



Agriculture and Fisheries
ANNUAL REPORT

2017-2018





Prince Edward Island
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Annual Report 2017-2018

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Minister's Message

The Honourable Antoinette Perry
Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island
P.O. Box 2000
Charlottetown, PE C1A 7N8



May it Please Your Honour:

I have the honour to submit herewith the Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2018.

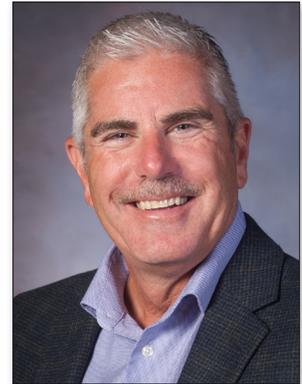
Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert Henderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert Henderson
Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries

Deputy's Minister's Message

The Honourable Robert Henderson
Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries



Sir:

I am pleased to submit the Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2018.

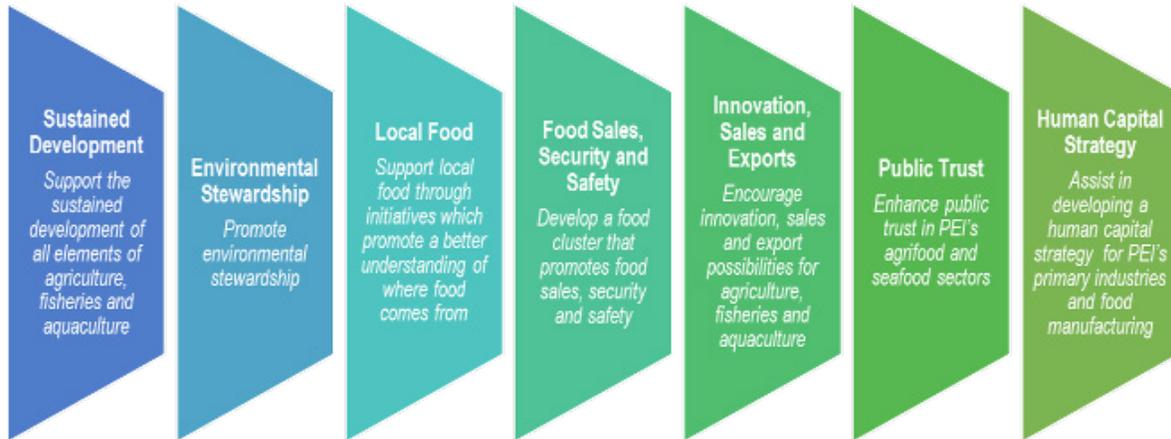
The report outlines the department's activities from April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

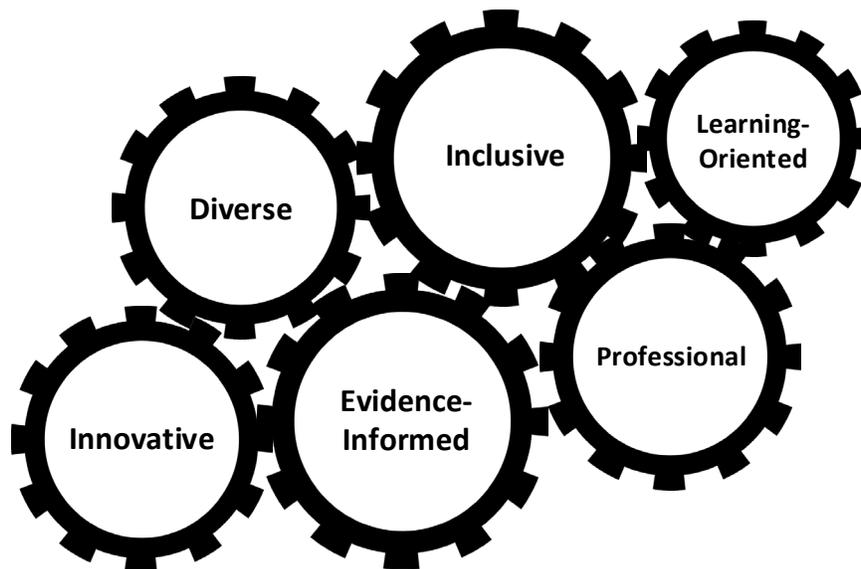
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jamieson". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and elegant.

