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Joseph Williams, President  
BC Mink Producers Association  
3840 Teslin Drive  
Abbotsford, BC V2S 8C8  
Email: [josephwilliams\\_09@hotmail.com](mailto:josephwilliams_09@hotmail.com)

Dear Joseph Williams:

Thank you for your November 29, 2021 letter to the Honourable Lana Popham and Dr. Bonnie Henry regarding the decision of the Lieutenant Governor in Council to end mink farming in British Columbia (B.C.). I am pleased to respond on Minister Popham's behalf. As previously offered, Derek Sturko and Lonny Steward are available to meet with mink farmers to discuss their specific situations and needs.

The Ministry provided the producers in a November 29, 2021 letter a copy of the final Order in Council which made the regulatory amendments official. As was relayed to yourself and the other producers in that letter, mink breeding is now banned in B.C., effective November 26, 2021. You are advised that to purposely breed your mink or allow the mink to breed would be a contravention of the regulation. Additional fines of \$575 for each offence were also brought into effect.

The end of mink farming is being undertaken to protect human health from potentially adverse SARS-CoV-2 variants that could impact human vaccine efficacy. The Ministry has engaged with the Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, on the issue of SARS-CoV-2 outbreaks on B.C. mink farms. Dr. Henry and other health officials continue to have concerns regarding the threats to human health posed by mink farms.

Dr. Henry has stated that the risk posed by mink farms has increased due to the ongoing outbreak on one farm, despite worker vaccinations and biosecurity measures, and the spread of the highly transmissible Delta variant of SARS-CoV-2 in the community. Given the evolution of the pandemic, Dr. Henry has advised the Ministry that the health protection measures previously instituted on mink farms are not sufficient to mitigate the risks posed to public health.

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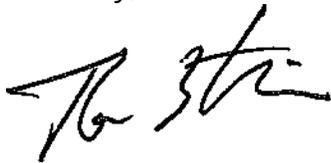
The Ministry will not be offering compensation to mink farmers because of this ban. We continue to want to work with producers to find the appropriate supports within existing government programs and support any that wish to transition to other agricultural industries.

The Ministry has been in touch with Canada and can develop an AgriRecovery response. AgriRecovery cannot replace lost income but should provide some level of assistance for decommissioning farms. The AgriStability program will provide some short-term coverage of lost income. We will make staff available to work with mink producers to explore what is possible regarding financial support within these existing programs.

There are government programs which may be able to aid in transitioning businesses. Again, we will make staff available to work with individual producers to discuss what options and programs may be beneficial. This process requires us to work with individual producers, rather than provincial, national, and international industry groups.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Ethier', written in a cursive style.

Tom Ethier  
Deputy Minister

cc: Derek Sturko, Inner Harbour Consulting Inc.  
Dr. Bonnie Henry, PHO, Ministry of Health