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December 6, 2017

**Standing Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries
First Report of the Third Session, Sixty-fifth General Assembly
Committee Activities**

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly;

The Standing Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries is charged with matters concerning agriculture and fisheries.

Committee Membership

Permanent members of your committee are:

- Hal Perry, Chair (District 27, Tignish – Palmer Road)
- Peter Bevan-Baker (District 17, Kellys Cross – Cumberland)
- Hon. Paula Biggar (District 23, Tyne Valley – Linkletter) *(as of November 3, 2017)*
- Bush Dumville (District 15, West Royalty – Springvale)
- Hon. Sonny Gallant (District 24, Evangeline – Miscouche)
- Colin LaVie (District 1, Souris – Elmira)
- Bradley G. Trivers (District 18, Rustico – Emerald)

Former members of your committee include:

- Hon. Tina Mundy (District 22, Summerside – St Eleanors) *(until November 3, 2017)*

Kathleen Casey (District 14, Charlottetown – Lewis Point) served as a substitute member at the September 15, 2017 committee meeting. Chris Palmer (District 21, Summerside – Wilmot) and Jamie Fox (District 19, Borden – Kinkora) served as substitute members at the September 29, 2017 committee meeting.

Changes in Membership

On November 3, 2017, by letter from the Premier, Hon. Paula Biggar (District 23, Tyne Valley – Linkletter) was appointed as a permanent member of your committee in place of Hon. Tina Mundy (District 22, Summerside – St Eleanors).

Committee Activities

Since last reporting to the House (May 5, 2017), your committee met on two occasions: September 15 and September 29, 2017.

On **September 15, 2017** your committee met to receive a briefing on fish kills from Hon. Robert Mitchell and Kate MacQuarrie, Director of Forests, Fish and Wildlife in the Department of Communities, Land and Environment.

On **September 29, 2017** your committee met to receive a briefing from representatives of Atlantic Beef Products Inc (ABP). Your committee had previously requested this briefing, to which ABP agreed but asked that it be held in private in order to protect competitive business information; your committee agreed to this request, and thus the meeting was held *in camera*.

Recommendation

1. Your committee recommends that Government work with PEI Cattle Producers and the Maritime Beef Council toward the establishment of a risk management program for PEI beef producers.

A risk management program would act as a safety net to ensure that PEI beef producers can recover the cost of production, at minimum, on their beef cattle while withstanding risks that are beyond their control, like fluctuating costs and commodity prices. Having this form of insurance will allow producers to be more competitive in bidding on feeder cattle and have greater confidence in expanding their herds. It may act as an additional incentive toward bringing new entrants to the industry. Other provinces have risk management programs in place in their beef industries, and there may be opportunities to join those programs or partner with other provinces to establish a new program. Some risk management programs are entirely producer driven, and that may be the most appropriate approach for PEI as well; your committee simply recommends that Government do what it can to help beef producers establish this form of support.

Conclusion

Your committee thanks the individuals and groups that shared their views on agriculture and fisheries with the committee.

Respectfully submitted,



Hal Perry, MLA
Chair
Standing Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries