knapweed Pilot Program with partners Thompson Nicola Regional District (TNRD), Thompson Rivers University (TRU), BCCA, MOTI and FLNRORD with a soft launch with MOTI and FLNRORD doing the program for year one. Plans are underway for full implementation with all partners for 2018.

Dams & Water Security is a new initiative as the BCCA has asserted that water storage for agriculture and other purposes could be an effective climate adaptation strategy and also valuable for wildfire situations. Conducted a cost-benefit analysis of agricultural dams and the BCCA has been exploring a pilot project on the Coldwater River, which is an area where producers have been placed on water restrictions for the past three years. Through the pilot project, BCCA hopes to facilitate a plan with local stakeholders to use water storage as a long-term remedy. This pilot could be utilized throughout the province.

12. Check-off Increase

A National Beef Strategy was developed that looked at the future needs of the industry and what funding it would take to meet those needs. Nationally, they introduced the idea of a check-off increase from \$1 per head to \$2.50. At the same time, the Cattle Industry Development Council, (CIDC), which is responsible for collecting the national and provincial check-off in BC, put forward the idea to increase the provincial check-off by \$0.50 to \$2.50.

At the BCCA 2016 AGM, a resolution was passed to support the increase in National and Provincial Check-offs. Throughout 2016-2017, the CIDC sought similar support from the other member associations. CIDC has approval to increase the check-off to \$5.00 per head (\$2.50 National, \$2.50 Provincial). Due to the wildfire situation in 2017, CIDC has delayed the increase until July 2018.

13. Federal Packing Plant in BC.

BCCA, in partnership with the Province of BC, developed a Business Plan for a federally inspected beef packing plant in the Prince George (PG) area.

The plan includes an infrastructure plan (supply and plant), production requirements, financial plan, commercialization strategy and implementation plan. The plan is based on 50,000 head per annum to start, with the ability to increase to 100,000 head and the estimated value is \$25,000,000. BCCA has

discussed the implementation plan with the Minister of Agriculture, Lana Popham.

The \$250,000,000 is in part to potential Chinese exportation. Currently if a \$3300, 100% consumable beef carcass is being shipped to China, the carcass is devalued at \$2600 for the cuts China market demands, thus this is a devaluation of \$700 per carcass. With the proposed processing plant, there is an ability to just ship the prime cuts China demands and the value of the carcass rises to \$3800, that is a carcass increase of \$500.

The proposed plant would supply beef within BC, nationally and have a export market. Exportation market is Europe and China, Asia markets. Currently the Prince Rupert port does not have the refrigeration, so exported meat would be flown out of the PG airport. The PG airport has strategic planning related to the processing plant with plans to increase fueling station with potential for PG airport to serve as a long-haul flight fueling station. The PG airport is also looking at the possibility of installing a Bio-Digester which would receiver Specified Risk Materials (SRM) from the processing plant and create energy for the airport.

China is also considering building a plant in PG to process bone meal. This by-product is no longer produced in Canada due to BSE.

The plant would be set-up as a New Generation Co-op (NGC). A NGC is a form of business arrangement that encourages agriculture producers and processors to expand the scope of their businesses. Sometimes described as hybrids between traditional co-ops and limited companies. NGC's maybe one way to help bridge the gap between commodity-oriented primary producers and consumer-focused markets.

The PG processing plant would utilize NGC with producers – owners, retailer owners and investment owners. Prices for producers could be built on futures market. The BCCA will have information meetings with producers and investors hopefully later this spring. The BCCA is the facilitator of this plan.

The initial 50,000 head per year breaks down into 1000 head per week and 200 head per day. The initial capacity of the proposed plant has the capacity in a week of what Cargill will do in a shift.

The challenges are labour and building the feeding industry. Some of the opportunities are the to have calves held back in BC, could be saving \$170 per calf on transportation costs. Movement of calving times with the potential of some calvings to move from winter/predator problems. Expansion of grain and forage industry. Increasing current feedlot's capacity and potential add more feedlots and backgrounding facilities.

The remainder of the workshop was a short time to discuss issues that could potentially restrict RDBN beef producers from participating in the PG processing plant. These are:

- A. Lack of Livestock Shavings. Currently the Nechako Valley Regional Cattlemen's Association, (NVRCA), Shaving Committee has a contract the PAC-Bio which will expire in August 2018. A proposal of establishing a livestock shaving plant is currently being investigated. The producers of the Skeena Regional Cattlemen's Association, (SRCA), were given information from Sandy Anaka of a source of shavings. Many producers without source of kiln-dried shaving have adjusted calving times and/or are utilizing other bedding materials.

The lack and cost of livestock shaving could be detrimental in the growth of the cattle industry to supply the PG processing plant. Ideally if a livestock shaving business is established in the RDBN, the NVRCA and SRCA would have the opportunity to consider joining the PG processing plant and utilizing kiln-dried shavings at a reasonable cost.

- B. Concern about the decrease in grasses on rangeland due to the increase infestation of noxious weeds. To support an increase in cattle production would need optimum grazing on rangelands. Question is, who is responsible for eradication of noxious weeds on the rangeland?

In attendance in the audience was Trevor Tapp who is a representative of the NorthWest Invasive Plant Council (NWIPC). Trevor represents the Nechako Invasive Plant Management Area. The NWIPC has a 50:50 rebate program which is first-come, first serve and this program is offered in both the Nechako and Skeena areas. Check the NWIPC website for more details.

- C. Concern was expressed on forage exportation. If the beef industry is going to increase to be a part of the PG processing plant, grain and forage is going to be a factor. The two forage exportation facilities are part of the agriculture community but concern is that forage demands should be produced locally and as much amount of the forage production remain for livestock production here in BC and the region.

The day was wrapped-up with Mark Parker thanking everyone for attending.

Attachment 1: Licensing Groundwater in BC brochure

page 4

3. Gather property and water use information, including:

- Property ID number (check your property tax notice)
- If there is more than one name on your notice, they are considered a co-applicant
- What purpose the water is used for
- Estimates of water use volume for each water use purpose

You can estimate agricultural water usage at www.bcagriculturewatercalculator.ca

4. Gather evidence to show when groundwater was first used and the history of use from the well. If you apply by March 1, 2019, your date of precedence will be based on when groundwater use began. Evidence might include well documentation, government-issued certificates or permits, historical records or photographs, or Traditional Land Use and archaeological studies.

5. Ensure you have the appropriate permits. If your well or any works occupy or cross Crown land you will need to have permission to use that land. Authorization can be in the form of a Permit Over Crown Land, or a more formal tenure under the *Land Act*. If you require a Crown Land authorization, but do not already have one, you will be prompted to apply as part of the water licence application process.

6. Create a map of the properties where the water is used.

It should include:

- Property boundaries
- Works (well location, pumps, pipes, etc.)
- Major features (buildings, fields, etc.)
- Labels identifying all of the above

www.bcagriculturewatercalculator.ca is a quick and easy tool for creating a map of your property.

Ready to start your water licence application?

Visit www.frontcounterbc.gov.bc.ca/start/ground-water

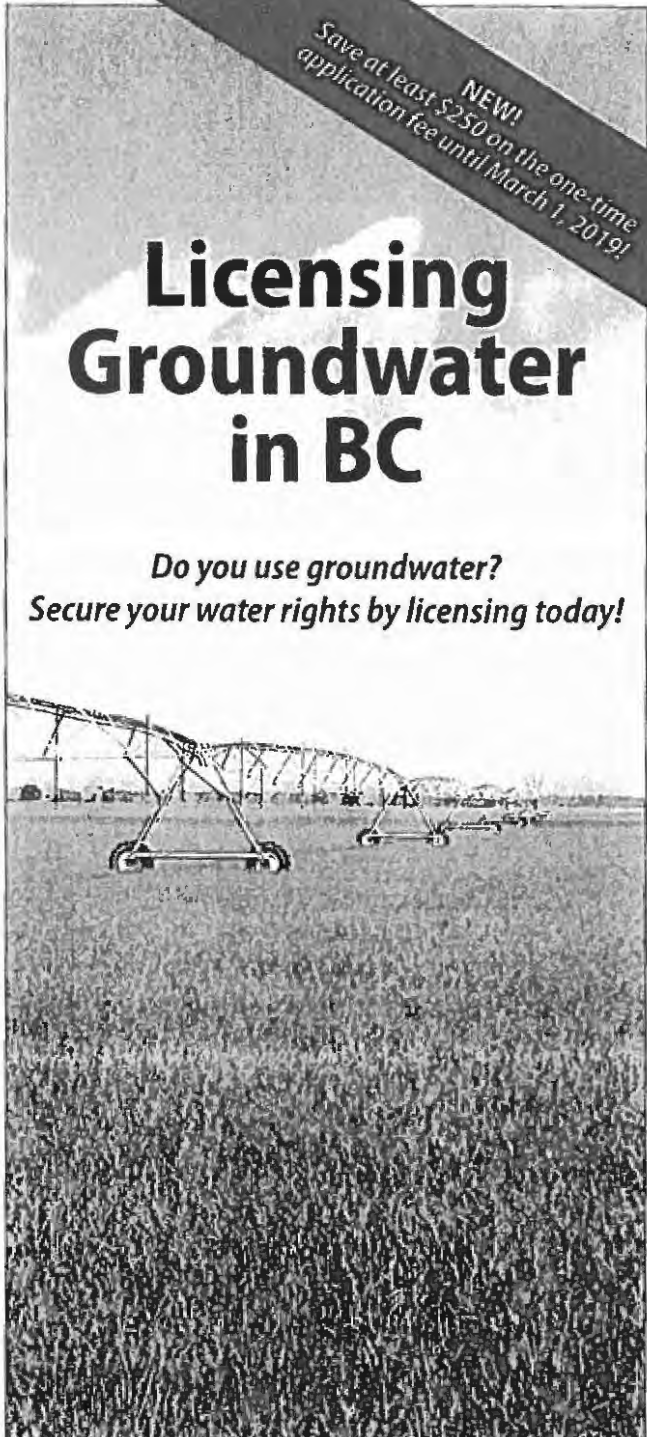
Contact FrontCounter BC at 1-877-855-3222

or FrontCounterBC@gov.bc.ca

For more on the provincial water program visit www.gov.bc.ca/water

Still have questions? Email: Livingwatersmart@gov.bc.ca

page 1



NEW!
Save at least \$250 on the one-time application fee until March 1, 2019!

Licensing Groundwater in BC

*Do you use groundwater?
Secure your water rights by licensing today!*

page 2

Do you use groundwater for non-domestic purposes?

All irrigators, industries, waterworks and others who divert and use groundwater for non-domestic purposes are required to apply for a water licence. This new requirement was brought in by the *Water Sustainability Act (WSA)* in February 2016.

What if I am a domestic well owner?

Domestic use is exempt from licensing. This includes water for household use by the occupants of a private dwelling, fire prevention, private lawn and garden watering (up to 1,000 m²), and domestic animals. Domestic well owners are encouraged to register their well to make their water use known so it can be protected.

For more information visit **Register your Well** at www.frontcounterbc.gov.bc.ca/start/ground-water

Existing users must apply by March 1, 2019.

After this date, users who have not applied will be committing an offence under the WSA and can be subject to fines and penalties, and ordered to cease using the water.



After March 1, 2019, you will need to apply as a new applicant, your priority date will be the date of the application, and your application could be refused if there is not enough water.

Apply today to secure your water rights!

Groundwater licensing ensures there is a fair and transparent mechanism in place for determining who uses the water during shortages. A water licence is tied to your land, and provides four major benefits to your business.

- A licence gives you a right to a specific volume of water when available to support your business
- A licence protects your usage from new users and future developments
- A licence provides a fair system for reducing usage in times of water scarcity
- A licence can enhance the value of your property

page 3

How do I secure my groundwater rights?

Existing users (use began before March 1, 2016) must apply by March 1, 2019. If you submit by the deadline government will consider when you first used the water to establish your first-in-time, first-in-right (FITFIR) priority date. This gives your water use precedence over newer users during times of scarcity.

New users (use began after February 2016) must apply for a licence before the water can lawfully be diverted, used or stored.

How much does a licence cost?

The one-time application fee (minimum \$250) for existing users has been waived if your application is received by March 1, 2019. Annual rental fees are not waived and are charged from March 1, 2016 for existing groundwater users. Fees vary based on how much water you are using and for what purpose.

While existing or new users are required to apply for a water licence, water fees and rentals are generally not applied to First Nations use of water on Reserve or Treaty lands.

Before You Apply:

Applications are submitted online through the FrontCounter BC website and require several pieces of information about your well and water usage. To save time during the application process:

1. Register for a basic BCeID. Having a BC online account (BCeID) will allow you to save your application and return to it later if you are not able to complete the application in one session. Register at www.bceid.ca and select a **basic BCeID**, which is a one-step process.

2. Gather information on your well(s) regarding its location, depth and construction. For example:

- Search apps.nrs.gov.bc.ca/gwells to see if a record for your well exists (well identification plate number)
- Well construction reports
- Pumping records
- Pump test reports and water quality test results

This policy bulletin clarifies authorization requirements for water diversion in relation to dugouts under the *Water Sustainability Act* (WSA) for stream water and groundwater.

What is a dugout?

