



**Core Program Review:
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries**

October 24, 2001

Core Functions

- Food safety and quality (including fish, animal and plant health)
- Environmental sustainability and resource development
- Risk management
- Industry competitiveness
- Fisheries management

2001/02 Budget

Total expenditure: \$81.80 million

Total revenue: \$1.00 million

Total recoveries: \$2.20 million

Matching Federal funding: \$68.60 million

FTEs: 392

Administers: 43 Acts

Industry Information

Primary agriculture sales:	\$2.10 billion
Landed value of fisheries:	\$0.64 billion
Marine recreational fisheries:	\$0.34 billion
Food processing sales:	\$4.80 billion
Exports / interprovincial sales:	\$3.60 billion

Primary agriculture jobs:	29,000
Primary fisheries jobs:	4,700
Marine Recreational jobs:	3,200
Food processing jobs:	<u>23,800</u>
Total jobs:	60,700

Province's Proposed Vision for the Industry

- A competitive and profitable industry providing safe, high-quality food for consumers and export markets

The Challenges Ahead of Us

- Other provinces and countries subsidize heavily and trade unfairly
- The farm and fish sectors expect government programs similar to other jurisdictions
- The public wants safe and affordable food and stable prices
- Fish, crown range land and foreshore are common property resources
- Weather and market risks will always be there

Prepare Sector for Change

- Improve business climate within province
- Press for freer trade agreements
- Move industry towards self-reliance
- Negotiate more favourable federal policies

How We Will Change: Food Safety and Quality

- Redirect resources towards increased oversight and risk assessment
- Change from prescriptive to outcomes based regulations
 - government oversight role for public safety and trade reasons
- Enable more industry led quality programs to increase market access
 - like the VQA and organic programs

How We Will Change: Environmental Sustainability and Resource Development

- Shift to outcome based regulation
- Help new approach work (MSRM and Community Charter)
- Push to harmonize federal-provincial regulatory processes

How We Will Change: Risk Management

- Phase out of income stabilization, encourage private sector options
 - subject to WTO agreements currently under negotiation
- Keep crop insurance but shift to private delivery in stages
- Full review of marketing boards underway

How We Will Change: Industry Competitiveness

- Discontinue direct grants
- Enable levy systems to support self-reliant development
- Shift from advisory services to partnered e-information to privatized delivery
- Maintain capacity to address trade and market barriers during transition

How We Will Change: Fisheries Management

- Enable economic growth in fisheries sector
- Secure sustainable aquaculture practices to enable growth
- Shift federal policy to balance fishing opportunities with conservation of the resource
- Revitalize the marine fisheries to increase benefits in B.C.
- Higher resource rents to province over time
- Streamline Fisheries Renewal BC functions into existing programs

Results of Our Strategic Shifts

<u>Shifts</u>		<u>Results</u>
Less government	➔	More competitive industry
Freer trade	➔	Fewer subsidies and trade disputes
Increased food safety and quality	➔	Increased public health and market access
Sustainable practices	➔	Industry Expansion
Provincial leadership in fisheries governance	➔	Better management of, and greater value from, our fisheries