

## Ferguson, Susan M EMNG:EX

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**Subject:** FW: For EMNG? Re CAPP Comments on BC Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) Fee Proposal  
**Attachments:** CAPP\_EDMS-#217842-v1-Letter\_to\_Mike\_de\_Jong\_-\_Re\_ALC\_Fees\_Proposal\_Dec\_11\_2012.pdf

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**From:** Tate, Shirley [<mailto:shirley.tate@capp.ca>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2012 7:48 AM

**To:** Minister, FIN FIN:EX

**Cc:** Minister, EMH EMH:EX; Bell, Jordan EMNG:EX; [toby.meyers@gov.bc.ca](mailto:toby.meyers@gov.bc.ca); Chawrun, Marc EMNG:EX; Minister, AGRI AGRI:EX; Denney, Jay AGRI:EX; Minister, JTST JTST:EX; Ehl, Cameron JTST:EX; Miniaci, Mario FIN:EX; [geoff.morrison@capp.ca](mailto:geoff.morrison@capp.ca)

**Subject:** For Review: CAPP Comments on BC Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) Fee Proposal

To: Hon. Mike de Jong

Minister of Finance

Government of British Columbia

cc: Minister Rich Coleman, Ministry of Energy, Mines and Natural Gas

Minister Norm Letnick, Ministry of Agriculture

Minister Pat Bell, Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skill Training

The Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP) recently became aware that the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) intends to formally propose new fees and amendments to their fee schedules and may be seeking government approval for these changes. Please review the attached which outlines our concerns with the fee proposal.

<<CAPP\_EDMS-#217842-v1-Letter\_to\_Mike\_de\_Jong\_-\_Re\_ALC\_Fees\_Proposal\_Dec\_11\_2012.pdf>>

Sincerely,

Shirley Tate on behalf of

**David Pryce**

VP, Operations



2100, 350 - 7 Avenue SW, Calgary, AB T2P 3N9

ph: (403) 267-1138 | e-mail: [pryce@capp.ca](mailto:pryce@capp.ca) | fax: (403) 266-3214

[www.capp.ca](http://www.capp.ca)

 Please think before printing this email

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December 11, 2012

Honourable Mike de Jong  
Minister of Finance  
Government of British Columbia  
Parliament Building  
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E1

via email: [FIN.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:FIN.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

Dear Minister de Jong:

**Re: CAPP Comments on BC Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) Fee Proposal**

The Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP) recently became aware that the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) intends to formally propose new fees and amendments to their fee schedules and may be seeking government approval for these changes. CAPP would like to voice its opposition to the new fees and is concerned about the lack of consultation, dialogue and transparency by the ALC on the matter. Thus, CAPP feels government should not consider approving any new fees without a dialogue and critical input from the upstream oil and gas industry.

The proposed changes, we believe represent a significant change in existing fees and new ALC activities such as monitoring and auditing fees for the oversight of ALC activities delegated to the BC Oil and Gas Commission (OGC). CAPP does not support these new fees and notes the ALC has not responded to industry's previous efforts to seek additional information due to raised concerns about the new fees.

CAPP supports the delegation of approvals for industry activities on Agricultural Land Reserve to the OGC and notes that fees paid to the OGC cover the cost of those approvals and thus the ALC incurs no cost burden as a result. The OGC is an independent regulator accountable to the people of British Columbia and requires no additional oversight from the ALC. CAPP believes an expanded delegation agreement between the OGC and ALC would further reduce cost to the ALC. Furthermore CAPP believes the ALC's core mandate should be supported through appropriate government funding rather than proposing to download costs to industry.

The ALC has not formally consulted with the upstream oil and gas industry on the introduction of new fees, however CAPP believes the fees could represent a significant new financial burden to the industry without improvements to the certainty of process and timelines. This has been a significant problem for our industry with delays impacting both industry and government revenue. This is particularly important in light of the current natural gas price environment. Forecasters suggest natural gas prices will remain low for some time, while exploration and production costs continue to

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2100, 350 – 7 Avenue S.W.  
Calgary, Alberta  
Canada T2P 3N9  
Tel (403) 267-1100  
Fax (403) 261-4622


1000, 275 Slater Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
Canada K1P 5H9  
Tel: 613-288-2126  
Fax: 613- 236-4280

403, 235 Water Street  
St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador  
Canada A1C 1B6  
Tel 709-724-4200  
Fax 709-724-4225

increase. With increased supply available in the United States, Canadian and BC sources of natural gas are facing increased competition. The ALC's proposed fee changes seem markedly out of sync with the objectives of the government's *Job Plan* to attract new investment, and the *Natural Gas Strategy* and *LNG Strategy* which seeks to support job prospects and maintain competitiveness and establish a new export industry in British Columbia.

We look forward to the opportunity to engage with government and the ALC on this matter of new fees, expanded delegation to the OGC and/or improved ALC approval process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Pryce". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "P" at the end.

Dave Pryce  
Vice President, Operations

cc: Minister Rich Coleman, Ministry of Energy, Mines and Natural Gas  
Minister Norm Letnick, Ministry of Agriculture  
Minister Pat Bell, Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skill Training

CAPP\_EDMS-#217842

## Ferguson, Susan M MEM:EX

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**From:** s.22 on behalf of Abra Brynne s.22  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 2, 2013 12:37 PM  
**To:** OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
**Cc:** Minister, AGRI AGRI:EX; Minister, MEM MEM:EX; ALC Burnaby ALC:EX; bcac@bcac.bc.ca; bccattle@cattlemen.bc.ca; s.22 Rebecca Kneen; Brent Mansfield  
**Subject:** Core Review public input regarding the ALR and ALC  
**Attachments:** BCFSN\_PremierClark\_2Oct13.pdf  
**Categories:** FYI/File

Please find attached our letter on this matter.  
respectfully,  
Abra Brynne  
Co-Chair, BC Food Systems Network

--  
Abra Brynne

s.22



## BC Food Systems Network

P.O. Box 684  
Nelson, BC  
Canada V1L 5R4

[www.fooddemocracy.org](http://www.fooddemocracy.org)  
[info@fooddemocracy.org](mailto:info@fooddemocracy.org)

2 October 2013

Honourable Christy Clark  
Premier of British Columbia  
Delivered by email: [premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:premier@gov.bc.ca)

Dear Premier,

### **RE: CORE REVIEW PUBLIC INPUT REGARDING THE ALR AND ALC**

We are writing to you today to share our concern and request your support for full and timely public consultation in the matters under discussion by the Core Review, in particular the Agricultural Land Reserve and Agricultural Land Commission.

We represent a network of thousands of citizens and over 20 food-focused regional and local groups in BC concerned about community food security. The BC Food Systems Network, formed in 1999 to provide input to the development of an Agri-Food Policy for BC, has always had a strong interest and focus on public policy. To us, protection of the land and water needed for food production remains a priority.

We are just some of the 95% of British Columbians mentioned in a 2008 Ipsos Reid poll who said they support the ALR and the policy of preserving farmland. This support for the ALR had grown by four percentage points between 2004 and 2008.

This summer we were naturally concerned when we heard the Honourable Bill Bennett announce that he intended the Core Review process to take "a close look" at the Agricultural Land Reserve and Agricultural Land Commission. This in spite of the fact that the system and organization have recently undergone two reviews, one by the Auditor General in 2010 and another by the Chair the same year that was confirmed by your Government in 2011 with direction and budget support for this fiscal.

Our concerns turned to alarm on review of an ALC decision published in August 2013 which described in detail the amount of pressure being brought to bear on the Commission by members of your government and the Commission's unusually strong language in response. We wrote to the Honourable Bill Bennett and Honourable Pat Pimm on September 12 asking them to tell us what the public engagement process would be regarding the Core Review and the ALR and ALC and how we could participate. To date we have not received a response.

On September 24th, the Core Review's terms of reference were published. They state that the opportunity for public comment on the Core Review is through the fall hearings of the Finance and Government Services Committee. Those hearings had been under way for some time by

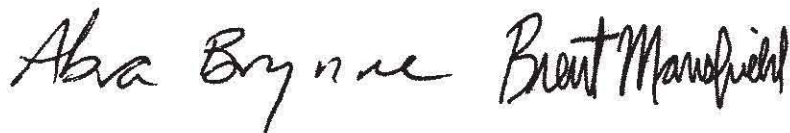


the time of the Core Review announcement! We sent two people to present to the Victoria meeting on September 26. We were courteously received but discovered that the Committee members did not know they had been nominated as the government body to receive input on the Core Review.

On a matter of such importance to so many British Columbians, and with such implications for our future, we are sure you will agree that this attempt at public engagement is inadequate.

We know you have a strong commitment to public engagement. We would like the Core Review process to be much more transparent and to refer its proposed directions to a bipartisan House committee for public comment as they are made. We would also expect that the government body responsible, in this case the Agricultural Land Commission, would also be invited to respond to the Core Review's recommendations.

Thank you for attending to this matter. We look forward to your response.

Handwritten signatures of Abra Brynne and Brent Mansfield in black ink.

Abra Brynne and Brent Mansfield,  
Co-Chairs, BC Food Systems Network

CC

Honourable Pat Pimm, Minister of Agriculture

Honourable Bill Bennett, Minister of Energy and Mines and Minister Responsible for Core Review

Richard Bullock, Chair, Agricultural Land Commission

Rhonda Driediger, Chair, BC Agriculture Council

David Haywood-Farmer, President, BC Cattlemen's Association

Susan Snow and Rebecca Kneen, Co-Chairs, Certified Organic Associations of BC

## Ferguson, Susan M MEM:EX

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**From:** Linda Geggie s.22  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 12, 2013 2:26 PM  
**To:** Minister, AGRI AGRI:EX; Minister, MEM MEM:EX  
**Cc:** Fleming, Sharon AGRI:EX s.22 Minister,  
SDSI SDSI:EX; Thomson.MLA, Steve LASS:EX; bcac@bcac.bc.ca; members@bcfsn.org  
**Subject:** Attention Honourable Minister Pimm and Honourable Minister Bill Bennett re: ALR from BC  
Food Systems Network  
**Attachments:** BCFSN\_Pimm-Bennett\_sept13.pdf  
**Categories:** Forwarded to Sarina

September 12, 2013

Hello,

Please find the letter attached from the BC Food Systems Network for the Honourable Minister Patt Pimm, and Honourable Minister Bill Bennett

This letter has also been Cc'd to:

Honourable Minister Bill Bennett

Honourable Minister Steve Thomson

Honourable Minister Don McRae

Richard Bullock, Chair Agriculture Land Commission

Rhonda Driediger, Chair, BC Agriculture Council

Susan Snow and Rebecca Kneen, Co Chairs, Certified Organic Associations of BC

BC Food Systems Members

We look forward to your reply,

Brent Mansfield

Chair, BC Food Systems Network

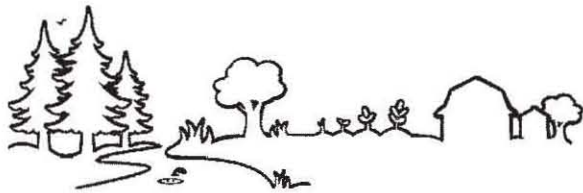
s.22

Linda Geggie

Chair Food Policy Working Group

s.22





## BC Food Systems Network

P.O. Box 684  
Nelson, BC  
Canada V1L 5R4

[www.fooddemocracy.org](http://www.fooddemocracy.org)

[info@fooddemocracy.org](mailto:info@fooddemocracy.org)

Honourable Bill Bennett, Minister of Energy and Mines and Minister Responsible for Core Review

Honourable Pat Pimm, Minister of Agriculture

*Delivered via email*

September 12, 2013

Dear Sirs,

### **RE: Agricultural Land Reserve**

The BC Food Systems Network was formed in 1999. Its mission is to eliminate hunger and create food security for all residents of British Columbia. Our membership is a broad base of farmers, health practitioners, educators, and community organizations across British Columbia. You can read more about us at [www.fooddemocracy.org](http://www.fooddemocracy.org).

### **We are writing you on behalf of the BCFSN in regards to our concerns regarding the public consultation process for the Core Review of the ALR and ALC.**

After our July 2013 annual conference – this year's theme was Food from the Water, Food From the Land – the new Board identified a number of policy priorities, including a focus on the Agricultural Land Reserve. We are aware that it is 40 years old this year, and we are concerned about its future.

We were encouraged by the language of the Minister of Agriculture's June 10 mandate letter that referred to a desire for the ALR to work for British Columbians, protect valuable farmland, and encourage the stability of farm families and the farming industry in the province. We note the request to ensure the Agricultural Land Commission is delivering on the improvements promised and supported by the 2013 budget.

The BC Agrifoods Strategy, part of the Jobs Plan, drafted when Honourable Don McRae was Minister of Agriculture, makes a number of key references to BC's agrifoods sector, noting its diversity which "provides an important competitive advantage with a wide range of opportunities for growth and innovation." It capably outlines contextual issues and a range of market opportunities for BC's farm and food businesses.

The BC Food Systems Network has always taken, and promotes, a *systems* view of the agri-food sector that includes social and environmental as well as economic factors and impacts. We believe that sustainability for the future requires a multi-functional approach to food that would engage government across a number of departments.

We know that farm and food businesses cannot be sustainable without an adequate business case. The economics of food production is a significant challenge, whether producers are micro, small or large. We are engaging in this challenge in various ways. For example, at a national meeting in May of this year, we learned of a range of social finance options for supporting farms and securing farmland that we are eager to discuss with you and with Minister McRae.

However, there are other, even more basic, prerequisites for farm and food success. Sunlight. Water. Land. The Agrifoods Strategy rightly points out that a very small percentage of BC is arable, that "BC's highly fertile food producing lands need protection," and that existing farmland should be kept in production, and held as food producing resources for future generations.

The move, forty years ago, to pre-emptively protect farmland from losses (about 6,000 hectares were being lost per year) by creating the Agricultural Land Reserve was a sound one. BC has been an inspiration to many other jurisdictions for making farmland protection a priority. This is not to say that the ALR was designed, or has worked, perfectly. It needs to be updated in light of the 21<sup>st</sup> century context for BC, which includes the effects of globalization, climate change and stronger Pacific Rim connections.<sup>1</sup>

So to our reason for writing. On reading Vaughn Palmer's article in the *Sun* August 3, we were surprised and disturbed to see the Minister Responsible for Core Review announce that a close look at the ALR and the ALC was a top priority, expressing generalized frustration with the ALR on behalf of landowners who want to develop lands they consider should never have been in the ALR in the first place. Then, on review of recent ALC decisions, we note some interactions between the ALC and members of the Provincial and local governments that give us pause. It looks as if battle lines are being drawn. We are concerned that the ALR and its governing body could be drastically harmed if developers' frustrations carry the day with policymakers. Economic Development must consider a full spectrum of the needs of British Columbians, and changes to support economic development that impact our food security today and into the future must be publicly debated.

In some respects this could be a replay of positions and arguments from 40 years ago. We propose that a public debate needs to be re-engaged with a view to BC's 21<sup>st</sup> century needs for a strong economy, with agriculture and food as a strong contributor to it. Although our food future should not be optional any jurisdiction without the ability to grow its own food is at the mercy of the one that can), it should be fully and publicly discussed before changes are made to the regulatory framework around our critically important farmland. As the Auditor General stated so succinctly in his 2010 report on the ALC, "agricultural land is an indispensable, natural resource". As BC considers the current opportunities in the energy sector, resource development must be balanced with the long-term food production capacity of the province so crucial to our food security.

Attitudes to food among producers, processors, public and government have changed a lot in the last 40 years. We have some new challenges, new demands, new markets, and new opportunities before us. At the BC Food Systems Network we see far more consumer food

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<sup>1</sup> In this regard we note recommendations in the paper *Strengthening BC's Agriculture Sector in the Face of Climate change* from the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions, May 2013



literacy, local demand, and financing opportunities than we had 30 years ago – and a nationwide food movement that we have helped to build.

We believe there are untapped opportunities for policy instruments and programs to support agriculture, including measures such as incentives and tax shifts; scaling of regulatory requirements to allow more business opportunities; opportunities for synergy between land- and water-based production; and room for expansion in the Environmental Farm Plan mandate. We also know that innovation often comes from the margins and that, when facing an uncertain future, policymakers do well to manage adaptively and support a variety of approaches to see which can become successful.

We trust that you agree and that the founding principles of BC's farmland protection can be carried forward for the next 40 years in an equally far-sighted way.

**We would appreciate your response to the following questions:**

**What is the public engagement process for the Core Review of the ALR and ALC? Will input be possible to the Core Review Team's proposals to government? How can the BC Food Systems Network and other concerned stakeholders contribute, and be heard?**

**We would also appreciate an opportunity to meet with you to discuss the above. We have taken the liberty of copying Cabinet colleagues who are former Ministers of Agriculture; their experience will be helpful in consideration of these matters.**

Thank you for your attention. We look forward to hearing from you.

Very truly yours



Brent Mansfield and Abra Brynne  
Co-Chairs, BC Food Systems Network

Network Contacts: Brent Mansfield ph: s.22  
Linda Geggie, Policy Working Group Chair, p s.22

CC

- Honourable Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
- Honourable Don McRae, Minister of Social Development and Social Innovation
- Richard Bullock, Chair, Agricultural Land Commission
- Rhonda Driediger, Chair, BC Agriculture Council
- Susan Snow & Rebecca Kneen, Co-Chairs, Certified Organic Associations of BC
- BC Food Systems Network members



## DISTRICT OF NORTH SAANICH

1620 Mills Road, North Saanich, B.C. V8L 5S9

Phone: 250-656-0781 | Fax: 250-656-3155

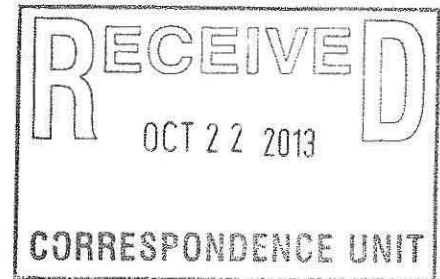
e-mail: [admin@northsaanich.ca](mailto:admin@northsaanich.ca) | [www.northsaanich.ca](http://www.northsaanich.ca)

# COPY

MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINES	
REFERRAL NUMBER	Core 55
REFER TO:	Agriculture
DRAFT REPLY <input type="checkbox"/>	INFO/FILE <input type="checkbox"/> REPLY DIRECT <input type="checkbox"/>
RECEIVED	OCT 17 2013
REMARKS:	original sent to AG

October 8, 2013

Honorable Bill Bennett  
Minister Responsible for Core Review  
PO BOX 9069  
STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2



Dear Minister Bennett:

**Re: Agricultural Land Reserve**

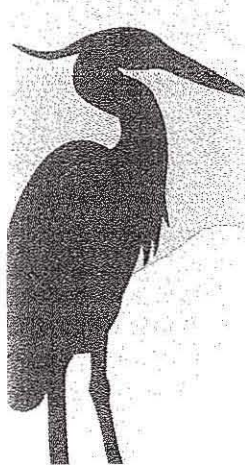
I am writing on behalf of the Mayor and Council of the District of North Saanich. At the meeting held October 7, 2013, North Saanich Council received the enclosed correspondence from the Peninsula Agricultural Commission and resolved to seek clarification from the Province on a core review of the Agricultural Land Commission.

On behalf of the Mayor and Council of the District of North Saanich, thank you for your attention to this matter.

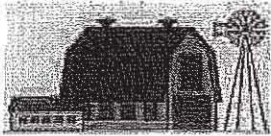
Sincerely,

Curt Kingsley  
Manager of Corporate Services

cc: Hon. Pat Primm, Minister of Agriculture







# Peninsula Agricultural Commission

c/o Saanich Municipal Hall  
770 Vernon Avenue, Victoria, B.C. V8X 2W7  
Telephone: (250) 475-1775 Facsimile: (250) 475-5440  
Secretary: Isobel Hoffmann, Extension 3502 ([hoffmani@saanich.ca](mailto:hoffmani@saanich.ca))  
Chair: Flora Wood

September 12, 2013

To: Mayor and Councillors of the Member Municipalities:  
Saanich, Central Saanich, North Saanich, Sidney, and Metchosisin

RE: Agricultural Land Reserve

The Peninsula Agricultural Commission is in receipt of the attached letter from the BC Food Systems Network with respect to the process for a core review of the Agricultural Land Commission and the Agricultural Land Reserve.

PAC briefly discussed the issue at its meeting on September 13, 2013. The Council liaisons at the meeting were not aware of the review or the significant changes which are being proposed. The Commission has concerns that this core policy review will be undertaken without a public engagement process or input from stakeholders. We would respectfully ask the municipal councils to seek clarification on this matter from the Ministers Bennett and Pimm.

The future of the ALR, which was introduced in the 1970s, is vital to our food security in the province. People need to understand the impact significant changes would have on ALR lands and the future of BC.

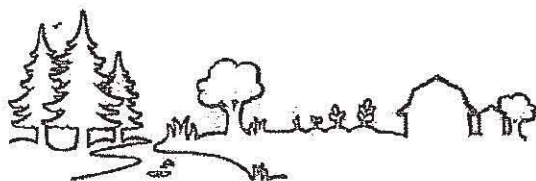
Respectfully,

Flora Wood, Chair,  
Peninsula Agricultural Commission

cc: Hon. Bill Bennett, Minister Responsible for Core Review  
Hon. Pat Pimm, Minister of Agriculture  
BC Food Systems Network  
Rob Kline, Ministry of Agriculture

<b>CIRCULATION</b>	
Mayor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
CAO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Corporate Officer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>ACTION</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council Agenda	
<input type="checkbox"/> Info Pk	
<input type="checkbox"/> Reading File	
<input type="checkbox"/> Staff Recommendation	
That Council seek clarification from the Province	

Member Municipalities:  
Saanich, Central Saanich, North Saanich, Sidney, Metchosisin



## BC Food Systems Network

P.O. Box 684  
Nelson, BC  
Canada V1L 5R4  
[www.fooddemocracy.org](http://www.fooddemocracy.org)  
[info@fooddemocracy.org](mailto:info@fooddemocracy.org)

Honourable Bill Bennett, Minister of Energy and Mines and Minister Responsible for Core Review  
Honourable Pat Pimm, Minister of Agriculture  
*Delivered via email*

September 12, 2013

Dear Sirs,

### **RE: Agricultural Land Reserve**

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We were encouraged by the language of the Minister of Agriculture's June 10 mandate letter that referred to a desire for the ALR to work for British Columbians, protect valuable farmland, and encourage the stability of farm families and the farming industry in the province. We note the request to ensure the Agricultural Land Commission is delivering on the improvements promised and supported by the 2013 budget.

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However, there are other, even more basic, prerequisites for farm and food success. Sunlight. Water. Land. The Agrifoods Strategy rightly points out that a very small percentage of BC is arable, that "BC's highly fertile food producing lands need protection," and that existing farmland should be kept in production, and held as food producing resources for future generations.

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In some respects this could be a replay of positions and arguments from 40 years ago. We propose that a public debate needs to be re-engaged with a view to BC's 21<sup>st</sup> century needs for a strong economy, with agriculture and food as a strong contributor to it. Although our food future should not be optional any jurisdiction without the ability to grow its own food is at the mercy of the one that can), it should be fully and publicly discussed before changes are made to the regulatory framework around our critically important farmland. As the Auditor General stated so succinctly in his 2010 report on the ALC, "agricultural land is an indispensable, natural resource". As BC considers the current opportunities in the energy sector, resource development must be balanced with the long-term food production capacity of the province so crucial to our food security.

Attitudes to food among producers, processors, public and government have changed a lot in the last 40 years. We have some new challenges, new demands, new markets, and new opportunities before us. At the BC Food Systems Network we see far more consumer food

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<sup>1</sup> In this regard we note recommendations in the paper *Strengthening BC's Agriculture Sector in the Face of Climate Change* from the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions, May 2013

literacy, local demand, and financing opportunities than we had 30 years ago – and a nationwide food movement that we have helped to build.

We believe there are untapped opportunities for policy instruments and programs to support agriculture, including measures such as incentives and tax shifts; scaling of regulatory requirements to allow more business opportunities; opportunities for synergy between land- and water-based production; and room for expansion in the Environmental Farm Plan mandate. We also know that innovation often comes from the margins and that, when facing an uncertain future, policymakers do well to manage adaptively and support a variety of approaches to see which can become successful.

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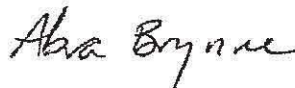
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Thank you for your attention. We look forward to hearing from you.

Very truly yours



Brent Mansfield and Abra Brynne  
Co-Chairs, BC Food Systems Network

Network Contacts: Brent Mansfield ph:

s.22

Linda Geggie, Policy Working Group Chair, ph:

s.22

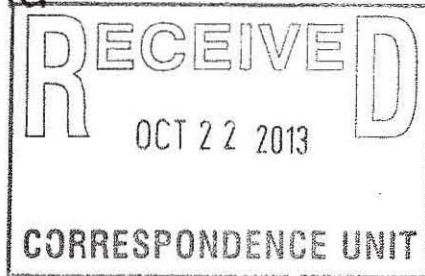
CC

- Honourable Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
- Honourable Don McRae, Minister of Social Development and Social Innovation
- Richard Bullock, Chair, Agricultural Land Commission
- Rhonda Driediger, Chair, BC Agriculture Council
- Susan Snow & Rebecca Kneen, Co-Chairs, Certified Organic Associations of BC
- BC Food Systems Network members





City of  
Richmond



**COPY**

Malcolm D. Brodie  
Mayor

6911 No. 3 Road,  
Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1  
Telephone: 604-276-4123  
Fax No: 604-276-4332

October 9, 2013

The Honourable Christy Clark  
Premier of British Columbia  
Office of the Premier  
PO BOX 9041 STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

www.richmond.ca

MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINES

REFERRAL NUMBER Core 56

REFER TO: Min of Agriculture

DRAFT REPLY ☐ INFO/FILE ☐ REPLY DIRECT ☐

RECEIVED OCT 16 2013

REMARKS: original sent to agriculture

Dear Premier Clark:

**Re: Provincial Core Review of the Agricultural Land Commission and Reserve**

This is to advise that at its Special Council meeting held on Monday, October 7, 2013, Richmond City Council adopted the following resolution:

- (1) *That as the Provincial Government is conducting a Core Review of its programs and services including the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) and Reserve (ALR), and as opportunities for Council and public consultation during the Review are unclear, Council write the Premier and Minister of Agriculture requesting that the Core Review:*
  - (a) *protect, enhance, adequately fund, and enforce the Agricultural Land Reserve, Agricultural Land Commission, and its policies; and*
  - (b) *enable consultation opportunities for City Council, the Richmond Agriculture Advisory Committee (AAC) and public; and*
- (2) *That copies of the letter be sent to all Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs), the Metro Vancouver Board and local governments, the Port Metro Vancouver Board, and the Core Review Panel.*

If you require further information, please feel free to contact Terry Crowe, Manager, Policy Planning at 604-276-4139.

Yours truly,

Malcolm D. Brodie  
Mayor

pc: The Honourable Bill Bennett, Minister of Energy and Mines and Minister Responsible for Core Review  
Members of the Legislative Assembly  
Metro Vancouver Board  
Port Metro Vancouver Board



## 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, B.C. 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 Rahr  
Mayor

cc. John Hourgan, MLA Juan de Fuca

4450 Happy Valley Road, Victoria, B.C. V9C 3Z3  
Administration Office (250) 474-3167 Fax 474-6298  
Building Inspection Department (250) 474-3196 Fax 474-6298

File: 0115-05-NO NUMER  
**AGRICULTURE**  
OCT 29 2013  
orig. Sent to Agr.  
MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND MINES  
**RECEIVED**  
NOV 13 2013  
DEPUTY MINISTER'S OFFICE  
LOG# CORE 62

Pages 19 through 59 redacted for the following reasons:

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s.12

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s.14