

October 3, 2019

Dear Federal Candidate in Newfoundland & Labrador:

We have worked together both provincially and federally. We appreciate your past support for aquaculture and the important opportunity in Newfoundland and Labrador, especially for marine salmon farming.

This is a sustainable sector that Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador should be championing and supporting. We are young and we will constantly improve. But we need your confidence, leadership and partnership.

Our national and regional associations are deeply dismayed by the news of the Liberal Party's commitment to require all ocean farming in British Columbia to transition to closed containment by 2025.

Besides being technically and economically impossible to achieve, investment across Canada is immediately threatened as farming companies seek to invest for the long term but with no confidence in government regulation or policy. Banks will also look elsewhere rather than support the uncertainty of the Canadian industry.

Industry experts have been involved in multi-stakeholder discussions in British Columbia with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, under the request of Minister Wilkinson, to develop a pathway for new technology. We did so with great energy and trust. The draft report almost unanimously – except for the environmental activists on the panel – agreed that closed containment was not a realistic option in the near future.

If the platform promise is fulfilled in British Columbia, the activist community will focus its efforts on the East coast to support their cause and Atlantic Canada will cease to exist as we know and enjoy it today. Coastal communities that are once again growing because of our industry will die.

It is up to you and we hope you will choose long term sustainable jobs and sustainable food production in small communities all across Newfoundland and Labrador. We ask you to fight back and show Newfoundlanders and Labradorians that you have their back and will fight to keep ocean-based farming not just alive but help it thrive.

We look forward to your clear public answer.



Mark Lane
Executive Director, NAIA



Timothy J. Kennedy
President & CEO, CAIA