

From: [Anslow, Martha AGRI:EX](#)
To: [Anderson, Arlene AGRI:EX](#); [Mack, James AGRI:EX](#)
Cc: [Travia, David V AGRI:EX](#)
Subject: Fwd: article on new ALR regulations
Date: Monday, June 24, 2019 9:00:36 AM
Attachments: [ALR changes face review - June 19, 2019 -.pdf](#)
[ATT00001.htm](#)

Just FYI, I wasn't aware of this.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Grout, Kim ALC:EX" <Kim.Grout@gov.bc.ca>
Date: June 24, 2019 at 8:55:44 AM PDT
To: "Anslow, Martha AGRI:EX" <Martha.Anslow@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: "McCoubrey, Lindsay ALC:EX" <Lindsay.McCoubrey@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: article on new ALR regulations

Hi, Martha. Not sure if you saw this. We weren't aware that the Ombudsperson was involved.

K

Kim Grout | CEO | Agricultural Land Commission
T 604-660-7028 | F 604-660-7033

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JUNE 19, 2019

ALR changes face review

by BARBARA JOHNSTONE GRIMMER & PETER MITHAM
Copyright

Page 03 of 56

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Copyright

From: [Grout, Kim ALC:EX](#)
To: [Anslow, Martha AGRI:EX](#)
Cc: [McCoubrey, Lindsay ALC:EX](#)
Subject: FW: article on new ALR regulations
Date: Monday, June 24, 2019 8:55:46 AM
Attachments: [ALR changes face review - June 19, 2019 -.pdf](#)
Importance: High

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K

Kim Grout | CEO | Agricultural Land Commission

📞 604-660-7028 | 📠 604-660-7033

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From: [Hryciuk, Lorie AGRI:EX](#)
To: [Anslow, Martha AGRI:EX](#)
Cc: [Evers, Charlene AGRI:EX](#); [Anderson, Arlene AGRI:EX](#)
Subject: FW: The ALR/ALC Revitalization Committee and ALC Commission
Date: Friday, May 10, 2019 9:02:40 AM
Attachments: [CFI 2019 Letter to Minister re ALRALCBill 15.pdf](#)
[ATT00001.htm](#)
Importance: High

Martha, this will be assigned to you on your response to the ALR report recommendations. Arlene will be able to assist if there is any info required on the bills.

Thanks

Lorie

From: Correspondence Unit AGRI:EX
Sent: May 10, 2019 8:54 AM
To: Anderson, Arlene AGRI:EX
Cc: Scott, Melissa AGRI:EX ; Hryciuk, Lorie AGRI:EX ; Evers, Charlene AGRI:EX ; Skogstad, Holly AGRI:EX
Subject: FW: The ALR/ALC Revitalization Committee and ALC Commission
Importance: High

Good morning –

I just spoke with Holly and as this is a rush request (came up in Estimates that they had not received a response), I wanted to give you a head's up that this is coming.

I will be sending it down shortly – but please let me know if I can assist in any way.

Thank you so much, and I apologize for the short turn-around.

Cristina

COOMBS FARMERS' INSTITUTE

EST. 1914

BOX 111, COOMBS, B.C.

VOR 1MO

REPRESENTING FARMERS ON EAST CENTRAL VANCOUVER ISLAND

April 19, 2019

The Honourable Lana Popham, M.L.A.

Minister of Agriculture,

Room 325 Parliament Buildings,

Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Popham,

Re: The ALR/ALC Revitalization Committee and Bill 15, Etc.

We, the members of the Coombs Farmers' Institute, have never felt the need to write two letters to the Minister of Agriculture, in as many days. This, if nothing else, should indicate our level of concern.

The recent tabling of Bill 15, caught us rather off-guard. Those most impacted by a significant change of legislation, should expect to be alerted to its existence, and given a reasonable time frame in which to respond. There are mutually recognized and well established channels of communication between the Ministry and our agricultural organization. We learned of this Bill from a Facebook post.

We have waited to express our growing concern about the possible negative impacts of Bill 15, believing that our interests were inclusively and fairly represented by the ALR/ALC Revitalization Committee and the ALC Commission.

However, recent developments have prompted us to write this letter. I will name the most important of them, and request that the details of these instances, and other, as serious concerns, be discussed in a meeting.

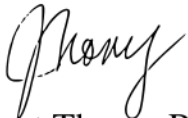
1. There is increasing frustration being expressed at the unavoidable, but unfortunate decision to allow marijuana crops on ALR land. Marijuana is not food.
2. There is building anger and amazement, that ALC legislation allows alcohol and drug production and sales on ALR land, but prohibits the farmer from cooking and serving (value-adding) food grown on their ALR land.

3. The ALR/ALC Revitalization Committee and/or the ALC Commission is being increasingly viewed as secretive, autocratic and biased.
4. There is very strong feeling against the centralization of governance. The Regional Panels provided invaluable local knowledge. The suggestion that a centralized Commission, with regional representation, will result in a higher percentage of equitable, “un-pressured” application verdicts is debatable.
5. Farmers, both tenured and new entrants, are giving up on the hope of making a living in agriculture in B.C. The collective weight of bureaucracy (legislation, regulation and policy from various branches of government, not to mention insurances) is becoming increasingly impossible to bear.
6. Removing the right of land owners to apply on their own behalf to the ALC, and gifting that power to local governments is unwise. There are many examples of local and regional governments having vested interests and double standards, as it relates to altering or removing land from the ALR. (As a committee member of the Regional District of Nanaimo's Agricultural Advisory Committee I have witnessed this first hand.)

Some of the above issues are only peripherally related to Bill 15. The media attention and legislative debate, both pro and con, subsequent to its first reading, served to shine a spotlight on how the ALR in general is currently being managed.

We ask that a meeting be scheduled as soon as possible to discuss the more sensitive aspects of our concerns.

Yours respectfully,



Janet Thony, President, Coombs Farmers' Institute
250 738 0888 crocker1@telus.net

cc District A Farmers' Institute

From: [Minaker, Willow AGRI:EX](#)
To: [Anslow, Martha AGRI:EX](#)
Subject: RE: (FI) Meeting
Date: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 4:55:56 PM

Given the diversity of issues and a local farmer's institute, it would probably best fit with the RA (Jill Hatfield in this case).

w.

From: Anslow, Martha AGRI:EX
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 3:42 PM
To: Minaker, Willow AGRI:EX
Subject: FW: (FI) Meeting
For discussion, doesn't look like ours either.

From: Godfrey, Sam AGRI:EX
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 9:04 AM
To: Leppard, Brianna AGRI:EX
Subject: FW: (FI) Meeting

Hi,

Min draft reply please, by this Monday AM.

Thanks, S.

Sam Godfrey

Senior Ministerial Assistant to the Honourable Lana Popham

Minister of Agriculture, British Columbia

Mobile: **S.17** | Office: 250 387 1023

Rm 325, Parliament Buildings, 501 Belleville St., Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4

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From: Smith, Jessica C AG:EX
Sent: April 22, 2019 10:20 AM
To: Godfrey, Sam AGRI:EX
Subject: Fwd: (FI) Meeting
FYI Sam.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Alan Rebane <alanrebane@shaw.ca>
Date: April 22, 2019 at 7:17:57 AM PDT
To: MLA.Minister@gov.bc.ca, Jessica.C.Smith@gov.bc.ca
Cc: nicholas.simons.MLA@leg.bc.ca, michelle.stilwell.MLA@leg.bc.ca,
crocker1@telus.net
Subject: (FI) Meeting

Good morning Jessica,

I'm hoping as ministerial assistant you could make sure Minister Popham receives this letter. I did send to the ministers email but sometimes they don't make it as quickly as

they need to.

Kindest regards Alan Rebane

The Honorable Lana Popham, M.L.A. April 18, 2019

Minister of Agriculture

Room 325 Parliament Building

Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4

Dear Honorable Minister Popham, Send by Email

RE: Bill 15

You have been so supportive of the Farmers Institutes (FI), and it is disappointing to see that there has been no consultation with the BC Farmers Institute in regards to Bill 15.

Powell River's farmers and Agricultural Institute has been in existence for over 102 years and this upcoming legislation through Bill 15 strips away an individual Farmer's ability to deal directly with Provincial Government and the ALC.

I can only state that Bill 15 is all wrong and completely goes against what the Farmer's Institute legislation states.

“ 26 (1) An advisory board composed of one delegate from each district farmer's institute may meet, at the time and place determined by the minister, to advise the minister on matters of interest to farmer's Institute's”

May I suggest that we call a meeting to discuss a number of issues at hand. I believe the majority of the issues are coming from within Vancouver Island and Powell River so our normal delegation from district A FI would be prepared to address these.

Perhaps some suggestions and discussions in regards to these following issues would be simple solutions and not exhaust staff time nor everyone invaluable time, who are passionate about agriculture. We are coming into a very busy part of the year. So I am suggesting this meeting be held quickly.

RE: ALR and ALC - Bill 15 in regards to the ALC.

1. We believe there are some complications to this current format.

2. How is agricultural needs best represent and who is representing “The Farmer”?

A). Rusty Rake.

B). Letting local government make Agricultural decisions with no Agricultural background.

3. Special interest groups taking the lead in representation and a high paying Consultants steering a mandate of their own agendas.

4). **ALC decisions.**

5). **RE: Meat Regulations.** I just personally experienced a unbelievable situation with the slaughter licenses with ministry staff and consultants, I would like to share what has happened and what was observed.

6). **One of the most important:** How to help small agricultural ventures with funding them directly not creating bureaucracy that continually drags them down and creates controversial issues. “We really are supposed to be trying to make things simpler.”

In closing I would like to make sure that two other individuals be added to this meeting the farmers institute superintendent and the ALC chair. I would anticipate that this meeting could take the better part of a half a day perhaps longer. I am also forwarding this letter to Janet Thony President of district A, so she can get the representatives prepared so we can come well-prepared.

I believe strongly that this meeting can be super productive and I’m hoping that yourself and your staff will entertain this offer.

Kindest regards Alan Rebane President of the Powell River Farmer’s and Agricultural Institute.

7812 Valley RD
Powell River BC V8A 0S9
alanrebane@shaw.ca
Cell - 604-208-2079

Cc: Janet Thony District A Farmer’s Institute.
Cc: Nicholas Simons. Powell River MLA Via email ,
Cc: Michelle Stilwell MLA Via email ,

Sent from my iPad
Thanks Alan

From: [Anslow, Martha AGRI:EX](#)
To: [Minaker, Willow AGRI:EX](#)
Subject: Re: (FI) Meeting
Date: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 4:13:45 PM

Pls ignore. I've discussed with Lorie and we've got this, will send on to BDD after we start it!

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 23, 2019, at 3:42 PM, Anslow, Martha AGRI:EX <Martha.Anslow@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

For discussion, doesn't look like ours either.

From: Godfrey, Sam AGRI:EX
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 9:04 AM
To: Leppard, Brianna AGRI:EX
Subject: FW: (FI) Meeting

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Senior Ministerial Assistant to the Honourable Lana Popham

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Mobile: **S.17** | Office: 250 387 1023

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s.22

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Sent from my iPad
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7812 Valley RD
Powell River BC V8A 0S9
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s.22 _ _ _ _ _

Cc: Janet Thony District A Farmer's Institute.
Cc: Nicholas Simons. Powell River MLA Via email ,
Cc: Michelle Stilwell MLA Via email ,

Sent from my iPad
Thanks Alan

From: [Janet Thony](#)
To: [Minister, AGRI AGRI:EX](#)
Cc: [Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX](#); [Mack, James AGRI:EX](#); [Zabek, Chris AGRI:EX](#); [Bisschop, Lindsay AGRI:EX](#)
Subject: A massive thank you!
Date: December 2, 2018 10:34:53 AM

Greetings from a very grateful group of Farmers' Institutes!
To Minister Lana Popham and your excellent team,

We would like you all to know as soon as possible after **Friday's meeting**, how much we appreciate your obviously sincere belief in the value of the **B.C. Farmers' Institute organization**. Thank you so much for hosting an incredible opportunity for Farmers' Institutes to get together, and for the wonderful surprise of the Proclamation.

District 'A' F.I. has, somehow, always believed in the ongoing relevance and effective simplicity regarding direction, communication and governance, of the FIWI Act.

We have relied on and put to use the Act and it's broad mandate (excerpt below) to:

*attract younger, community based farmers to the FI system, *partner and collaborate with other local NGOs and

* to secure seats on all levels of local and regional government.

(FWI ACT excerpt)

(a) to improve conditions of rural life so that settlement may be permanent and prosperous;

(b) to promote the theory and practice of agriculture;

(c) to arrange on behalf of its members for the purchase, distribution or sale of commodities, supplies or products;

(d) to act generally on behalf of its members in all matters incidental to agricultural pursuits and rural development;

(e) to promote home economics, public health, child welfare, education and better schools.)

We have found **section (e)** to be most effective at raising awareness of and interest in the long standing dedication, skills, reliability and determination of small to medium scale, diversified family oriented farmers.

It is this type of farming that most supports and strengthens communities.

We look forward to future meetings and discussions. We can honestly say that we have not experienced such sincere interest, support and recognition from this Ministry for...well...since "when the cows came home"...:)

Gratefully yours...)

Janet Thony, President

Coombs Farmers' Institute

District 'A' Farmers' Institute

www.coombsfarmersinstitute.ca

250 738 0888

Wong, Jane T AGRI:EX

From: Wieczorek, Chris AGRI:EX
Sent: May 9, 2019 11:27 AM
To: Leppard, Brianna AGRI:EX
Subject: FW: The ALR/ALC Revitalization Committee and ALC Commission
Attachments: CFI 2019 Letter to Minister re ALRALCBill 15.pdf; ATT00001.htm

Hey! Could you please rush this for a draft MLP response? It was missed earlier, and it was raised in estimates, so trying to get them a response asap

Thanks!
C

From: Janet Thony
Sent: April 24, 2019 9:32 AM
To: Minister, AGRI AGRI:EX
Cc: Cindy and Bill Vanduin ; Gene Ambrose ; Marion Woloschuk ; Stephen Thiessen ; Marga Wilson ; Cheri Naslund ; Sam and Sharon Pickard ; Jan Robinson
Subject: The ALR/ALC Revitalization Committee and ALC Commission

Dear Minister Popham,
Please find attached letter regarding the ALR/ALC Revitalization Committee and the ALC Commission.



MAY 06 2019

File: 0280-30
Ref: 190213

Janet Thony
President
Coombs Farmers' Institute
Email: crocker1@telus.net

Dear Ms. Thony:

Thank you for your letter of April 17, 2019 voicing concerns of the Coombs Farmers' Institute with respect to comments made by Arzeena Hamir on the Facebook page "ALR Watch".

I would like to correct a statement made in your letter. Ms. Hamir, among other agriculture related roles, is a member of the Minister of Agriculture's Advisory Committee for Revitalizing the Agricultural Land Reserve and the Agricultural Land Commission (the Committee).

The Committee is an independent Advisory Committee appointed to lead stakeholder and public engagement and to deliver recommendations for legislative, regulatory and administrative change to revitalize the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) and the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC). In doing so, the Committee received input from a wide range of agricultural stakeholder organizations and individuals across the province, including Farmers' Institutes. However, neither the Committee nor any of its members are my representatives and they do not speak for me.

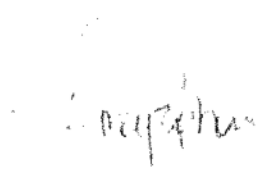
I believe that Bill 15 will help strengthen the governance model of the ALC, improving its independence and ability to act in the best interests of farmland for all British Columbians. I realize that not everyone feels this way and I welcome feedback on proposed legislative changes from anyone who is interested.

With respect to postings made on Facebook, I recognize that different people will have and voice different opinions. It's not appropriate for me to interpret or judge the comments or opinions of any individual, including those of Ms. Hamir.

I appreciate you writing to me to share your concerns on this issue.

Sincerely,

- 2 -


Lana Popham
Minister

Wong, Jane T AGRI:EX

From: Godfrey, Sam AGRI:EX
Sent: April 23, 2019 9:01 AM
To: Leppard, Brianna AGRI:EX
Subject: FW: s.22 and Facebook Page ALR Watch
Attachments: CFI 2019 Letter to Minister.pdf; ATT00001.htm

Min draft reply please. Please request draft back by Monday AM 29th.

Sam Godfrey

Senior Ministerial Assistant to the Honourable Lana Popham
Minister of Agriculture, British Columbia
Mobile: s.17 | Office: 250 387 1023
Rm 325, Parliament Buildings, 501 Belleville St., Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4

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From: Popham, Lana AGRI:EX
Sent: April 22, 2019 10:38 PM
To: Godfrey, Sam AGRI:EX
Subject: Fwd: s.22 and Facebook Page ALR Watch

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Popham, Lana" s.17
Date: April 18, 2019 at 11:58:02 PM PDT
To: "Popham, Lana AGRI:EX" <Lana.Popham@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Fwd: s.22 and Facebook Page ALR Watch

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Popham.MLA, Lana" <Lana.Popham.MLA@leg.bc.ca>
Date: April 18, 2019 at 11:41:49 PM PDT
To: "Popham, Lana" s.17
Subject: Fw:s.22 and Facebook Page ALR Watch

From: Janet Thony <crocker1@telus.net>
Sent: April 18, 2019 7:10 PM

To: Popham.MLA, Lana
Subject: S.22

and Facebook Page ALR Watch

Dear Minister Popham,
Please find attached letter, regarding comments made by S.22
Facebook page ALR Watch.

on the



MAY 17 2019

File: 0280-30
Ref: 190321

Janet Thony, President
Coombs Farmers' Institute
Box 111
Coombs, BC V0R 1M0

Dear Ms. Thony:

Thank you very much for your letter of April 19, 2019, on behalf of the Coombs Farmers' Institute, about the recommendations of the independent Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee) for Revitalizing the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) and the Agriculture Land Commission (ALC), and Bill 15 – 2019: *Agricultural Land Commission Amendment Act, 2019*, currently before the B.C. Legislature. I know my Ministerial Assistant has already spoken with you about several of the issues raised but I thought you might also appreciate a written response. I'm pleased to respond to the issues raised by the Coombs Farmers' Institute.

As you know, in early 2018, I tasked an independent Advisory Committee to engage key agriculture stakeholders, communities and the B.C. public and provide strategic advice and policy recommendations to revitalize the ALR and ALC into the future. I am pleased the Coombs Farmers' Institute took the time to participate as part of the District 'A' delegation in the Advisory Committee's regional stakeholder consultation meeting in Nanaimo in February 2018.

Legislation brought forward in fall 2018 and in spring 2019 are core components of Government's response to early recommendations for legislative change from the independent Advisory Committee. These recommendations, and the results of the Advisory Committee's engagement across the province, were released by Government in August 2018. Bill 52 – 2018 to revitalize the ALR and the ALC. Strengthening the legal protection of the ALR land base for farming is critical to supporting farmers across the province.

Bill 52 introduced in November 2018 and brought into force in February 2019, implemented a maximum house size in the ALR to curb mega-mansion development, clear rules and penalties for illegal dumping in the ALR, and one-zone governance and decision-making to ensure all ALR land in B.C. receives the same strong protections. Bill 15, currently in the Committee stage of the legislative process is intended to strengthen the governance of the ALC and support an agriculture first agenda by setting strong criteria for ALC decision-making and providing the ALC with strengthened governance tools.

The following is information to answer the questions you have raised in your letter:

How the ALR is Being Managed

Your letter notes several concerns with ALC governance and how the ALR is being managed. The purpose of the ALC is to preserve agricultural land, encourage farming in collaboration with other communities of interest, and 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 ALC deals with approximately 150 local governments across BC with land in the ALR and supports coordinated and collaborative planning with local governments to ensure agricultural lands are protected. Farm organizations that play a significant role on Agricultural Advisory Committees provide valuable guidance on agricultural policy and application decisions at the local government level within their regions.

ALC Governance Changes

Your letter notes concerns about centralization of the current ALC regional panel structure. As you know, the ALC is an independent administrative tribunal with responsibility for implementing the *Agriculture Land Commission Act* and regulations. It currently is restricted by the current statutorily-prescribed ALC governance model of an Executive Committee and six regional panels required. Bill 15 is meant to provide greater flexibility for ALC governance and improved decision-making. It replaces the current legally-required panel structure with one Commission requiring regional representation/membership from each of the six administrative regions. The Bill enables the ALC Chair to organize these Commission members into decision-making panels by topic, technical expertise, or administrative region, to best serve the purposes of the Commission. Bill 15 provides the ALC with the needed flexibility to organize and be efficient and responsive to the many kinds of applications it receives for the ALR.

Changes to the ALR Exclusion Application Process

Your letter notes concern about removing the right of land owners to apply on their own behalf to the ALC for exclusions of properties from the ALR. One of the factors impacting the cost of ALR land is the current ability of individual landowners to apply to the ALC for exclusion of their land from the ALR. To strengthen the ALR and reduce speculation, Bill 15 changes the process on exclusion applications considered by the ALC recognizing that exclusions of the ALR are best considered when made through a local government or First Nation government planning process that reflects a community's broader needs provided they are still consistent with agricultural land use in the community. Under Bill 15, local governments and First Nation governments may choose to include a private land owner's interests in an exclusion application if it meets the community's land use planning goals and objectives. This should provide the ALC with the best local planning information and advice to make decisions on any future exclusion applications.

Cannabis Production in the ALR

Your letter notes increasing frustration about marijuana crops on ALR land. Although cannabis is not technically a food, it is a crop. The ALR is a reserve for farm use. Farm use includes the farming of land, plants, mushrooms, truffles and animals. The legalization of cannabis means that farming of it is now farming of a legal plant, and a farm use. Many local governments wrote

to the Province requesting authority to limit cannabis production. In July 2018, the Government made regulatory amendments to allow local and First Nations governments to prohibit the production of cannabis that is neither fully soil based nor within grandfathered structures.

The amendment struck a balance between four things:

1. Preserving the productive capacity of the ALR;
2. Acknowledging the legalization of recreational cannabis;
3. Respecting citizen's Charter-protected right to access medical cannabis; and
4. Recognizing the need for flexibility at the local level.

In making the amendment, the Province has given more authority to local and First Nation governments to prohibit certain methods of cannabis production in their respective jurisdictions. Specifically, local and First Nations governments can now prohibit cannabis production in new concrete-floored structures on ALR land if they choose to do so.

Alcohol and Cannabis Production and Sales in the ALR

Your letter notes concern that the current legislative framework for the ALR allows alcohol and cannabis production and sales on ALR land but prohibits farmers from cooking and serving food grown on ALR land. I want to confirm that alcohol production facilities are allowed on the ALR if at least 50% of the farm product to manufacture the alcohol comes from the farm where the alcohol production facility is located. These facilities can include an ancillary use like a food and beverage service lounge provided the lounge does not exceed 125 m².

Farmers may process or sell their farm product on the ALR if at least 50% of the farm product processed or sold is produced on the farm where the processing or sale facilities are located. Retail sales areas cannot exceed 300 m². Farmers who wish to build and operate a restaurant on the ALR may make a non-farm use application to the ALC for consideration. The application must be supported the local or First Nation government before it can proceed to the ALC.

Challenges of Making a Living through Farming

Your letter notes concern about the ability of farmers, both existing and new, to make a living in agriculture in B.C. due to the current legislative regulatory and policy of various branches of government and the financial requirements for farming. I take very seriously the challenges to farmers, both existing and new entrants, to make a living in agriculture. Farmers and ranchers are some of the hardest working people I know.

As a former farmer myself, I understand the potential impact of government policies on farming and ranching, particularly small to medium-sized operations, and new farmers just starting out. The Ministry of Agriculture (Ministry) has developed a New Entrant Strategy that provides support for new and existing small farms to access land, increase business and production knowledge and support accessing capital. Funding for the New Entrant Strategy is provided through the Ministry's Grow BC initiatives and programs supported by the Canadian Agricultural Partnership. Details on the new entrant strategy can be found on the Ministry website: www.gov.bc.ca/agriculture. These programs are open to all farmers in BC. These

programs are in addition to the many other Ministry programs that support farmers and ranchers including those under the Ministry's Buy BC and Feed BC initiatives.

Thank you for sharing your concerns with me, and the efforts of the Coombs Farmers' Institute in supporting agriculture in our province.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Lana Popham", is written over a faint, circular official stamp.

Lana Popham
Minister

From: [Raymond, Mark AGRI:EX](#)
To: [Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX](#)
Cc: [Zachary, Dawnae AGRI:EX](#); [Raymond, Mark AGRI:EX](#)
Subject: Farmers institutes web content update
Date: March 21, 2019 12:37:05 PM
Attachments: [Farmwest Rationale.docx](#)

Afternoon Arif,

Please see below for Roundtable.

- Web content for Farmers' Institutes in British Columbia is being hosted by the Pacific Field Corn Association (PFCA) and is now live at the domains bcfarmersinstitutes.ca and farmwest.com. It is a cooperative effort among Farmers' Institutes, the PFCA and the Ministry. Content includes: information about BC Farmers' Institutes and the legislation which enables them; contact information for Farmers' Institutes in British Columbia; a members discussion forum, and; government resources and information of interest to Farmers' Institutes members.
- A Working Group of representative Farmers' Institutes members was struck to provide regional input into web content. Their response has been enthusiastic and their engagement has guided the direction to have a simple layout of relevant information hosted by a trusted organization. The Working Group will continue to be engaged as the site is further refined in 2019/20.
- The site will undergo ongoing improvement/revisions as actual wider use and further input from the Working Group reveals further refinements .
- We are looking into the possibility of removing the farmwest.com logo from the Farmers' Institutes pages as well as the pros and cons of hosting bcfarmersinstitutes.ca separately from farmwest.com
- Suggested roll-out: Draft a news release informing of the web content and the new service it provides to Farmers' Institutes. Include quotes from Janet Thony (District A and Coombs Farmers' Institutes) e.g. *"This tool will help Farmers' Institutes around the province stay connected with each other and attract new members. Individual members can now easily access a variety of relevant information ranging from programs to production information to legislation at one site."* and from Ted Osborne (PFCA) e.g. *"The Pacific Field Corn Association is pleased to cooperate in providing this content for BC Farmers' Institutes. It adds value to other information we provide for farmers across BC in a win-win collaboration."* Coupled with the news release, the Superintendent of Farmers' Institutes will contact all Farmer's Institutes and invite them to utilize the website.
- I've also attached the rationale for farmwest.com in case you think that's helpful as further background.

From: [Raymond, Mark AGRI:EX](#)
To: [Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX](#)
Cc: [Zachary, Dawnae AGRI:EX](#)
Subject: Farmers Institute Website
Date: February 28, 2019 12:19:38 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Arif – Let's find some time on Monday or Tuesday in Kamloops to sit down and go through the BC Farmers Institute Website. Below is the feedback from Janet Thony & Peter Trescher received so far.

Hi All,

- Well done!
- It looks easy to navigate, uncluttered, simply and clearly laid out.
- Can't see any need for any further categories at this point.
- One thought? On the banner, is it too silly to put B. C. or British Columbia in front of Farmers' Institutes? I have fielded a few calls from other countries, because of our (rather minimal) web presence, asking about the price of hay, amongst other things..;)

Janet Thony, President
Coombs Farmers' Institute
District 'A' Farmers' Institute
www.coombsfarmersinstitute.ca
250 738 0888

Hi Chris;

Very good. I feel comfortable with farmwest hosting this. They have an understanding what farmers need and with extra funding with the F.I. addition can hopefully provide an up to date site.

- Looking forward to the actual product so I can start clicking away and see what works and what needs improvement.
- One idea I have, is a map of BC showing the locations of the F.I. contacts, so people could see the F.I. that is nearest to them, without having to scroll through all the Contacts.
- Will be working on my Annual Report.... next. 😊

Thanks,

Peter Trescher
Secretary
WDFI

From: [Raymond, Mark AGRI:EX](#)
To: [Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX](#)
Cc: [Zachary, Dawnae AGRI:EX](#)
Subject: Farmers Institutes - Janet Thony
Date: June 14, 2019 8:13:43 AM

Arif,
• s.13

-
-
-
-
-

The Farmers and Women's Institutes Act references a few relevant clauses:

Membership

14 (1) The members of an institute are the subscribers of the constitution and persons admitted to membership under the bylaws.

(2) Subject to the bylaws, a person under 19 years of age may be admitted as a member of an institute or appointed to an office and is liable to pay a subscription as if the person were of full age.

Directors

17 (1) Subject to the bylaws, the members of an institute may nominate, elect or appoint members as directors to conduct the business, discipline and management of the institute and its affairs.

(2) Subject to this Act and bylaws, the directors may exercise the powers of an institute.

Mark Raymond, Executive Director
Sector Development Branch, Business Development Division
1767 Angus Campbell Road, Abbotsford, 604-556-3107

From: [Janet Thony](#)
To: [Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX](#)
Cc: [Barbara Johnstone](#); [Alan Rebane](#); [Blaine and Jan Hardie](#); [Peter Johnston](#); [Janet Boley](#); [Mayta Ryn](#); [Lisa Aylard](#); [Marion Woloschuk](#)
Subject: Follow up from Friday
Date: December 5, 2018 8:54:06 AM

Hi Arif,

Good to see you again!

Can we ask a couple questions?

1. Is the MAAC still operating? If so, can you send us a list of the seats and delegates?
2. You asked me about our experience with the AWP. Can we do some followup on this?

Thanks!

Janet Thony, President

Coombs Farmers' Institute

District 'A' Farmers' Institute

[Wwwcoombsfarmersinstitute.ca](http://www.coombsfarmersinstitute.ca)

250 738 0888

From: [Raymond, Mark AGRI:EX](#)
To: [Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX](#)
Cc: [Zachary, Dawnae AGRI:EX](#)
Subject: FW:s.22 and Facebook Page ALR Watch
Date: April 24, 2019 9:25:06 AM
Attachments: [CFI 2019 Letter to Minister.pdf](#)

Arif – this is in eApprovals – See attached PDF from Janet Thorny.

Mark Raymond, Executive Director
Sector Development Branch, Business Development Division
1767 Angus Campbell Road, Abbotsford, 604-556-3107

From: Godfrey, Sam AGRI:EX
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 9:01 AM
To: Leppard, Brianna AGRI:EX
Subject: FW:s.22 and Facebook Page ALR Watch

Min draft reply please. Please request draft back by Monday AM 29th.

Sam Godfrey

Senior Ministerial Assistant to the Honourable Lana Popham
Minister of Agriculture, British Columbia
Mobile: **s.17** | Office: 250 387 1023
Rm 325, Parliament Buildings, 501 Belleville St., Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4

This message, including any attachments to it, is not to be disclosed outside of the Provincial Government without prior written approval from the Ministry of Agriculture. If you have received this communication in error, please destroy the email message and any attachments immediately and notify me by telephone or by email.

From: Popham, Lana AGRI:EX
Sent: April 22, 2019 10:38 PM
To: Godfrey, Sam AGRI:EX
Subject: Fwd: s.22 and Facebook Page ALR Watch

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Popham, Lana" <L.Popham@leg.bc.ca>
Date: April 18, 2019 at 11:58:02 PM PDT
To: "Popham, Lana AGRI:EX" <Lana.Popham@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Fwd:s.22 and Facebook Page ALR Watch

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Popham.MLA, Lana" <Lana.Popham.MLA@leg.bc.ca>
Date: April 18, 2019 at 11:41:49 PM PDT
To: "Popham, Lana" <[S.17](#)>
Subject: Fw: [S.22](#) and Facebook Page ALR Watch

From: Janet Thony <crocker1@telus.net>
Sent: April 18, 2019 7:10 PM
To: Popham.MLA, Lana
Subject: [S.22](#) and Facebook Page ALR Watch

Dear Minister Popham,
Please find attached letter, regarding comments made by [S.22](#)
[S.22](#) on the Facebook page ALR Watch.

From: [Janet Thony](#)
To: [Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX](#)
Subject: Fwd: AlberniValleyDesignation.pdf
Date: November 30, 2018 1:12:18 PM
Attachments: AlberniValleyDesignation.pdf
ATT00001.htm

Janet Thony, President
Coombs Farmers' Institute
District 'A' Farmers' Institute
Wwwcoombsfarmersinstitute.ca
250 738 0888

Begin forwarded message:

From: Janet Thony <crocker1@telus.net>
Date: November 30, 2018 at 12:17:53 PM PST
To: Janet Thony <crocker1@telus.net>
Subject: AlberniValleyDesignation.pdf

From: Mack, James AGRI:EX
To: Shoemaker, Wes AGRI:EX; Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX; Craik, Jason AGRI:EX
Subject: Fwd: ALR/ALC stuff
Date: June 13, 2019 3:02:53 PM

See invite below to attend Coombs meeting. I wasn't tracking the strategy on this one - what's the plan?

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Janet Thony <crocker1@telus.net>
Date: June 13, 2019 at 2:05:05 PM PDT
To: James Mack <James.Mack@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Lisa Aylard s.22, Alan Rebane <alanrebane@shaw.ca>, Barbara Johnstone <s.22>, Marion Woloschuk <s.22>, Blaine and Jan Hardie <s.22>, Paul Tataryn s.22, Cindy and Bill Vanduin <s.22>
Subject: ALR/ALC stuff

Hi James,

I have been debating (with myself..) about contacting you regarding the current dilemmas connected to the recent ALR changes and Bills 52 and 15.

Without getting into too much detail, District A FI is hosting an 'open to the public' meeting on June 17th at 1:00 PM in Nanoose at the Rusted Rake Farm. There are delegates coming from the Gulf Islands, Sunshine Coast and points across the Island.

We have just received word that Ian Paton and Michelle Stilwell will be attending, along with some municipal, regional and one federal politician. Quite probably media as well.

My phone is ringing off the hook, Facebook is in flames..) folks are clearly upset. Would it be at all possible for you to join us, to share your government's perspective on things?

Apologies for the short notice..we weren't sure how big this was going to get.

Janet Thony, President

Coombs Farmers' Institute

District 'A' Farmers' Institute

www.coombsfarmersinstitute.ca

250 738 0888

From: [Janet Thony](#)
To: [Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX](#); [Mack, James AGRI:EX](#); [Zabek, Chris AGRI:EX](#); [Bisschop, Lindsay AGRI:EX](#)
Cc: [Blaine and Jan Hardie](#)
Subject: Fwd: Report on November 30th Meeting with Ministry of Agriculture
Date: January 2, 2019 12:28:13 PM
Attachments: [November 30 Meeting Report.pdf](#)
[ATT00001.htm](#)
[District A_Bonavia.pdf](#)
[ATT00002.htm](#)

Happy New Year to everyone from all of us!

Below find the November 30th Meeting Report and backgrounder that we sent out to District A delegates and thence on to all our local Farmers' Institutes.

We hope to share this with other FIs in the Province sometime in January, (to the consenting FIs that shared their contact information with Chris) in the spirit of improving communication between all Institutes.

Thank you to your team for all you do on our behalf!

Janet Thony, President,
Coombs Farmers' Institute
and District 'A' Farmers' Institute
267 Buller Road, Qualicum Beach, B.C. V9K 2B3
crocker1@telus.net
250 738 0888

They tried to bury us. They didn't know we were seeds.

From: Janet Thony <crocker1@telus.net>
Subject: Report on November 30th Meeting with Ministry of Agriculture
Date: December 29, 2018 at 11:49:33 AM PST
To: Mayta Ryn s.22, Blaine and Jan Hardie s.22, Barbara Johnstone <s.22>, Alan Rebane <alanrebane@shaw.ca>, Kathy Millar <s.22>, Arzeena Hamirs.22, "Shawnigan Cobble Hill F.I." <schfias.secretary@gmail.com>, George Robbins <s.22>, Don Maroc <s.22>, Peter Johnston <pjohnston@lasqueti.ca>, "Salt Spring Island F.I." <ssifi@shaw.ca>, Woroniak <s.22>, Dave Thomson <s.22>, Marion Woloschuk <s.22>, Gerry and Dorothy Sjostrom <s.22>, Makenna Cvr s.22, Lisa Aylard <s.22>, Trish Hoff <mayneagsociety@gmail.com>, Angela Auchincloss s.22
Cc: Janet Boley <s.22>, "Chris AGRI:EX Zabek" <Chris.Zabek@gov.bc.ca>

Greetings of the Season to all District 'A' Members!

A very large thank you to those delegates who were able to attend this historic meeting.

Find attached the report on the November 30, 2018 Meeting with the Ministry of

Agriculture, and the 1931 William Bonavia Report to the Department of Agriculture. Please share these documents with your Local Members. Any questions, comments you and/or your members may have, please don't hesitate to contact us.

From: [Raymond, Mark AGRI:EX](#)
To: [Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX](#)
Cc: [Zachary, Dawnae AGRI:EX](#)
Subject: FYI: Janet Thony phone conversation June 20
Date: June 20, 2019 11:17:08 AM

Arif - Please see below. Is it worth trying to set up a call between MLP and Janet just to touch base?

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Zabek, Chris AGRI:EX" <Chris.Zabek@gov.bc.ca>
Date: June 20, 2019 at 10:44:10 AM PDT
To: "Raymond, Mark AGRI:EX" <Mark.Raymond@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Janet Thony phone conversation June 20

Fyi. No action required at this time.

Received a call from Janet Thony, president of Coombs and District A Farmers' Institutes this morning prompted by the recent emailed statement from MLP (copied below). Janet wished to share some background information about why some Farmers' Institutes and other parties are upset about the way Bill 52 and Bill 15 were handled. Summary points:

- <!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Coombs and District A have been nonpartisan and historically do not try to rock the boat. Member concerns about the impacts of Bills 52 and 15 prompted Coombs to take the step of writing a letter to MLP outlining their concerns and asking for further discussion. MLP chose not to engage. Some other FIs also chose to voice concerns about the Bills.
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Local MLA Stilwell asked Janet Thony to meet to discuss agricultural concerns. The letter to MLP was shared with MLA Stilwell who chose to read parts of it in the Leg.
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->s.22
 - s.22 (a)giving the letter to MLA Stilwell and for parroting the Opposition; (b)not including support for MLP; (c)sending the letter to MLP in the first place as the ALC is independent
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Coombs Farmers' Institute coincidentally decided to support the Rusted Rake Farm in their effort to have ALC legislation changed to allow on-farm restaurants without requiring alcohol production. Rationale is that alcohol and drug production (cannabis) on farms is allowed so too should serving meals made with some of the farm produce as a way to allow small, diverse farms to make a living. The Coombs Farmers' Institute realize ALC legislation has always considered restaurants a non-farm use. It just

happened that this issue arose while angst about Bills 52, 15 and Cannabis is high.

- The concern around all of these issues is beyond only Farmers' Institutes.
- A teleconference including Opposition members and agricultural industry representatives indicated that many interests are unhappy with government response to their concerns. They feel patronized.
- I told Janet that as a staffperson with AGRI I support government programs, initiatives and legislation. As Superintendent of FIs, the role is to administer the *Farmers and Womens Institutes Act* and *Regulation*. There is no role in helping Institutes to lobby government, nor is there a role in censuring the speech or actions of Institutes which are independent organizations. She understood this.

OUTCOME

More letters/efforts from Farmers' Institutes are likely wrt ALC Legislation.

Chris Zabek | Regional Agrologist
BC Ministry of Agriculture | p: 604-556-3045 | f: 604-556-3030
1-888-221-7141 www.gov.bc.ca/agriservicebc

Statement from Agriculture Minister Lana Popham

"Supporting producers to hold events and serve farm products on their properties is an important part of helping farmers farm. It helps producers build and sustain their businesses and connects people in B.C. to the food and beverages they enjoy."

The Opposition is playing fast and loose with the truth. It was the old government that established rules for serving food in the ALR. Generally, restaurants have always required a decision from the ALC to operate on the ALR. The only related change made by the new government was to level the playing field so that all alcohol producers in the ALR had the same opportunities as those that were previously provided only to wineries, including the ability to operate a food and beverage service lounge.

The current rules on events in the ALR were also put in place by the old government – we haven't changed those. Landowners wishing to hold events that exceed the criteria in the 2016 regulation can apply to the ALC, which will make an independent decision on their applications.

I'm open to considering whether we need to further change the old government's

rules to better support producers, while ensuring we continue to protect the Agricultural Land Reserve.”

More information here: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/factsheets/agricultural-land-reserve-and-agricultural-land-commission>

From: [Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX](#)
To: [Zabek, Chris AGRI:EX](#)
Cc: [Raymond, Mark AGRI:EX](#); [Zachary, Dawnae AGRI:EX](#)
Subject: Janet Thony
Date: January 14, 2019 1:57:35 PM

Chris – I will get asked by MLP. Janet said she couldn't manage the website because?

Arif Lalani | ADM | Business Development Division | Agriculture
5th Floor, 808 Douglas Street, V8V 9B4 | T 778.698.3264 | F 250.356.7279
arif.lalani@gov.bc.ca

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From: [Janet Thony](#)
To: [Zachary, Dawnae AGRI:EX](#)
Cc: [Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX](#)
Subject: Re: Farmer's Institute Website
Date: January 16, 2019 2:21:13 PM

Thanks Dawnae!

Janet Thony, President
Coombs Farmers' Institute
District 'A' Farmers' Institute
[Wwwcoombsfarmersinstitute.ca](http://www.coombsfarmersinstitute.ca)
250 738 0888

> On Jan 16, 2019, at 9:41 AM, Zachary, Dawnae AGRI:EX <Dawnae.Zachary@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

>

> I will have him call you tomorrow. Thank you.

>

> Dawnae

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Janet Thony [<mailto:crocker1@telus.net>]

> Sent: Wednesday, January 16, 2019 9:32 AM

> To: Zachary, Dawnae AGRI:EX

> Cc: Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX

> Subject: Re: Farmer's Institute Website

>

> Hi Both,

> s.22 ...;) so a phone call will do it!

> Tomorrow, Thursday at 1:00 P.M. will work for a phone call.

> If Arif could call me (number below), that's preferred as I don't have a good long distance plan....

>

> Janet Thony, President

> Coombs Farmers' Institute

> District 'A' Farmers' Institute

> [Wwwcoombsfarmersinstitute.ca](http://www.coombsfarmersinstitute.ca)

> 250 738 0888

>

>

>> On Jan 16, 2019, at 8:54 AM, Zachary, Dawnae AGRI:EX <Dawnae.Zachary@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

>>

>> My apologize. Arif is available tomorrow, January 17th, 2019. Would you prefer calling him or coming in?

>>

>> Dawnae

>>

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: Janet Thony [<mailto:crocker1@telus.net>]

>> Sent: Wednesday, January 16, 2019 8:46 AM

>> To: Zachary, Dawnae AGRI:EX

>> Cc: Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX

>> Subject: Re: Farmer's Institute Website

>>

>> For which day?

>>

>> Janet Thony, President
>> Coombs Farmers' Institute
>> District 'A' Farmers' Institute
>> Wwwcoombsfarmersinstitute.ca
>> 250 738 0888
>>
>>
>>> On Jan 16, 2019, at 8:41 AM, Zachary, Dawnae AGRI:EX <Dawnae.Zachary@gov.bc.ca> wrote:
>>>
>>> Good morning Janet,
>>>
>>> Does 1:00pm work?
>>>
>>> -----Original Message-----
>>> From: Janet Thony [<mailto:crocker1@telus.net>]
>>> Sent: Wednesday, January 16, 2019 8:05 AM
>>> To: Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX
>>> Cc: Zachary, Dawnae AGRI:EX
>>> Subject: Re: Farmer's Institute Website
>>>
>>> Morning Arif and Dawnae,
>>> Thank you, and best wishes to you as well!
>>> For sure! Would love to help with connecting everyone.
>>> Not sure how quickly you want to get on this, but (at this point) I am available anytime after 12:00 this Thursday and Friday.
>>> Following week anytime after 12:00 on Monday and Wednesday.
>>> If you would like to set a day/time then I can plan to be not out in the greenhouse....) ?
>>>
>>> Janet Thony, President
>>> Coombs Farmers' Institute
>>> District 'A' Farmers' Institute
>>> Wwwcoombsfarmersinstitute.ca
>>> 250 738 0888
>>>
>>>
>>>> On Jan 15, 2019, at 6:31 PM, Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX <Arif.Lalani@gov.bc.ca> wrote:
>>>>
>>>> Janet - Happy New Year! Wishing you and your family good health, happiness and lots of joy in 2019.
>>>>
>>>> Wondering if you have some time to have a conversation about the website the Minister committed to?
>>>> Wondering if you would be interested in getting involved in the build. Can you let Dawnae know some times that you may be available for a conversation? Thanks in advance.
>>>>
>>>> Arif Lalani | ADM | Business Development Division | Agriculture
>>>> 5<x-apple-data-detectors://0>th<x-apple-data-detectors://0> Floor, 808 Douglas Street, V8V 9B4<x-apple-data-detectors://0> | T 778.698.2618<tel:778.698.2618> | F 250.356.7279<tel:250.356.7279>
>>>> arif.lalani@gov.bc.ca<<mailto:arif.lalani@gov.bc.ca>>
>>>>
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>>>>
>>>
>>
>

From: [Raymond, Mark AGRI:EX](#)
To: [Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX](#)
Cc: [Zabek, Chris AGRI:EX](#); [Cameron, Sandra AGRI:EX](#); [Barclay, Brent S AGRI:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Farmers Institute Event and Proclamation - November 30, 2018
Date: September 26, 2018 3:29:29 PM
Attachments: [Travel Estimate Farmers Institutes.xlsx](#)

Arif,

If one representative from every Institute (52) was to attend we are in the magnitude of **s.17** in hotel/travel/food costs. As Chris indicated below, we would happy if we would be pleased if we could get 25 to attend, so we are likely looking in the range of **s.17** Estimated budget attached.

Mark

From: Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX
Sent: Wednesday, September 26, 2018 11:27 AM
To: Anderson, Arlene AGRI:EX
Cc: Remillard, Patrick AGRI:EX; Zabek, Chris AGRI:EX; Raymond, Mark AGRI:EX; McRae, Meghan GCPE:EX; Lyttle, Shawna AGRI:EX; Cameron, Sandra AGRI:EX
Subject: RE: Farmers Institute Event and Proclamation - November 30, 2018
Yes thanks Arlene. I have it on the agenda for Roundtable this coming Monday to confirm with MLP. Mark can we get an approximate costing of hotels/travel/food? Just an order of magnitude....
Arif Lalani | ADM | Business Development Division | Agriculture
5th Floor, 808 Douglas Street, V8V 9B4 | T 778.698.2618 | F 250.356.7279
arif.lalani@gov.bc.ca
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From: Anderson, Arlene AGRI:EX
Sent: Wednesday, September 26, 2018 9:41 AM
To: Cameron, Sandra AGRI:EX
Cc: Remillard, Patrick AGRI:EX; Zabek, Chris AGRI:EX; AGRIServiceBC AGRI:EX; Raymond, Mark AGRI:EX; Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX
Subject: RE: Farmers Institute Event and Proclamation - November 30, 2018

Hi Sandra,

Just ensuring that you are aware that Chris' email also contains information highlighted below that I think was meant for you.

Arlene

From: Zabek, Chris AGRI:EX
Sent: Friday, September 21, 2018 3:33 PM
To: Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX; Remillard, Patrick AGRI:EX; Anderson, Arlene AGRI:EX
Cc: McRae, Meghan GCPE:EX; Raymond, Mark AGRI:EX; Cameron, Sandra AGRI:EX
Subject: Farmers Institute Event and Proclamation - November 30, 2018

Hi folks,

Patrick and Arlene, it looks like we're a go for November 30 for the proclamation. I've attached some draft wording for you.

With respect to the Farmers Institute Event also planned for November 30, I've attached a draft agenda. I can fine tune it and confirm speakers when I'm back in the office in October.

Also attached is a preliminary invitation list. There are 54 Farmers Institutes on the list, 28 of which are in good standing i.e. have submitted current annual report. I suggest all 54 be invited and that each Institute can send one member. Realistically, I'll be very pleased if 25 Institutes attend. Most attendees will need 1 night hotel accommodation and one or two folks may need 2 nights given flight schedules from northern BC.

Thanks and Cheers,
Chris
Chris Zabek | Regional Agrologist
p: 604-556-3045

From: Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX
Sent: Monday, September 17, 2018 10:30 AM
To: Zabek, Chris AGRI:EX
Cc: McRae, Meghan GCPE:EX; Raymond, Mark AGRI:EX; Cameron, Sandra AGRI:EX
Subject: RE: Your request - Ministry of Agriculture

Chris – MLP is fine with November 30th as she will already be in Vancouver the night before for a Dairy Association Gala. We think one day in Richmond would be best. Can you draft up the agenda, who would be invited, and I can get Sandra to look for a venue in Richmond. Suggest morning me with MLP present and afternoon be about getting all the Farmer's Institutes up to par with themselves and deciding what their priorities should be....We can discuss. Sandra will arrange.

Arif Lalani | ADM | Business Development Division | Agriculture
5th Floor, 808 Douglas Street, V8V 9B4 | T 778.698.2618 | F 250.356.7279
arif.lalani@gov.bc.ca

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From: Zabek, Chris AGRI:EX
Sent: Wednesday, September 12, 2018 11:03 AM
To: Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX
Subject: RE: Your request - Ministry of Agriculture

Hi Arif,

I need a decision on the date for both the proclamation and event, which I assume should be the same date, so we can move forward. As per the attached emails, I suggest that sometime in November will work best for both the clients and ourselves. I also assume the Minister will want to be present so it will need to meet her schedule.

Draft wording for the proclamation is attached. If you're good with it and can confirm a date then policy & leg can get working on the formal proclamation and I can get invitations to the farmers institutes as well as build an agenda. I'll need some administrative help with that to assist with venue, catering, travel, registration, etc.

There are currently 25 farmers institutes in good standing (i.e. we have received current annual reports and financial statements) but approximately 40 have shown activity within the last 3 years.

Thanks,

Chris

Chris Zabek | Regional Agrologist
p: 604-556-3045

From: Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX
Sent: Wednesday, September 12, 2018 10:36 AM
To: McRae, Meghan GCPE:EX
Cc: Zabek, Chris AGRI:EX; Cameron, Sandra AGRI:EX
Subject: RE: Your request - Ministry of Agriculture
Chris any further development on this?

Arif Lalani | ADM | Business Development Division | Agriculture
5th Floor, 808 Douglas Street, V8V 9B4 | T 778.698.2618 | F 250.356.7279
arif.lalani@gov.bc.ca

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From: McRae, Meghan GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, September 12, 2018 9:47 AM

To: Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX
Subject: FW: Your request - Ministry of Agriculture
Hi Arif,

Can you remind me who on your team was working on the Farmers' Institute Day? Have you heard of any progress?

Thanks,
Meghan

From: Townsend, Dave H GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, September 11, 2018 2:34 PM
To: McRae, Meghan GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: Your request - Ministry of Agriculture
Have you heard anything further on this planned event? Reporter is checking in.

From: Barbara Johnstone [mailto:s.22
Sent: Tuesday, September 11, 2018 2:30 PM
To: Townsend, Dave H GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: Your request - Ministry of Agriculture
Hello Dave

Is there any update to the Farmers' Institute event planned for the fall?

Thank you.

Best regards,
Barbara Johnstone Grimmer
Country Life in BC

From: Townsend, Dave H GCPE:EX
Sent: July 19, 2018 3:24 PM
To: 'Barbara Johnstone'
Subject: Your request - Ministry of Agriculture

Hi Barbara,

I have looked into your request and here is what I was able to find out. On background please, if you need attribution, please use 'Ministry of Agriculture'.

Thanks,
Dave

Farmers' Institute Event

- Planning for a Farmers' Institute event is still in its early stages. The day is intended to be a networking opportunity for the individual Farmers' Institutes as they look at ways to work together on a variety of topics.
- The goal would be to hold this event this Fall in Richmond.

New Ministry of Agriculture Agrologist

- A new Regional Agrologist for the South Island has been hired and Doug Pepper was the successful candidate. He will be starting his new position by the end of this month.

s.22

been on Vancouver Island since the 1870's.

From: [Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX](#)
To: [Godfrey, Sam AGRI:EX](#); [Craik, Jason AGRI:EX](#)
Cc: [Lyttle, Shawna AGRI:EX](#); [Shoemaker, Wes AGRI:EX](#); [Zachary, Dawnae AGRI:EX](#); [Raymond, Mark AGRI:EX](#); [Zabek, Chris AGRI:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Janet Thony phone conversation June 20
Date: June 20, 2019 12:05:20 PM

For clarity: Janet Thony called Chris Zabek. Janet conveyed her concerns to Chris. Chris summarized Janet's thoughts. They are solely Janet's thoughts. It should be made very clear that Janet's perspective on the meeting with the MO is **not consistent** with the conversation that ACTUALLY did take place between the MO and the Coomb's Farmer's Institute. My apologies and in future we will state categorically information is being relayed to us and not our interpretation of what transpired. Thanks.

From: Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX
Sent: Thursday, June 20, 2019 11:25 AM
To: Godfrey, Sam AGRI:EX; Craik, Jason AGRI:EX
Cc: Lyttle, Shawna AGRI:EX; Shoemaker, Wes AGRI:EX; Zachary, Dawnae AGRI:EX
Subject: FW: Janet Thony phone conversation June 20

Jason & Sam – please see below and suggestion from my staff. Janet reached out to Chris. Not sure what letter is being referenced that did not get a response from the Minister. Happy to discuss.

From: Raymond, Mark AGRI:EX
Sent: Thursday, June 20, 2019 11:17 AM
To: Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX
Cc: Zachary, Dawnae AGRI:EX
Subject: FYI: Janet Thony phone conversation June 20

Arif - Please see below. Is it worth trying to set up a call between MLP and Janet just to touch base?

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Zabek, Chris AGRI:EX" <Chris.Zabek@gov.bc.ca>
Date: June 20, 2019 at 10:44:10 AM PDT
To: "Raymond, Mark AGRI:EX" <Mark.Raymond@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Janet Thony phone conversation June 20

Fyi. No action required at this time.

Received a call from Janet Thony, president of Coombs and District A Farmers' Institutes this morning prompted by the recent emailed statement from MLP (copied below). Janet wished to share some background information about why some Farmers' Institutes and other parties are upset about the way Bill 52 and Bill 15 were handled. Summary points:

- Coombs and District A have been nonpartisan and historically do not try to rock the boat. Member concerns about the impacts of Bills 52 and 15 prompted

Coombs to take the step of writing a letter to MLP outlining their concerns and asking for further discussion. MLP chose not to engage. Some other FIs also chose to voice concerns about the Bills.

- Local MLA Stilwell asked Janet Thony to meet to discuss agricultural concerns. The letter to MLP was shared with MLA Stilwell who chose to read parts of it in the Leg.
- Staff from the MO called Janet Thony and chastised her for: (a)giving the letter to MLA Stilwell and for parroting the Opposition; (b)not including support for MLP; (c)sending the letter to MLP in the first place as the ALC is independent. This call was very disturbing to Janet.
- Coombs Farmers' Institute coincidentally decided to support the Rusted Rake Farm in their effort to have ALC legislation changed to allow on-farm restaurants without requiring alcohol production. Rationale is that alcohol and drug production (cannabis) on farms is allowed so too should serving meals made with some of the farm produce as a way to allow small, diverse farms to make a living. The Coombs Farmers' Institute realize ALC legislation has always considered restaurants a non-farm use. It just happened that this issue arose while angst about Bills 52, 15 and Cannabis is high.
- The concern around all of these issues is beyond only Farmers' Institutes.
- A teleconference including Opposition members and agricultural industry representatives indicated that many interests are unhappy with government response to their concerns. They feel patronized.
- I told Janet that as a staffperson with AGRI I support government programs, initiatives and legislation. As Superintendent of FIs, the role is to administer the *Farmers and Womens Institutes Act* and *Regulation*. There is no role in helping Institutes to lobby government, nor is there a role in censuring the speech or actions of Institutes which are independent organizations. She understood this.

OUTCOME

More letters/efforts from Farmers' Institutes are likely wrt ALC Legislation.

Chris Zabek | Regional Agrologist

BC Ministry of Agriculture | p: 604-556-3045 | f: 604-556-3030

1-888-221-7141 www.gov.bc.ca/agriservicebc

Statement from Agriculture Minister Lana Popham

"Supporting producers to hold events and serve farm products on their properties is an important part of helping farmers farm. It helps producers build and sustain their businesses and connects people in B.C. to the food and beverages they enjoy.

The Opposition is playing fast and loose with the truth. It was the old government

that established rules for serving food in the ALR. Generally, restaurants have always required a decision from the ALC to operate on the ALR. The only related change made by the new government was to level the playing field so that all alcohol producers in the ALR had the same opportunities as those that were previously provided only to wineries, including the ability to operate a food and beverage service lounge.

The current rules on events in the ALR were also put in place by the old government – we haven't changed those. Landowners wishing to hold events that exceed the criteria in the 2016 regulation can apply to the ALC, which will make an independent decision on their applications.

I'm open to considering whether we need to further change the old government's rules to better support producers, while ensuring we continue to protect the Agricultural Land Reserve."

More information here: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/factsheets/agricultural-land-reserve-and-agricultural-land-commission>

From: [Raymond, Mark AGRI:EX](#)
To: [Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX](#)
Cc: [Zachary, Dawnae AGRI:EX](#)
Subject: Re: Janet Thony
Date: January 15, 2019 5:13:34 PM

Arif,

Do you want me to follow up with Janet? This is something we should be able to handle....

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 15, 2019, at 1:24 PM, Zabek, Chris AGRI:EX <Chris.Zabek@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Yes, please, probably better to come from you.

Her contact info if you need it is:

crocker1@telus.net
250-738-0888

Chris Zabek | Regional Agrologist
p: 604-556-3045

From: Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX
Sent: Tuesday, January 15, 2019 1:12 PM
To: Zabek, Chris AGRI:EX
Cc: Raymond, Mark AGRI:EX; Zachary, Dawnae AGRI:EX
Subject: RE: Janet Thony

Chris – I spoke to Mark. s.16

s.16 In my opinion, to have a robust, exciting website it will need to be external to government and managed by the FI's. Mark will connect with you on this. s.12;s.13
s.12;s.13

Arif Lalani | ADM | Business Development Division | Agriculture
5th Floor, 808 Douglas Street, V8V 9B4 | T 778.698.3264 | F 250.356.7279
arif.lalani@gov.bc.ca

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From: Zabek, Chris AGRI:EX
Sent: Monday, January 14, 2019 2:23 PM

To: Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX
Cc: Raymond, Mark AGRI:EX; Zachary, Dawnae AGRI:EX
Subject: RE: Janet Thony

Hi Arif,

s.12;s.13

Chris

Chris Zabek | Regional Agrologist
p: 604-556-3045

From: Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX
Sent: Monday, January 14, 2019 1:58 PM
To: Zabek, Chris AGRI:EX
Cc: Raymond, Mark AGRI:EX; Zachary, Dawnae AGRI:EX
Subject: Janet Thony

s.12;s.13

Arif Lalani | ADM | Business Development Division | Agriculture
5th Floor, 808 Douglas Street, V8V 9B4 | T 778.698.3264 | F 250.356.7279
arif.lalani@gov.bc.ca

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From: [Raymond, Mark AGRI:EX](#)
To: [Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX](#)
Cc: [Zachary, Dawnae AGRI:EX](#); [Raymond, Mark AGRI:EX](#)
Subject: Roundtable: Farmers Institutes Website
Date: March 26, 2019 6:38:06 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Arif – As requested, please see updated FI Website information for Roundtable

s.12;s.13

Page 54 of 56 to/à Page 56 of 56

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.12; s.13