Dugouts are often constructed to store water for the purpose of livestock watering or for irrigation. A dugout is a reservoir or impoundment constructed by excavating into the ground and/or by building an embankment or other modification to the land to collect and store water. Dugouts can be filled with groundwater, surface water, snow melt, rainwater, runoff, or a combination of these.

When is an authorization required to use water from a dugout?

An "authorization" as defined under the *Water Sustainability Act* (WSA) is a water licence or a use approval. A water licence grants a long term right to use water. A use approval authorizes use of water for up to 24 months.

An authorization is required if any of the water in the dugout is groundwater from an aquifer (including seepage), or water from a "stream" as defined in the WSA (which includes a lake, pond, river, creek, spring or other natural watercourse). The requirement for an authorization applies regardless of whether the source of the water is located on Crown land or private land.

An authorization is not required if:

- The diversion, use or storage of water fits under a specific exemption in legislation or a regulation. Examples include the diversion of water to fight a fire or use of groundwater for domestic purposes (as defined in the WSA).
- The dugout fills entirely from precipitation or runoff that has been prevented from going into the ground or entering a "stream" as defined in the WSA. See criteria below.

What is stream water?

A "stream" is defined under the WSA and includes a natural watercourse, water body or source or water such as a lake, pond, river, creek, spring, ravine, gulch, wetland or glacier. If the water in a dugout comes from any of these sources, a licence or use approval is required to divert, use or store the water.

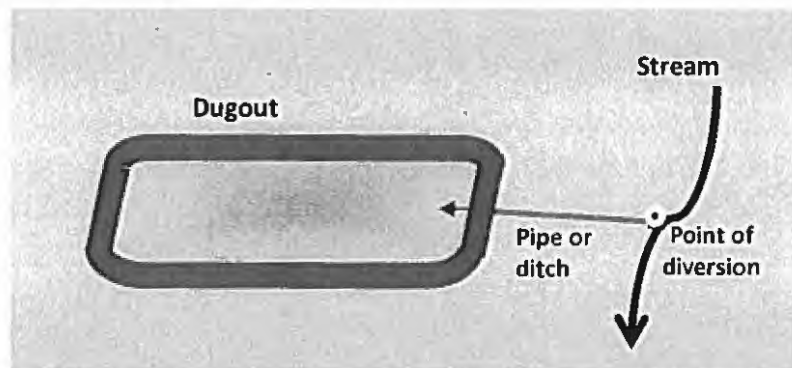


Figure 1. Water diverted from a stream into a dugout - authorization required

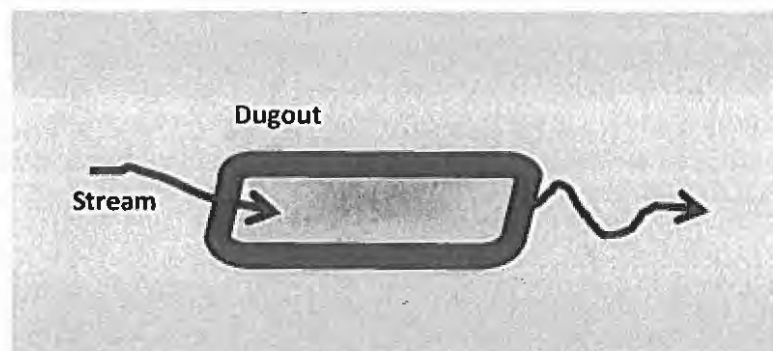


Figure 2. Dugout constructed within a stream channel - authorization required



How will I know if my dugout is intercepting stream water?

If the dugout is located in or constructed in a manner that intercepts water from a natural watercourse or water body, it is most likely receiving stream water. If the water is being diverted, used or stored for any purpose, you need to apply for an authorization unless the use of water is specifically allowed by legislation or a regulation.

What is groundwater?

Groundwater is defined in the WSA as “water naturally occurring below the surface of the ground”. Water in a pipe, cistern or underground tank that has been placed in the ground is not naturally occurring.

How will I know if my dugout is intercepting groundwater?

If the dugout is not filling with water from a stream and is not lined with clay or some other impermeable barrier it is most likely receiving the seepage of groundwater.

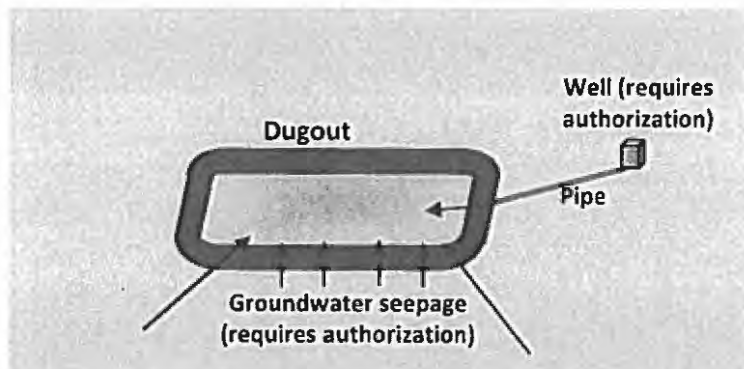


Figure 3. Dugouts diverting groundwater - authorization required

What if I have a dugout that contains a mixture of stream water and groundwater?

If you have a dugout that contains a mixture of stream water and groundwater complete and submit an application for the main or largest source of water.

You are required to provide information about all of the water sources to ensure the authorization accurately reflects your water use.

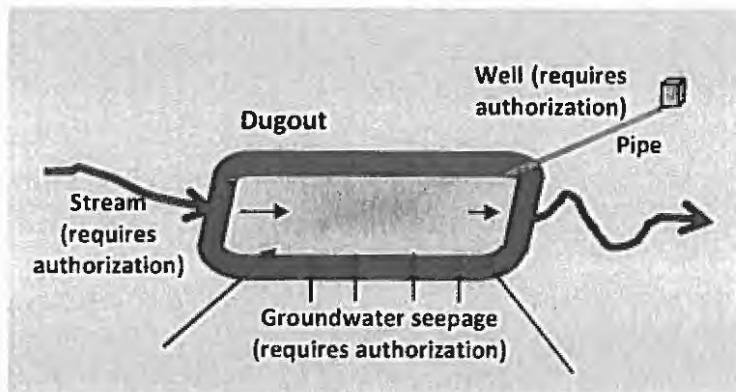


Figure 4. Mixed water supply dugout - authorization required

When completing your application on the www.frontcounterbc.gov.bc.ca website select “Water – Ground” if the main source of water for the dugout is groundwater. Similarly, select “Water – Surface (Rivers, lakes etc.)” if the main source of water for the dugout is surface water. It is very important that you identify all the water sources in your application. Please indicate the other water sources in the “comments” field on the online application forms.

What if I have more than one dugout?

If you have more than one dugout submit an application for the main source of water that feeds the dugouts as described above. The application forms ask that you identify all of the works (dugouts) that you will be using. Ensure that you indicate all of your dugouts on the forms so your authorization accurately reflects the works you will be using.

How can I tell if my dugout contains only snowmelt, rainwater or runoff?

In some cases the water in a dugout is entirely snow melt, rainwater or surface runoff that has not formed into a natural watercourse and has been prevented from flowing below the ground to form groundwater prior to entering the dugout. In these instances an authorization is not required to use the water.

The following list describes the conditions that would indicate that dugout is not diverting groundwater or water from a stream:

- at no time is the dugout recharged by groundwater or stream water;
- the structure has an impermeable lining or is constructed in impermeable material;
- the structure is not constructed on or across a stream (e.g. a pond or wetland);
- the water entering the structure does not flow down a natural channel or channelized depression; and
- conditions of the land surrounding the dugout prevent infiltration (e.g. frozen, saturated, or otherwise impervious).

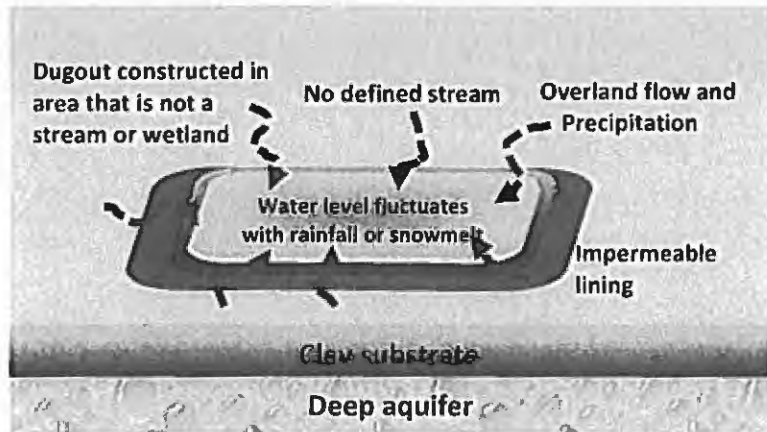


Figure 5. Dugouts containing only overland flow - no authorization required

Can I sell or provide water from my dugout to somebody else?

To provide water to another party the dugout owner must hold an authorization for a waterworks – water sales purpose or waterworks – water delivery purpose. If your authorization does not include a waterworks – water sales, or waterworks – water delivery purpose, you cannot lawfully provide water to any third party, even if it is for domestic use by that party.



Does the Dam Safety Regulation apply to dugouts?

The Dam Safety Regulation defines a dam as a barrier constructed for the purpose of enabling the storage or diversion of water from a stream or an aquifer, or both, plus any other works incidental to or necessary for the barrier. If your dugout includes an artificial barrier or embankment that was constructed to retain water, you may have obligations under the Dam Safety Regulation.

Minor dams that are less than 7.5 m high and store 10,000 cubic metres of water or less may be exempt from some aspects of the Dam Safety Regulation.

Applicants should refer to the FLNRO Dam Safety Program for detailed information:

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/water/drought-flooding-dikes-dams/dam-safety>

Dam Safety Program contact information:

- **Online:** <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/water/drought-flooding-dikes-dams/dam-safety/contact-the-bc-dam-safety-program>
- **Email:** dam.safety@gov.bc.ca
- **Telephone:** (250) 952-6790

How do I apply for an authorization?

Applications for water authorizations can be made online at www.frontcounterbc.gov.bc.ca or in person at one of 29 FrontCounter BC offices.

FrontCounter BC can be reached by email FrontCounterBC@gov.bc.ca or toll free 1-877-855-3222 or +1-778-372-0729 outside North America.

More information

- **Regional offices or FrontCounter BC** for information on submitting an application for a water licence or use approval: 1-877-855-3222 or www.frontcounterbc.gov.bc.ca
- **Provincial water program, including any new regulations or updates to regulations,** www.gov.bc.ca/water
- **Contact the water program** Livingwatersmart@gov.bc.ca

Does crop type make a difference?

Each crop type may have a different rooting depth and availability coefficient. The combination of these two factors will affect the irrigation interval.

The previous example was an alfalfa crop. What if it was a grass or pasture crop?

For a grass crop on a sandy loam soil:

$$\text{Total AWSC} = 1.5 \times 1.5 = 2.25 \text{ in}$$

$$\text{MSWD} = 0.5 \times 2.25 = 1.13 \text{ in}$$

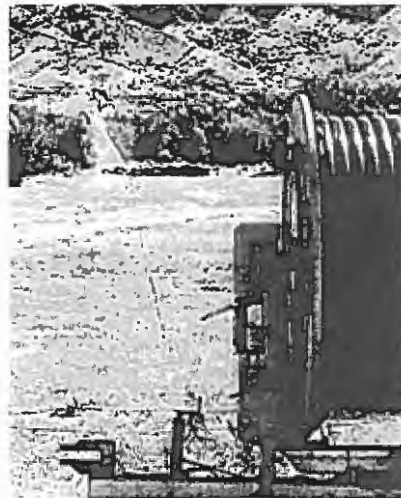
For an grass crop on a sandy loam soil in

Smithers:

$$\text{Max II} = \frac{1.13}{0.16} = 7 \text{ days}$$

Where as for alfalfa:

$$\text{Max II} = 18 \text{ days}$$



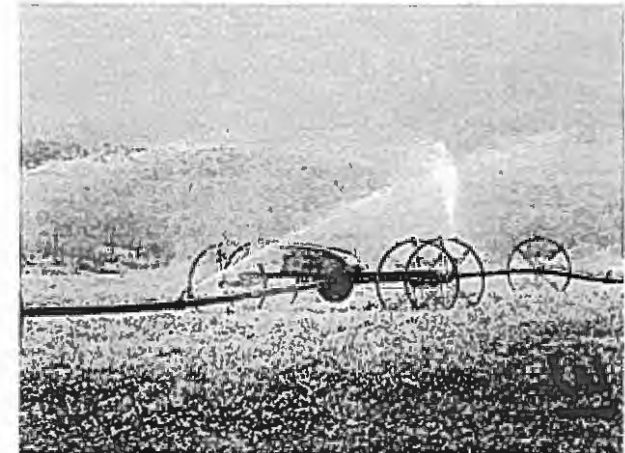
For more information contact :

Andrew Petersen, P.Ag., CID
Ministry of Agriculture
441 Columbia Street
Kamloops B.C., V2C 2T3

Phone: 250-828-4514
Fax: 250-828-4516
E-mail: andrew.petersen@gov.bc.ca

Forage Irrigation Systems North

Crop, Soil and Climate

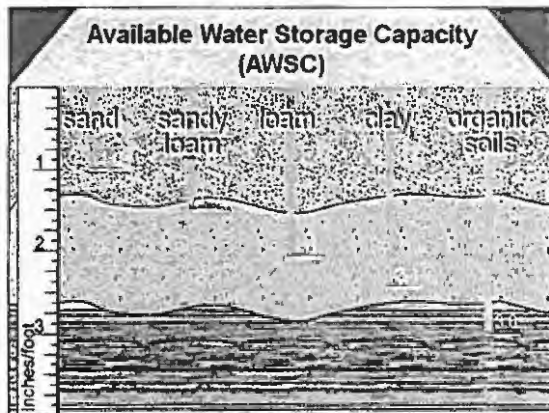


Can you answer these questions?

1. Why do we Irrigate?
2. How much water can be applied at one time?
3. How often do we irrigate?
4. Does crop type make a difference?

Why do we irrigate?

Irrigation replenishes soil moisture. The soil is our storage tank for water. The amount of water held in the soil is called the available water storage capacity (AWSC). Each soil type holds a different amount of water.



Each crop type also affects the amount of water that can be stored in the soil. The rooting depth (RD) of the crop is used to determine the Total AWSC.

$$\text{Total AWSC} = \text{RD} \times \text{AWSC}$$

Effective Rooting Depth of Mature Crops			
Shallow 0.45 m (1.5 ft)	Medium Shallow 0.6 m (2 ft)	Medium Deep 0.9 m (3 ft)	Deep 1.2 m (4 ft)
Cabbages	Beans	Brussels Sprouts	Alfalfa
Cauliflowers	Beets	Cereal	Asparagus
Cucumbers	Blueberries	Clover (red)	Blackberries
Lettuce	Broccoli	Corn (sweet)	Corn (field)
Onions	Carrots	Eggplant	Grapes
Radishes	Celery	Kiwifruit	Loganberries
Turnips	Peas	Peppers	Raspberries
Grass species	Potatoes	Squash	Sugar beets
Pasture	Spinach	Saskatoons	Tree Fruits (12' x 18')
	Strawberries	Tree Fruits (6' x 12')	
	Tomatoes		
	Tree Fruits (3' x 10')		

Example
For an alfalfa crop on a sandy loam soil:
Total AWSC = 4 x 1.5 = 6.0 in

How much water can be applied at one time?

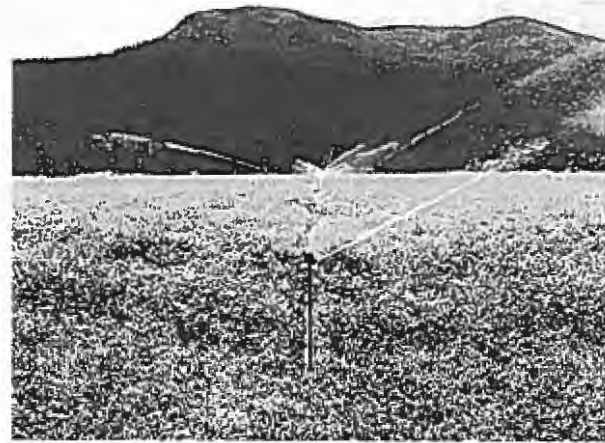
Not all the water in the soil can be consumed by the plant. The availability coefficient (AC) is the maximum percentage of stored water the crop can consume. The maximum soil water deficit (MSWD) is the amount of water that is readily available to the crop.

$$\text{MSWD} = \text{AC} \times \text{Total AWSC}$$

This is the maximum amount of water that should be applied during irrigation.

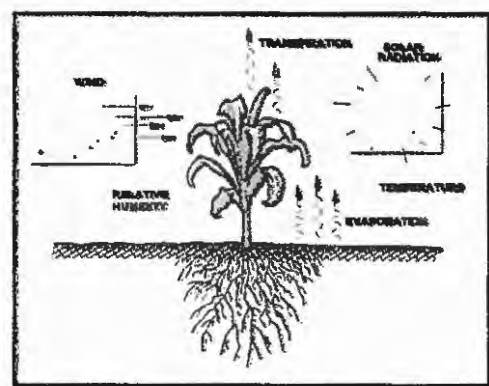
Availability Coefficients	
Crop	Maximum Percent [% expressed as decimal]
Peas	0.35
Potatoes	0.35
Tree Fruits	0.4
Grapes	0.4
Tomatoes	0.4
Others	0.5

Example
For an alfalfa crop on a sandy loam soil:
MSWD = 0.5 x 6.0 = 3.0 in



How often do we irrigate?

The maximum soil water deficit is consumed by the crop as it grows. This consumption is determined by the evapotranspiration (ET) for a geographical area. The picture below shows the climatic factors that are used to calculate ET.



Most areas of the province have had Peak ET numbers calculated for them. These numbers are used for designing irrigation systems.

- Examples**
- Hazleton = 0.19 in/day
 - Smithers = 0.16 in/day
 - Terrace = 0.30 in/day
 - Vanderhoof = 0.20 in/day

The maximum irrigation interval (Max II) is determined from the maximum soil water deficit and the evapotranspiration.

$$\text{Max II} = \frac{\text{MSWD}}{\text{ET}}$$

Example
For an alfalfa crop on a sandy loam soil in Smithers:

$$\text{Max II} = \frac{3.0}{0.16} = 18 \text{ days}$$

Annual Water Use (in)

$$= \frac{\text{System GPM} \times \text{Irr. Interval} \times \text{Irrigations} \times 0.053}{\text{Area}}$$

System GPM 310 gpm
 Irrigation Interval 10 days
 Number of Irrigations 4
 Area 68.4 acres

Annual Water Use (in)

$$= \frac{310 \times 10 \times 4 \times 0.053}{68.4} = 9.6 \text{ in}$$

Estimated Annual Water Use (in) = 12 in (Smithers)

System flow check is good



For more information please contact:

Andrew Petersen, P.Ag., CID
 Ministry of Agriculture
 441 Columbia Street
 Kamloops B.C.
 V2C 2T3

Phone: 250-828-4514

E-mail: andrew.petersen@gov.bc.ca



Farm Irrigation Systems

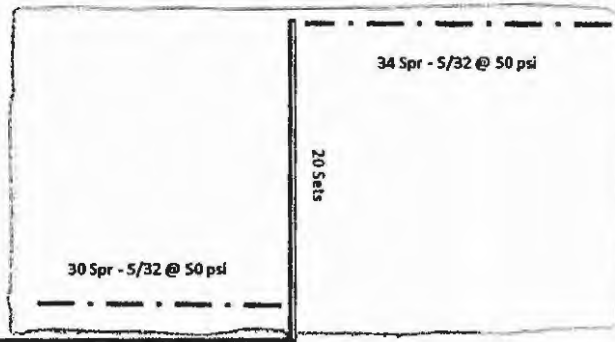
Sprinkler Irrigation Assessment



Can you answer these questions?

1. Do you have an irrigation system sketch?
2. What is your total irrigated area?
3. What should your flow rate be?
4. What is the system flow rate?
5. What is the system annual water use?

Do you have an irrigation system sketch?



What is your total irrigated area?

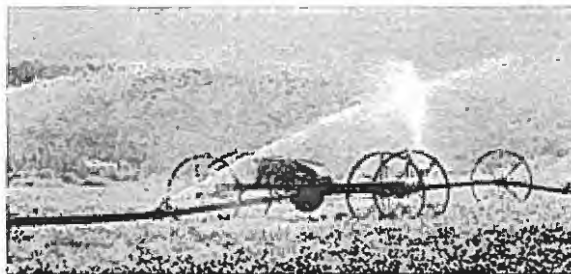
- Lateral 1 (1360' x 1200') 37.5 acre
43560
 - Lateral 2 (1120' x 1200') 30.8 acre
43560
- 68.4 acre**

What should your flow rate be?

The flow rate for a location in the province is based on the Evapotranspiration (ET) of that area.

Location	ET (in/day)	Q (USgpm/acre)
Hazelton	0.19	5
Smithers	0.16	4
Terrace	0.30	5.5
Vanderhoof	0.20	5

Smithers - Flow Rate 4 gpm/acre
 Area 68.4 acre
 Total Flow Rate 274 gpm



What is the system flow rate?

To determine your system flow rate check your nozzle and pressure. Look up the sprinkler flow rate on the following chart.

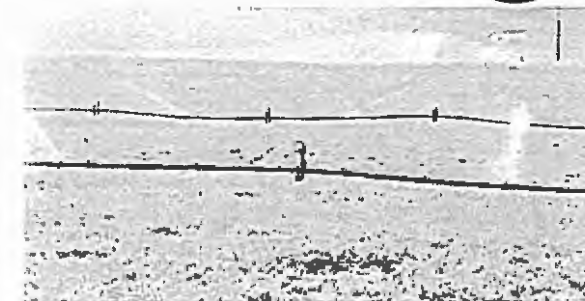


Nozzle Flow Rate (Usqpm)				
PSI	Nozzle Size (in)			
	9/64	5/32	11/64	3/16
25	2.9	3.5	4.3	5.1
30	3.1	3.9	4.7	5.6
35	3.4	4.2	5.1	6
40	3.6	4.5	5.4	6.4
45	3.8	4.7	5.7	6.8
50	4.1	5	6.1	7.2
55	4.2	5.2	6.3	7.6
60	4.4	5.5	6.5	7.9
65	4.6	5.8	6.9	8.2
70	4.8	5.9	7.2	8.5
75	5	6.1	7.4	8.8
80	5.1	6.3	7.7	9.1

Number of Sprinklers 62
 Nozzle Flow Rate 5 gpm
 System Flow Rate 310 gpm

Estimated Area Flow Rate 274 gpm

System flow rate to high



What is the system annual water use?

34

The B.C. Sprinkler Irrigation Manual has Estimated Annual Irrigation Requirements for different locations in B.C.

- Hazelton = 6 in
- Smithers = 12 in
- Terrace = 12 in
- Vanderhoof = 11 in



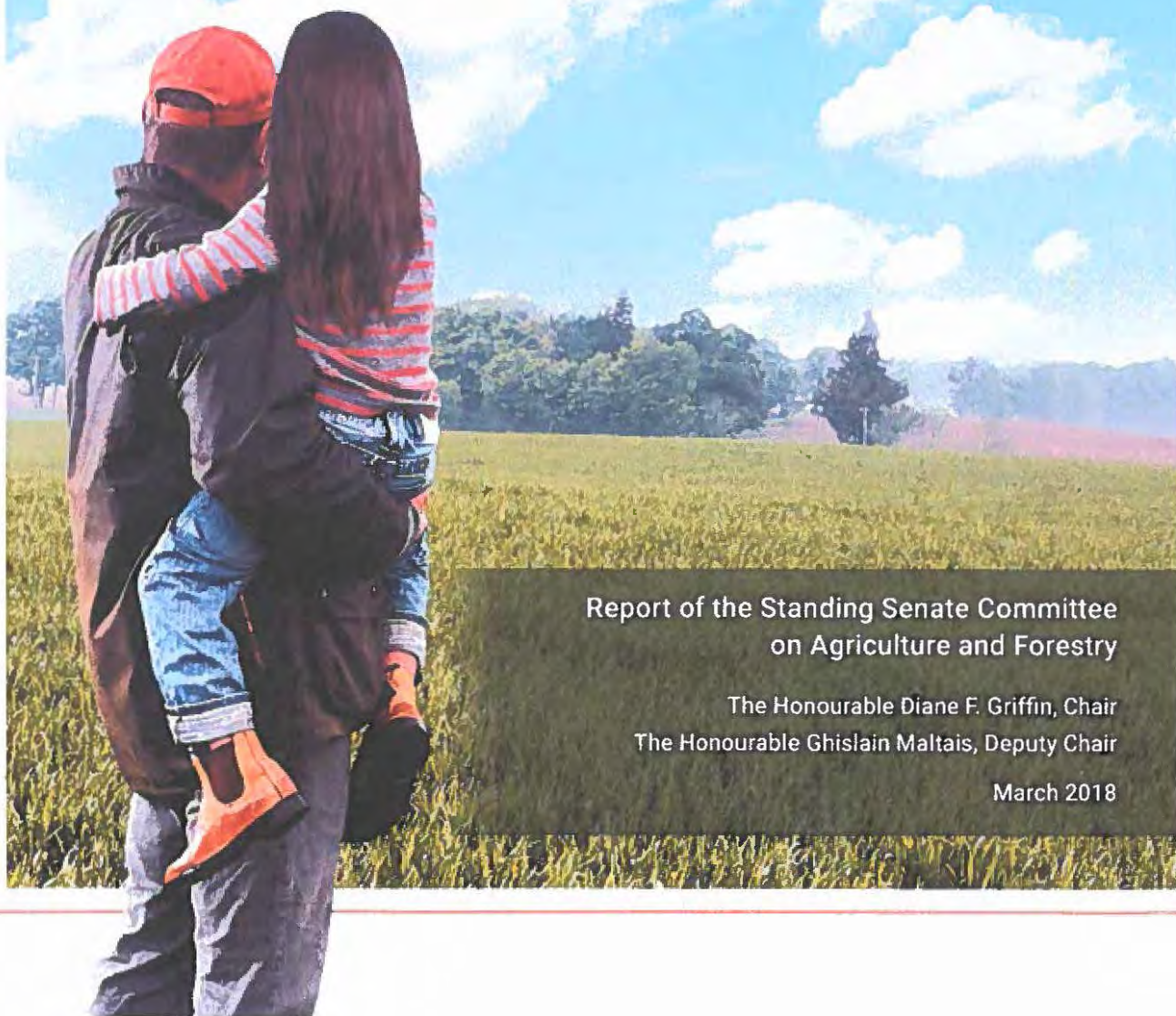
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CANADA

