

# Ministry of Agriculture

## 2015/16 – 2017/18 SERVICE PLAN

February 2015



For more information on the British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture,  
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Published by the Ministry of Agriculture

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*In November 2014, Premier Christy Clark announced \$8.4 million for a seven-year tree fruit replant program that supports grower's efforts to meet consumer demands for high-value, high-quality B.C. fruit*

# Minister of Agriculture Accountability Statement



The *Ministry of Agriculture 2015/16 - 2017/18 Service Plan* was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*. I am accountable for the basis on which the plan has been prepared.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'N' followed by a horizontal line.

Honourable Norm Letnick  
Minister of Agriculture  
February 5, 2015

## Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Agriculture (the Ministry) is responsible for the production, marketing, processing and merchandising of agricultural products and food; the institution and carrying out of advisory, research, promotional or education extension programs, projects or undertakings relating to agriculture and food; and the collection of information and preparation and dissemination of statistics relating to agriculture and food. The legal and regulatory environment that guides the work of the Ministry includes 31 statutes which relate wholly or primarily to the Ministry. A complete list of legislation for which the Ministry is responsible is available at: [www.leg.bc.ca/procs/allacts/agric.htm](http://www.leg.bc.ca/procs/allacts/agric.htm).

### **Ministry Vision:**

An innovative, adaptive and globally competitive Agrifoods sector valued by all British Columbians.

### **Ministry Mission:**

Cultivate a competitive and socially responsible Agrifoods sector.

# Strategic Direction and Context

## Strategic Direction

The [B.C. Jobs Plan Agrifoods Strategy](#) sets out actions in three key areas of priority to help grow B.C.'s agrifoods sector: focusing on high-quality and high-value products; expanding domestic and international markets; and enhancing industry competitiveness.

The Ministry's operations are guided by the Minister of Agriculture's [Mandate Letter](#) and the [Province of British Columbia Strategic Plan 2014/15 – 2017/18](#), in which the agrifoods sector is featured. The Ministry, the Agricultural Land Commission and the Farm Industry Review Board must operate under the new [Taxpayer Accountability Principles](#) – cost-consciousness, accountability, appropriate compensation, service, respect, and integrity – to ensure that decisions that are made reflect the priorities and values of government and the citizens of B.C.

## Strategic Context

B.C. has an enviable reputation as a leader in the production and processing of a wide range of safe, high-quality agrifoods products, and enjoys a strong local domestic market driven by the largest population of the four western provinces. The Ministry works collaboratively with B.C.'s agrifoods industry to improve the sustainability and security of B.C.'s food supply by improving production methods, enhancing biosecurity measures, and ensuring the highest standards in animal care and food safety.

In 2013, B.C.'s agricultural, fisheries, aquaculture and food and beverage manufacturing sectors employed almost 60,000 people and generated \$11.6 billion in annual revenue. The nearly 20,000 farms had total sales of \$2.8 billion in 2013, and employed 27,600 people. The 792 aquaculture operations had \$510 million in sales, while the 2,538 commercial fishing vessels had sales of \$300.2 million and, together, employed another 3,400 people. The more than 1,500 processors handled a wide range of agricultural and seafood products, employed an estimated 28,700 people and generated nearly \$8.0 billion in sales.

In 2013, B.C. exported \$2.7 billion worth of agricultural and seafood products to over 140 countries. There is a strong focus in B.C.'s agrifoods sector on maintaining access and competitive advantage in global markets, necessitating quick responses to changing market opportunities. As a result, innovation – including new product development – is very important in establishing and servicing niche markets and responding to emerging market opportunities.

# Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Measures

The Ministry's service plan is organized around three long-term goals:

- **Goal 1:** Agricultural and food sectors contribute positively to the economic diversity and well-being of the Province;
- **Goal 2:** An environmentally responsible agrifoods sector; and,
- **Goal 3:** Community and social well-being are enhanced by responsible agricultural and food sector practices.

The Ministry is committed to supporting government's strategic priorities for a strong economy and a secure tomorrow, as laid out in the Minister of Agriculture's *Mandate Letter* and the *Province of British Columbia Strategic Plan 2014/15 – 2017/18*. The priorities in the Minister's *Mandate Letter* as well as in the above plans are consolidated and reflected in this service plan.

Through the implementation of the new *Taxpayer Accountability Principles*, the Ministry is strengthening cost management capabilities and fostering a principled culture of efficiency and accountability at all levels to ensure that this service plan is delivered in a way that best serves the public interest.

