



# BC SALMON FARMERS®

September 9, 2021

Dear Candidate,

Congratulations for being nominated as a candidate in the upcoming Federal election. We are reaching out to offer you the opportunity to learn first-hand about the critical social, economic, and environmental roles that salmon aquaculture plays in the riding you hope to have the honour to represent.

**Ready to Support the Post-Covid Economic Recovery of Coastal Communities:**

Today, salmon aquaculture supports thousands of full-time, year-round essentially designated jobs in Indigenous and non-Indigenous rural coastal communities on Vancouver Island, Central Coast, and Sunshine Coast communities.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, our sector has continuously responded to the challenge to support the healthy recovery of our province. Specifically, our sector donated more than 120,000 pounds of salmon (equivalent to half a million meals) to local, provincial, and national food banks at a time of crisis.

With certainty and a secure future, BC's salmon aquaculture sector could invest an additional \$1.4 billion in innovation and create nearly 10,000 new full-time jobs by 2050 (learn more about our [COVID-19 Recovery Plan](#)).

**Caring Deeply About Salmon, the Environment, and Local Communities:**

Like most British Columbians, our sector is passionate about iconic wild Pacific salmon, and our pristine wilderness. The Department of Fisheries and Ocean's Canada (DFO), and the much referenced Cohen Commission, have concluded that [salmon farms do not pose more than a minimal risk to wild Pacific salmon](#). Third-party, independent monitoring conducted on behalf of industry also supports these findings, showing that salmon farming demonstrates minimal impacts on the marine ecosystem. Wild salmon and salmon farming can co-exist and there is no need for it to be one or the other on our coast. Through ongoing support - including both financial support and employee participation - BC salmon aquaculture is leading the way when it comes to partnerships aimed at restoring and enhancing critical wild salmon habitat. Our companies have decades worth of science, knowledge, experience, and resources available – which they share with local enhancement organizations and First nations to support the recovery of the iconic wild salmon runs and populations of BC. Our members have also partnered to remove hundreds of tonnes of debris and plastics from BC coastlines and waters.

In a time of increasing pressures on wild fish stocks from a growing global population, salmon aquaculture alleviates fishing pressures, while providing a responsibly raised, healthy protein, creating opportunities for the Canadian seafood economy. Frequent consumption of farmed salmon is recommended by dietary researchers as the best option due to nutrient density, low mercury levels, affordability, and availability.

Through our work with Indigenous partners, we are helping the provincial and federal government pioneer programs which reflect true reconciliation in action. We are also providing Canadians and the world with a protein which could help Canada meet its carbon reduction targets, as we have one of the smallest carbon-footprints of any farmed protein.

**Salmon Aquaculture in B.C.:**

At present, BC salmon aquaculture employs thousands of full-time year-round jobs and generates \$1.6 billion in total economic output. To start getting to know us, check out the impact we have on BC's coast, and your riding in particular – view our interactive map [here](#).

Some other **interesting facts about salmon aquaculture in British Columbia** you might not know:

**Key Facts:**

- ☑ Farmed-raised salmon has one of the **lowest carbon-footprints of any farmed protein**, making it a healthy, earth and climate friendly choice for Canadians
- ☑ Over 80% of salmon farmed in B.C. is done in **agreement with local First Nations**
- ☑ BC salmon farmers are Investing and developing **world-leading precision ocean technologies**
- ☑ In BC, the industry creates **thousands of well-paid, full-time, year-round rural coastal jobs**
- ☑ Youngest food-producing workforce in Canada, of which **two-thirds are under the age of 35**
- ☑ **\$1.6 billion** in total economic output
- ☑ **\$89 million** in annual federal, provincial, and municipal taxes
- ☑ **Committed to DRIPA** (Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act)
- ☑ BC salmon farmers align with several **UN Sustainable Development Goals** including #2: Zero Hunger, #12: Responsible Production and Consumption, #13: Climate Change, and #14: Life Below Water
- ☑ Contribute to **Food Security** by producing 353 million meals of high-quality protein annually, which equates to 6.8 million meals each week
- ☑ Every salmon farmer in BC has been **certified** by at least one third-party sustainability organization
- ☑ Provides more than 75 per cent of the salmon harvested in British Columbia every year, **helping to alleviate pressure** from critically endangered wild stocks

**Global Leaders in Innovation and Technology:**

Last month, we launched our [2021 Innovation and Technology Report Update](#) which highlights innovation, progress and accomplishments made across the BC salmon aquaculture sector since our inaugural [2019 Innovation and Technology Report](#).

The report update highlights the BC salmon aquaculture industry's commitment to environmental stewardship, as it continues to transition towards cutting-edge technologies and innovations that focus on understanding and further reducing risk to surrounding ecosystems with wild salmon always being the top priority. The report emphasizes new developments being deployed at all stages of the salmon production life cycle – from land-based hatcheries, in-ocean farms, to fish processing.

**Part of the Solution to Combat Climate Change and Support Canadian Food Security:**

Farm-raised salmon has a significantly lower impact on the environment compared to traditional terrestrial forms of protein (chicken, pork, and beef) with:

- Approximately 1.2kg of feed is required to grow one kg of edible protein (Chicken: 1.7-2kg, Pork: 2.7-5kg, Beef: 6-10kg);
- Four liters of water required per one kg of edible protein (Chicken: 7,600L, Pork: 13,000L, Beef: 9,500L); and
- 0.6 grams of CO<sub>2</sub> created per 40g serving of edible protein (Chicken: 0.9g, Pork: 1.3g, Beef: 5.9g)

On top of our already low environmental footprint, we are continuously investing and innovating to further reduce it.

We understand you may be experiencing pressure to sign a pledge supporting the transition to land-based closed containment by 2025, but we ask that you speak with us before you make your decision. Learn more about who we are, what we do, and understand the real impacts of what you are being asked to support.

This election is an opportunity to forge new relationships that can lead to better decisions for the people who live, work, and keep Vancouver Island thriving.

Sincerely,

Your friends at the BC Salmon Farmers.

Contact:

Michelle Franze, Communications and Community  
BC Salmon Farmers Association

E: [Michelle@BCSalmonFarmers.ca](mailto:Michelle@BCSalmonFarmers.ca)

P: 604.202.4417