A

GROWING

CONCERN

How to Keep Farmland in the Hands of Canadian Farmers



Report of the Standing Senate Committee
on Agriculture and Forestry

The Honourable Diane F. Griffin, Chair
The Honourable Ghislain Maltais, Deputy Chair

March 2018

For more information please contact us

by email senate@parliament.gc.ca

by mail The Standing Senate Committee on
Agriculture and Forestry
Senate, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1A 0A4

This report can be downloaded at <https://www.parl.gc.ca/Document/52-1/20190529/20190529-eng.pdf>

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CANADA

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MEMBERS



The Honourable
Diane F. Griffin, Chair



The Honourable
Ghislain Maltais, Deputy Chair

THE HONOURABLE SENATORS



Salma Ataullahjan



Jean-Guy Dagenais



Norman E. Doyle



Raymonde Gagné



Terry M. Mercer



Victor Oh



Chantal Petitclerc



André Pratte



Yuen Pau Woo

Ex-officio members of the committee

The Honourable Senators

Peter Harder, P.C. (or Diane Bellemare
or Grant Mitchell)

Larry W. Smith (or Yonah Martin)

Joseph A. Day (or Terry M. Mercer)

Yuen Pau Woo (or Raymonde Saint-Germain)

Other Senators who have participated from time to time in the study

The Honourable Senators

Wanda Elaine Thomas Bernard, Lynn Beyak,
Michael Duffy, Nicole Eaton, Tobias C. Enverga, Jr,
Marc Gold, Rosa Galvez, Sabi Marwah,
Pana Merchant, Kelvin Kenneth Ogilvie,

Ratna Omidvar, Donald Neil Plett, Nancy Greene Raine,
Claudette Tardif, David Tkachuk, Betty Unger

Parliamentary Information and Research Services, Library of Parliament

Aicha L. Coulibaly, Analyst

Senate Committees Directorate

Kevin Pittman, Clerk of the Committee

Annie Trudel, Administrative Assistant

ORDER OF REFERENCE

Extract from the *Journals of the Senate*, Thursday,
October 6, 2016

The Honourable Senator Mercer moved, seconded by
the Honourable Senator Hubley.

That the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture
and Forestry be authorized to examine and report on
the acquisition of farmland in Canada and its potential
impact on the farming sector, including

- (a) reasons behind the increasing value
of Canadian farmland,
- (b) concerns of agricultural stakeholders and the
challenges they face in acquiring farmland,
- (c) possible solutions to resolve issues resulting
from the acquisition of farmland; and

That the committee submit its final report to the
Senate no later than June 30, 2017, and that the
committee retain all powers necessary to publicize
its findings until 180 days after the tabling of the
final report

After debate,

The question being put on the motion, it was adopted

Charles Robert

Clerk of the Senate

Extract from the *Journals of the Senate*, Thursday,
June 15, 2017

The Honourable Senator Maltais moved, seconded by
the Honourable Senator White:

That, notwithstanding the order of the Senate
adopted on Thursday, October 6, 2016, the date for
the final report of the Standing Senate Committee on
Agriculture and Forestry in relation to its study on the
acquisition of farmland in Canada and its potential
impact on the farming sector be extended from
June 30, 2017 to December 21, 2017.

The question being put on the motion, it was adopted.

Charles Robert

Clerk of the Senate

Extract from the *Journals of the Senate*, Thursday,
December 7, 2017

The Honourable Senator Griffin moved, seconded by
the Honourable Senator Mégie:

That, notwithstanding the order of the Senate adopted
on Thursday, June 15, 2017, the date for the final report
of the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and
Forestry in relation to its study on the acquisition of
farmland in Canada and its potential impact on the
farming sector be extended from December 21, 2017
to March 29, 2018. The question being put on the
motion, it was adopted

Nicole Proulx

Clerk of the Senate

FOREWORD

In the course of other work, the Committee heard concerns regarding the rising costs of farmland in Canada, including how families could pass their farms from generation to generation and the ability of new entrants to afford to buy land.

The family farm has been the backbone of rural Canada for generations. The Committee felt it would be remiss if it did not undertake a study on the acquisition of farmland in Canada and its potential impact on the farming sector to address these concerns.

The first part of the report focuses on the use of farmland and changes in farmland values. The second part of the report explains changes in farmland values and their impact on farmland availability. The final part of the report outlines ways to ensure access to farmland for future generations of Canadians.

The Committee appreciates the time stakeholders took to talk to us about this very important issue. We would like to thank all who contributed to this study. We hope the findings and recommendations in this report will further enhance the discussions concerning the acquisition of farmland in Canada.

We would also like to thank all of our colleagues who have participated in this study as well as the staff from both the Senate and the Library of Parliament who have helped in the preparation of this report.



Diane F. Griffin,
Chair



Ghislain Maltais,
Deputy Chair

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

- BRM:** Business Risk Management
- CFA:** Canadian Federation of Agriculture
- DUC:** Ducks Unlimited Canada
- SSHRC:** Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry undertook a study to evaluate the acquisition of farmland in Canada and its potential impact on the farming sector. During its study, the Committee heard from roughly 60 witnesses from the agricultural sector, academia and the financial sector, and from provincial and federal government officials. The Committee also heard from representatives of conservation organizations.

To gain an international perspective on the increase in farmland values and its impact on the economic productivity of Canada's major trading partners, the Committee heard from witnesses from Australia's and Argentina's agricultural sectors and from international experts. The Committee members also went on a fact-finding mission to Washington, D.C., United States.

As farmland is a major asset for farmers, it was important to understand the use of farmland and changes in farmland values in Canada, as well as the factors behind their upward trend. In addition, this report describes the underlying challenges associated with access to farmland, including farmers' financial capacity, ownership types and the profitability of the agricultural sector.

Financial stakeholders described ways to tackle the increase in farmland values and issues of access and availability. Other non-agricultural investors can partner with farmers to reduce the risks of farming while offering farmers the ability to benefit from economies of scale. However, some witnesses said there is still a risk that farmland owned by non-agricultural investors will not be used for agriculture and will eventually be sold for other purposes. To this end, strengthening the legislative framework for farmland protection would make a major difference.

Under the Constitution of Canada, the provinces have jurisdiction over the ownership of Canada's farmland. Consequently, suggestions were made to better protect farmland and its use for agriculture at the provincial level. The Committee also made recommendations to strengthen the financial capacity of farmers, including the next generation of farmers. It also encouraged cooperation between the federal and provincial governments to facilitate land-use planning and to better protect farmland for agricultural uses.



LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION 1:

The Committee recommends that the Department of Finance Canada explore the possibility of increasing the amount of the Lifetime capital gains exemption for qualified farm property to make it easier for new farmers to acquire farmland.

RECOMMENDATION 2:

The Committee recommends that

- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Statistics Canada and Natural Resources Canada continue to cooperate to improve the data on the classification and use of farmland; and
- Federal departments better cooperate with provincial departments in order to keep them informed about technological advances in imaging and remote sensing, and the way in which the resulting soil maps could assist provincial land-use planning.

RECOMMENDATION 3:

The Committee recommends that Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada renew the funding for the national research project on farmland protection through the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. This renewal would encourage cooperation between provincial land-use planning experts and support the development of standardized analytical frameworks and tools that would enable harmonized land-use planning data to be obtained for all provinces.

RECOMMENDATION 4:

The Committee recommends that the federal government work with its provincial counterparts to take advantage of initiatives such as the national research project on farmland protection, in order to enhance the tools they need to better track land transactions.

RECOMMENDATION 5:

The Committee recommends that the federal and provincial governments work together to protect and promote the use of land for agricultural purposes.

INTRODUCTION

In recent years, a number of Canadian farmers have expressed concerns about the purchase of farmland by financial institutions, investment funds and foreign multinationals. These concerns were warranted by the apparent impact of these acquisitions on farmland values in Canada. In response to their concerns, the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry (the Committee) was authorized to study the acquisition of farmland in Canada and its potential repercussions on the farming sector.

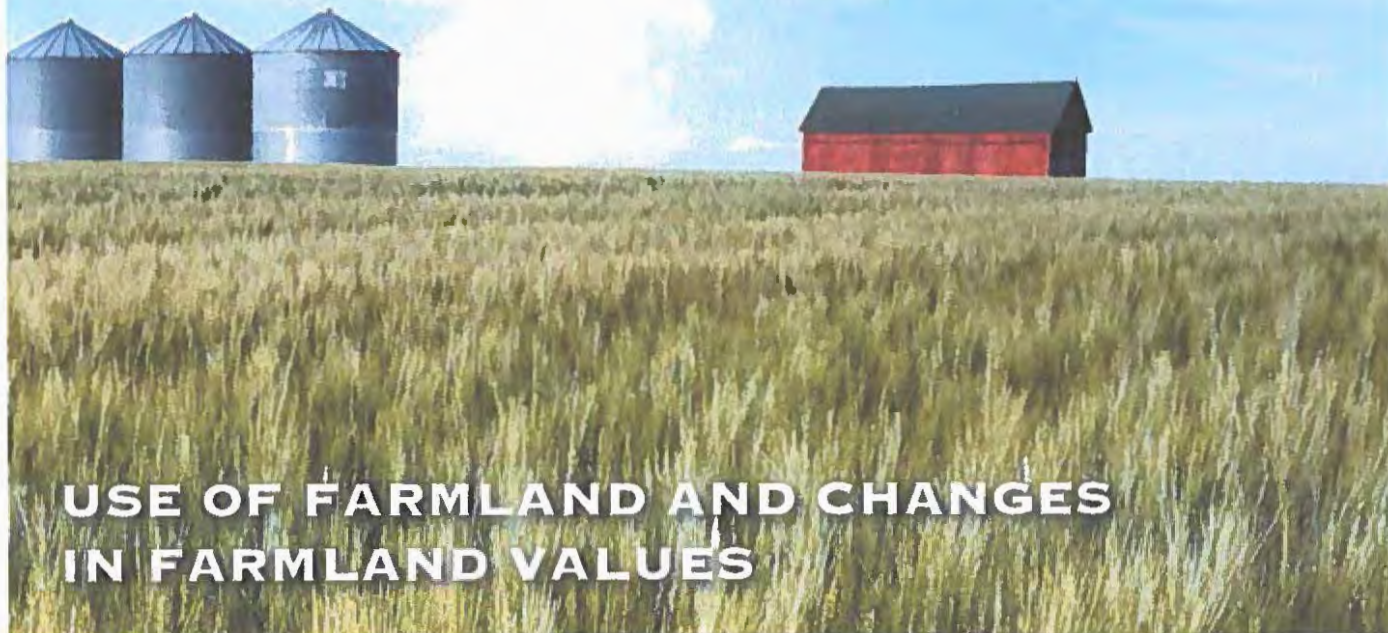
According to the 2011 Census of Agriculture,¹ the total value of farmland and buildings was estimated at \$276 billion. Of these assets, 74% were owned by farmers and 26% were leased. The debt ratio in the agricultural sector fell from 21% in 2004 to less than 18% in 2011.

Since farmland is a major asset for farmers, it is important to understand the use of farmland and changes in farmland values in Canada, and the factors behind the upward trend in values. This report also looks at the underlying causes of problems accessing farmland, including farmers' financial capacity, ownership types and the profitability of the agricultural sector. Lastly, the report makes recommendations to ensure that farmers can access farmland.

¹ At the time of Committee testimony, the 2016 Census of Agriculture was not yet available.



CHAPTER ONE



USE OF FARMLAND AND CHANGES IN FARMLAND VALUES

POTENTIAL AND USE OF FARMLAND

Given the importance of farmland to the economic development of the agricultural sector and the economy in general, stakeholders mentioned the importance of preserving access to this strategic resource. According to the 2011 Census of Agriculture, farm area accounted for about 7% of the total land base in Canada, or about 65 million hectares. More than two-thirds of this land is considered arable, meaning it has the potential for crop production.

In Canada, agricultural land capability is rated on a scale from 1 to 7. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Canada Land Inventory rates this land according to different soil characteristics, from soil with no significant limitations in use for crops (class 1) to soil with no capacity for arable culture or permanent pasture (class 7). According to farmers, the best soils are classes 1 to 3.

”

Farmland is essential not only to the agricultural industry but to the broader Canadian culture, the economy, and the well-being of Canadians.

Ron Bonnett, President,
Canadian Federation of Agriculture,
20 October 2016

According to Statistics Canada, most agricultural land is found in the Prairies, Boreal Plains, and Mixed Wood Plains ecozones.² These ecozones are mainly in the Prairie provinces, Quebec and Ontario. In 2012, the Prairie provinces were responsible for 63% of food and fodder crop production; Quebec, Ontario, and Alberta accounted for 7% of livestock and poultry meat production; and Quebec and Ontario accounted for 70% of milk production, and 55% of egg production.

These figures support witnesses' comments that farmland helps maintain global food security and the sector's continued profitability.

