



September 20, 2024

Greetings,

**Subject: Consultation and Engagement on the Government of Canada's
Draft Salmon Aquaculture Transition Plan for British Columbia**

As the Government of Canada's lead for the upcoming consultation and engagement process for salmon aquaculture transition in British Columbia (B.C.), I am writing to provide you with a copy of the draft Salmon Aquaculture Transition Plan for British Columbia (Draft Plan).

The Draft Plan lays out the next steps toward a sustainable, innovative, and thriving aquaculture sector for B.C., and will serve as the basis for engagement. It focuses on four themes:

- how to support First Nations, workers, and communities in this transition;
- identifying economic supports for the use of innovative and clean aquaculture technology;
- milestones, principles, and criteria for the phase down of salmon open net-pen aquaculture over the five-year licence period; and
- management of open net-pen salmon aquaculture until the ban is fully implemented.

Recognizing the significance of salmon aquaculture in B.C., on behalf of the Government of Canada, I am committed to lead this consultation and engagement process with First Nations, coastal communities, and industry following the announcement on June 19 that the government will ban open net-pen salmon aquaculture in coastal B.C., effective June 30, 2029.

...2

Together, we will work to ensure a responsible, realistic, and achievable transition from open net-pen salmon aquaculture. This will include exploring economic opportunities focused on the adoption of innovative and sustainable technologies.

In this collaborative effort, I will be supported by an interdepartmental task force, which will act as a Government of Canada secretariat, under the leadership of Deputy Minister Sony Perron. This interdepartmental task force will contribute expertise from across the Government of Canada in reconciliation, economic and community development, green technology, innovation, and aquaculture management. We will be in contact with you shortly to discuss next steps, but the task force can also be reached by email at ised@ised-isde.gc.ca.

I look forward to meeting with you over the coming months to chart a path forward on a sustainable, innovative, and prosperous aquaculture sector for B.C. and to identify the supports required to ensure the plan's successful implementation. These will be further articulated in a final Transition Plan in 2025, following our work together.

In closing, I wish to reaffirm the Government of Canada's commitment to working with the Province of British Columbia, affected First Nations, coastal communities, all workers and affected businesses, and other parties throughout this transitional period.

Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Turnbull', is positioned above the printed name.

Ryan Turnbull, M.P.

Email contact: ised@ised-isde.gc.ca

Attachment: Government of Canada's draft Salmon Aquaculture Transition Plan for British Columbia

c.c.: Sony Perron, Deputy Minister of Economic Development, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada
sony.perron@ised-isde.gc.ca