



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA



September 8th, 2017
Hon. Lana Popham
Minister of Agriculture
Room 325, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC
V8V 1X4

Dr. Andrew Weaver MLA
Oak Bay-Gordon Head

Dear Minister Popham,

I'm writing to inquire as to what the B.C. government is planning to do to promote and facilitate the transition from ocean based fish farms to land based closed containment systems.

The BC NDP election platform states:

We will ensure that the salmon farming industry does not endanger wild salmon by implementing the recommendations of the Cohen Commission, keeping farm sites out of important salmon migration routes, and supporting research and transparent monitoring to minimize the risk of disease transfer from captive to wild fish.

Claire Trevena, the MLA for North Island and now Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure promised First Nation leaders in Alert Bay on April 23, 2017:

“We will remove fish farms, we are committed to that and we can actually form government to make this happen and make sure that these territories and the North island are clear of fish farms”

As you are aware, open net fish farms on the migratory paths of wild salmon have long been contentious on the British Columbia coast. Concerns exist regarding sea lice, disease, escaped non-native species, and the impact these contaminants are having on wild stocks – many of which are already significantly depleted.

In recent weeks, tensions between some First Nations and operating farms has escalated in response to the salmon spill near the San Juan Islands. While action on this file is long overdue, a responsible and effective move to protect our wild salmon stocks now seems especially urgent.

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With this in mind, I would like to know the timeline over which your government will move to transition open net to land-based closed containment systems. I understand that many of the fish farm licenses are up for renewal in the near future. May I assume that your government will not be renewing these licenses in order to fulfill your election promises?

Thank you in advance for your timely response to these questions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Weaver".

Andrew Weaver
MLA Oak Bay – Gordon Head

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