

Ministry of  
Agriculture and Lands

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2009/10  
Annual Service Plan Report

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## Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

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## Message from the Minister and Accountability Statement



The *2009/10-2011/12 Service Plan Update* outlined the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands intention to promote economic development, and environmental and social sustainability for the natural resource, agriculture and food sectors and to create and maintain a regulatory framework for effective land administration.

Early in 2010, the Ministry began delivering AgriStability to B.C. farmers on behalf of the federal and provincial governments.

AgriStability is a national program that helps farmers protect their farm income from large income declines. Taking over delivery of AgriStability from the federal government improves our ability to deliver business risk management services to local producers and create jobs in communities across B.C. The transfer had an immediate impact on tree fruit growers by providing \$1.24 million in advance payments on the 2009 crop in a timely manner. These payments allow producers to receive half of their estimated 2009 AgriStability final payment in advance.

The Ministry worked with the Ranching Task Force which delivered its final report in December 2009. The Ministry evaluated these recommendations and will implement a 4-point action plan to improve the competitive environment of B.C.'s cattle sector and invest \$2 million in export/domestic marketing and research to ensure the industry remains competitive and profitable into the future. The Ministry is committed to providing critical strategic investment to help the B.C. beef industry recover from economically challenging times.

The Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympics games was an outstanding finale to this reporting period. The Ministry joined government, First Nations, community and industry partners in promoting and celebrating B.C. agri-food products and producers to take advantage of the national and international exposure created by the Games.

The Ministry's Brownfield Renewal Strategy provided a strong boost to the redevelopment of communities. This award-winning program offers advice and support to communities, First Nations and landowners wishing to revitalize brownfield sites. For provincially funded projects under the Brownfield Renewal Funding program, every \$1 invested by the Ministry stimulates approximately \$2 invested by successful applicants.

Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

The Ministry of Agriculture and Lands 2009/10 Annual Service Plan Report compares the actual results to the expected results identified in the Ministry's *2009/10-2011/12 Service Plan Update*. I am accountable for those results as reported.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Thomson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Honourable Steve Thomson  
Minister of Agriculture and Lands

June 21, 2010

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# Highlights of the Year

## Building a Better Future for Agriculture and Food

The Ministry launched a number of programs under Growing Forward, the national federal/provincial/territorial agreement. The agreement commits an estimated total of \$558 million, cost-shared 60:40 by the federal and provincial governments, to support B.C. agriculture over the four years remaining in the agreement.

The Environmental Farm Planning and Beneficial Management Practices programs were allocated up to \$3.23 million and \$6.7 million respectively, giving B.C. farmers the

opportunity to assess their operational strengths and risks, determine their overall environmental footprint, and develop and implement an action plan. Environmental Farm Plans and Beneficial Management Practices are broad-based, voluntary, and producer driven programs aimed at identifying and reducing environmental risks on farms.

The Food Safety Systems Implementation program has been allocated up to \$2.4 million over four years to promote food safety awareness and deliver educational programs to producers. This investment will also help producers and processors put into action, and have certified, their individual food safety systems.

The Farm Business Advisory Services program has been allocated \$965,000 over four years to help producers access basic financial analysis and specialized business planning services that will enable them to effect better, more informed management decisions.

A Produce Availability Initiative was announced in November 2009. This provided remote communities with improved year-round access to fresh vegetables and fruits through a one-time \$915,000 investment through the Ministry of Housing and Social Development. The Ministry participated in developing this initiative, in consultation with remote communities, and it will help improve the availability of B.C. grown fruit and produce while promoting healthy food choices.



*B.C. food industry products showcased at the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games*

## Restoring Neglected Land to Productive Use

Since 2001, the Ministry has committed over \$229 million to identify, clean-up and return to productive use a number of the province's contaminated sites. This year, the Ministry completed remediation at several Crown contaminated sites including the Yankee Girl Mine tailings project in Ymir, one of the largest projects undertaken in the Crown Land Restoration Program.