John Jamieson
Deputy Minister
Agriculture and Fisheries

The Department's Goals



The Department's Organizational Culture

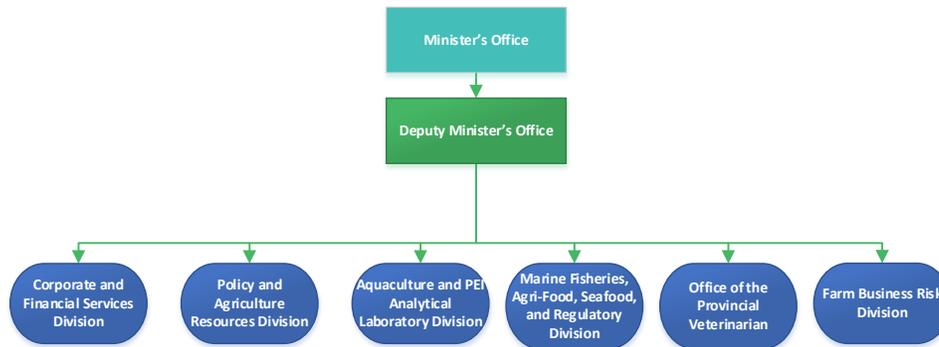


Introduction

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries works to advance Prince Edward Island's primary industries and its approach to food development, production, and sales. The Department's responsibilities include:

- Support the growth and sustained development of all elements of agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture in PEI to ensure economic and community prosperity and job creation, including strategies that encourage new product and new market developments;
- In collaboration with the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, develop a Food Cluster in PEI that promotes food security and safety through a robust private sector and leading research organizations active in the province;
- Develop and initiate a local food initiative that promotes better understanding and choice built on the strength and quality of PEI's food sector, including school-based programs;
- Actively protect, through leading science and community engagement, the means of ensuring the ongoing strength of our resource sectors and the promotion of environmental stewardship;
- Work with our federal partner and the private sector to ensure the active support of innovation, sales and export possibilities in agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture;
- Work with our federal partner and industry to enhance public trust in PEI's food sector by strengthening and building on existing programs and by supporting initiatives that demonstrate why PEI's agriculture and seafood sectors can and should be trusted; and
- In collaboration with the Minister of Workforce and Advanced learning, develop a human capital strategy in our primary industries and food manufacturing that helps prepare a workforce in these fields for the next 10 years.

PEI Department of Agriculture and Fisheries



Key Areas of Focus for 2017-2018

- The Office of the Provincial Veterinarian was added to the Department's organizational structure. This Office increases the Department's capacity to support the agriculture and aquaculture sectors in animal health protection, promotion, emergency preparedness, and animal disease prevention.
- Program development and renewal was a key area of focus for 2017-2018. In preparation for the Canadian Agriculture Partnership (CAP) with the federal government, the Department completed a broad range of program review and development exercises.
- The Department was issued a new Mandate Letter from the Premier of PEI. The Department updated its Strategic Plan to reflect these new mandates.

Expenditures and Revenue Summary

Division	Original Budget	Revised Budget	Actual Expenditures/ Revenue
EXPENDITURE BUDGET			
Department Management	\$742,400	\$694,700	\$665,959
Farm Business Risk Management	\$13,540,600	\$11,870,100	\$11,460,143
Policy and Agriculture Resources	\$9,110,200	\$9,732,500	\$9,547,699
Marine Fisheries, Agrifood, Seafood and Regulatory Services	\$4,460,400	\$3,855,200	\$3,707,362
Aquaculture and P.E.I. Analytical Laboratories	\$2,855,400	\$3,148,500	\$3,036,712
Total Expenditure	\$30,709,000	\$29,301,000	\$28,417,875
REVENUE BUDGET			
Department Management	\$3,581,300	\$3,581,300	\$3,582,784
Farm Business Risk Management	\$1,675,000	\$1,750,000	\$1,732,942
Policy and Agriculture Resources	\$23,500	\$61,900	\$109,425
Marine Fisheries, Agrifood, Seafood and Regulatory Services	\$312,900	\$226,500	\$214,224
Aquaculture and P.E.I. Analytical Laboratories	\$521,800	\$611,800	\$667,817
Total Revenue	\$6,114,500	\$6,231,500	\$6,307,192
TOTAL NET	\$24,594,500	\$23,069,500	\$22,110,683

Financial Information is based on the 2017/18 Public Accounts.