Preserving productive agricultural land is critical if we are to maintain our competitive position in the international marketplace. It is also a very important moral issue, as the world needs to produce 70 per cent more food by 2050 to feed our growing population.

Norm Hail, President, Agriculture Producers Association of Saskatchewan, 25 October 2016

As witnesses noted, the amount of productive farmland varies by province; moreover, despite the land's use or potential for agriculture, it is not always used for such. Ted Huffman, a research scientist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Science and Technology Branch, said that between 1990 and 2010, about 3,000 hectares of cropland a year was converted to urban development. James Brennan, Director of Government Relations at Ducks Unlimited Canada, also highlighted the contribution of farmland to ecosystem goods and services. In his testimony, he said that nearly 20 million hectares of Canada's farmland functions as wildlife habitat, including natural grasslands for pasture, woodlands, and wetlands. Potential farmland is also used for industrial projects tied to energy production.

[A]s of June 2016, there were approximately 150,000 abandoned well sites on agricultural land in Alberta that needed to be reclaimed. [I]ndustrial growth in the form of oil and gas wells, plus batteries, gas plants, windmills, electrical transmission, and the roads that lead to the industrial sites, all continue to utilize farmland in the province.

Lynn Jacobson, President, Alberta Federation of Agriculture, 25 October 2016

CHANGES IN FARMLAND VALUES

Witnesses recognized the multifunctional character³ of the agricultural sector and the development of urban and industrial projects on farmland or arable land; however, they criticized the increasing value of farmland in Canada. Referring to data on farmland values from Farm Credit Canada, witnesses explained that farmland values vary from province to province. The average increase across Canada was almost 10% in 2015. The largest increases were in Alberta, Manitoba, and Quebec, where the percentages were higher or equal to 10%. In Canada's other Western Provinces, the approximate increase in farmland values was between 6.5% and 9%. In Ontario, it was close to 7%. In the Maritime Provinces, it varied between 5% and 8.5%.

Although witnesses acknowledged that the percentage increase in farmland values was down over 2014, some stressed the importance of the absolute level of prices. Statistics Canada data on the value per acre of farmland and buildings in 2015 showed that it was highest in Ontario, where it was roughly \$10,000 per acre. British Columbia and Quebec followed with almost \$5,400 and \$5,200 per acre, respectively.

² Statistics Canada, *Human Activity and the Environment – Agriculture in Canada*, 2014.

³ According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the multifunctional character of agriculture refers to the significant contribution of the agricultural sector to rural development, bioenergy, and environmental sustainability at local, national, regional and global levels in addition to its primary contribution to food security.



Committee members meeting with representatives of the American Farm Bureau Federation during fact-finding mission to Washington, D.C., United States of America

Saskatchewan had the lowest land value with almost \$1,200 per acre. In the other provinces, values ranged from nearly \$1,800 to almost \$3,000 per acre.

Witnesses noted that farmland values also varied within provinces for a variety of reasons.

There's a wide variation in the price of the land based on where you're at in the province and its relationship to the soil quality and the climate and blueberry land, with blueberries making up a large part of our industry.

Michael Devanney, Senior Policy Analyst, Department of Agriculture, Government of Nova Scotia,
2 February 2017

Increasing farmland prices are not unique to Canada. Canada's trading partners, like Brazil and Argentina, also face rising prices. Juan Sacoto, Senior Vice President with Informa Economics IEG, explained that in regions of Brazil, the price of land jumped by 150% to 300% between 2005 and 2015, Eduardo De Zavalia, a lawyer with Sociedad Rural Argentina, said that in Argentina, the price of farmland has increased by 350% to 400% since 2000.

During its fact-finding mission to the United States, the Committee learned that the value of cropland increased from nearly US\$1,600 per acre in 2002 to nearly US\$4,000 per acre in 2015 (an increase of 150%). In addition, as Mr. Sacoto noted, changes in farmland prices in Canada and the United States have been highly correlated over the last 15 years, which suggests a strengthening of the interdependence between these two markets. This correlation would also demonstrate why farmland values in these countries are influenced by similar factors.

CHAPTER TWO

FACTORS EXPLAINING CHANGES IN FARMLAND VALUES AND IMPACT ON FARMLAND AVAILABILITY

EXPLANATORY FACTORS

According to the evidence heard, various factors underlie the rising price of farmland, with economic, environmental and demographic factors being those cited most often.

ECONOMIC ISSUES

Economic growth in the agricultural sector

Witnesses said that rising farm commodity prices had an impact on farmland values. The increase in commodity prices has also led to an increase in farmers' incomes. These increased incomes, coupled with relatively low interest rates, have created relatively high demand for farmland among farmers in order to remain competitive by benefiting from economies of scale.

”

Our assessment of farmland values is influenced by a number of factors, some of which vary significantly between regions and provinces. These factors include supply and demand, weather conditions, commodity and livestock prices, interest rates, and the intended use of the land.

Michael Hoffort, President and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Canada,
17 November 2016

Continued low interest rates, when coupled with the cash receipts I just mentioned, have led to very competitive farmland markets in many regions and multiple bids on many properties, creating a seller's market. [F]or established farms, acquisitions to increase their land base and achieve greater economies of scale must make business sense based on the returns they can achieve from the market.

Ron Bonnett, President,
Canadian Federation of Agriculture,
20 October 2016

In supply-managed production, limits on access to milk quotas have also prompted farmers to invest in farmland. Significant increases in farmland values have been seen in Ontario and Quebec, where milk production is relatively high.

[A] phenomenon in Quebec and Ontario, in particular, has played a role: the lack of dairy quotas under supply-managed production. Dairy farmers unable to reinvest in quotas turned towards the acquisition of farmland, exerting pressure on land prices.

Pascal Thénault, Agricultural Economist, Faculty
of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, McGill
University, 16 February 2017

This increase in production capacity, through the acquisition of additional land and technological advances, is also warranted by the need to satisfy the increased demand for food from importing countries like China. As witnesses noted, changes in the dietary habits of emerging countries, particularly in East Asia, have increased import demand for protein foods such as meat. These changes in dietary habits have thus had an impact on the global market over the last 15 years.



However, some witnesses said that the agricultural sector's profitability has declined because of a slowdown in agricultural commodity prices over the past few years. This slowdown may also explain the decline in the growth rate of farmland value during the same period. This decline in the growth rate, however, does not mean a decline in value.

This is not to be mistaken for a decline in farmland values. Land values are still increasing in many regions, just not as rapidly.

Michael Hoffort, President and Chief Executive Officer,
Farm Credit Canada, 17 November 2016

The impact of payments made under Business Risk Management (BRM) programs on the increase in farmland values was also raised by some witnesses. During the Committee's fact-finding mission to Washington, D.C., officials from the United States Department of Agriculture said that payments made under federal agricultural programs could increase farmland values. In Canada, witnesses mentioned the possible impact of BRM programs on the increase in farmland values.

Witnesses also questioned the fair market value of farmland. According to some witnesses, the increase in farmland values is not solely the result of economic growth in the agricultural sector and the increase in land transactions between family farm operators. In their view, the increase in farmland values is also due to investments by non-agricultural interests.

Foreign investment

Farmers expressed concern about the acquisition of farmland by non-agricultural interests and the resulting effect on increasing farmland values. Other stakeholders also mentioned that foreign investors compete with farmers for land, which can have an impact on the production structure. These non-agricultural interests are financial institutions, pension funds, private investment firms and private companies.

These investors represent an increased number of actors seeking to purchase farmland, thus increasing demand and prices

Dan Mazier, President, Keystone Agricultural
Producers of Manitoba, 25 October 2016

These are not so much foreign funds as Canadian funds. The main purpose of those funds is not to practice agriculture, but to get a return on the investment. So that concerned us. [W]e believe that the business model of the funds that have been approaching farmers is not a model intended to maintain dynamic agriculture in Canada in the future.

Charles-Félix Ross, Executive Director, Union des
producteurs agricoles du Québec, 17 November 2016

Jean-Philippe Gervais, Vice-President and Chief Agricultural Economist with Farm Credit Canada, said that agricultural investment funds are likely attracted to the steady returns offered by agriculture production. This comment was echoed by Toni Gravelle, Chief, Financial Markets Department at the Bank of Canada, who added that these investment funds acquire land with a view to long-term returns.

Some private companies invest in the agricultural sector by partnering with pension funds in the form of sale-leasebacks. Tom Eisenhauer, President and CEO of Bonnefield Financial Inc., said that this type of investment is a way to reduce farmers' debts while keeping them operational.

We needed to reduce debt and to find additional capital to grow our business. We tried to do what many non-agricultural businesses do and arrange a sale leaseback. Simply put, we wanted to find an investor willing to buy some of our land and to lease it back to us under a secure, long-term lease so we could use the sale proceeds to reduce our debts.

Tom Eisenhauer, President and CEO,
Bonnefield Financial Inc., 9 February 2017

Other witnesses from British Columbia described foreign investment that is being used to produce agricultural goods for export.



Committee members meeting with the Honourable Pat Roberts, Chairman of the United States Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry during fact-finding mission to Washington, D.C., United States of America

[W]e have one more foreign company that has purchased 41 properties totalling 10,862 acres, and that is in a very small area. That is in the Nechako Valley, which surrounds the town of Vanderhoof. The company that bought that did so for the purpose of producing large square bales, compressing them and shipping them to China.

Mark Parker, Area D Director and Chair of the Agriculture Committee, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako,
7 March 2017

Despite investments by non-agricultural interests and concerns being raised by farmers, some stakeholders have downplayed the effects of this type of investment on the change in farmland value.

From the data that we have to date, foreign ownership does not appear to be a primary driver of increases in farmland values; in particular, it's less than 2 per cent from the first period in which we have been watching the data.

The Honourable Norm Letnick, Minister of Agriculture,
Government of British Columbia, 29 November 2016

Foreign ownership exists to different degrees across provinces, but in a province like Ontario that does allow some form of foreign ownership, it still represent much less than 1 per cent of ownership of total farmland, so that leads us to believe that this is not necessarily an issue in all the analysis and the data that we report.

Jean-Philippe Gervais, Vice-President and Chief Agricultural Economist, Farm Credit Canada,
17 November 2016

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Some farmers said that the environmental activities of certain conservation organizations, such as Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC), could have an impact on the price of farmland. DUC officials acknowledged that wetlands and drylands with ecological value are located on farmland in southern Canada. They added that the goods and services derived from these ecosystems are essential for the survival of plant and animal species, including threatened and endangered species. Although DUC owns nearly 405,000 acres, the organization said that acquiring and holding farmland is an expensive conservation method.

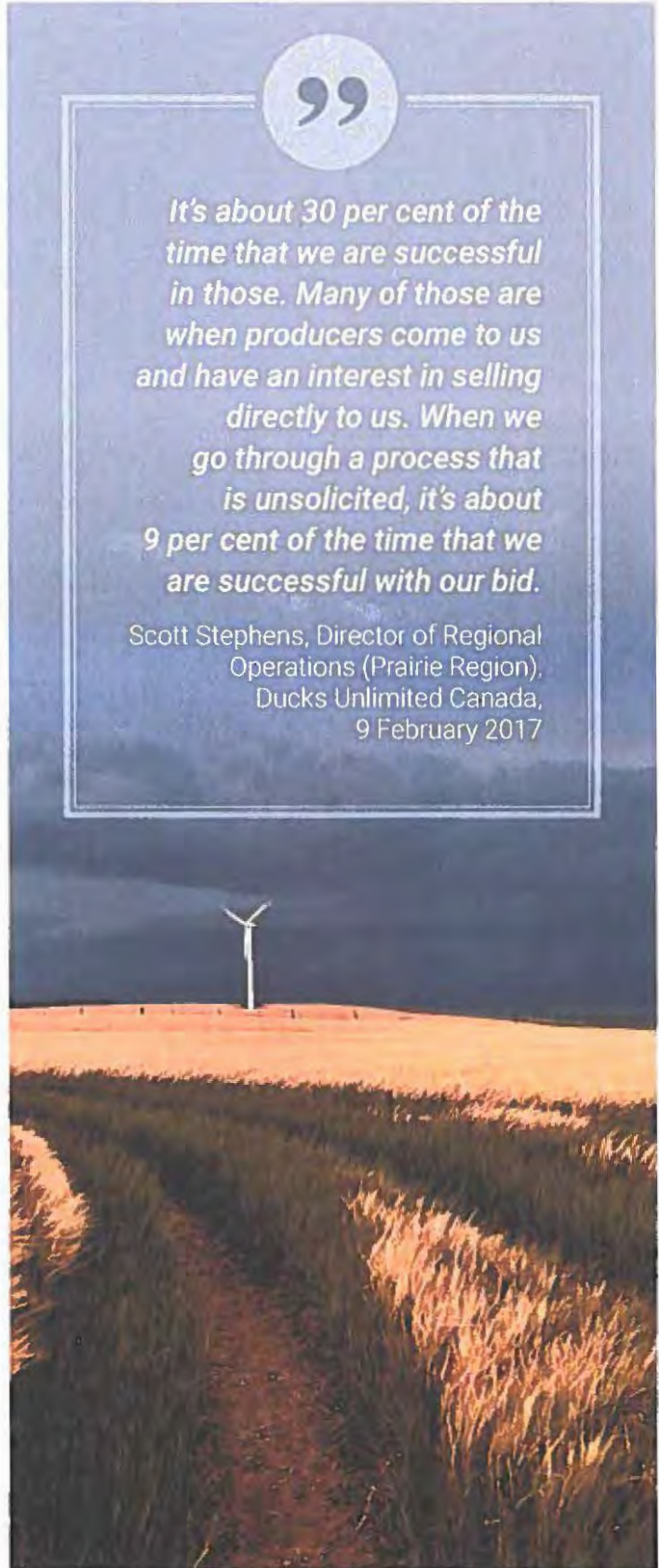
According to DUC officials, the organization's activities could have an impact on relatively small areas, but not on a large scale. DUC works with landowners and farmers to implement their conservation programs and restoration work. As part of these collaborations, they make payments based on the rental value or a percentage of the market value of the land. When DUC decides to make an offer to purchase land, it is often a result of solicited bids by farmers.

The multifunctional character of agriculture results in the adoption of provincial agricultural and environmental policies that, according to witnesses, have an impact on farmland values. For example, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) said that provincial regulations on manure management for livestock production imposed new restrictions and environmental remediation measures that require farmers to have additional land in order to continue their agricultural activities while complying with these regulations. Given the need for additional land, the CFA believes that the effect of this type of policy on the price of farmland should be determined.

”

It's about 30 per cent of the time that we are successful in those. Many of those are when producers come to us and have an interest in selling directly to us. When we go through a process that is unsolicited, it's about 9 per cent of the time that we are successful with our bid.

Scott Stephens, Director of Regional Operations (Prairie Region),
Ducks Unlimited Canada,
9 February 2017



The impact of environmental policies on farmland prices was also highlighted by the Prince Edward Island Federation of Agriculture, which believes that the increase in land prices in the province is linked to increased demand for farmland as a result of the mandatory three year crop rotation.

The three-year crop rotation would specifically deal with soil quality. It's not a hindrance so much as it poses challenges for people who have their operations set up to crop a certain acreage, let's say, for example, of potatoes. If you're set up to grow 500 acres of potatoes and you were on a two-year rotation, you could do that with 1,000 arable acres, but with the three-year mandatory rotation act, you suddenly need to have 1,500 acres of land because you need to have that row crop only one in three years.

Mary Robinson, President, Prince Edward Island Federation of Agriculture, 15 November 2016

In British Columbia, carbon pricing has prompted multinational corporations such as British multinational Reckitt Benckiser Group plc to acquire agricultural land for reforestation and carbon sequestration.

Another situation happening in B.C. is the use of ALR [Agricultural Land Reserve] land for carbon credits either on the carbon market or just as a statement of public trust. One offshore company recently bought up many thousands of acres of very good alfalfa land in the ALR.

Martin Rossmann, Member, British Columbia Agriculture Council, 7 February 2017

Other witnesses added that weather conditions could temporarily affect farmland values depending on demand. For example, repeated flooding in some areas has stabilized farmland prices.

DEMOGRAPHIC ISSUES

With the average age of farmers estimated at 54 in 2011, stakeholders said that selling land was a way for some farmers near retirement to have a source of funds.

Really, that's the only pension plan that some farmers have when they get out of business

Ron Bonnett, President, Canadian Federation of Agriculture, 20 October 2016

Farmland is sometimes sold for real estate development projects.

The pressure for urban development is strong, but even among farmers themselves there is not consensus. Many farmers are at retirement age, and they see an opportunity to convert that land. They get a higher price if they can convert to it to non-farm use

David Connell, Associate Professor, Ecosystem Science and Management, University of Northern British Columbia, 8 December 2016

As a result, urban sprawl from population growth is generally on the best agricultural land and plays a role in increasing farmland values.

The analysis of the land use and soils data indicates that farmland is being lost to urban expansion in Canada every year, with much of this occurring in Ontario, Quebec, Prince Edward Island, and British Columbia where the majority of Canada's best farmland is found.

Allan Howard, Manager, Agroclimate, Geomatics and Earth Observation Division, Science and Technology Branch, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, 16 February 2017

[I]t does suggest that proximity to urban areas may be playing a role in changing property values

Greg Peterson, Director General, Agriculture, Energy, Environment and Transportation Studies Branch, Statistics Canada, 27 October 2016

Despite the increase in farmland values near urban centres, some farmers feel it is crucial for agriculture to remain close to these centres so that it can continue to fulfil its role as a food provider.

The peri-urban is so important for feeding people.

Ella Haley, Assistant Professor, Sociology, Athabasca University, 2 March 2017



PROBLEMS ACCESSING FARMLAND

FINANCIAL CAPACITY

Increasing farmland values prevent some farmers, especially young farmers, from accessing farmland. This can affect their profits and the sector's economic development. As witnesses mentioned, the aging farming population means support for young farmers is needed to maintain the sector's activities.

Witnesses said that the limited financial capacity of new farmers makes it difficult for them to purchase farmland, affecting the growth and viability of their farms. The high value of farmland creates a barrier to young or new farmers.

”

On the whole, new farmers in Quebec are helplessly witnessing a growing gap between the market value of farm businesses based on asset values and their productive value based on farm revenues. This situation, together with increased indebtedness, makes it increasingly difficult for a young person to acquire a farm.

Michèle Lalancette, President,
Fédération de la relève agricole du
Québec, 22 November 2016

Established farmers also expressed concerns about increased debt load. Even though Farm Credit Canada says that farmland accounted for 67% of total farm assets in 2015 and Statistics Canada reports that farmers' assets outweigh their debt, farmers questioned their ability to pay off their mortgage if interest rates go up.

First, we are concerned about the long-term ability of farmers to pay for the highly priced land they are buying today. We have already seen commodity prices softening recently. [M]ortgaging land is a multi-year commitment, and markets, interest rates and exchange rates can rapidly change. Data from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada indicates that between 2013 and 2014, farm debt in Canada rose from \$78 billion to \$84.4 billion. More telling is that the average size of a loan approved by Farm Credit Canada increased by nearly 10 per cent from 2013 to 2014.

Dan Mazier, President, Keystone Agricultural Producers of Manitoba, 25 October 2016

Witnesses said that, because of the high value of farmland and financing issues, they had explored buying land in remote areas. Yet stakeholders questioned the feasibility of such plans, since most of the land suitable for agriculture is in the south and therefore close to urban centres. Moreover, cultivating farmland with little potential requires drainage, additional soil preparation due to excessive stoniness, and the use of fertilizers to improve soil productivity. These activities can be costly and may not reflect market prices, which can lead to a decrease in competitiveness.

In addition, the lack of infrastructure in remote areas makes farming difficult. With regard to telecommunications, some witnesses mentioned that the lack of broadband makes accessing data difficult, which can hurt the operational activities and profitability of farming enterprises.

TYPES OF LAND OWNERSHIP

Given the difficulties of buying farmland, some witnesses mentioned leasing as an option.

If you're an entrant farmer, basically land rental is the only way to get in and actually start, if you're going to crop farm.

Paul Glenn, Chair, Canadian Young Farmers' Forum, 20 October 2016

According to witnesses, some farmers will buy land and lease a portion of it to other farmers to minimize market risk, or retired farmers will lease out their land.

A lot of these retired farmers still own their land and are renting it back to the next generation or a neighbour's family.

Troy Packet, Vice President, Agriculture Services, TD Canada Trust, Canadian Bankers Association, 1 December 2016

It's actually happening quite a bit. We don't have the numbers, but in the interviews that we did there certainly was a lot of talk of farmers buying up land and renting it back out to other farmers.

Annette Desmarais, Canada Research Chair in Human Rights, Social Justice and Food Sovereignty, Department of Sociology, University of Manitoba, 24 November 2016

Other witnesses said that farmland purchased by investment funds is also rented or leased.

The result is an increase in the proportion of rented farmland. According to Statistics Canada, total area rented or leased by private interests increased from 2% in 1986 to 27% in 2011.

Stakeholders are concerned about this increase, since this type of ownership makes farmers employees rather than owners and exposes them to additional risks because of rising rents. They are also concerned about potential changes to the production structure resulting from the loss of family farms and a shift to large-scale farms.



Witnesses also highlighted the difference between leasing by farmers and leasing by investment funds. André Magnan, Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology and Social Studies at the University of Regina, said that landowners are investing in their communities while engaged in agricultural production but investors are mainly concerned with their return on investment.

However, Bonnefield Financial Inc., a private investment firm, pointed to the sustainability of its investments by mentioning that it is a signatory to the Principles for Responsible Investment. Under these principles, farmers are asked to provide data on their operations and how these operations might impact land, watercourse management, soil quality and fertilizer use.

Witnesses also said that intergenerational transfer could be another way to facilitate access for new farmers to farmland. Farmers close to retirement can sometimes decide to divide their land in order to distribute the various parcels of land to their children, thus reducing the cost of land ownership for new farmers. However, this requires good planning and a desire on the part of the younger generation to get into farming. Several witnesses said that this desire is tied to the sector's profitability.

PROFITABILITY OF THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

Some witnesses were of the opinion that the agricultural sector needs to be competitive in order to maintain its activities. A lack of competitiveness hurts farmers' incomes, which could lead them to quit farming or abandon land that is suitable for agriculture.

[L]ack of profitability in agriculture continues to result in abandoned land in underserved and economically challenged regions across Canada, resulting in the gradual yet often permanent loss of productive land due to lack of maintenance or competing interests.

Ron Bonnett, President, Canadian Federation of Agriculture, 20 October 2016

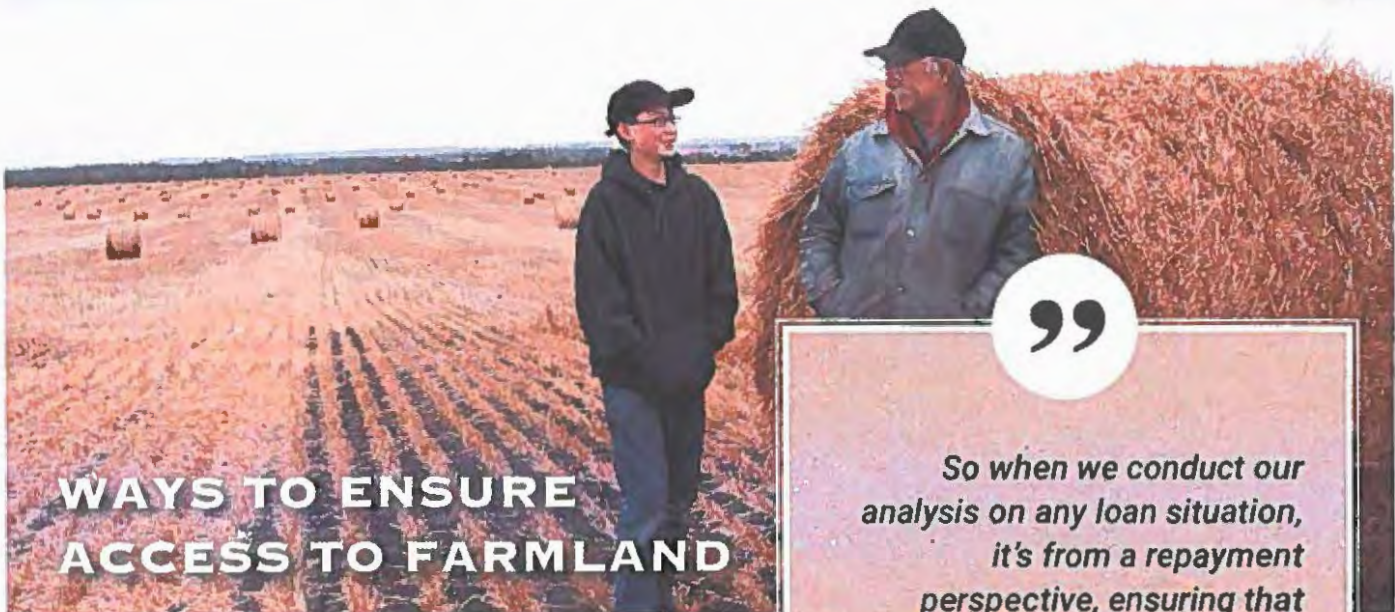
Lack of adequate infrastructure can also affect the sector's profitability and explains why land is abandoned.

Where we have seen some instances of abandonment, it's in areas of New Brunswick where we've seen it raised. The drivers of it are primarily a lack of appropriate infrastructure in the area and other primary processing facilities or other infrastructure or nearby production to make it economical for farmers in the area to really break that land again and bring it back into production. Primarily, we've seen it as a result of poor economics in some situations, and then the lack of appropriate infrastructure in the area to really make it a viable investment for farmers in nearby areas.

Scott Ross, Director, Business Risk Management and Farm Policy, Canadian Federation of Agriculture, 20 October 2016

Witnesses said that this abandoned land is now covered with forest; therefore, converting it back to agricultural land can prove costly. Market revenues would have to be high enough to justify farming this land.

CHAPTER THREE



WAYS TO ENSURE ACCESS TO FARMLAND

PRIVATE INITIATIVES

To increase farmers' borrowing capacity and make it easier for them to buy farmland, financial sector stakeholders have implemented a number of initiatives, which they outlined in their testimony. Farm Credit Canada uses its Young Farmer Loan program to provide farmers under 40 years of age with no-fee loans at affordable interest rates. Since its launch in 2012, the program has made \$1.5 billion in financing available to young farmers. In addition, the Transition Loan program helps young farmers start or expand their operation and helps established farmers transfer their farm assets to the next generation. The program allows for a down payment and payments to the seller to be spread over a maximum of five years. Furthermore, as Farm Credit Canada senior officials explained, the organization's lending meets criteria that ensure borrowers have the capacity to repay their loans.