## **Goal 1: Agricultural and food sectors contribute positively to the economic diversity and well-being of the Province**

### **Objective 1.1: An economically sustainable agricultural and food sector.**

The Ministry supports sector profitability and self-reliance through programs and services that provide producers and processors with tools to adapt and sustain their businesses in the face of environmental and market risk.

### **Strategies**

- Promote, deliver and improve national business risk management programs and services.
- Provide strategic business development leadership and build business management awareness, market intelligence, and capacity within the agricultural and food sector.
- Provide carbon tax relief to the agricultural sector, as committed to in *Balanced Budget 2013*.
- Implement a sustainable, long-term tree fruit replant program that supports grower's efforts to meet consumer demands for high-value, high-quality fruit.
- Support local food initiatives, such as the Buy Local Program and BC Farmers Markets, to promote B.C. products domestically.

- Foster industry responsiveness to new and emerging capture fisheries and aquaculture opportunities to enable development and diversification of seafood products.
- Develop a new Agrifoods Strategy in collaboration with the sector through the Minister of Agriculture’s Agrifoods Advisory Committee that will help increase production capacity, improve competitiveness and innovation, and expand domestic and international markets.
- Work with the Agricultural Land Commission and the Farm Industry Review Board to implement a new performance and accountability regime that is in compliance with the Taxpayer Accountability Principles by March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016.

**Performance Measure 1: Ratio of administrative costs to Production Insurance premiums.**

Performance Measure	2013/14 Baseline	2014/15 Forecast	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target	2017/2018 Target
Ratio of administrative costs <sup>1</sup> to Production Insurance premiums	20:80	20:80	20:80	20:80	20:80

**Data Source:** Ministry of Agriculture.

<sup>1</sup> Administrative costs include both fixed and variable costs.

**Discussion**

This measure indicates efficiency of government’s delivery of the Production Insurance program by comparing administrative cost ratios to the private sector’s. Production Insurance in Canada is delivered by provincial administrations.

The Ministry reports against a ratio of administrative costs to premiums, with a very tight, ongoing target of 20:80. B.C. selected this type of ratio because it is most comparable to the private sector. The value of private sector ratios for most insurance products ranges between 25:75 and 30:70. B.C.’s 20:80 target, with lower administrative costs than the private sector, represents a tight balance for B.C. between efficiency and resource requirements to protect the integrity of the program.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Production Insurance administrative costs must strike an appropriate balance between maintaining program integrity (premium cost) and administrative cost. If coverage and claim settlements are inadequate premium costs increase. Provinces with diverse types of crops and relatively low farm cash receipts, such as B.C., tend to have higher administration costs, than do provinces with homogeneous crop production and higher farm cash receipts. At the national level, three different administrative cost measures are used for comparative purposes: administrative costs to premiums received; administrative costs to value of coverage; and administrative costs per contract. B.C. uses the first ratio as it is most comparable to private sector insurance costs. The 20 per cent target is below private sector administration costs ratios and is set to strike the appropriate balance between program integrity and administration costs. In comparison, it is higher than the large agricultural provinces at just under 10 per cent but lower than the maritime provinces.

## **Objective 1.2: Strategic growth and development of the agrifoods sector.**

The Ministry encourages growth in the agrifoods sector through programs that foster innovation, competitiveness and improved market access.

### **Strategies**

- Facilitate access to new markets for B.C. agrifoods producers and processors by seeking resolution of trade barriers to B.C. agrifoods products in international and domestic markets, including interprovincial barriers to trade in wine.
- Help producers and processors capitalize on new domestic and international market opportunities.
- Work with the Minister of International Trade to ensure trade capacity for B.C. agricultural support is sufficient to secure additional Asian trade export growth.
- Deliver market development initiatives to develop and expand exports to the US; BC's largest agrifoods export market.
- Support innovative product and process development, commercialization and technology adoption.
- Work with the provincial cattle sector to enhance branding of B.C. beef.
- Support the building of industry capacity through enhanced access to relevant information and funding programs, such as the Agrifood Resource Guide.
- Work with the Ministry of Justice to enact recommendations pertaining to agriculture and farmer's markets as outlined in Parliamentary Secretary John Yap's Liquor Policy Review.
- Through the Seafood Secretariat, maximize the economic potential of the seafood sector by leading coordination of provincial roles and responsibilities to ensure a businesslike approach to supporting industry development.