Overview of Departmental Divisions

Corporate and Financial Services Division

The Department's Corporate and Financial Services Division is part of the Department of Finance and has been assigned to the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to support financial management through the delivery of key corporate services. The division provides financial, budget, and administrative management for the Department. This division is responsible to assist management and other personnel with the budget process and regular financial reviews. As well, this division has the overall responsibility for the accounts payable and accounts receivable functions including claiming activities under federal-provincial-territorial agreements. Additionally, the division provides on-going support to departmental users of the ORACLE Financial Information System.

Human Resource Section

The Department's Human Resources Section is part of the PEI Public Service Commission and has been assigned to the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to provide direction, leadership, advice, coaching, and support with regard to all aspects of human resources and labour relations. The section ensures that human resource policies and programs are consistent and aligned with the Department's strategic direction, while also supporting the Department in advancing its mandate. It provides a full range of human resource services and support including human resource planning, classification, recruitment and selection, payroll, occupational health and safety, the employee assistance program, the diversity program, learning and development, and French language training.

Annual Report: 2017-2018 HR as of March 31, 2018			
<i>Division</i>	<i>Full Time</i>	<i>Part Time</i>	<i>Total</i>
Corporate Office	4	0	4
Policy and Agriculture Resources	29	1	30
Aquaculture and PEI Analytical Laboratory	20	6	26
Marine Fisheries, Agri-food, Seafood and Regulatory	15	3	18
Farm Business Risk	20	7	27
TOTAL	92	17	109

Demographics

	Female	Male
Average Age	44.48	47.01
Gender Distribution	47%	53%
25 Years of Service and Over	7%	6%

The Human Resource Section supports performance excellence and is committed to the development and sustainability of its human resources. The Department is working with the Public Service Commission to develop a new HR plan that will provide consistency across government. The planning process has incorporated government's strategic direction, critical corporate human resource priorities, and departmental HR needs.

Human Resources, Areas of focus for 2017-2018:

- ✓ Continued focus on talent development and planning
- ✓ Introduction of the Managers Dashboard for Managers' Self Service that will provide managers with a consolidated view of their direct report information
- ✓ Regularly communicated and promoted learning opportunities available to employees (e.g., Pathways to Learning; Labour Relations Training; etc.)
- ✓ Recruitment initiatives aimed to target relevant educational institutes, industry, as well as better utilization of social media to recruit
- ✓ Continued to encourage a supportive, safe, diverse, inclusive and respectful workplace
- ✓ Coordinated mandatory Records Management Training for all employees
- ✓ In conjunction with the Department's Policy Section:
 - Supported Gender and Diversity Analysis (GBA+) training for staff; and
 - Developed strategies for increasing bilingual positions (utilized program funding)



Policy and Agriculture Resources Division

The Policy and Agriculture Resources Division has a wide-ranging mandate which includes delivery of farm extension and sustainable resource programs and services for the Department; management of Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) planning; policy and program development and evaluation; stakeholder engagement; representation on Assistant Deputy Minister agriculture/agri-food policy and regulatory committees; domestic and foreign trade analysis; and assurance systems program delivery (on-farm food safety; traceability; biosecurity; and emergency preparedness). The Policy and Agriculture Resources Division is comprised of three sections: the Policy, Planning & FPT Relations Section; the Sustainable Agriculture Section; and the Agriculture Industry Development Section.

Policy, Planning and FPT Relations Section

This section manages the planning, development, and implementation of agriculture, aquaculture, and fisheries policies and programs and provides evidence-based research advice to the Minister, Deputy Minister and staff. The section supports statistical reporting, stakeholder engagement activities, strategic planning, program evaluation, and the management of horizontal initiatives.

Policy Section, Areas of focus for 2017-2018:

- ✓ Completed industry and public engagement for the development of programs under the Canadian Agriculture Partnership (CAP).
- ✓ Led the development of the bilateral agreement for the CAP.
- ✓ Organized and implemented a staff day to plan for the CAP and collect feedback from program administrators on lessons learned under the Growing Forward 2 (GF2) initiative.
- ✓ Continued to complete policy research related to the development of a Food Awareness Act for PEI.
- ✓ Provided support for the Department's business continuity management planning.
- ✓ Researched and developed a logic model, guidelines, and an evaluation framework for a Community Food Security and Food Education Program.
- ✓ Completed policy research in regards to fisheries inspections.
- ✓ Developed public and industry engagement guidelines for agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries policy development based on best practice.
- ✓ Planned and implemented focus groups with industry to collect feedback in regards to Business Risk Management Programs.
- ✓ Supported the transition of a new Minister.
- ✓ Continued to support the appointment process for the Department's agencies, boards, and commissions in cooperation with EngagePEI.
- ✓ Continued to actively participate on FPT committees and working groups related to trade (e.g., NAFTA, CPTPP), the CAP, program performance monitoring, labour, and statistics.
- ✓ Supported the Public Service Commission with policy research related to diversity and inclusion.
- ✓ Supported the Department of Rural and Regional Development with policy research and analysis related to the Rural Growth Initiative.
- ✓ Increased capacity to complete policy work through training on focus group research, change management, human-centered design, applied ethnography, public engagement, logic models, and project management.

Sustainable Agriculture Section

This section supports the agriculture sector in contributing to the priorities of clean soil, water and air resources, improved biodiversity, food safety, traceability and biosecurity by encouraging producers to voluntarily implement beneficial management practices (BMPs) and on-farm assurance systems through delivery of the Agriculture Stewardship, Future Farmer, and Assurance Systems programs.

The section provides technical assistance and advice related to: soil conservation, integrated pest management, successful and sustainable farm operations, and delivering programs that address risks related - but not limited to - on-farm and post-farm food safety, animal welfare, biosecurity, traceability, animal and plant health, emergency management, quality assurance, and surveillance.

Sustainable Agriculture Section, Areas of focus for 2017-2018:

- ✓ Education and promotion of Soil Health (e.g., soil health analysis and recommendations)
- ✓ Completed industry-based activities related to concentrated flow analysis for soil erosion control
- ✓ Assurance program activities related to biosecurity and traceability
- ✓ Integrated pest management projects related to wireworm
- ✓ Data collection for proper integrated pest management data-based decisions
- ✓ Program review of the Future Farmer Program

Agriculture Industry Development Section

This section provides resources to support agriculture industry development. Development Officers with crop and livestock commodity expertise are available to work with producers and partner with industry organizations and commodity groups on specific production related topics, industry development projects, on-farm innovative technology demonstrations, and applied research trials. In addition, the section is involved with the delivery of program funding.

Agriculture Industry Development, Areas of focus for 2017-2018:

- ✓ Educational extension workshops and knowledge transfer events (e.g., International Potato Technology Expo, Cereals and Oilseeds Workshop, Pesticide Continuing Education Training, Wireworm Seminar, Beef Feedlot School, Vegetable Information Session)
- ✓ Delivery of Growing Forward 2 Programs (in the areas of Research, Research Coordination, Innovation, Business Development, Livestock Development, and Organic Industry Development)
- ✓ Supported four sectors in pan-Atlantic research initiatives through a partnership with other provinces to advance industry research priorities
- ✓ Completed industry development activities to support the development of agricultural commodity groups and organizations, agri-businesses, and agri-processors



Aquaculture and PEI Analytical Laboratory Division

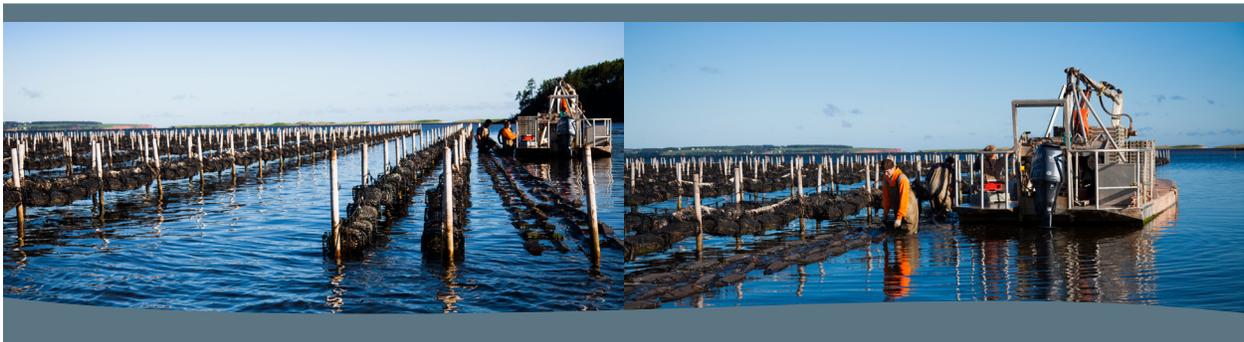
The Aquaculture and PEI Analytical Laboratory Division works to sustainably develop the aquaculture and shellfish industries while supporting agriculture clients with best management agricultural practices through high quality laboratory analysis of dairy, feed, soils and plant disease diagnostics. The Aquaculture and PEI Analytical Laboratory Division is comprised of two sections: the Aquaculture Section and the PEI Analytical Laboratories Section.

