

against a rise in interest rates, the text of which appears below, may be made by the Government upon the expiry of 45 days following this publication.

The purpose of the draft Regulation is to minimize the impact of a rise in interest rates on farming businesses whose main activity is mariculture.

To that end, it proposes to stabilize the cost of interest by contributing to the payment of half of the interest on the portion of the rate exceeding 8 %, over a maximum period of 15 years, on a maximum loan of \$250 000.

To date, study of the matter has shown the following impact on the general public and businesses, in particular small and medium-sized businesses:

— mariculture businesses will benefit from protection during high interest rate periods.

Further information may be obtained by contacting Marc Dion, Chairman, Société de financement agricole, 930, chemin Sainte-Foy, Québec (Québec) G1S 4Y6, by telephone at (418) 643-2610 and by fax at (418) 646-9712.

Any interested person having comments to make on the matter is asked to send them in writing, before the expiry of the 45-day period, to the undersigned, 200, chemin Sainte-Foy, 12<sup>e</sup> étage, Québec (Québec) G1R 4X6.

RÉMY TRUDEL,  
*Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food*

## Regulation to amend the Program for protection against a rise in interest rates\*

An Act respecting the Société de financement agricole (R.S.Q., c. S-11.0101, s. 34)

1. Section 2 of the Regulation to amend the Program for protection against a rise in interest rates is amended by striking out the words “, but does not include an aquaculture business in a marine environment” in the definition of the expression “farming business”.

\* The Program for protection against a rise in interest rates made by Order in Council 699-95 dated 24 May 1995 (1995, *G.O.* 2, 1649) was amended once by Order in Council 693-98 dated 27 May 1998 (1998, *G.O.* 2, 2140).

2. This Regulation comes into force on the fifteenth day following the date of its publication in the *Gazette officielle du Québec*.

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## Draft Regulation

An Act respecting the Société de financement agricole (R.S.Q., c. S-11.0101)

### Program of assistance for establishment, development and training — Amendments

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with sections 10 and 11 of the Regulations Act (R.S.Q., c. R-18.1), that the Regulation to amend the Program of assistance for establishment, development and training, the text of which appears below, may be made by the Government upon the expiry of 45 days following this publication.

The purpose of the draft Regulation is to facilitate the establishment of young mariculture producers, to encourage them to acquire adequate training and to promote the development of maricultural businesses.

To that end, it proposes to make farming businesses whose main activity is mariculture eligible for the additional contribution to the payment of interest, on a loan of up to \$250 000, for the first five years following the establishment of a young mariculture producer.

It also proposes to grant a subsidy of \$20 000 or \$30 000, depending on the level of vocational training, to young producers who are carrying out their establishment.

To date, study of the matter has shown the following impact on the general public and businesses, in particular small and medium-sized businesses:

— investments related to the establishment and development of mariculture will be protected against a rise in the interest rates;

— the granting of subsidies related to vocational training will increase the competitiveness of mariculture businesses.

Further information may be obtained by contacting Marc Dion, Chairman, Société de financement agricole, 930, chemin Sainte-Foy, Québec (Québec) G1S 4Y6, by telephone at (418) 643-2610 and by fax at (418) 646-9712.

Any interested person having comments to make on the matter is asked to send them in writing, before the expiry of the 45-day period, to the undersigned, 200, chemin Sainte-Foy, 12<sup>e</sup> étage, Québec (Québec) G1R 4X6.

RÉMY TRUDEL,  
*Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food*

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## **Regulation to amend the Program of assistance for establishment, development and training\***

An Act respecting the Société de financement agricole (R.S.Q., c. S-11.0101, s. 34)

1. Section 2 of the Regulation to amend the Program of assistance for establishment, development and training is amended by striking out the words “, but does not include a business practising aquaculture in a marine environment” in the definition of the expression “farming business”.

2. Section 5 is amended

(1) by striking out the words “a bachelor’s degree in biology or” in subparagraph 7.1 of the first paragraph;

(2) by inserting the following after subparagraph 7.1 of the first paragraph:

“(7.1.1) a bachelor’s degree in biology, in the case of an aquaculture or mariculture establishment;

(7.1.2) a Diploma of College studies in operation and production of fisheries resources, production option, in the case of a mariculture establishment;”.

3. Section 6 is amended

(1) by substituting the following for paragraph 7.1:

“(7.1) a Diploma of College studies in natural environment techniques, aquaculture option, in the case of a mariculture establishment;”;

(2) by inserting the following after paragraph 7.1:

(7.2) a Secondary School Vocational Diploma in the aquaculture sector, in the case of an aquaculture or mariculture establishment;”.

4. This Regulation comes into force on the fifteenth day following the date of its publication in the *Gazette officielle du Québec*.

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\* The Program of assistance for establishment, development and training, made by Order in Council 699-95 dated 24 May 1995 (1995, *G.O.* 2, 1649), was last amended by the Regulation made by Order in Council 208-99 dated 17 March 1999 (1999, *G.O.* 2, 355). For previous amendments, refer to the *Tableau des modifications et Index sommaire*, Éditeur officiel du Québec, 1999, updated to 1 September 1999.