



## Cabinet Concept Paper

**Ministry:** Agriculture

**Date:** 07/10/2013

s.12

Pages 2 through 3 redacted for the following reasons:

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s.12

## MINISTRY OF ENERGY MINES AND MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR CORE REVIEW

### BRIEFING NOTE

**Date:** October 27, 2013

**Topic:** Meeting with Adam Olsen, Interim Leader Green Party

**Issue:** Meeting requested by Adam Olsen regarding the core review of the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC).

#### Background:

- Adam Olsen presented to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services on October 2, 2013.
- In his statement he made the following points:
  - He has four or five years' history with the agricultural land reserve as a resident of Central Saanich. "It's not perfect. There are lots of issues with it. I don't mind having a discussion about it."
  - "I'm hoping that in coming years the direction of this government will be to strengthen the ALR and the ALC within its current mandate to preserve agricultural land and to encourage farm business. The industry of agriculture could be very profitable for this province."
  - "I encourage the government to reinvest in enforcement and to limit the non-agricultural activities on agricultural land that have been increasing over the past few years. The ALC and the ALR do a great job of protecting the zoning. It has not addressed the economics of farming, and that's what we've struggled with in Central Saanich."
- He was particularly concerned that there be a public consultation process, and consultation process with municipalities, if government is to look at changes to the Agricultural Land Commission. He expressed frustration with the apparent confusion on whether the Select Standing Committee would hear feedback on the core review of the ALC.

#### Discussion:

- The Select Standing Committee did accept feedback from all presenters. Key questions on the efficiency and effectiveness of government programs and services were included from the beginning of the consultation process.
- There will be other opportunities for the public and key stakeholders to give feedback as core review progresses.

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- Regarding the Agricultural Land Commission:
    - This government is committed to protecting high quality agricultural land.
    - The overarching goal of the core review process is to ensure the best possible use of government resources and respect for the interests of taxpayers.
    - It is important to understand that no decisions have been made and we are open to hearing ideas.
    - Minister Pimm did an extensive tour of the province in the summer and received feedback on the mandate and options of the ALC.



**Dawson, Ken PREM:EX**

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**From:** Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX  
**Sent:** August-01-13 2:42 PM  
**To:** Anderson, Steve PREM:EX  
**Cc:** Henderson, Kim N PREM:EX; Finkel, Paul PREM:EX; Dawson, Ken PREM:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Update: Core Review Instructions re ALC

Confirmed. Thanks Steve.

Derek Sturko  
Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Agriculture

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**From:** Anderson, Steve PREM:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 1, 2013 2:35 PM  
**To:** Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX  
**Cc:** Henderson, Kim N PREM:EX; Finkel, Paul PREM:EX; Dawson, Ken PREM:EX  
**Subject:** Update: Core Review Instructions re ALC

Hello Derek

As per DM Henderson's email below, this item been scheduled for Monday October 7<sup>th</sup>; the meeting will take place at PVO from 1-4 pm. We are following the same processes/protocols for this Cabinet Working Group as we do for Cabinet and other Cabinet committees. Accordingly, please have an initial draft submitted to your ministry contact in Cabinet Operations two weeks prior to the meeting (September 23) and the final, signed by your minister, into Cabinet Operations by September 30<sup>th</sup>. Please feel free to cc me on the materials as well, should you wish.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Thank you

Steve

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**From:** Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 25, 2013 10:26 AM  
**To:** Henderson, Kim N PREM:EX  
**Cc:** Anderson, Steve PREM:EX; Dawson, Ken PREM:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Core Review Instructions re ALC

Confirming receipt and understanding of the instructions and timeline.

Thanks,

Derek Sturko

Sent from my iPad

On 2013-07-25, at 9:50 AM, "Henderson, Kim N PREM:EX" <[Kim.Henderson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kim.Henderson@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Hi Derek, following are the instructions on a first stage review of the ALC by the Cabinet Working Group on Core Review. s.12



Steve Anderson from Cabinet Operations has been copied on this note and will advise on timelines for submission. It is expected that this item will be scheduled for CWGCR in mid October. If you have any questions please let me know.

k.

## Ferguson, Susan M MEM:EX

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**From:** MEM Correspondence MEM:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Agricultural Land Commission

From: s.22  
Sent: Saturday, August 3, 2013 9:11 AM  
To: Minister, MEM MEM:EX  
Subject: Agricultural Land Commission

I was pleased to read in Vaughn Palmer's column that you were interested in reviewing the work of the Agricultural Land Commission.

s.22

s.22

s.22

I share the concerns that Palmer quoted you as having.

s.22

I would be happy to meet with you at a time of mutual convenience at my expense to discuss my opinions on the future role that the ALC should play in the conservation of farm land. As my address indicate s.22 but would be happy to travel to meet with you at a place of your convenience.