Aquaculture Section

The Aquaculture Section conducts a wide spectrum of activities in support of the aquaculture and estuarine shellfishing industries. The role of the section is to provide quality advice, assistance, and information to support the sustainable development of both industries. The section acts as an advocate for the PEI aquaculture and shellfishing industries, and participates on a variety of committees with the federal, provincial, and territorial governments and industry associations. The section is responsible for the delivery of both financial and technical programs in support of the sustainable development of the aquaculture and shellfishery sectors. Programs are designed to support sustainable growth, promote innovation, and support development and applied research. The section is also responsible for the delivery of monitoring programs that provide technical information required by industry.

Aquaculture Section, Areas of focus for 2017-2018:

- ✓ Renewed funding for the Aquaculture Technology Program and the Aquaculture Futures Program
- ✓ Worked with the PEI Shellfish Association to deliver the Shellfish Enhancement Program
- ✓ Increased funding, with the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, for the Quality Oyster Aquaculture Program
- ✓ Worked with the federal government to jointly fund and implement Year 1 of a 7-year, \$325 million federal-provincial investment in Atlantic Canada fisheries and aquaculture
- ✓ Continued support for industry through the Mussel Monitoring Program and the Oyster Monitoring Program
- ✓ Continued engagement through the Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers' committees and task groups
- ✓ Worked with the Provincial Veterinarian to provide services to support PEI finfish operations in meeting the requirements to transfer fish from and into the other Atlantic Provinces and beyond
- ✓ Partnered with industry, federal and provincial government, and academia on field-based applied research trials to sustainably grow shellfish products, including conducting analysis of water quality and optimal shellfish growing environments



PEI Analytical Laboratories Section

Located in the Bio-Commons Park in Charlottetown, the PEI Analytical Laboratories Section allows for a sharing of staff, equipment and supplies with the Department of Communities, Land and Environment. The lab is accredited by the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) for the international standard for the competence of calibration and testing labs, ISO/IEC 17025. In March 2018 the laboratory's accreditation was extended after a successful external assessment was conducted by assessors from SCC. This section has responsibilities for delivering high-quality laboratory services including:

Dairy Lab – The Dairy Laboratory provides microbiological and compositional analysis of raw milk and finished dairy products.

Plant Health Diagnostics – The Plant Diagnostics Laboratory provides disease identification services for commercial crops and home gardens. The laboratory operates on a seasonal basis from spring until fall.

Soil and Feed – The Soil, Feed and Water Testing Laboratory provides chemical analysis of soil, feed, water, plant tissue, and greenhouse media.

Water microbiology – The Water Microbiology Laboratory provides microbiological analysis of drinking water, surface water and waste water.

PEI Analytical Laboratories Section, Areas of focus for 2017-2018

- ✓ Agricultural Samples Analyzed in 2017/2018:
 - Raw Milk – 339,668
 - Processed Dairy Products – 664
 - Soil – 13,089
 - Feed – 2,932
 - Leaf Tissue – 2,473
 - Seed – 327
 - Special Products – 593

- ✓ Work continued on the Soil Health Project which had initially begun in the laboratory in the summer of 2016. This project was undertaken in conjunction with Dalhousie University (Truro campus), Agriculture and AgriFood Canada and PEI Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. The project is based on the Comprehensive Assessment of Soil Health (CASH) framework developed by Cornell University in Ithaca, New York and it includes active carbon, aggregate stability, nitrogen, compaction and respiration tests. Work on this project will continue in 2018 with the goal of eventually offering some of the soil health tests at the PEI Analytical Laboratories.



Marine Fisheries, Agri-Food, Seafood, and Regulatory Division

The Marine Fisheries, Agri-food, Seafood and Regulatory Division is comprised of two sections: the Agri-Food and Seafood Services Section and Marine Fisheries and Regulatory Section.