The Ministry launched the Brownfield Renewal Funding Program, providing \$1.6 million in funding to 17 brownfields projects. This program supports proposals from First Nations, local governments, non profits, private companies and individuals for environmental investigations and related environmental work that lead to remediation.

## A High Performing Organization

The Ministry's achievements over the past year were formally recognized through the Premier's Innovation and Excellence awards. The Ministry was lead on the following awards:

- Innovation – Interior Region **Winner:** The Agriculture Water Demand Model. This Model can calculate detailed present and future water requirements on a property by property basis. The model is currently operational for the Okanagan Basin and will soon be running in other watersheds around the province.
- Leadership – Northern Region **Finalist:** Wildlife Damage Program
- Leadership – Interior Region **Finalist:** AgriStability Program

The Ministry was a partner in the following awards:

- Partnership - Provincial **Winner:** Reclamation and Prospecting Program. The award celebrated the achievement of a team from several ministries, local colleges and First Nations in designing and operating a skills development and work placement initiative for First Nations youth in northern B.C.
- Cross-Government Integration- Interior **Winner:** Provincial Drought Response. In response to the severe drought of 2009, several ministries collaborated on a sweeping regional strategy to protect water supplies. This will greatly assist in future drought response.
- Partnership – Interior **Finalist::** First Nations Community Food Systems for Healthy Living
- Cross-Government Integration – Provincial **Finalist:** Cross-ministry Team for Full Labour Mobility Project.

Ministry achievements were also formally recognized outside government. The B.C. Brownfield Renewal Strategy was awarded a top honour at the Canadian Urban Institute's Annual Brownie Awards. The awards program recognizes leadership, innovation and environmental sustainability in brownfields redevelopment across Canada. The Crown Contaminated Sites Program received an award from the Technical Research Committee on Reclamation for excellence in mine reclamation for the remediation work completed at the Yankee Girl Mine Tailings project. This is the first time a government body has received this honour.



*Early morning in Fraser Valley fields, B.C.*

## Purpose of Ministry

The Ministry of Agriculture and Lands helps the agriculture, aquaculture and food sectors to grow and achieve economic, social and environmental sustainability, supporting the delivery of safe, healthy and high-quality food. In addition, the Ministry guides Crown land administration across government, including administration of Crown contaminated sites, and promotion of brownfield<sup>1</sup> redevelopment.

The Ministry:

- Supports a regulatory system and practices that promote environmentally sustainable systems, food safety and socially responsible production practices;
- Monitors and manages the risk of diseases that threaten B.C.'s plant, animal and aquatic animal production systems;
- Provides guidance to the sector to increase innovation, competitiveness and profitability to meet consumer demands;
- Works to balance urban / agriculture interests;
- Works with the federal government to ensure a smooth transition in the management and regulation of the aquaculture industry to federal jurisdiction;
- Supports the agriculture industry to contribute to the green economy;
- Delivers programs to stabilize incomes against circumstances beyond farmers' control;
- Develops strategic and operational policy, legislation and procedures for Crown land;

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<sup>1</sup> Brownfields are defined as abandoned, vacant, derelict or underutilized commercial or industrial properties where past actions have resulted in actual or perceived contamination and where there is an active potential for redevelopment.



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- Leads the management of contaminated sites on Crown land and facilitates the redevelopment of brownfields on both Crown and private land; and,
- Manages and resolves complex, high value Crown land disposition proposals involving multiple government agencies and parties.

The Ministry relies on inter-agency partnerships such as those with the Agricultural Land Commission and the B.C. Farm Industry Review Board. The Commission is an administrative tribunal that oversees the Agricultural Land Reserve, a provincial land-use zone that recognizes agriculture as a priority use. The Commission operates independently but is funded through the Ministry. The Farm Industry Review Board is a statutory appeal body with additional responsibilities for the general supervision of commodity boards and commissions in addition to administering the *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act*.

The Ministry also partners with other provincial ministries, agencies such as the Integrated Land Management Bureau, various levels of government, First Nations, industry, government committees and non-government organizations in terms of funding, collaboration and service delivery. The mandates of these agencies connect in key areas such as climate change, resource management coordination, food safety and quality, support for local food, land and resource use, land planning and tenure, commitments to First Nations, invasive plant and pest management, environmental issues and promotion of B.C. agriculture products.

Management and regulation of agriculture is a shared jurisdictional interest of both the federal and provincial government. The Ministry and the industry receive considerable financial support from federal cost-shared programs. Federal expenditures account for about 70 percent of the total provincial and federal expenditures on the primary agriculture and agri-food sectors in the province. British Columbia leverages federal expenditures for the agriculture and agri-food sector at a ratio of three to one, which is the highest leveraging ratio amongst all the provinces.

The legal and regulatory environment that guides the work of the Ministry includes 48 statutes which relate wholly or primarily to the Ministry and a further 105 regulations relating to the Ministry. A complete list of legislation for which the Ministry is responsible is available at: [www.leg.bc.ca/PROCS/allacts/al.htm](http://www.leg.bc.ca/PROCS/allacts/al.htm)

## Strategic Context

*Global Economy and Competition:* Preliminary estimates from Statistics Canada show that B.C.'s real Gross Domestic Product contracted by 2.3 per cent in 2009, following a year of 0.0 per cent growth (or no change) in 2008. The slowdown in B.C. during 2009 reflects the sharp economic downturn in the United States and globally, the moderation of domestic demand in B.C., and volatility in world financial and commodity markets.

*Environmental Values:* Climate change continues to present a range of opportunities and challenges. Water management, crop damage, changes in production methods, and diversity of plant, animal and aquatic species are key environmental issues for the agriculture, aquaculture and food sectors. The growing demand for green energy and green alternatives created opportunities to work with industry through pilot projects such as anaerobic digesters and on product development such as bio-fuels.



*Rainbow over Sumas Prairie, Fraser Valley, B.C.*

*Intergovernmental Coordination:* On February 9, 2009 the B.C. Supreme Court found that marine finfish farms on the coast of B.C. are a fishery and as such, fall under the exclusive jurisdiction of the federal parliament. The court also extended the deadline for transfer of the finfish aquaculture industry to the federal government to December 18, 2010. In January 2010 the Province clarified its intent to include both shellfish and marine finfish in the transfer of regulatory authority and to suspend receipt of new applications for tenures and licenses for both marine finfish and shellfish during the extended period of transition. The Ministry continued to lead the provincial work in determining how to implement these changes.

*Resource Management Coordination:* Over the last number of years, the natural resource sector agencies have been exploring better ways of working together to deliver programs and services to the public. This collaboration offers the opportunity for the alignment of resources to support economic development and community resiliency while ensuring environmental standards are met. Improving efficiency of service delivery will also help meet the budget and demographic challenges facing government. This ministry worked collaboratively with all the ministries involved in the management of Crown land and natural resources to coordinate people and resources to improve delivery of programs and services.

## Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

*Urban/Agriculture Interactions:* A large portion of B.C.'s most productive farmland is in close proximity to urban development and other sectors of the economy. Odour, noise and dust concerns, competing demands for existing water resources, growing concern over air quality and emissions, as well as the growing pressures from other sectors to make alternate use of agricultural lands can affect the overall viability of the agriculture sector. The Ministry continued to work to strengthen the connection between those who produce our food and those who consume it.

*First Nations Engagement:* The Province is committed to strengthening its relationship with First Nations and to close the social and economic gaps that exist between First Nations and other British Columbians. The Ministry worked with First Nations to use Crown land and agricultural resources to leverage outcomes benefitting Aboriginal People and all British Columbians, and align with broader government objectives. Work was also done to support land claims and interim treaty agreements.

*Brownfield Redevelopment:* The Ministry continues to be the lead for B.C. Brownfields Renewal Strategy. The policy, regulatory and tax environment for brownfield renewal resides in a number of ministries, who take responsibility for changes to policy, regulation and legislation. In challenging economic conditions, traditional sources of financing for land development become scarce. The Brownfield Renewal Strategy helps developers obtain needed funding to initiate projects. Over the past year, the Ministry has focused on a number of educational and facilitation activities to promote understanding of brownfield opportunities and will continue to play a key role in partnership with other ministries in promoting redevelopment.

*Strategic Crown Land Dispositions:*  
In many B.C. communities, Crown land represents the best available source of land for community economic growth and diversification. Major Crown land sales and transfers are increasingly being evaluated based on their ability to deliver economic, social and environmental benefits. The Ministry used its expertise in resolving complex land dispositions to support government objectives and meet community needs.



*Crown Land; Mountains West of Smithers, B.C.*

*Crown Contaminated Sites:* As has been the case across government, the economic downturn has resulted in a reduction in new funding, including that for Crown land restoration. The investigation of new contaminated sites will continue at a reduced pace, with existing funding continuing to fund the remediation of already identified sites.

# Report on Performance

## Performance Plan Summary Table

<b>Goal 1: Agriculture, food sectors and land-use contribute positively to the economic well-being of the Province</b> For greater detail see pages 13 to 16	<b>2009/10 Target</b>	<b>2009/10 Actual</b>
<b>1.1 Strategic growth of the agriculture sector</b> Ratio of Ministry expenditures on investment versus income stabilization	50:50	47:53 SUBSTANTIALLY ACHIEVED
<b>1.2 Brownfield sites are restored to achieve economic, social and environmental benefits</b> Number of Crown brownfields made available for partnerships with First Nations, private sector and local governments	10	8 SUBSTANTIALLY ACHIEVED
<b>Goal 2: World-leading environmental stewardship in Crown land administration, agriculture, aquaculture and food practices</b> For greater detail see pages 17 to 19	<b>2009/10 Target</b>	<b>2009/10 Actual</b>
<b>2.1 Effective management of environmental risks in agriculture, aquaculture and food sectors</b> Percentage of industry operators in compliance with finfish aquaculture licensing and regulatory requirements	100%	99.40% ACHIEVED
<b>2.2 Contamination caused by the historic use of land is managed to minimize risks to human health &amp; the environment</b> Number of program sites for which remediation is underway/completed	72	72 ACHIEVED
<b>Goal 3: Community and social well-being is enhanced by Crown land administration, agriculture, aquaculture and food practices</b> For greater detail see pages 19 to 21	<b>2009/10 Target</b>	<b>2009/10 Actual</b>
<b>3.2 Animal, fish, plant and human health are safeguarded</b> Percentage of operators in compliance with fish health management plans	100%	100% ACHIEVED

## Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Results

### Goal 1: Agriculture, food sectors and land-use contribute positively to the economic well-being of the Province

#### Objective 1.1: Strategic growth of the agriculture and food sectors

The Ministry promotes sector profitability and self-reliance through programs and services that promote B.C. products within local markets, foster innovation and efficiency and provide farmers with tools to sustain their businesses in the face of environmental and market risk.

#### Strategies

- Promote, deliver and improve national business risk management programs and services.
- Facilitate industry transformation to new market opportunities through investment in innovation, promotion and market development.
- Promote agricultural activities in First Nations communities for consideration in their overall economic development strategies.
- Support the Ranching Task Force to identify policies, regulations and legislation that adversely affect the competitive position of the B.C. cattle industry, identify the most immediate non-regulatory industry priorities and recommend actions to be taken by industry and government ensuring a profitable self-sustaining industry.



*Okanagan Grapes, B.C.*



## Performance Results

Performance Measure	2007/08 Baseline	2008/09 Actual	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Actual
Ratio of Ministry expenditures on investment versus income stabilization.	40:60	47:53	50:50	47:53 SUBSTANTIALLY ACHIEVED

Data Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

### Discussion of Results

This indicator compares Ministry program expenditures in investment to expenditures that support income stabilization. Investment programs help producers improve profits and income through innovation and new market opportunities. Income stabilization or “business risk management” assists producers to insure themselves against uncontrollable income loss due to adverse weather, risks to animal health and/or trade barriers. The Ministry strategy is to gradually shift towards increased investment while maintaining sufficient funding to manage uncontrollable losses.

Within a federal/provincial national funding framework and difficult economic times the feasibility of a significant shift in this ratio is constrained. The Ministry continues to deliver above the 2007/08 baseline. Fiscal and economic pressures have resulted in reductions to the Ministry’s budget and this limits overall flexibility. However, priority continues to be placed on meeting national framework commitments. British Columbia continues to have one of the most balanced ratios amongst the provinces.

### Objective 1.2: Brownfield sites are restored to achieve economic, social and environmental benefits

The Ministry has a responsibility to facilitate restoration of brownfields on both Crown and private land and to return these valuable land resources to productive use. The B.C. Brownfield Renewal Strategy will increase brownfield redevelopment across the Province. The strategy aims to streamline processes, reduce risk and uncertainty by sharing in initial investigative costs, and increase understanding of redevelopment opportunities for local governments, land owners and other stakeholders.



*Restored brownfield, False Creek, Vancouver*

## Strategies

- Apply strategic public investments to encourage the redevelopment of idle sites.
- Build capacity and awareness of redevelopment tools and opportunities to enhance information about brownfields.
- Lead by example through the creation of partnerships to enable the redevelopment of key Crown brownfield sites.
- Provide funding for investigation of non-Crown brownfield sites through the B.C. Brownfield Renewal Funding Program.

## Performance Results

Performance Measure	2008/09 Actual	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Actual
Number of Crown brownfields made available for partnerships with First Nations, private sector and local governments <sup>1,2</sup>	8	10	8 SUBSTANTIALLY ACHIEVED

**Data Source:** Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

<sup>1</sup> The Province provides partnership opportunities through such means as a public procurement process or settlement with First Nations.

<sup>2</sup> Numbers are cumulative.

## Discussion of Results

The B.C. Brownfield Renewal Strategy was announced in 2008. This measure tracks the number of Crown brownfield sites where preparatory work has been completed to the point where they can be made available for partnerships. As these projects are complex and expensive to manage, partnership is a significant factor in bringing the projects to completion. Since brownfield redevelopment can take years, or even decades, to complete, the measure is cumulative.

The cumulative program target has been substantially achieved. The original target, as indicated in the February 2009/10-2011/12 *Service Plan*, was to have three Crown brownfields made available for partnership by the end of 2009/10. The Ministry exceeded initial projections early on in the program, and by the time the 2009/10-2011/12 *Service Plan Update* was published in September 2009, a total of eight sites were underway. At that time, the target for 2009/10 was revised to ten sites.

Of the eight brownfield sites made available for partnership, two have been remediated, one is undergoing remediation and five have undergone some level of study that will be used to determine next steps.

Two additional potential Crown brownfield sites have been identified, but it is not anticipated that these sites will undergo any studies in 2010/2011 due to higher priority activities for the

Crown Land Restoration program. Specifically, the Ministry will focus on brownfield sites that are advanced in the redevelopment process and on sites that are determined to be high risk to human health and the environment.

### **Objective 1.3: Crown land decisions and dispositions to support community needs and provincial priorities**

Allocation decisions and administration of Crown land are guided by a framework of legislation, policy, guidelines and tenure requirements. The Ministry maintains and supports implementation of this framework for the allocation of Crown land to ensure that it fits the changing needs and demands of communities, First Nations, industry and the Province's broader strategic objectives. The Ministry, through a project-oriented business line, manages and resolves complex, high value land disposition proposals, often involving multiple government agencies and parties to advance government priorities and provide broad public benefits.

### **Strategies**

- Collaboratively work with local governments, First Nations and other key stakeholders to identify sustainable development opportunities to generate economic, social, and environmental benefits.
- Leverage Crown land dispositions to promote investment and development.
- Improve Crown land allocation policy and business processes to better serve clients.
- Develop effective legislation, policy and analysis of Crown land resources to enhance its contribution to the economic, environmental and social well-being of British Columbia.



*Unsurveyed Crown Land, Rhine Ridge, Tahtsa Lake, B.C.*



## Goal 2: World-leading environmental stewardship in Crown land administration, agriculture, aquaculture and food practices

### Objective 2.1: Effective management of environmental risks in agriculture, aquaculture and food sectors

The Ministry supports the agriculture, aquaculture and food sectors to proactively address environmental risks and the impacts of climate change.

#### Strategies

- Support programs and activities to identify and address critical agricultural environmental issues and adoption of best management practices.
- Promote sustainable best management approaches for invasive plants to protect biodiversity and reduce environmental degradation.
- Manage licensing, compliance and the orderly transition to federal administration of activities in the aquaculture sector to ensure operators are accountable for implementing environmentally sustainable practices.
- Support local governments, as well as the agriculture, food and aquaculture sectors to prepare for and recover from environmental disasters.

### Performance Results

Performance Measure	2007/08 Baseline	2008/09 Actual	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Forecast
Percentage of industry operators in compliance with finfish aquaculture licensing and regulatory requirements	99.2%	99.25%	100%	99.40% <sup>1</sup> ACHIEVED

**Data Source:** Ministry of Agriculture and Lands and Ministry of Environment joint report: *Regulatory Compliance of British Columbia's Marine Finfish Aquaculture Facilities Annual Report*.

<sup>1</sup>Based on 2009 calendar year inspection cycle

#### Discussion of Results

The 2009/10 target was achieved based on overall inspection results for the 2009 inspection cycle. The intent of licensing and regulatory requirements is to ensure that finfish aquaculture operators are demonstrating accountability in implementing environmentally sustainable practices, which includes the prevention of finfish escapes to the environment. This measure

provides an indication of the industry-wide compliance with the Province’s aquaculture licensing and regulatory requirements based on a calendar year inspection cycle.

**Objective 2.2: Contamination caused by the historic use of land is managed to minimize risks to human health and the environment**

The Ministry has lead responsibility for fostering a provincial approach to protection of human health and the environment through remediation of contaminated sites that are the responsibility of the Province. A risk-based approach is used that considers potential impacts to human health and the environment and the potential benefits associated with the future use of remediated lands. The *Biennial Crown Land Restoration Program Report* (April 2010) outlines the approach and progress made through this program.

**Strategies**

- Identification, investigation and remediation of sites that are the responsibility of the Province to protect human health and the environment.
- Work with other ministries to deliver reliable, relevant, accurate and transparent reports on contaminated sites management.
- Provide leadership in the development of a centre of expertise and best practices for the risk ranking and prioritization of contaminated sites.

**Performance Results**

Performance Measure	2007/08 Actual	2008/09 Actual	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Actual
Number of program sites for which remediation is underway/completed <sup>1,2</sup>	54	67	72	72 ACHIEVED

**Data Source:** Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

<sup>1</sup> These program sites fall into one of five categories:

Remediated: Crown sites where clean-up activities are completed.

Priority: Crown sites that have been identified for current action based on site investigation and confirmed risk to human health and the environment.

Candidate: Crown sites on which initial investigation has begun to determine the extent of risk.

Monitor: Crown sites where preliminary investigation has been completed and monitoring is required, and possibly additional testing in different field conditions to determine the extent of risk.

Other: Sites that are being managed by the Province to fulfill obligations established under legal agreements, regulatory orders or other commitments.

<sup>2</sup> Numbers are cumulative. Targets revised to reflect program focus for priority clean-up on sites.

**Discussion of Results**

Remediation, as defined by the *Environmental Management Act*, includes site investigations in addition to clean-up activities. As site remediation can be a multi-year exercise, all numbers contained in this measure are cumulative.

The 2009/10 target was achieved. Remediation is underway or completed at 72 sites, which included five new preliminary investigations at candidate sites. Of the 72 program sites, ten have been remediated; 18 are identified as a priority; five are candidates on which initial investigation has begun; 35 have been assessed and determined not to require any further work due to low risk levels; and, four are being managed under legal agreements, regulatory orders, or other commitments.

**Objective 2.3: Sustainable agriculture management and Crown land administration practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and assist successful adaptation to climate change**

The Ministry supports the efforts of industry to develop innovative products, tools and processes to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions by promoting research and identification of effective climate action strategies.

**Strategies**

- Support initiatives to reduce and capture methane, carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide emissions from agriculture and other activities on Crown lands.
- Encourage behavioural change to facilitate improved environmental practice.
- Work with the agricultural sector to develop alternative green energy opportunities.
- Investigate opportunities for carbon sequestration and adaptation initiatives in agriculture and on Crown land.
- Cooperate with development of the Pacific Carbon Trust and the Western Climate Initiative for opportunities for agriculture to achieve provincial objectives.
- Support improvements in the efficiency of water use by the agriculture sector.

**Goal 3: Community and social well-being is enhanced by Crown land administration, agriculture, aquaculture and food practices**

**Objective 3.1: Promote a positive urban/agriculture relationship to facilitate sustainable growth for farms while enhancing the overall quality of life for British Columbians**

Agriculture and aquaculture activity occur within communities and depend on good relations with local government and community members. In 1931, Canada's farm population made up 33 per cent of the total population. As of 2006, Canada's farm population significantly decreased to 2.14 per cent of the total population.

B.C.'s farm population has gone from 1.85 per cent to 1.45 per cent (1996 to 2006) of the total B.C.<sup>2</sup> population. While preservation of agricultural land in British Columbia is overseen by the Agricultural Land Commission, the Ministry builds on this mandate and aims to create a positive urban/agriculture environment to ensure local government and the public value the contributions of agriculture.

### Strategies

- Promote a positive regulatory climate with local government to support the sector across British Columbia.
- Build a greater understanding of agriculture's contribution to the community through proactive communication strategies.



*Urban development alongside agriculture region, Abbotsford, B.C.*

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

The Ministry focuses on services and initiatives that support British Columbia in continuing to effectively manage food safety, plant, livestock and fish health risks throughout the value chain contributing to positive public health outcomes and to maintaining consumer confidence.

### Strategies

- Implement and deliver comprehensive, provincial level programs for animal, fish and plant health that manage the risks of disease and invasive species and support public health and national programs.
- Maintain high standard of service for processing plant and animal diagnostic and surveillance samples to monitor and mitigate risks.
- Enable agriculture, aquaculture and food sectors to contribute to government's priority for healthy British Columbians and capitalize on new market opportunities.

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<sup>2</sup> These are approximate numbers derived from Statistics Canada Census Data. The calculation uses total number of farms multiplied by the average number of residents per farm (3 residents). This number is expressed as a percentage of the total population for both the Province of B.C. and Canada.

- Support the health of British Columbians by increasing awareness and adoption of food safety programs and practices.
- Continue to work with government and industry groups to identify and implement traceability and bio-security strategies that will reduce the risk of foreign animal disease incursions and outbreaks.