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So when we conduct our analysis on any loan situation, it's from a repayment perspective, ensuring that there will be sufficient cash flows to repay the loan over the long term. Then the secondary source of repayment is the security, and in the context of this conversation, land represents a great amount of the security that we would take on a loan. We would have specific limits that we would set as to how much we are prepared to lend on a piece of security.

Corinna Mitchell-Beaudin, Executive Vice-President and Chief Risk Officer, Farm Credit Canada, 17 November 2016

Alex Ciappara, Director, Credit Market and Economic Policy at the Canadian Bankers Association, cited the support that banks provide to farmers, including advice on intergenerational transfers and the financing options available to young farmers. These loans must also be properly secured. Moreover, financial institutions ensure borrowers are Canadian citizens and are filing their tax returns in Canada.

We work with companies and we lend to any Canadian who is looking to buy farmland. If a person is coming into Canada, becoming a Canadian citizen and filing their financial statements in Canada, we will work with that individual or business to facilitate the purchase of farmland.

Darryl Worsley, National Director, Agriculture, CIBC,
1 December 2016

When we look at the requirements for financing land, we look for the borrower to have a down payment in that purchase, and usually that's around 25 per cent of the cost.

Gwen Paddock, National Director, Agriculture and Resources Industries, Royal Bank of Canada,
1 December 2016

However, some witnesses highlighted the need to diversify the sources of financing available to farmers by offering options such as leasebacks. According to Bonfield Financial Inc., this type of financing has helped over 75 Canadian farm families reduce their debt or make intergenerational transfers. Pascal Thériault, Agricultural Economist at McGill University's Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, added that this type of financing tends to be used by farmers who want to retire and are facing uncertainty about farm succession.

Other non-agricultural investors offer farmers partnerships to reduce the risks of farming while giving them the opportunity to benefit from economies of scale. This is the case with PANGEA, an agricultural corporation. Under its model of agricultural joint ventures, the corporation makes its land available to farmers, who can farm it while continuing to farm their own land. The profits of the joint venture are then split between PANGEA and the farmer.



In Australia, farmers recognize that foreign investors can provide economic benefits to their sector. However, they believe that these investments must be transparent to ensure that they do not have a negative impact on the supply chain

Essentially, the policy that the National Farmers' Federation takes around foreign investment into Australian agriculture is that we recognize the important role that foreign investment has played in Australian agriculture in terms of development, investing in and growing the sector [...] Should an investment go ahead and is foreign-based or foreign derived then we need to make sure that the investment complies with and adheres to the business plan or intentions of that investment in an ongoing way so that should the foreign investment be approved, there's some sort of process to make sure the investment is doing what it said it was going to do around water, land or the business itself and that it's contributing to the growth, productivity and profitability of the broader Australian agriculture sector and not having a detrimental impact on the supply chain bottleneck, whether that's ports, rail or parts of the supply chain where production and/or business comes into a narrow base

Tony Mahar, Chief Executive Officer, National Farmers' Federation (Australia), 7 March 2017

Other witnesses also acknowledged the value of foreign investment as a source of capital in addition to that provided by financial institutions and Farm Credit Canada.

If foreign investment is there to help provide capital to farmers who want to expand or young farmers wanting to invest in farming it might be another form of capital in addition to banks and Farm Credit that could be used to help them make sure they have productive operations

Ron Bonnett, President, Canadian Federation of Agriculture, 20 October 2016

In the same way, financing is being provided to the next generation of farmers to improve their access to farmland. That is the case in Quebec, where the Fonds d'investissement pour la relève agricole [investment fund for beginning farmers] is funded by a partnership that includes financial institutions and pension funds.

However, some witnesses said there is still a risk that land owned by non-agricultural investors will not always be used for agriculture and will eventually be sold for other purposes. Strengthening the legislative framework for farmland protection would make a major difference in this regard

We need to ensure that the right to farm our land is expressly respected and understood in federal, provincial and municipal legislation, and in regulations and government policy

Norm Hall, President, Agriculture Producers Association of Saskatchewan, 25 October 2016

PUBLIC INITIATIVES

Under the Constitution of Canada, the provinces have jurisdiction over the ownership of Canada's farmland.

The responsibility for land-use planning is a provincial responsibility, which is dedicated to local government. Constitutionally, the federal government does not have that authority to do land-use planning.

David Connell, Associate Professor, Ecosystem Science and Management, University of Northern British Columbia
8 December 2016

Further, section 35 of the *Citizenship Act* stipulates that a province or designated person or authority can prohibit, annul, or in any manner restrict the direct or indirect acquisition of real property located in the province by non-citizens or by corporations or associations that are controlled by non-citizens. David Connell, Associate Professor of Ecosystem Science and Management at the University of Northern British Columbia, explained that, as a result, each province enacts its own legislative measures. The effectiveness of these measures in protecting farmland and its use varies with the legislative language chosen.

You'll see "must be consistent with" and "shall be consistent with," but you will also see looser language around "reasonably consistent with" or "generally consistent with."

David Connell, Associate Professor, Ecosystem Science and Management, University of Northern British Columbia,
8 December 2016

According to some witnesses, Quebec and some parts of British Columbia and Ontario have measures that enable them to more effectively designate and protect their farmland and its uses. Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan restrict land ownership by foreign interests. Saskatchewan has amended its legislation to restrict the types of investments allowed by tightening the definitions of pension plans,

administrators of pension fund assets, and trusts as non-Canadian-owned entities in order to prohibit them from purchasing farmland.

But David Connell pointed out that, despite these various legislative measures, Canada has been losing farmland for over 40 years now. Other witnesses added that measures to protect farmland and encourage it to be used for agriculture have been ineffective. They suggested ways that provincial governments could better protect farmland and its use for agriculture. These include tracking land transactions, establishing land banks while providing the funding necessary for improved use of this land, implementing a variable-rate property tax system that would reward owners who keep their farmland in production, or improving monitoring of unused farmland.

Witnesses also mentioned programs that make it easier to finance farm and purchases. These programs may be funded by the provinces or in collaboration with the federal government. Some witnesses pointed to tax programs for property transfers, including capital gains exemptions.

With respect to beginning farmer programs, provincial and federal agencies have lending programs targeted at beginning farmers that provide a discounted interest rate and lower down payment requirement for those entering agriculture. []. Tax programs such as farmland rollover, replacement property and capital gains exemptions are strong tools to assist in transferring the farm to the next generation of producers.

The Honourable Oneil Carlier, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Government of Alberta, 29 November 2016

The Committee noted that the lifetime capital gains exemption for qualified farm property is \$1 million. This tax exemption may facilitate farm transfers. However, considering the large average size of farms and the rise in the value of farmland, this tax

exemption is not sufficient to enable the financing necessary to increase the amount of farmland under cultivation and therefore keep farms viable. In this regard,

RECOMMENDATION 1:

The Committee recommends that the Department of Finance Canada explore the possibility of increasing the amount of the Lifetime capital gains exemption for qualified farm property to make it easier for new farmers to acquire farmland.

Tax exemption and property tax deferral programs are also offered in some provinces, such as Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Some provinces, including New Brunswick, and Newfoundland and Labrador, work with the federal government to provide programs that cover the cost of clearing land to make it easier to convert it into farmland. These programs are provided as part of the *Growing Forward 2* agricultural policy framework. In light of these programs and the upcoming implementation of a new policy framework, the *Canadian Agricultural Partnership*, the Committee encourages the federal government to continue funding these types of programs. In addition, the Committee noted that loan guarantee programs, such as the *Canadian Agricultural Loans Act Program*, provide easier access to credit for farmers and co-operatives in order to finance farmland acquisition, among other activities.

Besides the availability of such programs, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture emphasized that the implementation of regulatory tools should ensure stability and flexibility in the agricultural sector. Furthermore, common land-use planning policies should be established.

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Given that Canadian provinces and municipalities are primarily responsible for farmland preservation, a common set of objectives is needed to develop land-use planning policies capable of preserving farmland into the future.

Ron Bonnett, President, Canadian Federation of Agriculture,
20 October 2016



Similarly, Dan Mazier, President of Keystone Agricultural Producers of Manitoba, encouraged the federal government to work with the provincial governments to develop such land-use planning policies.

In this regard, the Committee noted a number of federal initiatives to increase cooperation and information-sharing among provincial land-use planning experts. The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) funded a national research project on farmland protection. This project led to a national forum which was held in June 2016. According to the project lead, David Connell, this forum identified ways to support land-use planning policies at the provincial level. The participants also recognized that land-use planning is primarily a municipal matter. The options the forum identified include strengthening the capacity of the provinces and municipalities to use tools to support the legislative framework, using appropriate data, and increasing cooperation between provincial and local governments.

These kinds of actions would address witness concerns about tracking land transactions at the provincial level for the purpose of monitoring farmland use and ownership types. Some witnesses reported that such information exists at the provincial level, but that the analytical tools needed to make effective use of the data are lacking.

We can consult the information about a transaction that we are involved in. We can see the transaction prices using the official registries in each province. We can establish comparisons from land assessments. We can consult those data but they are not compiled precisely. So it is impossible to paint a complete picture of the situation.

Jean Philippe Gervais, Vice-President and Chief Agricultural Economist, Farm Credit Canada 11 November 2016

Some witnesses stated that access to appropriate technologies would make it easier to create soil maps⁴. In their view, such maps would provide a better understanding of soil condition and quality, changes in land use and ownership types. However, the Committee learned that some provinces, such as British Columbia, are taking steps toward creating these maps. According to Allan Howard, Manager of the Agroclimate, Geomatics and Earth Observation Division at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the department has imaging and remote sensing technologies that supply data to the National Soil DataBase. This database provides information on soil quality and productivity, among other attributes. Thanks to cooperation between Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Statistics Canada, the Census of Agriculture data is linked to the data from the National Soil DataBase to provide land-use data. An effort is being made to update the data at regular intervals or to improve the quality of the data collected.

The new farming technology advances such as precision farming are creating an increased demand for evidence-based decision making at finer and finer scales down to subfield levels beyond what is possible from the current soils database. In order to address this need we have initiated discussions with the provinces, universities and private sectors about a common integrated approach to increase the resolution of our soils data. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada is currently conducting research to develop nationally consistent farm field level soil data using a new approach called predictive soil mapping.

Allan Howard, Manager of the Agroclimate, Geomatics and Earth Observation Division, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, 16 February 2017

4 Reference to soil surveys.

The trick is tying the land use from using the Census of Agriculture to those specific areas. [F]or the 2021 census, it's being investigated to use mapping techniques where producers, when they're completing their census, could indicate precisely using a graphic.

Stephen Boyd, Unit Head, Agriculture Division,
Statistics Canada, 27 October 2016

In addition, Statistics Canada provides land-use information through its Environmental Statistics Program; however, these data pertain primarily to census metropolitan areas.

Nevertheless, agricultural stakeholders do not seem to be aware of these initiatives.

In light of these facts,

RECOMMENDATION 2:

The Committee recommends that

- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Statistics Canada and Natural Resources Canada continue to cooperate to improve the data on the classification and use of farmland; and
- Federal departments better cooperate with provincial departments in order to keep them informed about technological advances in imaging and remote sensing, and the way in which the resulting soil maps could assist provincial land-use planning.



First and foremost is having up-to-date soil mapping to understand what assets we actually have in Canada. There is available information on soil maps, but it tends to be quite outdated, often decades old.

Scott Ross, Director, Business Risk Management and Farm Policy,
Canadian Federation of Agriculture,
20 October 2016



Additionally, given the importance of information-sharing among provincial land-use planning experts and the fact that the national research project on farmland protection funded by SSHRC from 2012 to 2017 is coming to an end,

RECOMMENDATION 3:

The Committee recommends that Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada renew the funding for the national research project on farmland protection through the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. This renewal would encourage cooperation between provincial land-use planning experts and support the development of standardized analytical frameworks and tools that would enable harmonized land-use planning data to be obtained for all provinces.

With respect to the tracking of land transactions, considering that the Constitution of Canada gives the provinces jurisdiction over the ownership of Canada's farmland, the Committee believes that the provinces should put in place the measures necessary to leverage the data they have on land transactions.

RECOMMENDATION 4:

The Committee recommends that the federal government work with its provincial counterparts to take advantage of initiatives such as the national research project on farmland protection, in order to enhance the tools they need to better track land transactions.

Some witnesses reminded the Committee of the nourishing role of the agricultural sector and the need to have access to farmland in order to fulfil this function. To that end, some suggested that the land base should be taken into account in developing a national food policy to ensure Canada's food security.

I think that a growing population, expansion of urban areas and the need to grow food are irreconcilable. They need to be managed together. [T]here is also the mandate to develop a national food policy. A national food policy, without a connection or recognition that one must secure the land base in order to produce food, to me would be a weak policy.

David Connell, Associate Professor, Ecosystem Science and Management, University of Northern British Columbia,
8 December 2016

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada has launched a consultation process to help develop a food policy for Canada that covers such issues as increasing access to affordable food; improving health and food safety; preserving the quality of soil, water and air; and growing more high-quality food. The Committee believes the food policy should support access to farmland as a way to conserve its quality and productivity. Also,

RECOMMENDATION 5:

The Committee recommends that the federal and provincial governments work together to protect and promote the use of land for agricultural purposes.