Agri-Food and Seafood Services Section

Agri-food services includes delivering programs and expertise to assist the agri-food industry in value-added food product development, market development, and strategic industry growth initiatives. The section also delivers programs in support of agri-food growth and promotion, agricultural awareness, buy local initiatives, season extension, and business development.

Seafood services includes the administration of licenses pertaining to processing, buying, and peddling under the PEI Fisheries Act & Regulations. The section is responsible for gathering, compiling and publishing fisheries information including statistical data relating to the maintenance and development of commercial fishery resources. Additionally, seafood services includes developing, executing, and participating in seafood marketing and promotional activities in collaboration with industry, other government departments, and agencies in local, national, and international markets.

Agri-Food and Seafood Services Section, Areas of focus for 2016-2018:

- ✓ Product development assistance for agri-food processors
- ✓ Agri-food growth and promotion initiatives to assist the agri-food industry
- ✓ Strategic investments to help grow the poultry and beef industries
- ✓ Seafood promotional activities, including: Best of Sea and Love Our Lobster
- ✓ Market Development support for agri-food producers and processors
- ✓ Support for agriculture awareness activities, including Farm Day in the City, Open Farm Day, and Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month
- ✓ Support for the seafood sector through strategic initiatives to address opportunities and challenges such as market development, labour constraints, new product development, productivity and automation



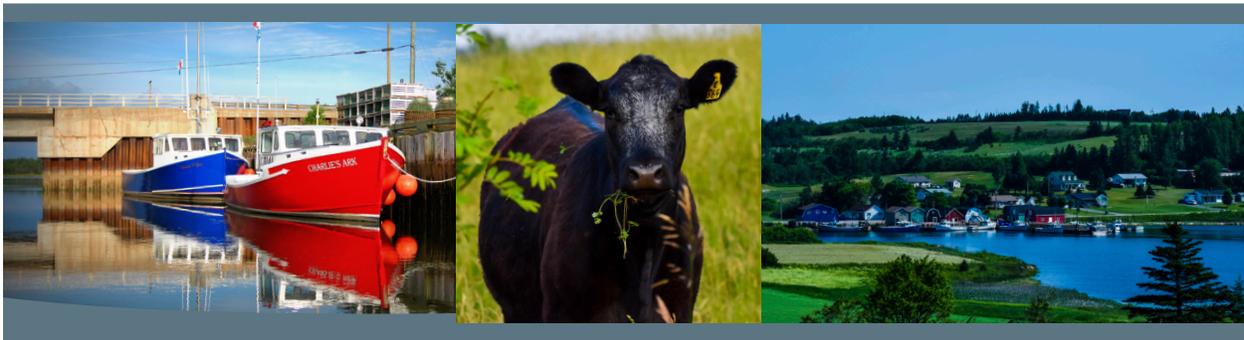
Marine Fisheries and Regulatory Section

Marine fisheries services includes representing the interests of PEI fishers within the federal advisory committee process and providing advice, assistance and programs for the commercial fishing industry. This section collaborates with industry, other government departments and agencies on scientific research projects and initiatives to assess the commercial fishery resources. Marine Fisheries coordinates the Lobster Resource Monitoring Program and delivers the Future Fisher Program to the benefit of industry participants.

Regulatory services includes managing the development, monitoring, enforcement and collection of information relating to the legislation for which the Department is responsible. The section undertakes the monitoring, management and control of regulated plant diseases, the enforcement of minimum planting standards, virus testing programs, measures related to seafood quality as well as animal health and protection.

Marine Fisheries and Regulatory Section, Areas of focus for 2017-2018:

- ✓ Partnered with the Federal Government to offer the Atlantic Fisheries Fund (AFF) to the seafood sector in PEI. Worked closely with all aspects of the seafood industry to promote awareness of the AFF and the supports that are available to improve outcomes for industry in PEI.
- ✓ Worked with the various sectors of the seafood industry to improve food quality and food safety.
- ✓ Supported the PEI lobster industry through the Lobster Resource Monitoring Program.
- ✓ Continued to support of the PEI potato industry through the Potato Wart Program and Post Harvest Testing Program.
- ✓ Continued to build awareness, understanding, and compliance with the agriculture sector and the general public in regards to animal welfare and plant health legislation.



Office of the Provincial Veterinarian

The Provincial Veterinarian's Office supports the agriculture and aquaculture sectors in animal health protection, promotion, emergency preparedness, and animal health disease prevention.