## **Performance Measure 2: Annual revenue growth in the agrifoods industry.**



Performance Measure	2013 Baseline	2014 Forecast <sup>5</sup>	2015 Target	2016 Target	2017 Target
Annual revenue growth in agrifoods industry <sup>3</sup>	Farm Cash Receipts <sup>2</sup> \$2.784 billion	8% growth in farm cash receipts	4.8% growth in farm cash receipts	4.8% growth in farm cash receipts	4.8% growth in farm cash receipts
	Seafood \$0.811 billion	1.0% growth in landed value	1.0% growth in landed value	1.0% growth in landed value	1.0% growth in landed value
	Food and Beverage Manufacturing \$7.953 billion	6% growth in value of food and beverage shipments	4.8% growth in value of food and beverage shipments	4.8% growth in value of food and beverage shipments	4.8% growth in value of food and beverage shipments
Total Annual Projected Revenue	\$11.548 billion	\$12.256 billion	\$12.813 billion	\$13.397 billion	\$14.008 billion

**Data Source:** Statistics Canada, Cansim Tables 002-001 and 003-001 and adapted from Cansim Table 304-0015.

<sup>1</sup> For consistency, revenue growth is calculated using the actual published 2012 revenues rather than the three year average used in the 2012/13 – 2014/15 Service Plan.

<sup>2</sup> Farm cash receipts include crop and livestock receipts as well as direct payments to the sector.

<sup>3</sup> The agrifoods industry includes agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture, and processing/manufacturing.

## Discussion:

This measure reflects the growth in annual revenues by the agrifoods sector by monitoring growth in the value of farm cash receipts for crops and livestock, the landed value of seafood, and the estimated value of shipments from B.C. food and beverage processors. Revenue growth is an indicator of the contribution of B.C.'s agrifoods industries to the provincial economy. Targets are based on the average annual rate of change in revenues. Since these revenues are driven by market conditions, they are not wholly under the Ministry's control.

In 2014, the forecasted revenues for food and beverage manufacturing and primary seafood and agricultural sectors are higher than those realised in 2013. These increases reflect the rises in both average prices and harvest levels for many agricultural and seafood commodities. The 2015-2017 targets, if achieved, would see the agrifoods industry revenues reach the *Agrifoods Strategy* goal of \$14 billion in sectoral revenues by 2017.



*Some of B.C.'s 3,053 fishing vessels which harvest fresh seafood.*

## Goal 2: An environmentally responsible agrifoods sector.

### Objective 2.1: Sustainable management of British Columbia’s soil, water and air resources for agrifoods production and processing.

The Ministry supports the agrifoods sector to proactively address environmental risks and the impacts of climate change.

#### Strategies

- Provide programs and activities that identify and address critical agricultural environmental issues and enable adoption of beneficial management practices supporting environmentally responsible production. For example, the Agriculture Water Demand Model will be expanded to the Cariboo Regional District, Peace River, Shuswap and Creston Valley in 2015/16 to help ensure adequate water supply for food production.
- Support local governments through the development of and effective operation of Agriculture Advisory Committees.
- Work with the commercial fishing industry to maintain and expand world standard eco-certification, such as that set by the Marine Stewardship Council.
- Support improvements in the efficiency of water and energy use by the agrifoods sector.

### Performance Measure 3: Cumulative and annual number of Environmental Farm Plans completed.

Performance Measure	2013/14 Baseline	2014/15 Forecast	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target	2017/2018 Target
Cumulative number of Environmental Farm Plans <sup>1</sup>	3976 <sup>2</sup>	4176	4376	4576	4776
Annual number of Environmental Farm Plans completed	209	200	200	200	200

**Data Source:** Agricultural Research and Development Corporation reports and agreements.

<sup>1</sup> Canada-British Columbia *Growing Forward* Agreement (2008-2013) and *Growing Forward 2*, (2013-2018).

<sup>2</sup> The 2013/14 Base data are made up of the cumulative number of completed Environmental Farm Plans.

#### Discussion

This measure provides an indication of the response of farmers to environmental opportunities and risks on their farms. An Environmental Farm Plan is a voluntary, confidential assessment of opportunities to enhance environmental operations of B.C. farms and ranches. An assessment is conducted by the farm/ranch operator with the assistance of a trained planning advisor. The performance measure is the cumulative number of completed Environmental Farm Plans. These

assessments are a pre-requisite to accessing funding to implement Beneficial Management Practices targeted at specific agri-environmental situations.

**Objective 2.2: Sustainable agrifoods management practices that assist successful mitigation of and adaptation to climate change.**

The Ministry supports the efforts of industry to develop innovative products, tools and processes to reduce and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change.

**Strategies**

- Promote opportunities for reduction in carbon dioxide equivalent emissions and encourage improved environmental practice initiatives in the sector, which is striving to become more carbon-neutral.
- Support the Province’s climate change goals by identifying, researching and developing market opportunities for the agrifoods sector, including development and use of new varieties and products that will thrive under changing climatic conditions as well as providing tools such as the agriculture water demand model to help water purveyors make informed decisions on current and future water use.

**Performance Measure 4: Number of Regional Adaptation Strategies completed.**

Performance Measure	2013/14 Base <sup>2</sup>	2014/15 Forecast <sup>3</sup>	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
Cumulative number of regional adaptation strategies completed	3	4	5	6	7
Annual number of regional adaptation strategies completed	1	1	1	1	1

**Data Source:** Regional agricultural adaptation strategies with ministry partnership.

<sup>2</sup> The 2013/14 base represents regional agricultural adaptation strategies completed by the B.C. Agriculture and Food Climate Action Initiative in the Peace, Delta, and Cowichan regions, with ministry funding partnership through Growing Forward.

<sup>3</sup> The 2014/15 target represents the completion of a new regional agricultural adaptation strategy.

**Discussion**

The regional agricultural adaptation strategies bring producers, local governments, agricultural organizations and experts together to assess the vulnerability of the region to climate change, set strategic direction and, plan and implement concrete adaptation measures. The strategies require a cyclical process of monitoring, evaluation and review. This measure indicates BC’s agricultural regions adaptive capacity to climate change risks.

## **Goal 3: Community and social well-being are enhanced by responsible agricultural and food sector practices.**

### **Objective 3.1: Promote a positive urban / agrifoods relationship to facilitate sustainable production for farms.**

Agricultural activity depends on good relations with local government and community members. With only 1.5 per cent of British Columbians living on farms, it has become increasingly important for local governments to keep in touch with farm and ranch communities to help facilitate support for the agricultural sector. The Ministry, for example, is conducting work on vegetative borders to intercept dust from barn exhaust fans to reduce impacts on neighbours.

Preservation of agricultural land in British Columbia is overseen by the Agricultural Land Commission, and the Ministry supports the Agricultural Land Commission's work by promoting a positive urban / agricultural environment to ensure farmers can continue to farm in farming areas.



*Urban development alongside an agricultural area, Comox-Strathcona, Vancouver Island, B.C.*

### **Strategies**

- Promote a positive regulatory climate with local governments to support the agrifoods sector across B.C., in part by establishing standards to guide local government bylaw development in farming areas.
- Support and deliver on activities contributing to sustainable agriculture business development in First Nations communities.
- Build a greater understanding of agriculture's contribution to communities through proactive, province-wide communication strategies.
- Work with the Ministry of Finance to implement a tax credit program for farmers who donate their farmed food to B.C. food banks and other charitable organizations.
- Ensure the Agricultural Land Reserve is working for B.C. and implement legislative changes that will protect valuable farmland in regions with growth pressures while allowing for responsible economic development opportunities in areas that are not under similar pressure.
- Through the Seafood Secretariat, lead engagement with Federal and Provincial agencies to ensure coordinated and consistent Provincial policy regarding siting and operation of aquaculture facilities.
- Projects, training, workshops and resources to provide youth with current information on the BC agriculture industry, farm safety, animal care, issues facing agriculture, and sustainable agriculture.

**Performance Measure 5: Number of Agricultural Area Plans completed.**

Performance Measure	2013/14 Baseline	2014/15 Forecast	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
Cumulative number of Agricultural Area Plans completed	57	61	65	69	73
Number of Agricultural Area Plans completed per year	5	4	4	4	4

Data Source: Ministry of Agriculture

**Discussion**

This measure provides an indication of how capacity is being built within farm communities to influence issues that affect agriculture. An Agricultural Area Plan is a community-based initiative to develop practical solutions to agricultural issues and to identify opportunities to strengthen farming. Key stakeholders prepare the plan, which includes strategies for economic development, marketing, processing, agri-tourism and proposals for bylaw amendments to support agriculture. Relevant parts of an Agricultural Area Plan become a subset of the official community plan. In October 2014 there were 58 completed Agricultural Area Plans throughout B.C, with at least five more underway. The ultimate number of Agricultural Area Plans will depend on how jurisdictions choose to operate - e.g. some small communities may choose to work together on one plan, while other communities may consider separate plans to be unnecessary, as agriculture is an integral part of their community’s economy.



*Aerial view of farming in the Fraser River Delta*

**Objective 3.2: Animal, plant and human health are safeguarded.**

The Ministry, in partnership with federal, provincial and local government agencies, delivers services and initiatives to effectively manage food safety, plant, fish and livestock health risks contributing to positive public health and to maintaining consumer confidence domestically and internationally.

**Strategies**

- Continue to work with government and industry groups to identify and implement traceability and bio-security strategies that will reduce the risk of animal disease outbreaks.
- Implement and deliver comprehensive provincial level programs for animal, fish and plant health that manage the risks of animal and fish disease, plant pests and invasive species and contribute to national programs.

- Protect the health of British Columbians by implementing the new Provincial Food Safety Framework and continuing to increase awareness and adoption of food safety programs and practices in the agrifood sector
- Continue to develop and implement a provincially-operated, cost-effective meat inspection program including a compliance verification component that will ensure regulatory compliance of provincially licensed abattoirs and an enforcement component that will address unlawful slaughter of animals intended for human consumption.
- Maintain a provincially operated, cost effective seafood inspection system to ensure food safety, industry support, fish health and welfare in aquaculture production facilities and the value chain for fish handling and processing.
- Deliver plant health management programs and services to promote healthy and viable crops.
- Advise growers on best management practices for pest control.
- Provide training for safe use of pesticides which would enable registration of low risk products.



*Beekeeper, shown here with his bees. Healthy bees are critical to agricultural production.*

**Performance Measure 6: Per cent of routine diagnostic animal and plant samples completed within seven working days.**

Performance Measure	2013/2014 Baseline	2014/2015 Forecast	2015/2016 Target	2016/2017 Target	2017/2018 Target
Per cent of routine diagnostic animal and plant samples completed within seven working days <sup>1</sup>	86%	85%	85%	85%	85%

**Data Source:** Ministry of Agriculture

<sup>1</sup> Samples tested in-house and not referred to another laboratory. Diagnostic tests require minimum times to complete, depending on the nature of the test.

The Plant Health Unit advises growers on the best management practices for pest control and provides training for safe use of pesticides. This training enables registration of low risk products.

The Plant Health Diagnostic Laboratory provides plant health diagnoses and helps to fulfill the Plant Health Program’s mandate of providing programs and services to promote plant protection. The Laboratory receives samples from growers of all commodities in B.C., pest management consultants, industry groups, home gardeners and the public. In collaboration with the plant health team and other ministry staff, the lab increases the capability for early detection of new insect and disease threats.

## Discussion

The Abbotsford Agriculture Centre houses the Animal Health Centre and the Plant Health Diagnostics Laboratory. The Animal Health Centre is a veterinary diagnostic laboratory, with a mandate to diagnose, monitor and assist in controlling and preventing animal disease in B.C.

Although primarily concerned with food-producing animals, the Centre also provides diagnostic services for companion animals, wildlife, zoo animals, marine mammals and fish. Submissions are made to the laboratory by veterinarians, livestock producers, government agencies, humane societies, zoos, aquariums and members of the public. The Centre offers a wide range of veterinary laboratory tests on a fee basis to diagnose disease and other causes of poor production or mortality in animals. Samples from wildlife, marine mammal and the British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals investigations are also regularly submitted to the Centre for examination and diagnostic tests.



*The Abbotsford Agriculture Centre's Animal Health Centre provides valuable necropsy services.*

Turnaround time (TAT) is used as our performance measure for the Animal Health Centre Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (AHL) as it is one of the most noticeable signs of laboratory service and is often used as a key performance indicator of laboratory performance in general. We are an AAVLD accredited laboratory with a fully audited quality assurance program to address our results quality, but users of the Animal Health Centre's services are interested in service quality, which as well as delivering test accuracy, also includes availability, cost, relevance and timeliness. Of these characteristics, timeliness is perhaps the most important to the producer or veterinarian looking at other livestock or poultry at risk. Unsatisfactory TAT is a major source of complaints to diagnostic laboratories regarding poor service and consumes much time and effort from laboratory staff in complaint resolution and service improvement if it is not addressed.

# Resource Summary

Ministry of Agriculture	2014/15 Restated <sup>2</sup> Estimates	2015/16 Estimates	2016/17 Plan	2017/18 Plan
<b>Operating Expenses (\$000)</b>				
Agriculture Science and Policy	15,989	16,088	16,153	16,301
Business Development	39,890	39,745	40,208	40,758
BC Farm Industry Review Board	996	1,201	1,203	1,210
Executive and Support Services	7,633	7,789	7,400	7,015
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>64,508</b>	<b>64,823</b>	<b>64,964</b>	<b>65,284</b>
Agriculture Land Commission	3,516	3,406	3,415	3,435
Production Insurance Special Account (Net)	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>80,024<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>80,229<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>80,379<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>80,719<sup>4</sup></b>
<b>Ministry Capital Expenditures (\$000)</b>				
Executive and Support Services	294	754	754	754
Agricultural Land Commission	0	80	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>834</b>	<b>754</b>	<b>754</b>

Notes:

<sup>2</sup> For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2014/15 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2015/16 Estimates.

<sup>3</sup> Restatement reflects a budget transfer of \$291,000 from Shared Services BC, Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services, for Workplace Technology System costs associated with the Growing Forward 2 agreement.

<sup>4</sup> Funding for the Economic Stability Mandate provided a budget increase of \$230,000, \$380,000 and \$720,000 in 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18 respectively.

\* Further information on program funding and vote recoveries are available in the [Estimates and Supplement to the Estimates](#).



# Appendices

## Appendix A: Ministry Contact Information

### **Ministry of Agriculture:**

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### **Business Development Division:**

Ph.: (250) 356-1122, Fax (250) 356-7279

### **Ministry of Agriculture - Regional Offices:**

#### **Abbotsford**

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Ph.: (604) 556-3001

Fax: (604) 556-3030

Toll free: 1-888-221-7141

Animal Health toll free: 1-800-661-9903

#### **Courtenay**

2500 Cliffe Avenue, V9N 5M6

Ph.: (250) 897-7540

Fax: (250) 334-1410

#### **Cranbrook/Invermere**

635 – 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Invermere, V0A 1K0

Ph.: (250) 342-4219

Fax: (250) 342-4262

#### **Creston**

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Ph.: (250) 402-6429

Fax: (250) 402-6497

#### **Dawson Creek**

4th Floor, 1201 - 103rd Avenue, V1G 4J2

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Fax: (250) 784-2299

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**Duncan**

5785 Duncan Street, V9L 5G2

Ph.: (250) 746-1210

Fax: (250) 746-1292

**Fort St. John**

10043 - 100th Street, V1J 3Y5

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Fax: (250) 787-3299

Toll free: 1-888-822-1345

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Ph.: (250) 828-4506

Fax: (250) 828-4154

Toll free: 1-888-823-3355

**Kelowna**

Unit 200 - 1690 Powick Road, V1X 7G5

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Fax: (250) 861-7490

Toll free: 1-888-332-3352

**Kelowna – Hardy Place**

200 – 1500 Hardy Street, V1Y 8H2

Ph: (250) 712-3797

Fax: (250) 712-3269

Toll free: 1-877-343-2767 (AgriStability)

**Oliver**

Suite 201 - 583 Fairview Road, V0H 1T0

Ph.: (250) 498-5250 or 5251

Fax: (250) 498-4952

Toll free: 1-888-812-8811

**Prince George**

2000 South Ospika Boulevard, V2N 4W5

Ph.: (250) 614-7400

Fax: (250) 614-7435

Toll free: 1-800-334-3011

**Smithers**

3333 Tatlow Road, V0J 2N0

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Fax: (250) 847-6353

Toll free: 1-888-540-8611

**Vernon**

2501 – 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue, V1T 8Z1

Ph.: (250) 260-4610

Fax: (250) 260-4602

Toll free: 1-877-702-5585

**Williams Lake**

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**Agricultural Land Commission**

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Fax: (604) 660-7033

Email: [ALCBurnaby@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca](mailto:ALCBurnaby@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca)

Internet: [www.alc.gov.bc.ca](http://www.alc.gov.bc.ca)

**BC Farm Industry Review Board**

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For more information about the Ministry of Agriculture, including full contact information, visit our website at: [www.gov.bc.ca/agri](http://www.gov.bc.ca/agri)

# Appendix B: Hyperlinks to Additional Information

- [Ministry of Agriculture Website](#)
- [BC Agrifoods: A Strategy for Growth](#)
- [Agriculture, Seafood and Agrifood Statistics](#)
- [Agricultural Land Commission](#)
- [Farm Industry Review Board](#)

# Appendix C: Agricultural Land Commission

## Purpose of the Commission

The Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) is the provincial agency responsible for administering the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), a provincial land use zone for the primary use of agriculture based on the biophysical resource base (soil and climate) capable of growing crops. As an administrative tribunal operating at arm's-length from government, the ALC is accountable to the legislature through the Minister of Agriculture. Its operations are funded by a vote of the legislature.

In general, an administrative tribunal is a specialized government agency established under provincial legislation to implement legislative policy. Administrative tribunals engaged in an adjudicative process function in a manner more closely analogous to the courts. The ALC is expected to exercise its role in a non-partisan manner and Commission members must faithfully, honestly and impartially perform their duties.

The work of the ALC is carried out by a provincial government appointed Chair, 6 Vice-chairs and 12 Commissioners from six regions of the province who are collectively the board of directors of the ALC. The board is supported by professional staff located in Burnaby.

The purposes of the ALC as set out in s.6 of the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* are:

- To preserve agricultural land;
- To encourage farming on agricultural land in collaboration with other communities of interest; and
- To encourage local governments, First Nations, the government and its agents to enable and accommodate farm use of agricultural land and uses compatible with agriculture in their plans, bylaws and policies.

The core business functions of the ALC are land use planning and policy, working with local governments and stakeholders on land use matters affecting the ALR, compliance and enforcement and adjudication of land use applications.

Further information about the work of the ALC may be found at [www.alc.gov.bc.ca](http://www.alc.gov.bc.ca).

## Goals, Objectives and Strategies:

### **Goal 1: Preserve Agricultural Land and Encourage Farming**

#### **Objective 1.1: Preserve the provincial agricultural land base through comprehensive decision making**

## Strategies

- Consideration of agricultural capability and suitability of lands under application.
- Consideration of the potential impacts on the land base and the agricultural use of the land base.

### **Objective 1.2: Expand current planning functions to include proactive planning related to community planning, major projects and emerging issues.**

## Strategies

- Encourage local governments to engage in discussions with the Agricultural Land Commission and planning staff regarding their land use planning processes.
- Encourage local government and other land use agencies to develop agriculturally sympathetic land use planning.
- Review Agricultural Land Reserve boundaries in select areas of the Province with a view to confirming the accuracy and appropriateness of the boundary.
- Become involved in major projects at the early conceptual developmental phase.
- Research and assess emerging issues that impact the agricultural land base.

### **Objective 1.3: Ensure a high degree of compliance with the Agricultural Land Commission Act, regulation and orders of the Agricultural Land Commission.**

## Strategies

- Ensure compliance with the Act, regulations and orders of the Agricultural Land Commission based on current resources.
- Follow up on complaints of inappropriate use of Agricultural Land Reserve lands.

## Discussion

The ALC's goals, objectives and strategies are guided by its legislative mandate, and by the 2015/16 Ministers Mandate Letter. As an administrative tribunal, the Commission is required to exercise its statutory decision-making functions independently. As a publicly funded body, the Commission is required to ensure that its financial operations are publicly accountable and responsible. All Commission members are required by law to "faithfully, honestly and impartially perform their duties. The Commission's *Governance Policy* (2014), amongst other things, clearly articulates the roles and responsibilities of its members, its administrative accountability, and standards of conduct for its members.

# Appendix D: British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board

## Purpose of the Board:

The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board, the Board, is an independent administrative tribunal that operates at arm's-length from government. As the regulatory tribunal responsible for the general supervision of B.C. regulated marketing boards and commissions, the Board provides oversight, policy direction and decisions to protect the public interest. In its adjudicative capacities, the Board provides a less formal system than the court for resolving disputes in a timely and cost effective way. The Board consists of a part-time board of up to ten members and nine full time equivalent staff positions and is accountable to government for its administrative operations.

The Board's statutorily mandated responsibilities are established in the *Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act*, the *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act*, the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act*, and the *Agricultural Produce Grading Act* and are supported by the *Administrative Tribunals Act*. They include:

- supervising B.C.'s regulated marketing boards and commissions;
- being a signatory to formal federal-provincial cooperation agreements in regulated marketing;
- hearing appeals of regulated marketing board and commission orders, decisions and determinations;
- hearing appeals of Minister of Agriculture decisions to refuse, suspend, revoke or not renew agricultural produce grading licenses;
- hearing appeals related to certain animal custody and cost decisions of the B.C. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals;
- hearing farm practices complaints from persons disturbed by odour, noise, dust or other disturbances arising from agriculture or certain aquaculture operations; and
- conducting farm practices studies.

Through its annual strategic plan and other strategic documents, the Board establishes the goals, objectives, strategies and performance measures it believes are necessary to achieve its mandates. Further information about the British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board may be found at <http://www.firb.gov.bc.ca/>.

## Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Measures:

**Goal 1: A regulated marketing system with effective self-governance.**

**Objective 1.1: The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board and marketing boards and commissions practice good governance in their external and internal operations.**

**Strategies:**

- Ensuring that marketing boards and commission activities and decisions are administratively fair, in compliance with legislation/regulations and in accord with sound marketing policy.
- Requiring boards to give consideration to the government policy framework and the public interest.
- Providing supervisory intervention when necessary.
- Working to achieve priorities within budget while continuing to place importance on board and staff development and training.
- While preserving its independence as a tribunal, continuing to work to ensure effective relations with the Ministry of Agriculture, regulatory agencies at all levels, and stakeholders.

**Performance Measure 1:** BCFIRB and the boards and commissions it supervises exercise appropriate governance and fiscal procedures in exercising their mandates.

Performance Measure	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Expectation	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
BCFIRB & boards/commissions exercise appropriate governance & fiscal procedures.	Met	Meet	All meet 2015/16 expectations	All meet 2016/17 expectations	All meet 2017/18 expectations

**Performance Measure 2:** Boards and commissions demonstrate that their programs, policies and decisions reflect legislative intent, sound marketing policy and consider the public interest.

Performance Measure	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Expectation	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
Programs, policies and decisions reflect legislative intent, sound marketing policy and consider the public interest.	Met	Meet	All meet 2015/16 expectations	All meet 2016/17 expectations	All meet 2017/18 expectations

**Performance Measure 3:** The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board demonstrates fiscal responsibility by operating within budget.

Performance Measure	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Expectation	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
BCFIRB expenditures are on budget.	9% over-budget	Over-budget	Expenditures are within 5%	Expenditures are within 5%	Expenditures are within 5%



## Goal 2: A principles-based, outcomes-oriented approach to regulation.

### Objective 2.1: The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board and marketing boards and commissions use a principles-based approach to regulating.

#### Strategies:

- Working with boards and commissions to develop, adopt and employ a principles-based approach to regulation.
- Requiring all British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board, marketing board and commission orders, decisions and determinations to be made available to the public, except where privacy legislation and policies apply.
- Promoting policies that reflect B.C. interests at both the federal and provincial levels.

**Performance Measure 4:** The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board and the boards and commissions it supervises demonstrate the application of the Strategic, Accountable, Fair, Effective, Transparent and Inclusive (SAFETI) principles in their programs, policies and decisions.

Performance Measure	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Expectation	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
BCFIRB & Boards and Commissions apply SAFETI principles.	Met	Meet	All meet 2015/16 expectations	All meet 2016/17 expectations	All meet 2017/18 expectations

**Performance Measure 5:** British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board orders, decisions, determinations, practices and procedures and other information are published. Marketing board and commission orders, decisions and determinations are published promptly after being made in order to preserve rights of appeal under the *Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act*.

Performance Measure	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Expectation	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
Orders, decisions & determinations are published promptly.	Met	Meet	All meet 2015/16 Expectations	All meet 2016/17 expectations	All meet 2017/18 expectations

**Performance Measure 6:** The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board and the boards and commissions it supervises work to maintain and where possible grow the market for BC produced product.

Performance Measure	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Expectation	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
No production or base allocation loss in supply-managed sectors.	Exceeded	Meet or exceed	No loss	No loss	No loss

### Goal 3: Effective, fair and independent resolution of inquiries and disputes.

**Objective 3.1:** Ensure issues and disputes arising within the British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board’s jurisdiction are resolved in a fair and timely manner.

**Strategies:**

- Using farm practices studies to help prevent and resolve farm practices disputes.
- Using supervisory processes to help prevent and resolve regulated marketing disputes.
- Using timely, fair and accessible processes to help resolve complaints (under the *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act*), and appeals (under the *Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act*, *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* and the *Agricultural Produce Grading Act*).

**Performance Measure 7:** BCFIRB reports annually on time from filing to resolution, cost per case, and user satisfaction for each of its appeals and complaints processes beginning 2015/16. Appeals and complaints to BCFIRB are routinely handled within target process timelines.

Performance Measure	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Expectation	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Actual	2017/18 Actual
BCFIRB reports annually. Appeals and complaints are routinely handled within target process timelines	100%	Meet	100%	100%	100%

**Performance Measure 8:** Demonstrated increased use of Alternative Dispute Resolution by marketing boards and commissions and the British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board.

Performance Measure	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Expectation	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Actual	2017/18 Actual
ADR is used whenever appropriate	Met	Meet	Whenever Appropriate	Whenever Appropriate	Whenever Appropriate