Of the current members of Cabinet, the Hon. Steve Thomson is aware of my activities. Previous cabinet ministers such as George Abbott or Ben Stewart can also verify my credentials.

I look forward to having an opportunity to express my views and my proposals for change.

s.22

**From:** Minister, MEM MEM:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 10, 2013 10:31 AM  
**To:** s.22  
**Subject:** Agricultural Land Commision  
**Attachments:** terms of ref attch..pdf

Ref: 32

s.22

Email: s.22

Dear s.22

Thank you for your August 3, 2013 email. As the Minister Responsible for Core Review, I am pleased to respond. Unfortunately, due to my heavy schedule I am unable to meet, but I appreciate you taking the time to write to me.

Premier Christy Clark made a promise to British Columbians that this Government would grow the economy, control Government spending, and balance the budget. The Core Review is a key part of delivering on this commitment. We know that Government has already done a good job of managing costs, but we believe more can always be done. The Core Review, which will include all ministries, agencies, boards, commissions and the SUCH (School Districts, Universities, Colleges and Health Organizations) sector, will ensure the best possible use of Government resources and the highest respect for taxpayers' dollars.

The Core Review will ensure that Government is operating as efficiently and effectively as possible and that the programs and activities of ministries are focused on achieving Government's vision of a strong economy and secure tomorrow. In addition, the Core Review will reduce red-tape and unnecessary regulations that hinder economic development, identify opportunities where savings could be redirected to high-priority programs and ensure public sector management wage levels are appropriate. I have attached a copy of the Terms of Reference for Core Review for your information.

Further details on the Core Review process will be provided through specific instructions to ministries this fall.

My colleagues and I serving on the Cabinet Working Group on Core Review greatly appreciate all suggestions for improvements to Government programs and operations and will consider suggestions received from members of the public as part of the Core Review process.

Thank you, again, for writing.

Sincerely,

Bill Bennett  
Minister

Attachment



## Ferguson, Susan M MEM:EX

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**From:** Minister, MEM MEM:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 23, 2013 3:50 PM  
**To:** MEM Correspondence MEM:EX  
**Subject:** FW: ALC Core Review

Draft response - include that it is on behalf of PCC.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 16, 2013 10:10 AM  
**To:** Minister, MEM MEM:EX  
**Subject:** FW: ALC Core Review

Please respond OBO PCC.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** s.22  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 15, 2013 1:54 PM  
**To:** OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
**Subject:** ALC Core Review

First, congratulations on your election victory.

Second, speaking of the election, where in the election platform of the Liberal party was there any mention of changing the mandate of the Agriculture Land Commission so that land speculators and developers could do what they want.

Third, speaking of election platform, did Gordon Campbell not implement something that was not in his Liberal election platform.

Forth, did Gordon Campbell think he was so powerful that he could do what he wanted.

Fifth, speaking of powerful, who ordered the Core Review of the ALC, Ms Clark who does not need more battles when she is trying to get LNG projects and pipelines moving in the right direction or Mr. Bennett who thinks an attack on the A.L.C is what is needed right now adding to the battles that Ms. Clark and the Liberal party are dealing with.

I would like to know why the government thinks that the ALC needs to be changed.

s.22

Sent from my iPad



## DISTRICT OF METCHOSIN

October 21, 2013

Honourable Bill Bennett  
Minister of Energy and Mines Responsible for the Core Review  
PO Box 9069  
STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Bennett:

**Re: Support for the Agricultural Land Commission**

Following a unanimous decision by Council, the District of Metchosin would urge the Minister Responsible for the core Review to ensure that there is no change in the mandate and no reduction whatsoever in the funding of the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC). Indeed, given the enormity of its task in preserving farmland from development, we would recommend that more funds be allocated to the ALC.

As we see rapid urbanization of suburban communities such as Colwood, Langford and Sooke, Metchosin experiences pressures for the conversion of agricultural land to other uses. These pressures are typical of those on agricultural land on Vancouver Island, the Lower Mainland and the Okanagan, all areas where farmable agricultural land is in very short supply. In all these areas, the Agricultural Land Commission has historically provided outstanding leadership in preserving farmland for farm purposes.

Please, therefore, do not jeopardize the work that the ALC is undertaking on behalf of all farmers in British Columbia, particularly in the light of the urgent need to make ourselves self-sustainable in a very uncertain world.

Sincerely,

John Rands  
Mayor

cc. John Hourgan, MLA Juan de Fuca

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Building Inspection Department (250) 474-3196 Fax 474-6298

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