Office of the Provincial Veterinarian, Areas of Focus for 2017-2018

- ✓ Emergency preparedness and response
- ✓ Engagement in provincial, regional, national and international animal health discussions
- ✓ Finfish health surveillance activities
- ✓ Terrestrial animal health surveillance activities
- ✓ Animal health risk analysis
- ✓ Communication with industry on issues of national importance (e.g., traceability, food safety, and antimicrobial resistance)



Farm Business Risk Division

The Farm Business Risk Division is responsible for the administration of the Business Risk Management programs under the Federal Provincial Territorial Growing Forward 2 agreement. Located in Kensington, the PEI Agricultural Insurance Corporation (AIC) administers AgrilInsurance, AgriStability and AgriRecovery. The division is also responsible for AgrilInvest.

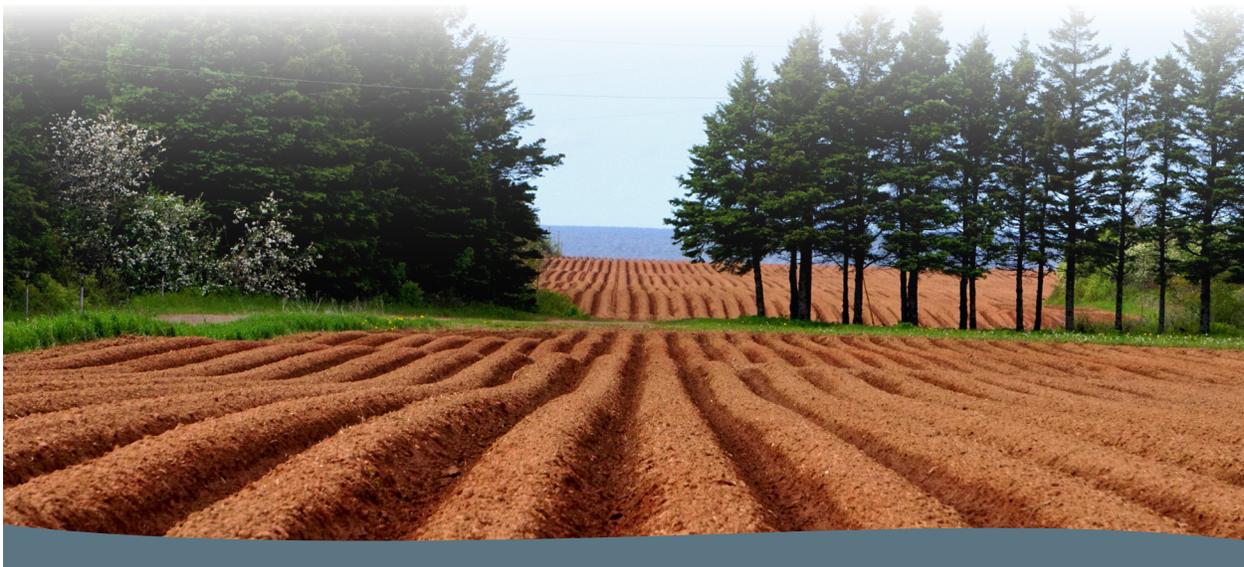
AgrilInsurance insures agricultural crops against production losses from specified perils (weather, pests, disease). It includes production insurance, color rider, un-harvested acreage rider, storage insurance, forage insurance, phytosanitary, and livestock insurance.

AgriRecovery is a disaster assistance framework and is designed to cover extraordinary costs of activities necessary to resume business. The extraordinary costs must be significant and beyond the producers' capacity to manage after considering assistance available through existing BRM programs, other federal and provincial assistance mechanisms, and private sector risk management tools. The program is requested by the Province when a disaster situation occurs which meets the framework requirements.

AgriStability offers protection against declines greater than 30% in farm income caused by circumstances such as low prices, rising input costs, and production losses.

Farm Business Risk Division, Areas of focus for 2017-2018:

- ✓ Continued application of the five-year federal-provincial guidelines for programming with a focus on increasing participation in the programs.
- ✓ Continued participation in various federal-provincial-territorial groups which monitor business risk management programs.
- ✓ Participation in various federal-provincial-territorial groups working on the upcoming five-year Canadian Agriculture Partnership.
- ✓ Involved stakeholders in a review of Business Risk Management with a focus on AgriStability to assess program effectiveness, impact on growth and innovation, and response to market risk.





Central File No. 445-20-01-2017
18AN35-50350