*The Animal Health Centre (CL3 Lab), Abbotsford, B.C.*

## Performance Results

Performance Measure	2007/08 Actual	2008/09 Actual	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Actual
Percentage of operators in compliance with fish health management plans	100%	100%	100%	100% ACHIEVED

**Data Source:** Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, *Fish Health Report*

## Discussion of Results

The target of 100 per cent compliance on the production of salmon for commercial purposes was met. All aspects of salmon production require a health management plan in order to get a license. All commercial salmon farms have a plan and are meeting requirements. Two farms, a research production facility and a solid-wall containment farm, also have health management plans in place, although they apply slightly different procedures than the commercial salmon farms.

# Report on Resources

## Resource Summary Table

The Resource Summary Table below outlines the expenditures by core business area. The summary includes all expenditures for the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands and the Agricultural Land Commission.

Core Business Area	Estimated <sup>1</sup>	Other Authorizations <sup>2</sup>	Total Estimated	Actual	Variance
<b>Operating Expenses (\$000)</b>					
Agriculture Development	11,008	0	11,008	10,727	(281)
Strategic Industry Development <sup>3</sup>	38,767	0	38,767	42,624	3,857
Crown Land Administration	11,724	0	11,724	9,560	(2,164)
B.C. Farm Industry Review Board	1,021	0	1,021	1,004	(17)
Executive and Support Services	20,114	0	20,114	17,930	(2,184)
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>82,634</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>82,634</b>	<b>81,844</b>	<b>(790)</b>
Agricultural Land Commission	2,276	0	2,276	2,111	(165)
Crown Land Special Account	126,090	0	126,090	67,911	(58,179)
Transfer from Crown Land Special Account to General Account	0	(63,679)	(63,679)	(63,679)	0
Production Insurance Special Account (Net)	11,500	8,287	19,787	19,787	0
Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual	0	0	0	(472)	(472)
<b>Total</b>	<b>222,500</b>	<b>(55,393)</b>	<b>167,107</b>	<b>107,501</b>	<b>(59,607)</b>
<b>Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)</b>					
Agriculture Development	0	0	0	0	0
Strategic Industry Development	0	0	0	13	13
Crown Land Administration	0	0	0	0	0
B.C. Farm Industry Review Board	0	0	0	0	0
Executive and Support Services	220	0	220	200	(20)
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>(7)</b>
Agricultural Land Commission	0	0	0	0	0
Crown Land Special Account	0	0	0	0	0
Production Insurance Special Account (Net)	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>(7)</b>

Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

Other Financing Transactions (\$000)					
<b>Agriculture Credit Act - Receipts</b>	200	0	200	143	(57)
<b>Crown Land Special Account - Receipts</b>	75	0	75	90	15
<b>Crown Land Administration - Disbursements</b>	(8,250)	0	(8,250)	(1,400)	6,850
<b>Net Cash Source (Requirements)</b>	(7,975)	0	(7,975)	(1,167)	6,808
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>(42)</b>
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>(8,250)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(8,250)</b>	<b>(1,400)</b>	<b>6,850</b>
<b>Total Net Cash Source (Requirements)</b>	<b>(7,975)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(7,975)</b>	<b>(1,167)</b>	<b>6,808</b>

<sup>1</sup> The amounts in the "Estimated" column correspond to the Estimates as presented to the legislative assembly in September 2009.

<sup>2</sup> Other Authorizations includes \$8.6 million for the indemnity payments made from the Production Insurance Special Account.

<sup>3</sup> The \$3.857 operating shortfall in Strategic Industry Development was due to \$2 million in additional spending to support the Ranching Task Force and \$2 million to support strategic investments in the Tree Fruit Sector. This shortfall is offset by savings within the ministry.

# Ministry Contact Information

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## Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

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For more information about the *British Columbia Agriculture Plan: Growing a Healthy Future for B.C. Families*, visit the website at: [http://www.al.gov.bc.ca/Agriculture\\_Plan/](http://www.al.gov.bc.ca/Agriculture_Plan/)

For more information about the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, including full contact information, visit our website at: <http://www.gov.bc.ca/al/>