

Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION

Ref: 180121

Date: June 4, 2014

Issue: Consultations on Future Amendments to the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* Regulation

Background: Bill 24 passed on May 29, 2014, amending the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* (ALCA). The amended Act introduced significant changes to the operations of the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) and the administration of the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR). Details on how some of these changes will be implemented will be provided in the Agricultural Land Reserve Use, Subdivision and Procedure Regulation (ALCA regulation) which may be amended this fall.

The Ministry is conducting a consultation process to solicit input from key government agencies, stakeholder groups and the public to inform these regulatory amendments.

Consultation Process: The consultation process includes pre-consultation planning with ministry staff and other government agencies (currently underway); four to six invitation-based in-person meetings with stakeholders (July and August); and web-based consultation with the public (July and August).

Ministry staff whose work intersects with the ALC and the management of ALR land had an opportunity to provide input into changes to the regulation, the draft consultation plan and the list of participants on May 29. Partners in the Ministry of Community Sport and Cultural Development and the Farm Industry Review Board have also been asked for their input into the consultation plan and the list of invited stakeholders. (They will be asked for input into the regulation once the consultation process begins in July.)

The ALC, the Union of BC Municipalities and the BC Agriculture Council are being invited to join a Minister's Reference Group to support the consultation process. It is anticipated that the Reference Group will meet with the Minister at the outset on July 8 and also at the conclusion of the consultations in September. The purpose of the group is to provide input into the consultation questions and guidance with respect to some of the issues raised by stakeholders and the public.

A list of stakeholders invited to participate in face-to-face meetings is being compiled. Four to six such meetings are being planned across the province between July 15 and August 31. ALC staff have been invited to attend and participate in the consultations with Ministry staff. A consultation paper will be circulated to invitees in advance. The public will be invited to provide input in the consultation through the consultation website, which will provide the same consultation document being shared with stakeholders so all interested parties can provide input on the same questions. The website will also be used to track and share the feedback received during the stakeholder consultations.

Following the consultations, the Ministry will develop recommendations to inform amendments to the ALCA Regulation.

s.12

s.13

Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION

s.13

Contact: Kate Hughes, Senior Policy Analyst: 250 356 7219

DIR AS ADM JM DM DS