CONCLUSION

A variety of factors have contributed to the rising value of farmland in Canada. The witnesses highlighted the importance of economies of scale, investments by non-agricultural interests, environmental issues and policies, demographic pressures, and an aging population as causes of this increase. Farmers, including the next generation, sometimes do not have the borrowing capacity to handle these higher prices. In this regard, the Committee noted the availability of financing programs that make it easier to acquire farmland. However, despite these programs, some farmers are turning to alternative financing options provided by non-agricultural investors. These alternatives have sparked concerns about their potential impacts on the production structure and the ability of farmers to own their operations.

Under the Constitution of Canada, the provinces have jurisdiction over land-use planning. Accordingly, witnesses suggested ways of enhancing the role of the provinces in this area. However, the Committee found that the federal and provincial governments should work better together to develop land use plans that would protect agricultural uses of land. The Committee therefore made recommendations to the federal government that would improve cooperation among the various levels of government.



APPENDIX A: WITNESSES

ORGANIZATION	NAME, TITLE	DATE OF APPEARANCE
Agricultural Alliance of New Brunswick	Andrew Lovell, Director, Board of Directors	November 15, 2016
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	Brian T. Gray, Assistant Deputy Minister, Science and Technology Branch Allan Howard, Manager of the Agroclimate, Geomatics and Earth Observation Division, Science and Technology Branch Ted Huffman, Research Scientist, Environmental Health, Science and Technology Branch David W. Lee, Manager, Canadian Soil Information Service, Science and Technology Branch	February 16, 2017
Agriculture Producers Association of Saskatchewan	Norm Hall, President	October 25, 2016
Alberta Federation of Agriculture	Lynn Jacobson, President	October 25, 2016
As an Individual	David Connell, Associate Professor, Ecosystem Science and Management, University of Northern British Columbia	December 8, 2016
	Brady Deaton Junior, Professor and McCain Family Chair in Food Security, University of Guelph	February 16, 2017
	Annette Desmarais, Canada Research Chair in Human Rights, Social Justice and Food Sovereignty, Department of Sociology, University of Manitoba	November 24, 2016
	Ella Haley, Assistant Professor, Sociology, Athabasca University	March 2, 2017
	André Magnan, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology and Social Studies, University of Regina	November 24, 2016
	Pascal Thériault, Agricultural Economist, Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, McGill University	February 16, 2017

ORGANIZATION	NAME, TITLE	DATE OF APPEARANCE
Bank of Canada	Toni Gravelle, Chief, Financial Markets Department Eric Santor, Chief, Canadian Economic Analysis	November 24, 2016
Bonnefield Financial Inc.	Tom Eisenhauer, President and CEO Wally Johnston, Vice President, Business Development	February 9, 2017
British Columbia Agriculture Council	Lynda Atkinson, Board Member Reg Ens, Executive Director Martin Rossmann, Member	February 7, 2017
Canadian Bankers Association	Alex Ciappara, Director, Credit Market and Economic Policy Janice Holzschere, Vice President and National Head of Agriculture, Agricultural Banking Commercial, Scotiabank Troy Packet, Vice President, Agriculture Services, TD Canada Trust Gwen Paddock, National Director, Agriculture and Resources Industries, Royal Bank of Canada Adam Vervoort, National Manager, Agriculture, BMO Bank of Montreal Darryl Worsley, National Director, Agriculture, CIBC	December 1, 2016
Canadian Federation of Agriculture	Ron Bonnett, President Scott Ross, Director, Business Risk Management and Farm Policy	October 20, 2016
Canadian Young Farmers' Forum	Paul Glenn, Chair	October 20, 2016
Ducks Unlimited Canada	James W. Brennan, Director of Government Relations Mark Gloutney, Director of Regional Operations (Eastern Region) Scott Stephens, Director of Regional Operations (Prairie Region)	February 9, 2017

ORGANIZATION	NAME, TITLE	DATE OF APPEARANCE
Farm Credit Canada	Jean-Philippe Gervais, Vice President and Chief Agricultural Economist Michael Hoffort, President and Chief Executive Officer Corinna Mitchell-Beaudin, Executive Vice-President and Chief Risk Officer	November 17, 2016
Fédération de la relève agricole du Québec	Michèle Lalancette, President Philippe Pagé, Inter-Regional Coordinator - South	November 22, 2016
Government of Alberta	The Honourable Oneil Carlier, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Darren Chase, Executive Director, Policy, Strategy and Intergovernmental Affairs Branch, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Tony Clark, Chief of staff, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Bev Yee, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	November 29, 2016
Government of British Columbia	The Honourable Norm Letnick, Minister of Agriculture Derek Sturko, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture	November 29, 2016
Government of Manitoba	The Honourable Ralph Eichler, Minister of Agriculture Dori Gingera-Beauchemin, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture Patty Rosher, Director, Boards and Commissions	November 29, 2016
Government of Nova Scotia	Michael Devanney, Senior Policy Analyst, Department of Agriculture	February 2, 2017
Government of Prince Edward Island	The Honourable Alan McIsaac, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries John Jamieson, Deputy Minister, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries	February 7, 2017
Government of Saskatchewan	The Honourable Lyle Stewart, Minister of Agriculture Rick Burton, Deputy Minister	December 6, 2016
Informa Economics IEG	Juan Sacoto, Senior Vice President	March 2, 2017

ORGANIZATION	NAME, TITLE	DATE OF APPEARANCE
Keystone Agricultural Producers of Manitoba	Dan Mazier, President	October 25, 2016
National Farmers' Federation (Australia)	Tony Mahar, Chief Executive Officer	March 7, 2017
National Farmers Union	Emery Huszka, NFU National Board Member and President of the National Farmers Union - Ontario	December 8, 2016
Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture	Mervin Wiseman, Board Member	November 15, 2016
Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture	Chris van den Heuvel, President	November 15, 2016
Ontario Federation of Agriculture	Don McCabe, President	October 27, 2016
Perennia Food and Agriculture Inc.	Wayne Adams, Special Project Co-ordinator	March 9, 2017
Prince Edward Island Federation of Agriculture	Mary Robinson, President	November 15, 2016
Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako	Mark Parker, Area D Director and Chair of the Agriculture Committee Gerry Thiessen, Municipal Director	March 7, 2017
Sociedad Rural Argentina	Eduardo A.C. De Zavalía, Lawyer	March 9, 2017
Statistics Canada	Stephen Boyd, Unit Head, Agriculture Division Greg Peterson, Director General, Agriculture, Energy, Environment and Transportation Statistics Branch	October 27, 2016
Union des producteurs agricoles du Québec	Charles-Félix Ross, Executive Director	November 17, 2016

APPENDIX B: FACT-FINDING MISSION

WASHINGTON D.C. - MAY 15-18, 2017

ORGANIZATION	NAME, TITLE
American Farm Bureau Federation	Katelyn McCulloch, Economist David Salmonsén, Senior Director Congressional Relations
Congressional Research Service	Ian Fergusson, Coordinator, Specialist in International Trade and Finance Mark McMinimy, Analyst in Agricultural Policy Megan Stubbs, Specialist in Agricultural Conservation and Natural Resources Policy
Embassy of Canada	Dan Abele, Head, Intergovernmental Affairs Mike Hawkins, Counsellor (Agriculture) Laura Lumsden, Foreign Service Officer Brad Wood, First Secretary Commercial Gilles Gauthier, Minister Economic and Trade Katherine Baird, Minister, Congressional, Public and Intergovernmental Affairs Adam Barratt, Minister-Counsellor, Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs
International Food Policy Research Institute	Joe Glauber, Senior Research Fellow

ORGANIZATION	NAME, TITLE
United States House of Representatives	<p>Representative James Comer Jr., Member of the United States House of Representatives</p> <p>Representative Rick Crawford, Member of the United States House of Representatives</p> <p>Representative Dwight Evans, Member of the United States House of Representatives</p> <p>Representative Richard Nolan, Member of the United States House of Representatives</p> <p>Representative Collin C. Peterson, Member of the United States House of Representatives</p> <p>Representative Ted Yoho, Member of the United States House of Representatives</p> <p>Representative Tim Walz, Member of the United States House of Representatives</p> <p>Kendra Brown, Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Director, Office of Representative of Dwight Evans, Member of the United States House of Representatives</p> <p>Darrell Rico Doss, Legislative Counsel, Office of Representative Dwight Evans, Member of the United States House of Representatives</p> <p>Christopher Jones, Legislative Director, Office of Rick Crawford, Member of the United States House of Representatives</p> <p>Larry Calhoun, Chief of Staff, Office of Representative Ted Yoho, Member of the United States House of Representatives</p> <p>Jim Goldenstein, Legislative Director, Office of Representative James Comer Jr., Member of the United States House of Representatives</p> <p>Randolph Briley, Deputy Legislative Director, Office of Representative Tim Walz, Member of the United States House of Representatives</p>
United States Senate	<p>The Honorable John N. Boozman, Member of the United States Senate</p> <p>The Honorable Amy Klobuchar, Member of the United States Senate</p> <p>The Honorable Pat Roberts, Member of the United States Senate</p> <p>Arian Beckwith, Legislative Aide, Office of the Honorable John N. Boozman, Member of the United States Senate</p> <p>Lindsey Kerr, Counsel and Legislative Assistant, Office of the Honorable Amy Klobuchar, Member of the United States Senate</p> <p>Anita Lyssikatos, Department of State Fellow, Office of the Honorable Amy Klobuchar, Member of the United States Senate</p> <p>Brinn Warner, Legislative Assistant, Office of the Honorable Amy Klobuchar, Member of the United States Senate</p>

APPENDIX C: WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED BY THE COMMITTEE

ORGANIZATION	SUBMITTER
Agricultural Alliance of New Brunswick	Andrew Lovell
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	Brian T. Gray
As an Individual	David Connell Brady Deaton Junior Annette Desmarais Grant Rigby
Ducks Unlimited Canada	James W. Brennan
Fédération de la relève agricole du Québec	Michèle Lalancette
Food Secure Canada	Organization only
International Food Policy Research Institute	Joseph W. Glauber
PANGEA	Serge Fortin
Prince Edward Island Federation of Agriculture	Mary Robinson
Statistics Canada	Greg Peterson



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Supporting Local Food Activism and Agriculture since 2011

Groundbreakers is planning to run for a second summer its **Youth on Farms work program** (formerly called Young Agrarians) in order to help build an experienced agricultural and food production workforce in the Bulkley Valley. This is a wage subsidy program organized by Groundbreakers to train and employ youth for work at various farms throughout the summer. The Youth on Farms team will be comprised of 2 to 6 youth age 14 to 17 employed by Groundbreakers and supervised by a Project Coordinator (age 20-29). The Coordinator will begin in June with farm site visits to go over the work activities the Youth Crew will be doing and to write up a work, training, and safety plans. This is a wage and training subsidy program whereby Groundbreakers will be the employer and provide training, WCB coverage, and shared on site supervision at farms in the Smithers/Telkwa area.

What the program provides to participating Farm/Food producer:

1. A supervised team of semi trained youth (first aid, WHMIS, Foodsafe, AgSafe) available to work a minimum of 4 days (6 hours/day) either continuously or on scheduled days throughout July and August
2. Work and safety plans (in cooperation with AgSafe) developed in advance with Project Coordinator at your operation that will prepare participants for the activities prior to start of work term. A farm safety assessment information package will be sent to farm in May/June prior to site visit by Project Coordinator.
3. A contract agreement to provide 2 to 6 youth workers with WCB coverage for an agreed upon timeframe with some flexibility in response to weather.
4. Introduction to a trained workforce for your future farm employment needs.

What participating Farm/Producers provide to the program:

1. Contributing payment to the equivalent of \$7.80/hr per employee paid to Groundbreakers as per contract and schedule
2. Input to written work and safety plans prior to July 1st
3. Commitment to a schedule that does recognize some flexibility in response to weather
4. On site training in each of the activities Youth Worker will be employed to do
5. A safe work environment
6. Agreement to a contract

If you are interested please respond now. **Scheduling of farm work placements will be done in order of responses received.** Please provide details for the following:

1. The type of activities for which you are seeking workers, including a breakdown of tasks (can include the full range of task from farm to market)
2. Preferred number of workers at your farm at one time.
3. Timing preferences: number of days per week and when –consecutive days or not? (give dates to the best of your knowledge)
4. What are the abilities and characteristics you require from a youth worker? This will help us in our hiring process.

Please respond my email or by phone to Jennifer Hegan at jheganwork@gmail.com and 250-846-5475. Questions are welcomed.

Thank you so much for your consideration and participation in this great opportunity to get youth involved in agriculture and to support your operation.



The Smithers Farmers' Institute proudly presents the 2nd annual

Northern Agricultural Gala

Featuring the Train Wrecks!



April 28, 2018

Prestige Hudson Bay Lodge

Doors open at 6:00pm

Tickets \$40 each

Live Auction!

Silent Auction!

Auction items generously donated by local businesses.

Tickets available at Smithers Feed, Mountain Eagle Books & Prestige Hudson Bay Lodge

Gala sponsored by:

