

MEDIA RELEASE

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Agriculture committee releases report on local meat production in B.C.

VICTORIA – The all-party Select Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fish and Food released its report on local meat production and inspection in British Columbia. The report makes 21 recommendations on the meat producing and processing industries, focusing on industry growth, abattoir licencing, and the development of a strong, skilled workforce.

“We appreciate the opportunity to speak with local farmers, producers and processors from throughout the province about the local meat industry,” said Ronna-Rae Leonard, committee chair. “It is our hope that the committee’s recommendations will lay the groundwork for a strong and growing local meat industry in B.C.”

During its consultation, held from May 16 to June 15, 2018, the committee travelled to five communities and heard 50 presentations from British Columbians around the province. The committee also received 36 written submissions and 74 responses to the online survey. The committee’s recommendations seek to provide support for B.C.’s local meat production and processing industries while promoting the interests of local producers, processors, retailers, and consumers.

“Throughout our consultation, we heard about challenges for abattoir licensing and inspection, slaughter capacity, and the recruitment and retention of skilled labour,” added Jackie Tegart, deputy chair. “The input we received was key to the development of the committee’s recommendations.”

The committee will present its report to the legislative assembly in October. More information about the committee and its report is available online: www.leg.bc.ca/cmt/aff

The members of the committee are:

Ronna-Rae Leonard, MLA Courtenay-Comox (chair)

Jackie Tegart, MLA Fraser-Nicola (deputy chair)

Donna Barnett, MLA Cariboo-Chilcotin

Mike Morris, MLA Prince George-Mackenzie

Adam Olsen, MLA Saanich North and the Islands

Ian Paton, MLA Delta South

Doug Routley, MLA Nanaimo-North Cowichan

Nicholas Simons, MLA Powell River-Sunshine Coast

Rachna Singh, MLA Surrey-Green Timbers

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