



Ministry of Agriculture and Food Transition Material 2024

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD TRANSITION BINDER

A	Natural Resource Sector
1	Natural Resource Ministries Roles & Responsibilities
2	Organizational Structure to Support Natural Resource Sector Integration
3	Natural Resource Ministries Overview
4	Environment and Land Use Cabinet Committee (ELUC)
B	Ministry Profile
5	Budget Highlights
6	Annual Service Plan 2024-2025
7	Legislation Overview
8	Ministry Organization Structure
C	Ministry Operations
9	Ministry Profile - Deputy Minister Peter Pokorny
10	Agriculture Resource Division - Assistant Deputy Minister – Michelle Koski
11	Climate Resistance, Competitiveness and Reconciliation Division - Assistant Deputy Minister – Paul Squires
12	Science, Policy and Innovation Division - Assistant Deputy Minister – Eric Kristianson
13	Office of the Chief Vet - Chief Veterinarian Dr. Theresa Burns
14	Corporate Services to the Natural Resource Ministries - Assistant Deputy Minister and Executive Financial Officer – Ranbir Parmar
15	Agricultural Land Commission - CEO, Kim Grout
16	BC Farm Industry Review Board - Executive Director, Martha Anslow
D	Key Stakeholder List
E	Issues Notes
17	Animal Health Center
17. a	Abbotsford Agriculture Center
18	Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) and Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) Overview
18. a	Corporate Issue Note- AF ALR Overview
19	Agricultural Land Commission – Commissioners and Panels

20	BC Agriculture Council (BCAC) Strategic Priorities
20. a	BCLC Ag Day Leave Behind Key Messages
21	Business Risk Management Overview
22	Food Security
23	Tree Fruit Sector
24	Sector Snapshots
25	Wine Industry
F	30/60/90 Report
G	Order in Council Appointments Required within 90 Days
G. a	Board Appt Table Aug 29,2024
H	Annual Overview: Key Dates and Events - 2025
I	Government 101

NATURAL RESOURCE MINISTRIES Roles & Responsibilities

Natural Resource Ministries

CHECK AFTER OCTOBER 19 There are six (6) BC Public Service's natural resource ministries – Agriculture and Food; Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation; Environment and Climate Change Strategy (including the Environmental Assessment Office); Forests; Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and Water, Land and Resource Stewardship. All the natural resource ministers are typically represented on the Environment and Land Use Committee.

Each ministry has its own mission and goals, set out in annual Service Plans, and collectively the natural resource ministries regulates and influences activities on 94% of the province's land and water base, and to some extent the coastal marine environments. Natural resource ministries are responsible for administering over 130 provincial statutes that provide for the sustainable management and protection of the Province's natural resources and reconciliation with First Nations.

The ministries making up the Natural Resource Sector have been structured to streamline government processes for critical natural resource industries to better attract global investment, enabling BC to make integrated resource management decisions on the whole of the land and water base, including coastal marine environments. The Natural Resource Sector Estimated Revenue for FY25 is \$3.2 billion and Natural Resource Sector Estimated Expenses for FY25 is \$1.7 billion¹, and its work both directly and indirectly benefits the economic, environmental and social health of the Province. From 2010 to 2022 the overall value of goods exports more than doubled, increasing by 126.7% (+\$36.3 billion) to \$64.9 billion. BC relies on exports to bring new dollars into the province. Natural resources (energy, forestry, and minerals) account for nearly 70% of BC's total goods exports.

Environment and Land Use Committee (ELUC)

ELUC, a legislated committee under the *Environment and Land Use Act*, is mandated to ensure that all aspects of preservation and maintenance of the natural environment are fully considered in the administration of land use and resource development. The Committee is responsible for providing direction to the natural resource ministries that balances economic development and stewardship by setting priorities for the land base, managing land use conflicts and providing strategic advice to Cabinet on policies, programs, operations and legislation that impact the natural resource sector. This advice includes consideration of First Nations, engagements, budgetary implications as well as implementation and communication

¹ Source: [2024 Estimates.pdf \(SECURED\) \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)

strategies. The committee is responsible for reviewing Cabinet submissions, requests for legislation from the natural resource ministries.

Membership: A minimum of 3 members (no maximum) and the majority must be members of the Executive Council.

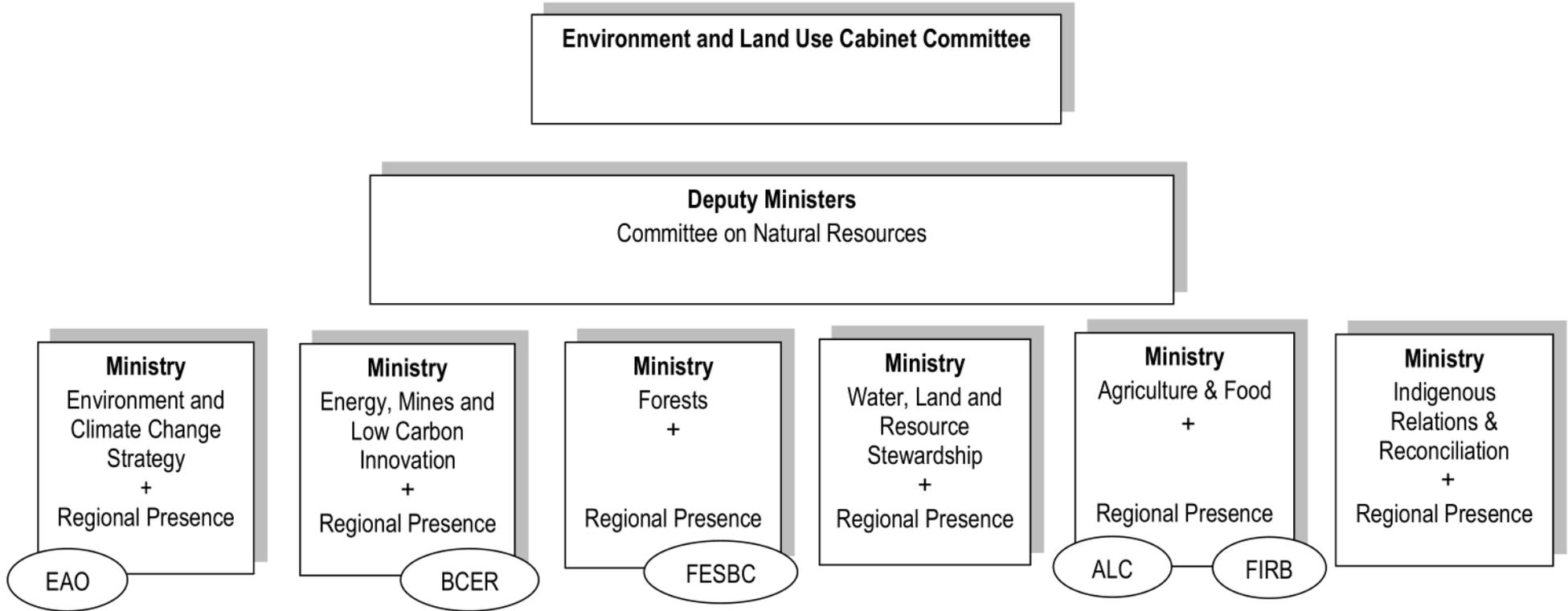
- (to be updated with new list of members after incoming government forms Executive Council)

Deputy Minister Committee for Natural Resources (DMCNR)

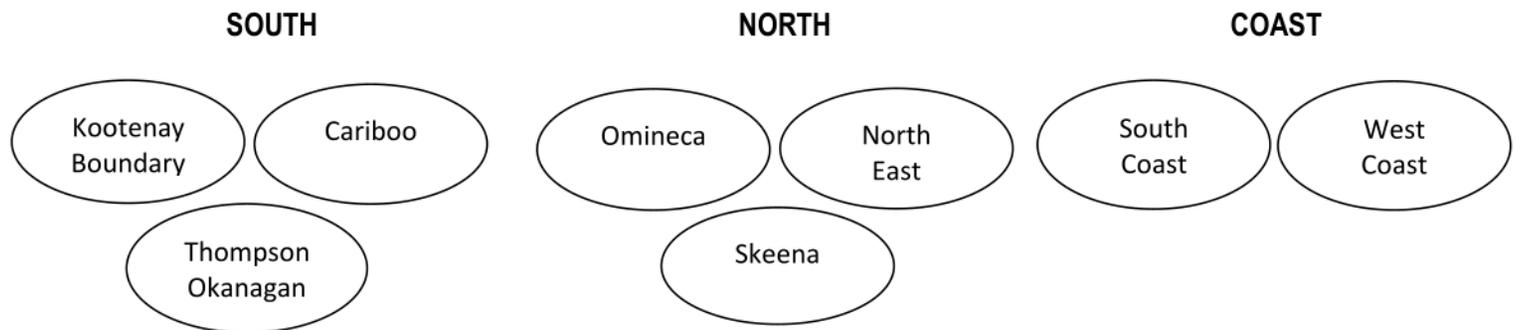
The Deputy Minister Committee for Natural Resources is responsible for supporting the Environment and Land Use Committee and for providing it with information and recommendations on policy and operational issues in support of its mandate. This support includes ministries working together to apply resources to highest sector priorities as guided by ELUC, such as sharing and/or collaborating on resources to meet critical government objectives, undertake strategic approaches to sustainably enhance the Natural Resource Ministries' permitting regime, reviewing high-level business plans to ensure that natural resource operations priorities are being met, and improving and gaining support for ELUC submissions.

Membership (will update after October 19 as needed): Lori Halls (Chair, WLRS); Elenore Arend (EAO); Shannon Baskerville (EMLI); Kevin Jardine (ENV); Fazil Mihlar (JEDI); Jessica Wood (DAS); Barbara Carmichael (AG); Michelle Carr (BCER); Kaye Krishna (MOTI); Rick Manwaring (FOR); Ian Meier (FOR); Neilane Mayhew (TACS); Tom McCarthy (IRR); Peter Pokorny (AF); Tara Richards (EMCR)

Organizational Structure to Support Natural Resource Sector Integration



Natural Resource Operations Ministry 8 Geographic Regions



EAO: Environmental Assessment Office
 BCER: BC Energy Regulator
 FESBC: Forest Enhancement Society of BC
 ALC: Agricultural Land Commission
 FIRB: Farm Industry Review Board

October/November 2024



October 2024

NATURAL RESOURCE MINISTRIES Ministry Overviews

Ministry of Agriculture and Food

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food (the Ministry) is responsible for the production, marketing, processing and merchandising of agriculture and seafood products, the implementation and carrying out of advisory, research, promotional, sustainability and adaptation, food safety and plant and animal health programs; and the collection of information and preparation and dissemination of statistics relating to agriculture and seafood, supporting the province's food security and developing a resilient food system and economy. The Ministry is a key contributor to economic development and diversification across the province and is a main contributor to rural economic development and provincewide job creation, particularly for small businesses. The agriculture, seafood and food and beverage sector creates economic and social benefits for Indigenous groups and other underrepresented groups, has the potential to attract provincial investment, and contributes to workforce development and skills training.

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy is mandated to protect and steward the Province's environment by addressing the causes and impacts of climate change; preserving natural spaces and recreation values; and protecting ecosystems; all while advancing meaningful reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. The ministry is responsible for the protection, management and conservation of British Columbia's water, land, air and living resources. The ministry delivers its mandate through several key pieces of legislation including the *Environmental Management Act*, *Integrated Pest Management Act*, *Park Act*, *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*, *Greenhouse Gas Industrial Reporting and Control Act*, *Climate Change Accountability Act*, and the *Environmental Assessment Act*.

The ministry administers the province's parks and protected areas, and recreation sites and trails; monitors and enforces compliance with environmental laws and regulations; manages discharge to the environment from human activities; and protects B.C.'s biodiversity, ecosystems, native species, and natural habitats in parks and protected areas. It acquires, manages, and analyzes environmental and climate data to provide a robust platform for decision-making across the province. It mitigates and manages the risks and consequences from climate change, including developing plans to meet greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets; responds to the impacts of climate change; and oversees provincial environmental assessment through the Environmental Assessment Office.

Environmental Assessment Office which falls also under the responsibility of the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, is a statutory agency that neutrally administers the review of major projects to assess their potential environmental, economic, health, heritage, and social impacts required by the *Environmental Assessment Act*. The assessment process is also needed to ensure that the issues and concerns of the public, First Nations, interested stakeholders and government agencies are considered and that compliance and enforcement activities are conducted over the life of the project.

Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation

The Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (Ministry) is responsible for British Columbia's electricity, alternative energy, hydrogen, oil, and natural gas sectors and related infrastructure, and the province's mining and mineral exploration sectors. These sectors are made up of diverse interests that use and develop energy, low carbon fuels and electricity generation, transmission, and distribution infrastructure and that explore for and produce oil, natural gas, coal, and valuable minerals. To support Government's coordinated climate, energy and economic objectives, the Ministry focuses on advancing energy efficiency and clean or renewable energy sources and technologies, making sure that the energy we use, develop and export is the cleanest possible. The Ministry facilitates electricity, mining, oil and gas, and clean energy sectors which are globally competitive, demonstrate leading environmental practices, and advance reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, while providing opportunities and quality jobs for British Columbians and a fair return on resources to support the province's priorities. The Ministry carries out this work in support of the CleanBC plan and Roadmap to 2030, as well as commitments to Indigenous reconciliation including the Declaration Act Action Plan. In fulfilling its mandate, the Ministry consults and collaborates with other ministries and levels of government, private sector stakeholders, Indigenous people, communities, regulators, environmental and industry organizations, and the public. The Ministry supports the Minister in discharging responsibilities for the following Crown Corporations: British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (BC Hydro), the BC Energy Regulator.

Ministry of Forests

The Ministry of Forests (the Ministry) supports resiliency of the province's land-base and economy by providing collaborative management of forest, range and archaeological resources, and leading the Province's wildfire response and mitigation. With a commitment to sustainable natural resource management, the Ministry is enhancing the role of forests and forest products as carbon sinks, managing forests to support healthy ecosystems, and working to ensure greater value for B.C. wood and high-value manufacturing. The Ministry is continually pursuing ways to strengthen partnerships, collaboration, and engagement with Indigenous Peoples, and to collaborate with other government ministries in conducting this work. The Ministry also supports the Minister in his governance responsibilities for the Forest Enhancement Society of British Columbia.

Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

The Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (the Ministry or MIRR) guides and helps coordinate the Province of British Columbia's efforts to achieve true and lasting reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples by working in respectful partnerships that recognize inherent rights. The Ministry furthers reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples by collaboratively developing policy and practices, and negotiating and implementing proactive, enduring agreements, partnerships, and treaties based on recognition of rights and a distinctions-based approach. The Ministry's focus is to build lasting relationships with Indigenous Peoples through flexible agreements that can evolve over time and collaborative approaches to policy making.

While reconciliation is a whole-of-government responsibility, the Ministry provides guidance and leadership to other areas of government on establishing and enhancing relationships with Indigenous Peoples. The Ministry also maintains a strong focus on transparency with stakeholders, local governments, and the public, to ensure support for reconciliation in BC.

Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

The Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (the Ministry) works with other natural resource sector ministries to achieve British Columbia's goals of reconciliation, economic development, and environmental sustainability. The Ministry is directly responsible for the effective development of water, land and marine use policy and planning as well as biodiversity and ecosystem health, species at risk policy and program management and developing a new vision for water, land and resource management with First Nations. The Ministry is responsible for the administration of water, lands, fish and wildlife while also directing work across natural resource ministries to develop solutions to sector-wide challenges in permitting, policy, data and technology and improving the management of cumulative effects. The Ministry is the lead on flood, drought, landslide, and dams and dikes.



Environment and Land Use Committee

Overview

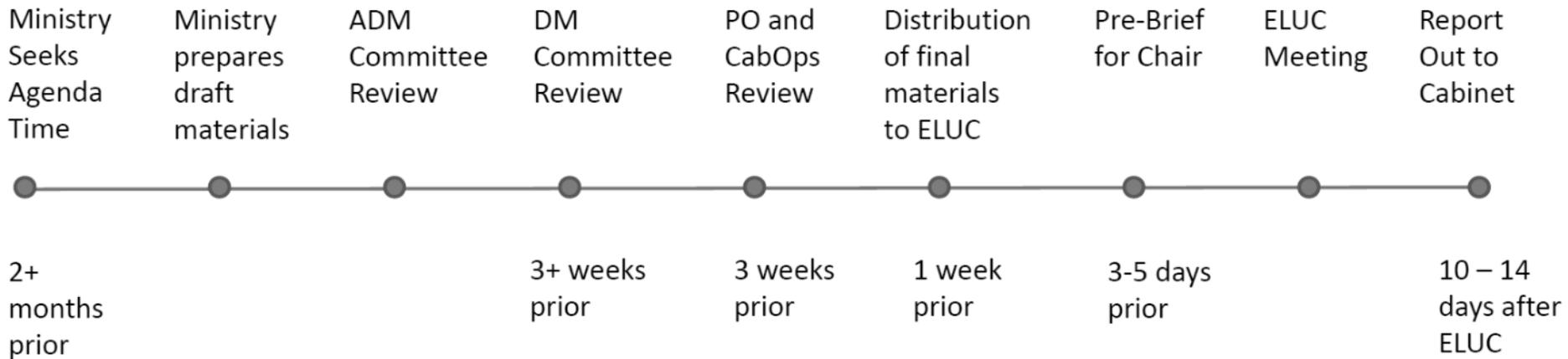
Environment and Land Use Committee

- Established under the *Environment and Land Use Act*
- Ensures all aspects of the preservation and maintenance of the natural environment are fully considered in the administration of land use and resource development.
- Makes recommendations to the Lieutenant Governor in Council on matters relating to the environment and the development and use of land and other natural resources.

Procedures and Powers

- Quorum is three members
- Committee may determine its meeting procedures
- Decisions are usually by consensus
- All deliberations and materials are confidential
- Recommendations are reported to Cabinet by the Chair
- Power to make regulations, subject to Cabinet approval
- Power to conduct inquiries and hold public hearings (used in 1970s)

General Path of Agenda Items



Committee Secretary Duties

In cooperation with the Chair of Deputy Ministers' Committee on Natural Resources and the Deputy Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship:

- Draft meeting agendas and obtain approvals from Premier's Office
- Coordinate logistical support for ELUC meetings
- Review meeting materials and manage distribution
- Brief ELUC Chair in concert with Deputy Minister(s)
- Prepare meeting minutes and speaking notes for Chair



Budget 2024 Highlights

- Budget 2024 increased by \$18.375M over the restated 2023/24 budget
 - Increase of \$16.479M for the Production Insurance Special Account
 - Increase of \$1.627M for the Shared Recovery Mandate
 - Increase of \$0.269M to support the implementation of a new School Food Programs Framework

Ministry of Agriculture and Food - Budget 2024 Highlights

- The Ministry budget of **\$130.136M** in 2024/25 is made up of the Ministry Operations vote, the Agricultural Land Commission vote, and the Production Insurance Special Account.

Ministry Operations

- Budget 2024 increased by \$1.758M over the restated 2023/24 budget:
 - **\$1.489M** for the Shared Recovery Mandate (incl. Budget 2023 and 2024 decisions)
 - **\$0.269M** to support the implementation of a new School Food Programs Framework
- The Ministry Operations budget (Vote 13) in 2023/24 is **\$95.004M**; **\$1.758M or 1.89% greater** than the 2023/24 restated budget of \$93.246M.

Agricultural Land Commission

- The budget for the Agricultural Land Commission (Vote 14) in 2024/25 is **\$5.453M** – this represents an increase of **\$0.138M** for the Shared Recovery Mandate

Production Insurance Special Account

- The budget for the Production Insurance Special Account has increased to **\$29.679M** for all years of Budget 2024.
 - This is a \$16.479M increase from 2023/24

Capital

The Ministry's capital budget in 2024/25 is **\$0.853M** – a decrease of **\$0.022M** from the 2023/24 restated budget.

- **\$0.022M** decrease is due to Fleet vehicle supply chain disruption funding was for 2023/24 only
- The capital budget is **\$0.853M** for 2025/26 and 2026/27



Ministry Budget 2024/25 – 2026/27

	2023/24 Restated	Change	2024/25 Estimates	2025/26 Plan	2026/27 Plan
Ministry Operations					
Science, Policy and Inspection	17,465	599	18,064	18,064	18,064
Agriculture Resource	67,388	1,037	68,425	68,425	68,425
BC Farm Industry Review Board	1,427	30	1,457	1,457	1,457
Executive and Support Services	6,966	92	7,058	7,058	7,058
Sub-Total	93,246	1,758	95,004	95,004	95,004
Agricultural Land Commission	5,315	138	5,453	5,453	5,453
Production Insurance Account Net	13,200	16,479	29,679	29,679	29,679
TOTAL Ministry	111,761	18,375	130,136	130,136	130,136



Capital Budget

	2023/24 Estimates	2024/25 Estimates	2025/26 Plan	2026/27 Plan
Ministry Operations				
Centralized Assets				
Vehicles	572	550	550	550
Office Equipment	3	3	3	3
Specialized Equipment	300	300	300	300
Centralized Assets Total	875	853	853	853
Ministry Operations Total	875	853	853	853
Agricultural Land Commission				
Vehicle replacement	0	0	0	0
Cannabis and Revitalization Vehicles	0	0	0	0
Agricultural Land Commission Total	0	0	0	0
Ministry Total	875	853	853	853



Minister's Office

Minister's Office Budget	2023/24 Restated	2024/25 Estimates	Change
Ministry Operations			
Salaries and benefits	524	552	28
Legislative Salaries	58	58	-
Travel	87	87	-
Information Systems	10	10	-
Office Expenses	22	22	-
Total Budget	701	729	28

► Increase to the Minister's Office budget reflects the Shared Recovery Mandate increases for staff.

Ministry of Agriculture and Food

2024/25 – 2026/27 Service Plan

February 2024



For more information on the Ministry of Agriculture and Food contact:

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<https://www.gov.bc.ca/agri>

Published by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food

Minister's Accountability Statement



The Ministry of Ministry of Agriculture and Food 2024/25 – 2026/27 Service Plan was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*. I am accountable for the basis on which the plan has been prepared.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pam Alexis". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Honourable Pam Alexis
Minister of Agriculture and Food
February 9, 2024

Table of Contents

Minister's Accountability Statement	3
Strategic Direction.....	5
Purpose of the Ministry.....	5
Operating Environment.....	5
Economic Statement	6
Performance Planning	7
Financial Summary	17
Appendix A: Public Sector Organizations	18

Strategic Direction

In 2024/25, the Government of British Columbia will remain focused on providing the services and infrastructure that people depend on to build a good life. Government will continue delivering results that matter to British Columbians including helping people with costs, attainable and affordable housing, strengthened health care, safer communities, and a secure, clean and fair economy. Government will continue working collaboratively with Indigenous Peoples as it implements the Action Plan for the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act and delivers initiatives that advance reconciliation in ways that make a difference in communities throughout the province.

This 2024/25 service plan outlines how the Ministry of Agriculture and Food will support the government's priorities including the foundational principles listed above and selected action items identified in the [December 2022 Minister's Mandate Letter](#).

Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food (the Ministry) is responsible for the production, marketing, processing and merchandising of agriculture and seafood products; the implementation and carrying out of advisory, research, promotional, sustainability and adaptation, food safety and plant and animal health programs; and the collection of information and preparation and dissemination of statistics relating to agriculture and seafood, supporting the province's food security and developing a resilient food system and economy. The Ministry is a key contributor to economic development and diversification across the province and is a main contributor to rural economic development and province-wide job creation, particularly for small businesses. The agriculture, seafood and food and beverage sector creates economic and social benefits for Indigenous groups and other underrepresented groups, has the potential to attract provincial investment, and contributes to workforce development and skills training.

The legal and regulatory environment that guides the work of the Ministry includes 30 statutes which relate wholly or primarily to the Ministry. A [complete list of legislation for which the Ministry is responsible](#) for is available online.

Operating Environment

Food is a huge part of B.C.'s economy, between those who grow and produce it, and those who get it to grocery stores; tens of thousands work in the agriculture sector to put food on British Columbians' plates.

The agriculture, food and beverage sector continues to face challenges due to extreme weather events – including heat, flood, fire, and drought. These climate-related disruptions highlight the importance of B.C.'s food supply chain.

Building a resilient food system and increasing food security is of key importance to the Ministry. The Ministry continues to respond to these climate-related disruptions and evolving needs of the industry by taking meaningful actions to improve the resilience of B.C.'s food supply through new and enhanced programs, as well as scaling up agritech and innovation efforts, and leading preparedness and response activities for anticipated emergency events.

Plant and animal health and welfare are also affected by a growing number of threats ranging from climate-related phenomena to infectious disease. The Ministry will need to allocate resources to respond these threats, such as the highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza, to limit the spread of disease and protect livestock.

Economic Statement

B.C.'s economy posted modest growth last year as interest rate increases weighed on the economy, and employment continued to expand, supported by immigration. Inflation in the province continued to ease and the Bank of Canada has not raised its policy interest rate since July 2023. The impact of higher rates on borrowing costs and elevated household debt led to lower consumer spending and reduced home sales. Lumber, natural gas and coal prices declined in 2023, reducing the value of the province's goods exports. Meanwhile, there was a record number of housing starts in the province in 2023. There is uncertainty over the transmission of high interest rates to the residential construction sector and the duration of slower growth for the rest of the economy in B.C. and among our trading partners. The Economic Forecast Council (EFC) estimates that B.C. real GDP expanded by 0.9 per cent in 2023 and expects growth of 0.5 per cent in 2024 and 2.1 per cent in 2025. Meanwhile for Canada, the EFC estimates growth of 1.1 per cent in 2023 and projects national real GDP growth of 0.5 per cent in 2024 and 1.9 per cent in 2025. As such, B.C.'s economic growth is expected to be broadly in line with the national average in the coming years. The risks to B.C.'s economic outlook continue to center around interest rates and inflation, including the risk of price increases stemming from geopolitical conflicts, the potential for interest rates remaining higher for longer, and uncertainty around the depth and timing of the impact on housing markets. Further risks include ongoing uncertainty regarding global trade policies, lower commodity prices, climate change impacts and the volatility of immigration levels.

Performance Planning

Goal 1: Strengthen B.C.'s food security and provincial food systems

Strengthening provincial food security through a sustainable agriculture and food sector and responsible land use remains a provincial priority as it contributes to a strong, sustainable economy that works for everyone.

Objective 1.1: Ensure the provincial food system has the capacity to increase the availability of B.C. foods

Enhancing the Grow BC, Feed BC and Buy BC suite of programs will drive economic and job growth across the sector, increase the safety and availability of local food, and build the sustainability and reliability of the provincial food system. Integrated programs targeting industry renewal and competitiveness, sustainability, and capacity will address gaps in food supply resilience.

Key Strategies

- Expand Grow BC by focusing on industry competitiveness, capacity building, sustainability with targeted programs to increase participation of underrepresented groups such as Indigenous Peoples, new entrants, and youth.
- Increase the awareness of the Buy BC brand with B.C. citizens and the availability and promotion of Buy BC licensed products at grocery stores across B.C.
- Enhance Feed BC by building demand for local foods in more B.C. public institutions through partnerships with key sectors such as health, post-secondary, and corrections, facilitating value chain innovation to connect demand to supply, and supporting the readiness and connection to opportunities of B.C. businesses to supply more locally grown and processed food.
- Integrate Feed BC into the Province's School Meals Framework to increase local food use and opportunities within B.C.'s K-12 school system.

Discussion

The Ministry has an integrated suite of programs and strategies to support this objective's implementation. Programs are delivered through various methods including agreements and partnerships with other government bodies, industry associations, expert program delivery agents, local governments, education institutions, and public health. Under Grow BC, this includes supports for industry renewal and regional extension. Under Buy BC, this involves evaluations and audits to support the refinement and further targeting of Buy BC programming to meet industry needs. Under Feed BC, the forecast forward reflects anticipated growth supported by two Ministry mandates to expand Feed BC and to integrate Feed BC into K-12 schools in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Child Care's mandate to ensure students are fed for learning.

Objective 1.2: Working with Indigenous people on agricultural economic development and food security

Working in cooperation and collaboration with Indigenous Peoples to support meaningful reconciliation and Indigenous self-determination is a priority for the Ministry. This includes understanding the historic and systemic barriers to Indigenous participation in the sector, their agriculture economic development and food security interests, and developing distinction-based approaches¹ that enable capacity building, improve social, cultural and economic well-being, and lead to the equitable participation for Indigenous peoples in the sector.

Key Strategies

- Work with the B.C. Indigenous Advisory Council on Agriculture and Food and other Indigenous partners, as a part of the action laid out in the Declaration Act Action Plan, to identify opportunities to strengthen Indigenous food systems and increase Indigenous participation in the agriculture and food sector.
- Address barriers to participation and consider the needs of Indigenous Peoples to strengthen relationships and better integrate Indigenous priorities, perspectives and food system needs into programming.
- Work with government partners to improve our collective understanding of Indigenous Peoples' perspectives and interests on food security and food sovereignty to guide planning and action in B.C.

Discussion

Supporting Indigenous communities to meet their food security, food sovereignty and economic development goals is a vital part of strengthening community food security in B.C. Forming the B.C. Indigenous Advisory Council on Agriculture and Food was a crucial step towards strengthening the equitable participation of Indigenous Peoples in B.C.'s agriculture and food sector. The Council is the first of its kind in Canada and guided by a three-year [Strategic Plan](#). A new Strategic Plan is currently under development.

The Ministry also has an Indigenous Agriculture and Food team who support First Nations and Métis communities and entrepreneurs in the development and growth of their agriculture and food businesses, and other programs that support Indigenous governments, communities, organizations and individuals develop farm businesses and support food security.

¹ A distinction-based approach means that the Province's work with [First Nations](#), [Métis](#), and Inuit people will be conducted in a manner that acknowledges the specific rights, interests, priorities and concerns of each, while respecting and acknowledging these distinct Peoples with unique cultures, histories, rights, laws, and governments.

Objective 1.3: Expand the data available on the Agricultural Land Reserve

Ensuring the Ministry has data and information on Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) usage is critical for making land use decisions, informing an array of Ministry and government priorities and supporting partnerships with farmers, industry and government in developing long-term planning and food security in the province.

Key Strategies

- Accelerate the pace of ALUI to establish a full and updated provincial baseline.
- Invest in research and development into new technologies to ensure a more sustainable ALUI program and enable more frequent ALUI updates.
- Develop an online portal to ensure that all ALUI data is readily accessible with tools available to facilitate data informed decisions on the land base.

Discussion

To make informed decisions, the province needs to know how the ALR is being used and have data that is current and available province wide. This includes information on the types and amount of farming that is occurring, as well as the volume of value-added and processing activities underway. ALUI's collect consistent, credible, and comprehensive data about land use and land cover on agricultural lands across the province.

Maintaining a province-wide Agricultural Land Use Inventory (ALUI) was a recommendation from the "Revitalizing the ALR and the Agricultural Land Commission" Final Committee Report to support policy and program development and the ALR. The Ministry developed a five-year ALUI Program strategy to update all agricultural regions in the province with an ALUI baseline by March 31, 2028, completed to current ALUI standards.

There are many decision-makers involved in the ALR, including local governments, the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC), and numerous provincial government ministries. Having access to data to definitively demonstrate what is occurring on the ALR (and how things are changing), will result in better decisions, policies, and regulations. ALUI has the potential to be a powerful tool, but the information must be current, comprehensive, and accessible. The Ministry has developed a strategy to deliver a fully updated provincial baseline and the tools and methodologies in place to ensure this information remains up to date and accessible.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure	2022/23 Actuals	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Target	2025/26 Target	2026/27 Target
1a Number of government or other Feed BC partner facilities that have committed towards a minimum 30 percent of B.C. food expenditures within total annual food expenditures	191	201	211	219	227
1b Number of Buy BC logo licensed products	4,000	4,500	5,000	5,500	6,500

Data source: Ministry of Agriculture and Food

Discussion

1a Feed BC partner facilities: Increasing the number of government or other Feed BC partner facilities that have committed to and are tracking towards a minimum 30 percent B.C. food within their total annual food expenditures provides new market opportunities for B.C. producers and processors and supports increased provincial food supply and food system resilience.

1b Buy BC logo licensed products: Increasing the number of Buy BC logo licensed products that are grown, harvested, raised, or processed in B.C., along with undertaking Buy BC activities focused on online engagement, promotional campaigns, retail and industry partnerships, drives increased consumer awareness of the Buy BC brand and expands local food purchasing.

Goal 2: Support the B.C. agriculture and food sector to mitigate and adapt to a changing climate and an emerging low-carbon economy

Globally, climate change threatens food security. Food producers are adapting or preparing for both an increasing frequency and severity of climate-related events and longer-term impacts of climate change. The scale and scope of this challenge requires support from government to help facilitate the sector’s continued efforts to become ready for climate-related events, contribute to emission reduction solutions, and ensure that British Columbia’s long-term food security can be protected.

Objective 2.1: Improve emergency preparedness and climate resilience

In recent years, British Columbians have experienced the full spectrum of climate-related events (e.g., extreme heat, drought, wildfires, floods), and few sectors have been hit as hard as agriculture. Climate science tells us that this trend is only going to intensify over the coming decades as we face increasingly frequent and damaging climate-related events. In addition to these events, climate driven emergence of pests and pathogens in animals and plants will also increase.

The Province of B.C. has adopted the United Nations Sendai Framework, which outlines five key priorities that are guiding the Ministry's evolving approach to climate related events and the associated risk as listed in the key strategies below.

Key Strategies

- *Understanding risk:* Continued investment in science and monitoring capacities to understand climate changes in B.C.'s weather and the impacts of these changes on the availability of agricultural water, drought and flood risks, ocean acidification and hypoxia, invasive species, diseases, pests, and other climate stressors.
- *Strengthening governance:* Increasing resourcing to the Emergency Management Unit within the Ministry to provide expertise and support coordination for preparedness, mitigation, and response efforts involving the agriculture sector.
- *Investing in mitigation for resilience:* Launch of a cost-shared Extreme Weather Preparedness Program to provide cost-shared supports for agricultural producers to protect their operations from extreme weather events.
- *Enhancing preparedness:* In coordination with the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness and other agencies, development of an Emergency Preparedness Strategy for Food Security. The Ministry will also support industry efforts to improve response capacity for plant and animal health risks, including but not limited to Avian Influenza.
- *Capacity building for resilience:* Establish outreach and education programs for local authorities, First Nations, and industry organizations to support agriculture sector resiliency in the face of rapidly changing climate-related risk profiles.

Discussion

In the wake of increasingly significant drought, wildfire, flooding, and other emergency events over the last several years, the Ministry has been scaling up its capacity to address emerging emergency incidents and strengthening the overall climate readiness of the food and agricultural sector. Work towards this objective is being supported by newly established roles and organizational units within the Ministry, including the establishment of the new Emergency Management Branch with additional staff and the expansion of regional extension services supporting producers in adapting to climate change.

Objective 2.2: Increase uptake of regenerative practices and other on-farm and food processing innovations that support sustainability and reduce emissions.

Regenerative agriculture practices offer producers the chance to play an active role to reduce threats to food production posed by climate change. These practices protect and regenerate soil, water, and air quality, improve biodiversity and protect sensitive habitats, and increase the productivity and profitability of farms. Farmers are also adopting technological innovations such as biodigesters to convert manure into renewable natural gas or the use of precision agriculture agritech solutions to reduce nitrogen fertilizer emissions, as part of the low carbon economy. Together, regenerative agriculture practices and agritech are addressing the need to proactively respond to climate change through practical mitigation and adaptation tactics.

Key Strategies

- Increase available cost-share funding for beneficial management practices through CleanBC.
- Expand research and innovation on beneficial management practices with an emphasis on regenerative practices and sequestration of carbon in the soil.
- Stimulate growth and development of innovation and new technologies that will enhance soil, water and greenhouse agricultural production and food processing sectors.
- Through the B.C. Centre for Agritech and Innovation, support agritech businesses to expand, grow, and meet the progressive needs of primary agricultural production and food processors while ensuring British Columbians' world-class sustainability, quality and safety standards continue.

Discussion

Farmers receive cost-share funding from the Ministry for completing beneficial management practice projects, many of which promote regenerative agriculture practices and technologies. An increased number of such projects indicate the Ministry's success at supporting the development of the agritech sector and promoting regenerative agriculture practices.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure	2022/23 Actuals	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Target	2025/26 Target	2026/27 Target
2a Number of beneficial management practice projects completed by farmers which support regenerative agriculture practices and technologies	488	550	700	850	1,000

Data source: Ministry of Agriculture and Food

Discussion

2a Beneficial management practices: Beneficial management practices are tracked by the delivery of beneficial management practice projects through various funding programs. These projects are implemented and adopted by individual farmers and producers. These practices contribute to regenerative agriculture production, indicating a shift in on-farm production to include more regenerative agriculture practices. Cumulative growth in the volume of beneficial management practice projects implemented over time indicates the prevalence of adoption, ongoing use, and rate of transition to beneficial management practices.

Goal 3: Support the agriculture, food and beverage sector in growing and diversifying domestic and international markets.

The Ministry is working to support the sector to expand and diversify domestic and international markets through the delivery of a suite of market development programs and services. By helping to increase sales and diversify markets, the Ministry supports the sector's ability to contribute to sustainable and resilient economic growth for the province.

Objective 3.1: Increase the capacity of the B.C. agriculture, food and beverage sector to expand domestic and international competitiveness.

Leveraging B.C.'s agriculture, food and beverage sector's competitive advantages, addressing barriers to growth and building capacity to capitalize on market opportunities will enable business and job growth.

Key Strategies

- Deliver trade diversification seminars for the agriculture, food and beverage sector to assist them in understanding market requirements, opportunities and challenges specific to key international markets.
- Provide market research services and cost-shared funding to industry associations to support their ability to conduct market research and establish market development and diversification plans.
- Support the development of a coordinated long-term market development strategy and short-term sales and marketing plan for BC's apple industry, in alignment with the goals and objectives of [The Path Forward: A Blueprint for B.C.'s Tree Fruit Industry](#).
- Increase B.C. processing innovation, productivity and competitiveness through improved industry access to facilities, equipment, technology, training, technical services and other supports.

Discussion

The sector's competitiveness is dependent upon a wide range of factors that drive economic productivity, market development and ultimately growth. As a sector primarily comprised of small to medium-size businesses, the first step to improving competitiveness is increasing capacity and awareness of opportunities, informing actions through market research and planning, and preparing companies to meet market requirements. Targeted export readiness activities support the sector to identify and pursue market development opportunities both abroad and domestically.

Expanding market opportunities will require additional actions to address barriers to growth. As food and beverage manufacturing account for 60 percent of B.C.'s total agriculture, food, and seafood industry GDP, there is a strong focus on expanding opportunities for this part of the sector by increasing value-add activities on B.C. grown products, facilitating and enabling food processing innovation, and investments to improve productivity and profitability.

Objective 3.2: Increase and diversify B.C. agriculture, food and beverage export sales.

B.C.'s broad array of products and strong international reputation for high food safety standards positions the sector to expand export opportunities. Increasing and diversifying export sales increases the long-term resiliency of the sector by reducing market risk and contributes to economic growth and job creation across the province.

Key Strategies

- Support a coordinated government presence in collaboration with the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development, and Innovation to support industry participation and promotion at large international tradeshow and business to business matchmaking events with support from provincial and federal trade representatives.

Provide cost-shared funding to farmers, food and beverage processors, and industry associations to support industry-led international market development activities that support the sector in developing and diversifying export markets.

Continuous improvements to the B.C. Agrifood and Seafood Export-Ready Business Catalogue to support the ability of B.C. Trade and Investment Representatives and Canadian Trade Commissioners to help connect international food buyers with B.C. exporters.

Discussion

Increasing and diversifying export sales includes maintaining competitiveness in existing markets and supporting trade diversification activities. Coordinating a strong industry presence and facilitating connections to foreign buyers at key international tradeshow and events and showcasing B.C. food and beverage products through in-market promotional activities, ensures that B.C. exporters can develop and maintain strong trading relationships and drive consumer demand and sales of B.C. exports.

Objective 3.3: Support market access through a high standard of animal and plant health programming and diagnostic services.

Plant and animal health and welfare are key factors in increasing the production of a wide range of agricultural products for domestic consumption, for improving public perceptions of and confidence in those products, and for maintaining international trade. Strategies that enhance and protect plant and animal health and welfare in the province are critical to growing and diversifying domestic and export markets.

Key Strategies

- Provide diagnostic, surveillance, investigation, and response programming for priority diseases affecting plant and animal health, as well as food safety, such as avian influenza, African Swine Fever, and *Salmonella spp.*
- Build genomics capacity for animal and plant health, as well as food safety, in the context of a BC One Health Strategy (a cross-disciplinary approach to optimize the health of people, animals, plants and their shared environments; recognizes the health of humans, domestic and wild animals, plants, and the wider environment (including ecosystems) are closely linked and inter-dependent)
- Enhance extension services to help producers meet plant and animal health and animal welfare requirements for expanded market access.
- Collaborate with stakeholder organizations to develop new and improved policy and programming for the welfare of production animals.

Discussion

Assurance in animal and plant health and food safety are pre-requisites to grow markets. For example, robust programs for foreign animal diseases, such as avian influenza and African Swine Fever, and other diseases with significant animal and public health impacts, reduce market interruptions and preserve livelihoods. Development and implementation of new technologies such as genomics, to detect and understand, predict and prevent health threats is necessary to meet customer expectations. Supporting plant and animal producers to meet increasing health and welfare requirements of international, national and regional customers is particularly critical for the diversification of B.C.'s agricultural sector.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure	2022/23 Actuals	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Target	2025/26 Target	2026/27 Target
3a Number of B.C. agriculture and food businesses accessing Ministry business and market programs	625	699	814	867	917

Data source: Ministry of Agriculture and Food

Discussion

In 2022, B.C. exported a record \$6.18 billion, an increase of 20.6 percent, in agriculture, seafood, and processed food and beverage products to 142 different international markets. The top five export markets were the U.S (\$4.8 billion), China (\$400 million), Japan (\$246 million), South Korea (\$140 million), and Hong Kong (\$63 million).² Coordinated activities, in partnership with federal and provincial trade representatives, will support B.C. agriculture, seafood, and processed food and beverage businesses to connect to and capitalize on export opportunities.

3a Number of agriculture and food businesses accessing business and market development programs: The number of B.C. agriculture and food businesses that access business and market development programs demonstrate the growth of the sector's capacity to successfully expand and diversify markets. Increasing the number of businesses that access business and market development programs supports market growth and diversification by ensuring businesses are competitive and reducing market risk. This enhances the long-term sustainability of the B.C. agriculture and food sector and promotes economic growth.

² Data source: StatsCan: [Canadian International Merchandise Trade Web Application \(statcan.gc.ca\)](https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/2639017/00001-eng.htm)

Financial Summary

	2023/24 Restated Estimates¹	2024/25 Estimates	2025/26 Plan	2026/27 Plan
Operating Expenses				
Science, Policy and Inspection	17,465	18,064	18,064	18,064
Agriculture Resources	67,388	68,425	68,425	68,425
BC Farm Industry Review Board	1,427	1,457	1,457	1,457
Executive and Support Services	6,966	7,058	7,058	7,058
Agricultural Land Commission	5,315	5,453	5,453	5,453
Production Insurance Account	13,200	29,679	29,679	29,679
Total	111,761	130,136	130,136	130,136
Capital Expenditures				
Executive and Support Services	875	853	853	853
Total	875	853	853	853

¹ For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2023/24 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2024/25 Estimates.

Appendix A: Public Sector Organizations

As of February 2024, the Minister of Agriculture and Food is responsible and accountable for the following Agencies, Boards, Commissions and Tribunals:

Agricultural Land Commission

The Provincial [Agricultural Land Commission](#) (ALC) is the independent administrative tribunal dedicated to preserving agricultural land and encouraging farming in B.C. The ALC is responsible for administering the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), a provincial land use zone where agriculture is the primary land use taking place on the limited agricultural land base.

British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board

The [British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board](#) (the Board) is an independent administrative tribunal that operates at arm's-length from government. As the regulatory tribunal responsible for the general supervision of B.C. regulated marketing boards and commissions, the Board provides oversight, policy direction and decisions to ensure orderly marketing and to protect the public interest. In its adjudicative capacities, the Board provides a less formal system than the court for resolving disputes in a timely and cost-effective way.

Marketing Boards and Commissions

The Marketing Boards and Commissions include:

[BC Broiler Hatching Egg Commission](#)

[BC Chicken Marketing Board](#)

[BC Cranberry Marketing Commission](#)

[BC Egg Marketing Board](#)

[BC Hog Marketing Commission](#)

[BC Milk Marketing Board](#)

[BC Turkey Marketing Board](#)

[BC Vegetable Marketing Commission](#)

Legislation Overview

Act	Details
<p><i>Agricultural Land Commission Act</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural Land Reserve General Regulation. • Agricultural Land Reserve Use Regulation. 	<p>The Act defines the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) and establishes the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) with the following purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve agricultural land. • Encourage farming on agricultural land in collaboration with other communities of interest. • 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. <p>The Act describes the ALC's procedures and requirements for determining whether land is included or excluded from the ALR, subdivided, or used for non-farm use, soil use, or non-adhering residential use. Applications for use and subdivision of agricultural land may be delegated to public bodies or First Nations governments where the lands are within their respective jurisdictions.</p>
<p><i>Animal Health Act</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal Products and Byproducts Regulation. • Bee Regulation. • Enforcement Regulation. • Fur Farm Regulation. • Game Farm Regulation. • Laboratory Fees Regulation. • Livestock Licensing Regulation. 	<p>The Act enables government to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply effective control measures to a larger number of reportable and notifiable animal diseases. • Inspect animals, animal products and byproducts. • Protect certain data and information. • Make orders for the management of disease, or for the seizure and destruction of animals, animal products, and byproducts to control the spread of a disease.

Act	Details
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poultry Health and Buying Regulation. • Premises Identification Regulation. • Reportable and Notifiable Disease Regulation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • License a variety of operators engaged in business that relate to animals, animal products or animal byproducts. • Place greater accountability on persons responsible for animals to ensure that on-farm practices prevent the occurrence and spread of disease. • Work with industry and other governments to monitor animal health and to participate in health management and research programs.
<p><i>Farm Income Insurance Act</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm Income Plans Regulation. 	<p>The Act enables the establishment and administration of farm income plans, which are voluntary participation programs for British Columbia (B.C.) farmers designed to provide the guarantee or assurance of income, or for the payment of money to reduce losses caused by price fluctuations such as low market return and escalating input costs.</p>
<p><i>Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board Regulation. • Specialty Farm Operations Regulation. 	<p>The Act ensures that farmers can farm in the ALR and on land designated for, or allows farm use, by protecting them from nuisance lawsuits, nuisance bylaws, and prohibitive injunctions if they are using normal farm practices. The B.C. Farm Industry Review Board (BCFIRB) was established to deal with complaints about farm practices, including the ability to order a farmer to improve or to stop poor farm practices. BCFIRB builds on an existing peer review process to investigate and attempt to resolve disputes before hearings are held.</p>

Act	Details
<p><i>Farmers and Womens Institutes Act</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers and Womens Institutes Act Regulation. 	<p>Farmers' and Women's Institutes are rural organizations concerned with most aspects of farming industry and society from a community agriculture point of view. The Act describes the purposes for which Farmers' and Women's Institutes may be incorporated and provides a process for incorporation. It authorizes the appointment of a Superintendent of Farmers' Institutes to discharge the duties assigned by the Minister of Agriculture and Food (the Minister) or regulations.</p>
<p><i>Farming and Fishing Industries Development Act</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blueberry Industry Development Fund Regulation. • British Columbia Salmon Marketing Council Regulation. • British Columbia Wine Grape Council Regulation. • Cattle Industry Development Council Regulation. • Dairy Industry Development Council Regulation. • Grain Industry Development Fund Regulation. • Raspberry Industry Development Council Regulation. • Woodlot Product Development Council Regulation. 	<p>The purpose of this Act is to enable producers of commodities in the farming and fishing industries to collect levies approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. The Minister establishes a council to administer the levy fund and apply those funds to promote and benefit their industries.</p>

Act	Details
<p><i>Fish and Seafood Act</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fish and Seafood Licensing Regulation. • Enforcement Regulation. 	<p>The Minister of Agriculture and Food is responsible for the Act except as it relates to licensing respecting the growing of aquatic plants and the harvesting of wild aquatic plants. The Act ensures that any fish or aquatic plants that may be distributed to the public for human consumption meet food safety standards. The Act enables a licensing regime and creates an inspection and enforcement system to ensure license holders are complying with the Act and with any terms or conditions of their license. A range of punitive options ranging from administrative penalties to criminal charges is available. The Act also outlines record keeping and reporting requirements, and allows for the making of orders, and their reassessment, reconsideration, and review. The Minister is authorized to designate licensing officers, reviewing officers, analysts, and inspectors. The Minister may delegate their powers or duties under specific provisions (s.17, s.27, s.46) to a person or class of persons.</p>
<p><i>Food and Agricultural Products Classification Act</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Egg Grading and Standards Regulation. • Enforcement Regulation. • Organic Certification Regulation. • Wines of Marked Quality Regulation. 	<p>This Act provides a grading and classification system for food and agricultural products produced or distributed in B.C. based on quality, physical attributes, or method of production. The Act also allows for the creation of protected labels for prescribed products, such as requiring certification to be able to use the word “organic” in the marketing of organic products. The purpose of these provisions is to support, strengthen consumer confidence, and decision-making. The Act also contains provisions for inspector appointments, duties, powers, responsibilities, reporting, record-keeping requirements, compliance, and enforcement.</p>

Act	Details
<p><i>Food Safety Act</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meat Inspection Regulation. 	<p>The Minister of Agriculture and Food is responsible for the Act as it relates to food establishments where animals are slaughtered for food purposes.</p> <p>The Act requires operators of food establishments to be responsible for ensuring that their food is safe for human consumption. The Act provides for a licensing system for food establishments, and for the summary suspension, or amendment of the license if the operation of a food establishment poses a risk to human health or safety. Standards for establishments are set out in regulations. The appointment and powers of inspectors are described, including the ability to prohibit sales of food where operators have not complied with regulations. An inspector can seize and destroy food that is contaminated or unfit for human consumption, and the Minister may order a recall of such food that has been sold or distributed.</p>
<p><i>Insurance for Crops Act</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous Crop Insurance Regulation. 	<p>The Act empowers the Minister to enter into a crop insurance agreement with the federal government. Under this agreement, it also authorizes the establishment and administration of schemes of crop insurance in the province, and the establishment of a crop insurance fund.</p>
<p><i>Livestock Act</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Livestock Regulations. Pound Districts Regulation. 	<p>The Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permits establishment of livestock districts where, with minor exceptions, livestock may run at large within the district boundaries. Permits the establishment of Bull Control areas, which under the direction of a Bull Control Committee determine the number, breed, breeding, quality, and age of bulls allowed to run at large within the area.

Act	Details
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permits the establishment of pound districts to allow keepers, peace officers, and others to capture animals at large within a specified area and allows for the sale of unclaimed impounded animals and the reimbursement of the keeper. <p>A Livestock Notice is published under the Act, although it is not a regulation. It sets out bull control areas, livestock districts, and pound districts.</p>
<p><i>Livestock Identification Act</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Livestock Identification Regulation. 	<p>The Act allows the livestock industry to establish a system for registration of brands in the province for brand inspection and the transfer of brands. The Act allows for the appointment of inspectors, describes the powers of inspectors, and outlines the process for handling complaints. The Act includes a requirement to keep records of livestock transactions and to present such records to inspectors upon request.</p>
<p><i>Livestock Lien Act</i></p>	<p>The Act creates a possessory lien in favour of every keeper of a livery, boarding or sale stable, and every agistor of cattle holding any livestock or effects. An agistor is a person that feeds or pastures an animal for a fee. The lien on the livestock or effects left with them by their owners is for the value or price of food, care, attendance, or accommodation furnished for the livestock.</p>
<p><i>Local Government Act</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Right to Farm Regulation. 	<p>The Minister of Agriculture and Food is responsible for s. 481 (1) and s. 551 – 554.</p> <p>The provisions dealing with farm bylaws are the administrative responsibility of the Minister responsible for the <i>Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act</i>. These sections allow for the setting of provincial standards for local government (land use and farm) bylaws, enable the development of special bylaws for farming, and direct that local government bylaws be reviewed in relation to the provincial standards.</p>

Act	Details
<p><i>Milk Industry Act</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dairy Plant Exception Regulation. • Milk Industry Standards Regulation. 	<p>The Minister of Agriculture and Food is responsible for s. 12 as it relates to bulk tank milk grader licenses, and the remainder of the Act. The Act ensures the safety and quality of all milk and milk products by requiring certification of dairy farms and licensing of dairy plants. The Act also ensures that all milk sold comes from certified dairy farms and that all milk processed into dairy products, except for raw milk used in the production of certain specialty cheeses, is pasteurized. The Act also outlines the role of the B.C. Milk Marketing Board in determining payment to milk producers.</p> <p>The Act is supported by the Milk Industry Standards regulation which details standards for cleanliness and quality during all phases of milk production and processing.</p> <p>The Minister of Agriculture and Food issues bulk tank milk grader licenses; the Minister of Health issues licenses for persons operating or working in dairy plants.</p>
<p><i>Ministry of Agriculture and Food Act</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laboratory Fees Regulation (also under <i>Animal Health Act</i>). 	<p>Although the Ministry has changed names several times, this Act describes the purposes and functions of the Ministry, which include matters relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production, marketing, processing, and merchandising of agricultural products and food, • Institution and carrying out of advisory, research, promotional or education extension programs, projects or undertakings relating to agriculture and food; and • Collection of information and preparation of statistics relating to agriculture and food and the dissemination of these statistics as the Minister considers advisable.

Act	Details
	The Act also empowers the Minister to enter into agreements with other governments.
<i>Ministry of Forests and Range Act</i>	s. 4(d)(ii) and (e) as those provisions relate to the portfolio of the Minister of Agriculture and Food This section of the Act relates to government's responsibility to encourage an efficient, and competitive ranching sector.
<i>Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BC Egg Marketing Board Powers and Duties Regulation No.1. • BC Egg Marketing Board Powers and Duties Regulation No. 3. • B.C. Broiler Hatching Egg Scheme. • B.C. Chicken Marketing Scheme. • B.C. Cranberry Marketing Scheme. • B.C. Egg Marketing Scheme. • B.C. Hog Marketing Scheme. • B.C. Milk Marketing Board Regulation. • B.C. Turkey Marketing Scheme. • B.C. Vegetable Scheme. • Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act Regulation. 	<p>The Act provides for a system of schemes for individual commodities to promote, control and regulate production, transportation, packing, storage, and marketing of natural products in the province, including prohibition of that production, transportation, packing storage, and marketing in whole or in part. The Act provides for the constitution of marketing boards and commissions under the schemes and provides them with powers vested by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. A supervisory and appellate Board, BCFIRB, is also created under the Act.</p> <p>There is no BC Egg Marketing Board Powers and Duties Regulation No. 2</p>

Act	Details
<p><i>Plant Protection Act</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bacterial Ring Rot Regulation. • Blueberry Maggot Control Regulation. • Domestic Bacterial Ring Rot Regulation. • Golden Nematode Regulation. • Little Cherry Control Regulation. • Japanese Beetle Regulation. • Spongy Moth Eradication Regulation. 	<p>The Minister of Agriculture and Food is responsible for the Act except as it relates to the treatment of the Spongy Moth.</p> <p>The Act provides for the prevention of the spread of pests destructive to plants in B.C., including the powers of inspectors and the authority to establish quarantine areas.</p>
<p><i>Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulation. • Sled Dog Standards of Care Regulation. • Cattery and Kennel Regulation. • Animal Care Codes of Practice Regulation. 	<p>The Act ensures the humane treatment of animals by providing a legislative mandate for the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in B.C. It outlines the membership, the constitution, and powers of the society, including the inspection powers of their officers, rights of seizure, and disposal or sale of animals taken into custody. The Act identifies standards of care for animals and duties of operators of regulated activities involving animals. The Act provides for specific protection of service animals and prohibits baiting and fighting of animals.</p>
<p><i>Seed Potato Act</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cariboo Certified Seed Potato Control Area Regulation. • Pemberton Certified Seed Potato Control Area Regulation. • Seed Potato Regulation. 	<p>The Act</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitates the growing of certified seed potatoes. • Provides for the constitution of seed potato control areas, appointment of seed control committees (the functions, powers, and duties). <p>Places restriction of growth of any potato seed of a variety prescribed by the committee in a seed potato control area.</p>

Act	Details
<i>Special Accounts Appropriation and Control Act</i>	<p>The Minister of Agriculture and Food is responsible for s. 9.2.</p> <p>This section of the Act allows for the creation of a special account known as the Production Insurance Account that is used to fund government insurance payments under the <i>Insurance for Crops Act</i>.</p>
<i>Veterinarians Act</i>	<p>The Act provides a legislative framework for those practicing veterinary medicine in the province to regulate their qualifications, registration, standards of conduct and practice, and conduct investigations, and disciplinary proceedings when required. The British Columbia Veterinary Medical Association is continued as the College of Veterinarians of British Columbia (the College). The College may make bylaws, some of which must be approved by registrants. The College may certify technicians and establish bylaws related to the practice of aspects of veterinary medicine by technicians.</p>
<i>Veterinary Drugs Act</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veterinary Drug and Medicated Feed Regulation. 	<p>The Act restricts the sale and manufacture of medicated feeds and veterinary drugs except by a pharmacist or a veterinarian licensed under this Act. The Act also allows for the inspection of premises on which medicated feeds or veterinary drugs are manufactured or sold. The Minister may prohibit the use of certain drugs if considered to be dangerous to a person or animal.</p>

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Director: Graham Knox

**Indigenous Partnerships and
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Director: Ian Foss

**Food Security and Climate
Strategies Branch**

Lead: Dylan Sherlock

Agricultural Land Commission

Chief Executive Officer:

Kim Grout

BC Farm Industry Review Board

Executive Director:

Martha Anslow

MINISTRY PROFILE

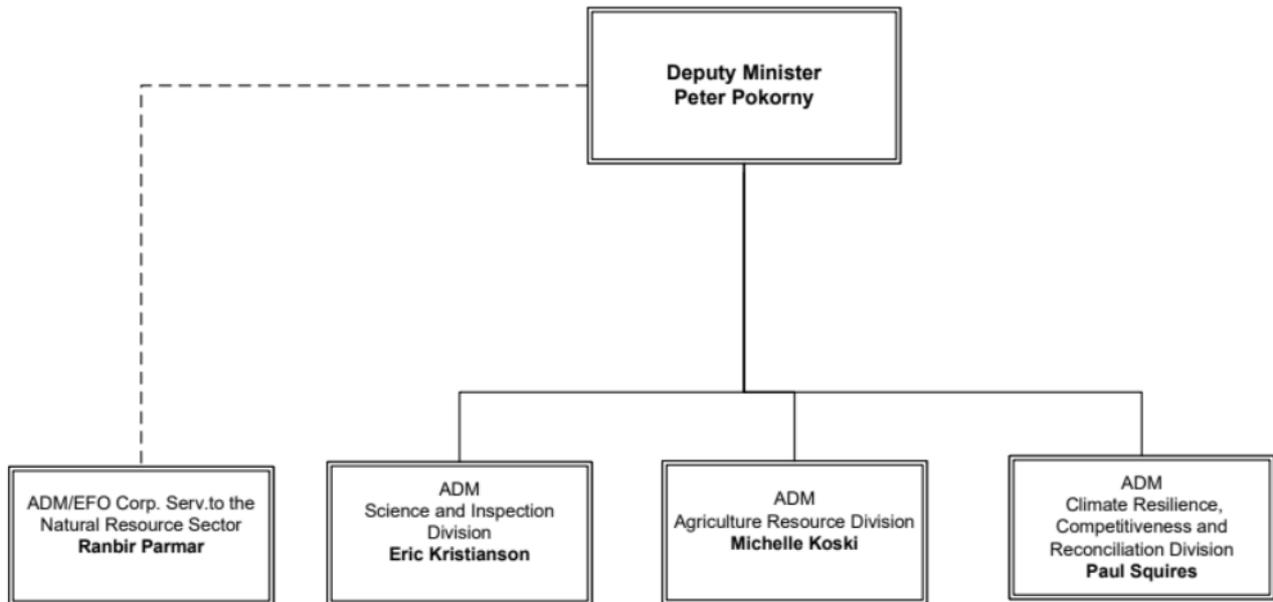
Ministry: Agriculture and Food

Ministry Mandate:

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food is responsible for the production, marketing, processing and merchandising of agriculture and seafood products, as well as supporting our province’s food security, and developing a resilient food system and economy

Full Time Equivalents (FTEs): 475

Executive Organizational Chart:



Budget:

	2023/24 Restated Budget¹	2024/25 Budget	2025/26 Plan	2026/27 Plan
Operating Expenses				
Science, Policy and Inspection	20,019	21,094	21,094	21,094
Agriculture Resources	60,777	60,898	60,898	60,898
BC Farm Industry Review Board	1,427	1,457	1,457	1,457
Climate Resilience, Competitiveness & Reconciliation	2,957	3,397	3,397	3,397
Executive and Support Services	8,066	8,158	8,158	8,158
Agricultural Land Commission	5,315	5,453	5,453	5,453
Production Insurance Account	13,200	29,679	29,679	29,679
Total	111,761	130,136	130,136	130,136
Capital Expenditures				
Executive and Support Services	875	853	853	853
Total	875	853	853	853

¹ For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2023/24 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of 2024/25. To accurately reflect ministry financial priorities, amounts shown are internal working budget allocations and will differ from Estimates Budget.

EXECUTIVE MEMBER BIOGRAPHY



Name: Peter Pokorny

Title: Deputy Minister

Ministry: Agriculture and Food

Biography:

Peter Pokorny was appointed as the deputy minister of Agriculture and Food on January 31, 2022.

Prior to joining our ministry, Peter served as associate deputy minister at the Ministry of Health, where he was responsible for health system operations for three years. Before joining the Ministry of Health, Peter was with the (former) Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, where he was the executive lead responsible for oversight and coordination of provincial decision-making relating to the Trans Mountain Expansion Project.

He also spent four years working with the BC Oil and Gas Commission, as vice-president operational policy and environment, and has held senior roles with a range of provincial ministries including the ministries of: Finance, Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operation and Transportation and Infrastructure.

AGRICULTURE RESOURCE DIVISION

ADM Responsible:
Michelle Koski

Overview of Core Business / Program Area:

The Agriculture Resource Division is responsible for:

- Managing provincial and federal agricultural risk management programs and production insurance schemes that help producers plan for, manage, and reduce risks.
- Providing regional support for emergency management and assisting farmers in adopting beneficial management practices to make their operations more climate-resilient, sustainable, and economically viable.
- Supporting B.C.'s food and beverage producers and processors through initiatives for agrifood industry growth, business development, innovation, workforce and youth development, and expanding access to domestic and international markets.

The division also serves as the main contact for agriculture clients, businesses, and associations, offering regional extension services through industry experts and agrologists to address emerging challenges. Additionally, it provides agrology expertise to the Agricultural Land Commission, the Farm Industry Review Board, and local government planning and emergency response efforts.

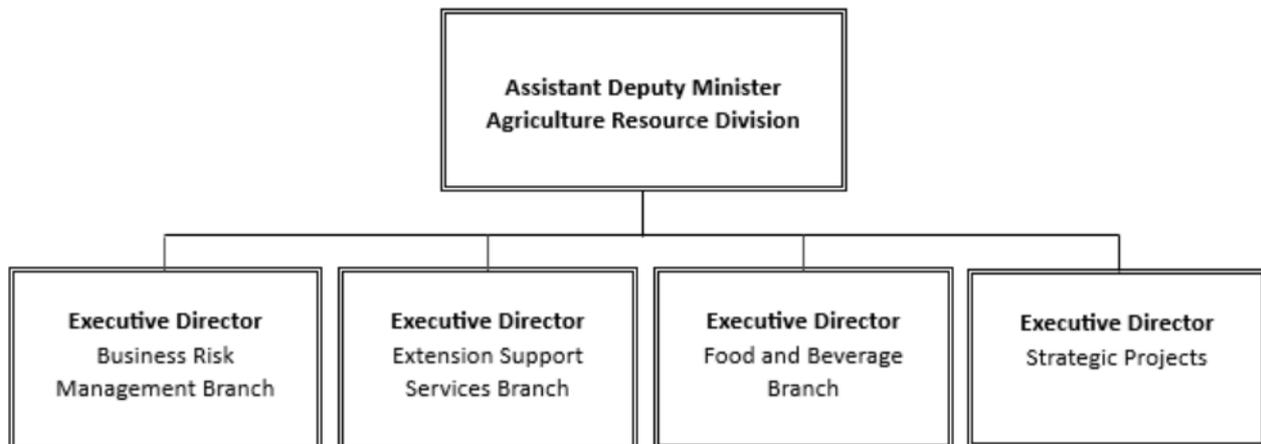
Budget: \$60.898 M

Full Time Equivalents (FTEs): 205

Related Legislation:

The legal and regulatory environment that guides the work of the Ministry includes 30 statutes which relate wholly or primarily to the Ministry. A complete list of legislation for which the Ministry is responsible is available online: <https://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/amr/amr/1135179498>

Organizational Chart:



EXECUTIVE MEMBER BIOGRAPHY



Name: Michelle Koski

Title: Assistant Deputy Minister

Ministry: Agriculture and Food

Biography:

Michelle Koski was appointed as the assistant deputy minister, Agriculture Resource Division, Ministry of Agriculture and Food in January 2023. She previously served as the chief executive officer of the Investment Agriculture Foundation (IAF) for the prior five years. The IAF is a not-for-profit society that specializes in the delivery of government programs targeted towards the agriculture, agrifood, agri-environment and agritech sectors across British Columbia.

Michelle has over 30 years' experience working in the agriculture and agrifood sectors across B.C. Prior to joining IAF, Michelle worked for Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in senior leadership roles in the B.C. and Alberta regions, as well as in Ottawa, where her focus was on international trade policy. She also has an extensive background in rural economic development including policy and economic analysis as well as in managing large grants and contributions programs such as the Mountain Pine Beetle and Softwood Industry Community Economic Adjustment Programs. Michelle has significant experience in championing reform, encouraging innovation, and providing strategic leadership. She holds a B.Sc. in Agriculture from the University of Alberta, and an M.Sc. in Agricultural Economics from the University of British Columbia.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE, COMPETITIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION DIVISION

ADM Responsible:

Paul Squires

Overview of Core Business / Program Area:

The Climate Resilience, Competitiveness and Reconciliation Division is responsible for strategic policy development to ensure that the provincial agrifood sector is innovating and able to adapt to changing market conditions. It champions provincial food security analysis and collaborates with external partners to develop strategic plans to ensure that the sector is competitive and indigenous food sovereignty are enhanced throughout the province.

The division is comprised of 4 branches:

1. The Emergency Management Branch provides emergency response support to industry, local authorities, First Nations, provincial, and federal partners for emergencies that impact the agricultural sector. Examples include wildfire, flood, and animal disease outbreaks such as avian influenza.
2. The Innovation and Competitiveness Branch focuses on the competitiveness of producers and processors in B.C., with an aim to ensure that agrifood businesses are profitable. It also oversees innovation programs, policies and services to develop and adopt new technologies and create or adapt new agricultural and food products.
3. The Food Security and Climate Initiatives Branch focuses on strategic food security and climate-related policy development. It develops long-term strategies to make the agriculture and food sector more resilient to a changing climate.
4. The Indigenous Partnerships and Reconciliation Branch provides leadership of the ministry's reconciliation and Indigenous relationship-building efforts. It is responsible for several food security programs that are aimed specifically at indigenous communities.

Budget: \$3.397 M

Full Time Equivalents (FTEs): 26

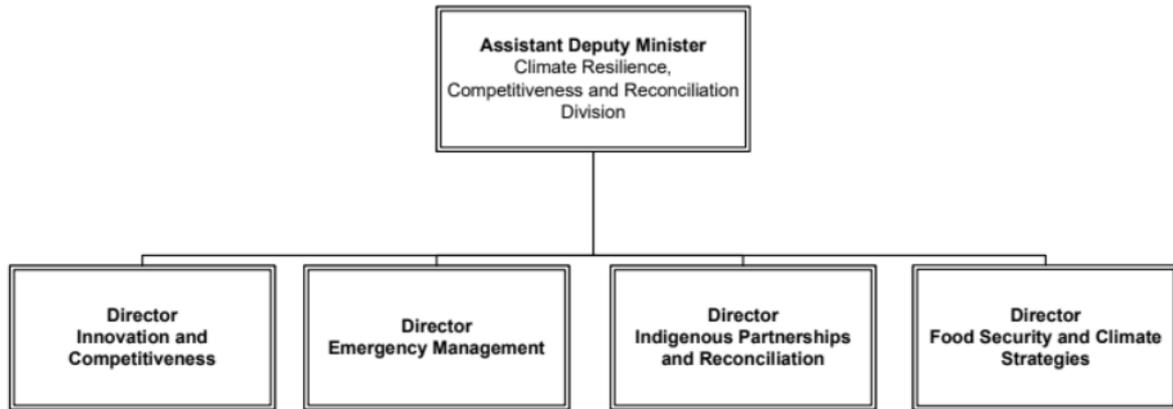
Related Legislation:

Premises ID regulation under the Animal Health Act - Premises ID is a program that is used to respond to animal disease or natural disaster emergencies affecting livestock. Registration is mandatory for all poultry and livestock owners.

Emergency and Disaster Management Act - To ensure compliance with the Act, hazard and risk mitigation plans are being completed at a province-wide level for animal disease, plant disease, and pest outbreak events.

Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act - The ministry currently has one action in the Declaration Act Action Plan, and this commits the ministry to work collaboratively with the BC Indigenous Advisory Council on Agriculture and Food identify opportunities to strengthen Indigenous food systems and increase Indigenous participation in the agriculture and food sector.

Organizational Chart:



EXECUTIVE MEMBER BIOGRAPHY



Name: Paul Squires

Title: Assistant Deputy Minister

Ministry: Agriculture and Food

Biography:

Paul Squires was appointed as Assistant Deputy Minister of the Climate Resilience, Competitiveness and Reconciliation Division in April 2024. Paul joined the BC Public Service in 2003 as a co-op student, and he has held progressively senior roles in the ministries of: Environment, Transportation and Infrastructure, Health, Education, the Office of the Premier, Emergency Management BC, and Agriculture and Food.

Prior to joining Agriculture and Food, Paul was the Executive Lead for the Recovery and Resiliency Secretariat, where he led a team responsible for cross-government coordination of major policy, financial, and intergovernmental relations initiatives that were necessary after the 2021 atmospheric river flooding event. He was also previously appointed to the Board of Directors at the B.C. Council for International Education, a Crown Corporation, and as the government representative on the B.C. Teachers Council.

Paul has a varied background in the public service that includes leadership oversight of policy and legislation, governance and organizational design, major capital project delivery, and negotiations.

He holds a Master of Arts, Sociology from the University of Victoria, and a Bachelor of Arts, Sociology (Hon.) from Bishop's University.

SCIENCE POLICY AND INSPECTION DIVISION

ADM Responsible:
Eric Kristianson

Overview of Core Business / Program Area:

Responsible for all the research, policy, legislation, and intergovernmental relations required to build a competitive and profitable agrifood and seafood sector, as well as for maintaining compliance with federal-provincial agreements, leading corporate and cross-ministry initiatives, and ensuring commodity-based food safety and plant and animal health via inspection, surveillance and diagnostic services.

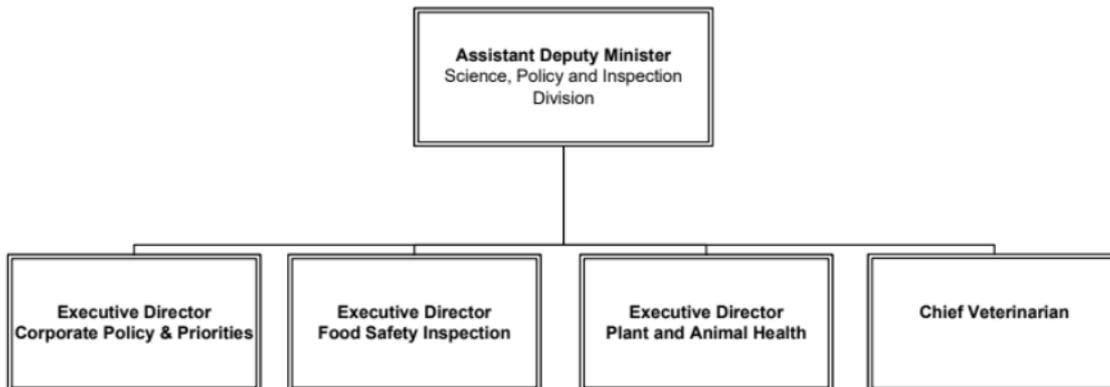
Budget: \$21.094 M

Full Time Equivalents (FTEs): 180

Related Legislation:

The legal and regulatory environment that guides the work of the Ministry includes 30 statutes which relate wholly or primarily to the Ministry. A complete list of legislation for which the Ministry is responsible is available online: <https://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/amr/amr/1135179498>

Organizational Chart:



EXECUTIVE MEMBER BIOGRAPHY



Name: Eric Kristianson

Title: Assistant Deputy Minister

Ministry: Agriculture and Food

Biography:

Eric joined the Ministry of Agriculture and Food as assistant deputy minister in November 2022. Prior to joining the ministry, Eric served as the assistant deputy minister in the Office of the Premier, where he assisted the deputy minister to the premier with deputy minister's office operations and coordinating the cross-ministry initiatives of the public service. Eric sat as the deputy minister's representative on deputy ministers' committees and cabinet committees addressing natural resources, transportation and economic development initiatives.

Before taking on the role of assistant deputy minister in the deputy minister's office/premier's office in 2018, Eric served as assistant deputy minister, Strategic Issues, in Government Communications and Public Engagement. In that role, Eric coordinated government's response on public issues that cut across individual ministry lines and involved multiple ministries, government agencies and Crown corporations. He has done extensive government relations and public policy consulting for private sector firms in the technology, natural resource management and fisheries sectors.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF VETERINARIAN

Chief Veterinarian:

Dr. Theresa Burns

Overview of Core Business / Program Area:

The Office of the Chief Veterinarian (OCV) provides leadership for animal health policy and programming, One Health, and One Welfare in British Columbia (B.C.)

The OCV collaborates within the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, and with other provincial ministries, the federal government, animal owners, and veterinary professionals, to build resilient animal health systems for B.C. The Chief Veterinarian is the senior animal health officer in B.C. They are appointed by the minister, and have authority under the provincial Animal Health Act to respond to regulated reportable and notifiable diseases. The Deputy Chief Veterinarian and other OCV veterinarians and staff support this work.

The OCV is responsible for provincial:

- Apiary (beekeeping)
- Dairy
- Fur farms
- Game farms
- Veterinary drug outlet licensing and inspections

Current areas of strategic focus include:

- Early detection systems, planning, and preparedness for serious animal diseases such as Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Highly African Swine Fever (ASF) and Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)
- Animal origin risks to human health, such as zoonotic diseases and antimicrobial resistance
- Provincial One Health strategy
- Access to veterinary services for food animal producers and rural communities

Withing the Ministry, OCV staff work very closely with the Animal Health Center laboratory, the CRCRD Emergency Management Branch, and the ESSB Livestock team.

Within provincial government, OCV staff work closely with BCCDC on zoonotic and food-borne diseases, and with WLRS on wild pigs, Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and Whirling Disease (WD) management.

OCV staff represent AF on approximately 16 federal-provincial-territorial-national industry (FPTI) initiatives and groups. The CV is a member of the Council of Chief Veterinary Officers of Canada (CCVO), and is currently a PT representative on the board and finance committee of Animal Health Canada (AHC). The CV also sit on the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) Advisory Committee.

Full Time Equivalent (FTEs): 10

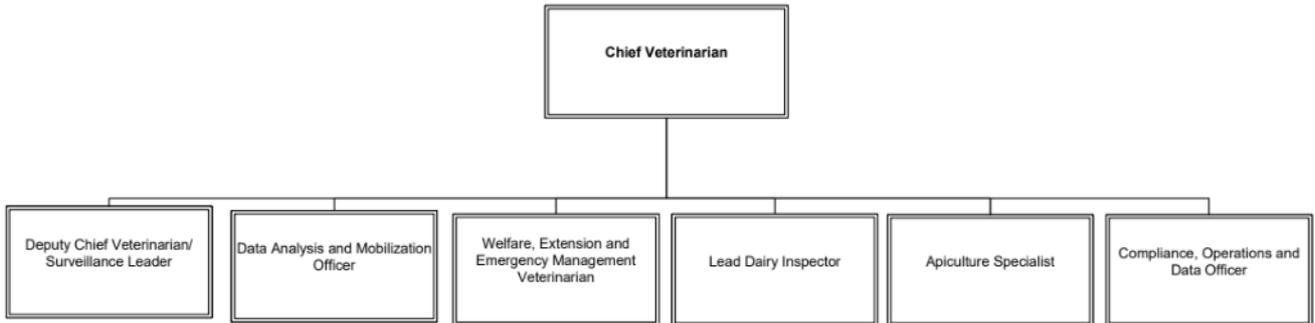
Related Legislation:

In addition to the Animal Health Act, staff support the following acts and regulations:

- Bee Act
- Fur Farm Regulation
- Game Farm Act
- Livestock Licensing Regulation
- Milk Industry Act

- Milk Industry Standards Regulation
- Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act
- Poultry Health and Buying Regulation
- Veterinary Drugs Act
- Veterinary Drugs and Medicated Feed Regulation

Organizational Chart:



EXECUTIVE MEMBER BIOGRAPHY



Name: Dr. Theresa Burns

Title: Chief Veterinarian

Ministry: Agriculture and Food

Biography:

Dr. Theresa Burns was raised in the Fraser Valley, British Columbia. Over the years since she graduated from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, she has worked as a frontline veterinary practitioner with both large and small animals.

Between stints in practice, Dr. Burns completed MSc in Theriogenology and PhD in Epidemiology and worked as a consultant. Her experience has given her a strong working understanding of farming practices, food production systems and agricultural communities.

She has an ongoing interest in collaborative, real-world solutions to complex animal and One Health challenges.

As Chief Veterinarian of British Columbia, Dr. Burns provides provincial leadership on animal health and welfare and One Health. Dr. Burns and her team at the Office of the Chief Veterinarian provide expertise to uphold provincial regulations and to create positive outcomes for animals and people.

Beyond the regulatory focus, the Office of the Chief Veterinarian team identifies animal health priorities and delivers animal and zoonotic disease surveillance programming and antimicrobial use policy analysis.

CORPORATE SERVICES FOR THE NATURAL RESOURCE SECTOR

ADM Responsible:

Ranbir Parmar

Overview of Core Business / Program Area:

Corporate Services for the Natural Resource Ministries (CSNR) is a corporate services organization providing services for approximately 8,000 employees in the natural resource ministries in over 100 locations throughout the province.

We serve the following ministries:

- Agriculture and Food (AF)
- Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (EMLI)
- Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV)
- Forests (FOR)
- Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR)
- Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS)

CSNR Services:

Facilities, Fleet & Corporate Security

- Facilities – workspace accommodation, project and issue management for all six natural resource ministries
- Fleet and Assets – planning, analysis, reporting, maintenance and procurement for AF, ENV, FOR and WLRS
- Risk and Corporate Security – planning, response and recovery assistance for business disruptions and physical security issues for all six natural resource ministries

Financial Services

- Budgeting, forecasting and financial analysis/reporting and support; expenditure, revenue management and recovery processing and reporting
- Financial planning and reporting
- Financial operations
- Accounting
- Financial systems and data entry
- Financial policy, compliance and procurement

Human Resources

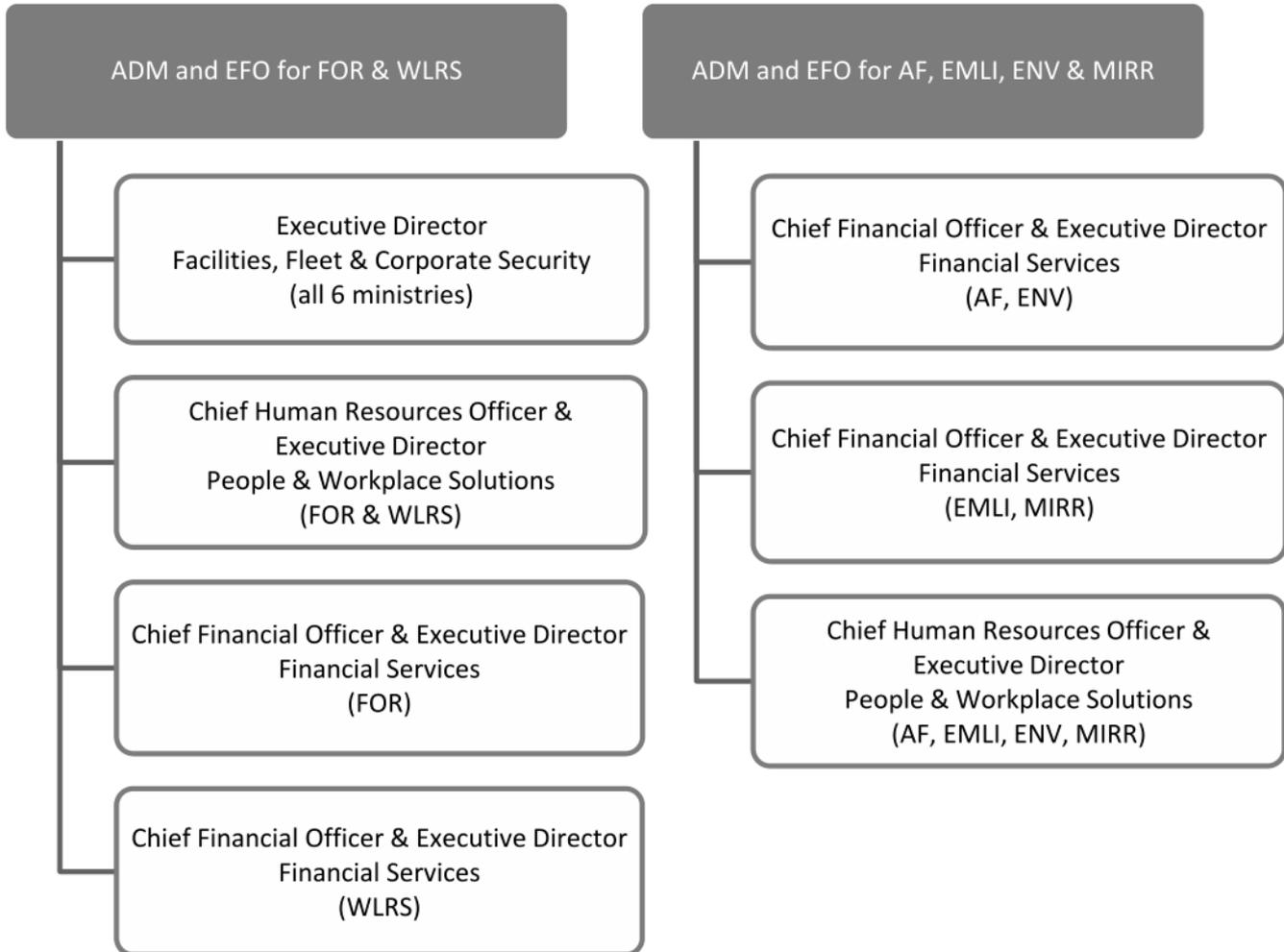
- Recruitment resources
- Hiring support services, including permitting recruitment team, onboarding and classification and exclusion support services
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion programs and resources
- Learning and development / Leadership development
- Corporate initiatives including Work Environment Survey reports and resources
- Health and workplace wellness
- Workforce planning including analytics

Budget: \$34.500M

Full Time Equivalents (FTEs): 365 (as of July 2024)

Related Legislation: N/A

Organizational Chart:



EXECUTIVE MEMBER BIOGRAPHY



Name: Ranbir Parmar

Title: Assistant Deputy Minister and Executive Financial Officer, CSNR

Ministry: Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

Biography:

Ranbir Parmar is one of the Assistant Deputy Ministers (ADM) for Corporate Services for the Natural Resource Ministries (CSNR) and the Executive Financial Officer (EFO) for the Ministries of Agriculture and Food; Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation; Environment and Climate Change Strategy; and Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation. He is also the lead for the Financial Services Branch and the People and Workplace Strategies Branch supporting those ministries.

Ranbir started his career in the public service in 1994 with the Ministry of Transportation. He has also worked in a variety of roles for the Ministries of Small Business and Revenue, Finance, and Ministry of Forests and Range (MoFR). As the Chief Financial Officer in MoFR his responsibilities included financial planning and reporting, financial operations and systems, and procurement and supply services for the ministry. Ranbir was permanently appointed as the ADM and EFO on April 1, 2022, has a Bachelor of Commerce Degree in Finance from the University of British Columbia, and is a Chartered Professional Accountant, CGA.

Personal Information

AGRICULTURAL LAND COMMISSION

CEO Responsible:

Kim Grout

Overview of Core Business / Program Area:

The purposes of the ALC as set out in Section 6 of the Agricultural Land Commission Act are:

- a) to preserve agricultural land;
- b) to encourage farming in collaboration with other communities of interest; and
- c) to 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 work of the ALC is carried out by up to 19 Commission members appointed from six administrative regions of the province who are collectively the board of directors of the ALC. The Chair of the Commission is appointed by Order in Council of Cabinet and all other members of the Commission are appointed by Ministerial Order. Candidates for the appointment are chosen based on merit and their knowledge in matters related to agriculture, land use planning, local government and first nations government as set out in section 5(1) of the ALC Act. Appointments to the ALC are managed by the Crown, Agencies and Board Resourcing Office (CABRO).

The Full Commission consisting of all members of the board, meet twice a year to carry out a variety of duties, including: developing policies governing ALC operations and the interpretation of legislation, passing resolutions and bylaws regarding the conduct of its affairs, recommending legislative and regulatory changes to government, determining Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) boundaries, approving strategic and business planning initiatives, and considering issues of provincial importance.

The Executive Committee, consisting of the Chair and Vice Chairs appointed by the Chair are responsible for making determinations on Chair directed reconsiderations pursuant to section 33.1 of the ALC Act, deciding on applications of provincial importance, hearing enforcement appeals, and exercising any other functions delegated by the Commission. The Executive Committee meetings are scheduled as needed. The Commission on average adjudicates (decides) on between 500 -700 applications, appeals and requests for reconsideration each year. The vast majority of these appeals and applications, involve requests to conduct activities not permitted by regulation in the ALR.

The Chair of the Commission has the authority to establish panels of 2 or more members to decide on applications to the ALC based on administrative region, type of application, panel member expertise or any other criteria established by the Chair, as provided for in s. 11 of the ALCA.

The Chair of the Commission has appointed 7 decision-making panels, one for each of the six administrative regions in the province, that are responsible for deciding applications received in those regions for subdivision, non-farm use, exclusion, inclusion, and non-adhering residential use, and one panel that decides on soil and fill use applications for the entire province. At the discretion of the chair, a member of one panel may also serve on more than one panel, and or the Chair may also serve on a panel, if quorum or member expertise warrants. For information on current panel appointments click the following link: [Chair Directive - Establishment of Panels for the Purposes of Determining Applications](#)

Panel workload is managed by the ALC Chair and referred to the panels at the Chair's discretion. Commission panels are appointed to decide applications, carry out site visits, meet with local governments and other stakeholders to discuss land use planning matters, ALC policy and emerging issues. The work of the Commission is conducted in person and remotely, either online or video/teleconference out of its office in Burnaby and across the province as needed.

Budget: \$5.453 M

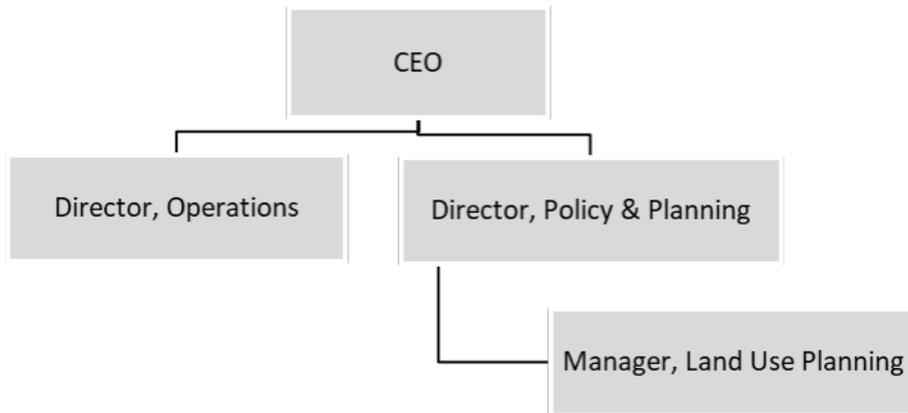
Full Time Equivalent (FTEs): 44

Related Legislation:

Agricultural Land Commission Act.
Administrative Tribunals Act

The legal and regulatory environment that guides the work of the Ministry includes 30 statutes which relate wholly or primarily to the Ministry. A complete list of legislation for which the Ministry is responsible is available online: <https://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/amr/amr/1135179498>

Organizational Chart:



EXECUTIVE MEMBER BIOGRAPHY



Name: Kim Grout

Title: Chief Executive Officer

Ministry: Agricultural Land Commission

Biography:

Kim Grout began her duties as the commission's CEO on December 14, 2015. She is a leader with extensive experience in local government operations, a bachelor of science degree in agriculture from the University of British Columbia, as well as professional certification as a registered professional agrologist and a registered professional planner.

Prior to her appointment, Kim served the City of Pitt Meadows for 11 years, in roles including chief administrative officer (CAO), deputy CAO and director of operations and development service. Grout also has worked for the cities of Maple Ridge and Abbotsford.

In addition to her degree in agriculture, Kim has completed training in strategic management at the UBC Sauder school of business, and municipal administrative training institute programs at Capilano University.

The Provincial Agricultural Land Commission is an independent administrative tribunal dedicated to preserving agricultural land and encouraging farming in British Columbia.

BC FARM INDUSTRY REVIEW BOARD

ED Responsible:

Martha Anslow

Overview of Core Business / Program Area:

BCFIRB is one of 27 independent administrative tribunals that operate at arm's length from the BC government. BCFIRB's statutory mandates include hearing appeals and complaints across three separate mandates, and supervising BC's regulated agricultural commodity boards and commissions.

BCFIRB's responsibilities include:

- General supervision of BC's agricultural commodity boards and commissions
- Being a signatory to federal-provincial cooperation agreements in regulated marketing including supply management
- Conducting farm practices studies
- Hearing appeals of agricultural commodity board decisions
- Hearing appeals related to BCSPCA animal custody decisions
- Hearing farm practices complaints from persons disturbed by odour, noise, dust or other disturbances arising from agriculture or certain aquaculture operations

Where it is suitable, BCFIRB promotes early dispute resolution through mediation, facilitation, or other processes. BCFIRB decisions are final and conclusive but may be judicially reviewed by, or appealed to, the Supreme Court of British Columbia. BCFIRB processes and procedures can be reviewed by BC's Office of the Ombudsperson, providing an additional layer of accountability.

Budget: \$1.457 M

Full Time Equivalents (FTEs): 10

Related Legislation:

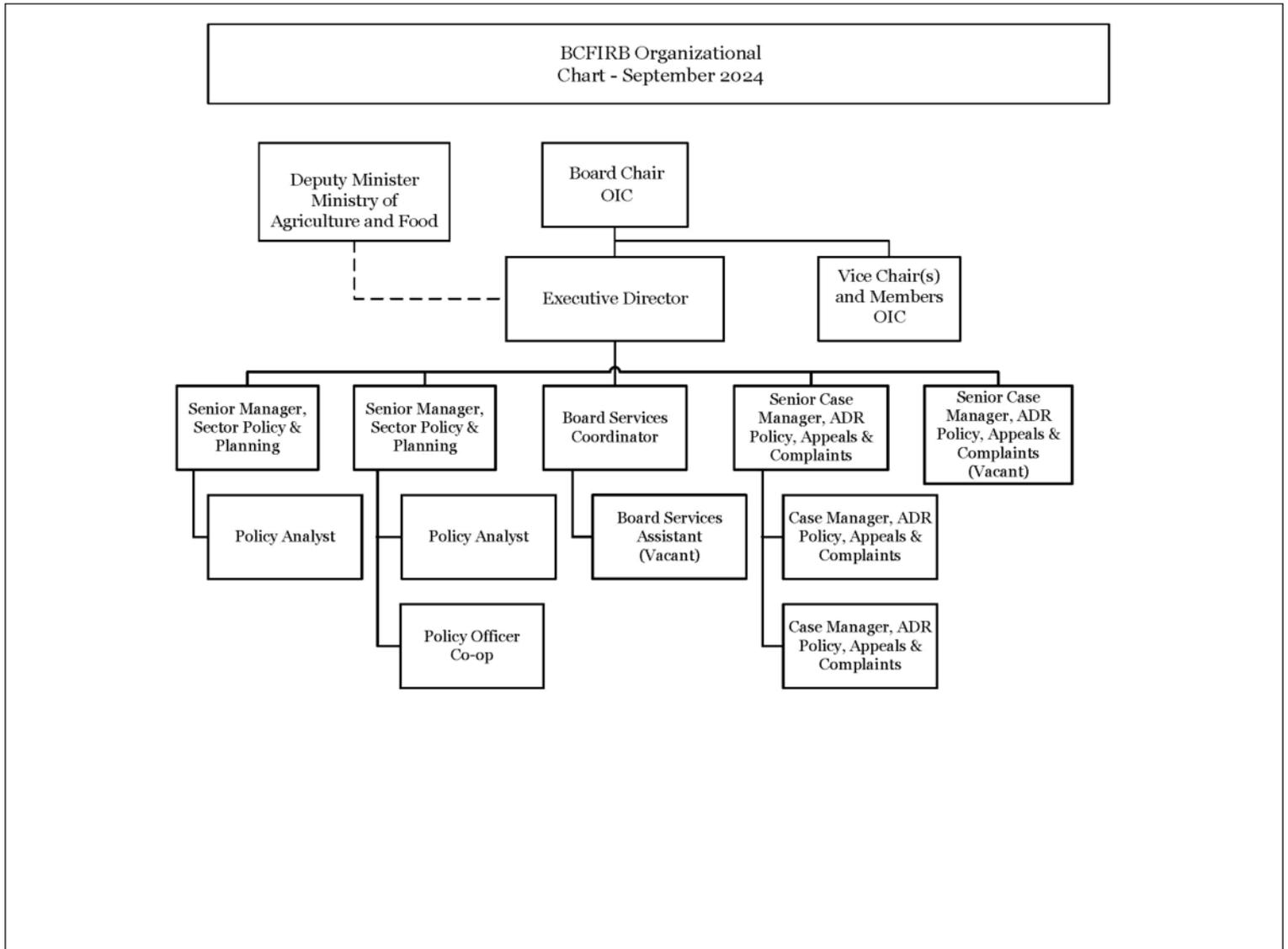
- Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act
- Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act
- Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act
- Administrative Tribunals Act

BCFIRB is accountable to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food under each statute and for its administrative operations but is independent in its decision-making.

BCFIRB is required under the *Administrative Tribunals Act* to submit an annual report to the Minister of Agriculture and Food which identifies and measures BCFIRB's organizational goals and progress.

BCFIRB's Strategic Plan 2024-2027 includes BCFIRB's Vision, Mandates, Values and Strategic Priorities within a context of challenges and opportunities for BCFIRB's operating environment.

Organizational Chart



EXECUTIVE MEMBER BIOGRAPHY



Name: Martha Anslow

Title: Executive Director, BC Farm Industry Review Board

Ministry: Ministry of Agriculture and Food

Biography:

Martha has been the Executive Director of BCFIRB since March 2023. Prior to this and beginning in December 2017, Martha worked in the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food in several capacities including A/Executive Director, Food and Beverage Branch; Director, Food System Partnerships; Director, Feed BC; Director, Policy; and as the Secretariat for the Minister's Advisory Committee on ALR and ALC Revitalization.

Prior to joining the Ministry, Martha worked at the senior management level leading major initiatives including strategic policy and legislative reform for many years in the ministries of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Energy and Mines, Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services, Aboriginal Affairs, and Municipal Affairs, and as a delegated statutory decision maker at the BC Environmental Assessment Office leading environmental assessments of major mine, hydroelectric power and wind energy projects including the first wind energy project in BC, Bear Mountain in Dawson Creek. Martha has led mandate initiatives at the Ministry including Feed BC and as Secretariat to the Minister's Advisory Committee on ALR and ALC Revitalization developing comprehensive policy to strengthen agricultural land use protection and governance.

Martha began her BC public service career in 1994 as the Provincial Youth Development Specialist for the Ministry of Agriculture, Fish and Food, based in Penticton. Martha is currently located with the BCFIRB team at 2975 Jutland Road, Victoria, BC.

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD
KEY STAKEHOLDERS**

Name	Description	Key Issues/Interests
BC Agriculture Council (BCAC)	BCAC is a non-profit, non-governmental "Council of Associations" representing nearly 30 farm associations that in turn generate 96% of provincial farm gate sales. In partnership with industry and government, BCAC facilitates the delivery of programs and services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a provincial agri-food competitiveness and growth strategy • Increase Ministry funding to appropriately support the sector • Water security for agriculture and long-term water storage solutions • Support sector emergency management and climate readiness needs • Prioritize agricultural land for primary agriculture • That reconciliation decisions are inclusive of farmer/rancher interests.
BC Food and Beverage Association (BCFB)	The BCFB is dedicated to help industry achieve economic prosperity and sustainable safe production. They represent micro, small, medium, and large processing companies, and since 2004 has grown to more than 550 member companies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a competitiveness strategy for the food and beverage industry • Labour; availability of both entry level and skilled labour, industry specific training programs • Food security and food supply systems • Support for development and adoption of innovative technologies • Transportation infrastructure; costly and slow movement of goods in the lower mainland

Name	Description	Key Issues/Interests
BC Fruit Growers' Association (BCFGA)	An industry association representing BCFGAs' interests through activities which include lobbying governments for positive change to risk management programs, such as crop insurance and the Net Income Stabilization Program and providing services and products to growers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Price and quality issues in the apple market • Market issues including the closure of the co-op • Increasing pressure from retail sector driving down producer returns • Housing on ALR for Domestic and Foreign workers • Looking for additional funding to support growers
BC Dairy Association (BCDA)	BCDA is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to educating British Columbians on milk, dairy farming and nutrition. They are committed to producing top quality milk in a sustainable and responsible way.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of production • Loss of domestic market share to international trade agreements • Resolve sector financing model for Dairy Innovation West • Flood protection solutions in the Fraser Valley • Dairy Industry Development Council • Biosecurity/trespass • Surveillance/response to potential highly pathogenic avian influenza in dairy
BC Wine Grape Council	In 2006, the BC Wine Grape Council was created through a plebiscite of BC Mainland wine grape growers. The purpose of the BC Wine Grape Council is to coordinate, facilitate, and fund research and education on viticulture and enology to broadly benefit the British Columbia wine grape industry and to represent growers on a variety of agriculture-related issues. They are currently leading the work on the \$1.1M Wine Grape Task Force that was announced in March of 2024.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emerging pest issues • Starling control programming on Okanagan and Similkameen valleys • Seasonal Agriculture Worker Program (SAWP) and domestic workers • Housing for workers on Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) land • Decrease in Agri-Tourism and impacts on Wine Club • Climate

Name	Description	Key Issues/Interests
BC Cherry Association (BCCA)	The BCCA represents growers, marketers, packers, researchers and industry members. The BCCA sponsors research to grow and deliver top quality cherries to markets around the world. We also work to promote and strengthen marketing opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate (resilience and sustainability of sector) • Improvements to business risk management programs
BC SPCA	The BC SPCA's mission is to protect and enhance the quality of life for domestic, farm and wild animals in BC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase pet-friendly housing • Require the provision of pet food in food banks • Include pets in emergency planning • Implement Farmed Animal Welfare Recommendations • Mandate pet chips • One-health
BC Cattlemen's Association (BCCA)	The BCCA has been the official voice of cattle ranchers throughout British Columbia since 1929. the Association membership is approximately 1,200 ranchers. BCCA represents 72% of the provincial cattle herd.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown Range and forage plan; landscape level planning • Water storage and dams • Support for building BC Beef brand • Future of reconciliation and how it impacts agriculture
BC Association of Cattle Feeders (BCACF)	The BCACF represents cattle feeders and producers regarding issues relating to all aspects of the industry.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements to business risk management programs
BC Breeder and Feeder Association (BCBFA)	The BCBFA was formed in 1998 and represents the feeder and breeder associations in British Columbia operating under the BC Provincial Government Loan Guarantee Program. The feeder and breeder programs are administered by local associations incorporated under the Cooperative Association's Act.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescribed livestock inspection areas

Name	Description	Key Issues/Interests
BC Broiler Hatching Egg Commission (BCBHEC)	Established in 1988 under the Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act. They have 54 registered hatching egg producers in BC and 7 registered pullet growers. The Commission works under the Canadian Hatching Egg Producers (CHEP) who represents 300 farmers from BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and Québec. Canadian hatching egg producers yield 80% of Canada's required hatching eggs. Accountable to BC Farm Industry Review Board (BC FIRB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biosecurity/trespass • Disease identification/prevention (avian influenza) • Cost of production (carbon tax)
BC Chicken Marketing Board (BCCMB)	The BCCMB is a non-profit agricultural commodity board that monitors and regulates the production and marketing of chicken in British Columbia. The BCCMB's jurisdiction includes all activities of broiler chicken production in BC from the time the day-old chick arrives on the farm until the chicken arrives at the processing plant. Accountable to the BC FIRB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring continued access to processing • Stabilizing the ongoing pricing conflict between BCCMB and BCBHEC • Biosecurity/trespass • Disease identification/prevention (avian influenza) • Continuing improvement of avian influenza response and scope of federal avian influenza compensation. • Cost of production (carbon tax)
BC Egg Marketing Board Member of the Egg Farmers of Canada (National Agency)	A non-profit organization that oversees and manages the province's egg farming industry. They work with approximately 136 family-owned and operated egg farms and oversee and manage the production, grading, packing, marketing and transportation of all regulated eggs in BC. Accountable to the BC FIRB.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accommodating shifting demand of eggs. • Addressing public trust around production systems. • Biosecurity/trespass • Disease identification/prevention (avian influenza) • Cost of production (carbon tax)

Name	Description	Key Issues/Interests
BC Turkey Marketing Board Member of Turkey Farms of Canada (National Agency)	The Board is comprised of a BC Government appointed chair and three turkey farmers elected by the BC Turkey Association membership. The elected board members serve three-year terms that are staggered to ensure continuity in the Board's membership. The British Columbia Turkey Marketing Board has the authority to regulate the production of all turkey grown for either meat or eggs in British Columbia. Anyone who grows more than 50 turkeys a year is subject to the Board's Order and Regulations. Accountable to the BC FIRB.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small lot production and monitoring processing capacity and available plants • Ensuring access to processing during peak season • Turkey demand nationally has been contracting, so there is strong interest in renewing and growing turkey (marketing) • Continuing improvement of avian influenza response and scope of federal avian influenza compensation. • Biosecurity/trespass
BC Milk Marketing Board (BCMMLB)	The BCMMLB is a non-profit agricultural commodity board with authority to promote, control and regulate the production, transportation, packing, storing and marketing of milk, fluid milk and manufactured milk products within BC. The Board exercises its powers under federal and provincial enactments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key issues of the dairy industry are primarily addressed through the BC Dairy Association • Resolve sector financing model for Dairy Innovation West • Surveillance/response to potential highly pathogenic avian influenza in dairy.
BC Pork Producers Association (BCPPA)	The BCPPA is a non-profit agricultural society that supports all aspects of production, processing and marketing of swine in BC. It promotes the exchange of information between producers, packers, retailers and consumers. BCPPA is actively involved in research and promoting the BC Pork brand.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widely fluctuating market prices • Negative profit margins • Animal activist legislation • Declining producer numbers
BC Hog Marketing Commission (BCHMC)	The BCHMC is a non-profit agricultural regulatory body which receives its authority under the Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act, the BC Hog Marketing Scheme, and General Consolidated Order. BCHMC is responsible for the collection of producer levies that abattoirs collect from pork producers at a rate of \$0.50 per BBQ hog and \$1.00 per market hog. These funds are used to fund operations of BCHMC and BCPPA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negative profit margins • Animal activist legislation • Declining producer numbers

Name	Description	Key Issues/Interests
BC Greenhouse Growers' Association	The Association represents greenhouse vegetable farmers in British Columbia. 96 percent of all of BC's greenhouse vegetable production. Taking up only 0.01 percent of BC's total farmland, glass greenhouses produce 11 percent of the province's total agriculture production value.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labour shortages/access to labour • Carbon tax • US trade investigation into green pepper imports • Would like to create their own marketing commission (separate from the BCVMC).
BC Vegetable Marketing Commission (BCVMA)	The BC regulated vegetable industry is organized under the Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act and the British Columbia Vegetable Scheme (the Scheme). The Scheme prescribes the rules, procedures and application. It is responsible for applying the Scheme, including coordinating producer activities, to ensure Orderly Marketing. Orderly Marketing is achieved through managing the promotion, control, and regulation of production, transportation, packing, storage, and marketing of vegetables.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenges regarding BCVMC decisions based partly on vegetable data/statistics and discrepancies between Ministry and BCVMC data.
BC Wine Growers	Representing the interests of British Columbia wineries. Primary activities are lobbying, marketing and communications. .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to how wine is treated under the Agri Stability program. • Wine sales from wineries, liquor stores, restaurants • Supports needed for the Wine industry - Buy BC and Liquor Distribution Branch. • Active in the business technical advisory panel (B-TAP) table led by the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General (PSSG). • Long term CEO is retiring December 2024. No replacement has been named.

Name	Description	Key Issues/Interests
BC Blueberry Council (BCBC)	The BCBC represents over 600 blueberry growers in BC. Its mission is to enhance the viability and strategic development of the blueberry industry through promotion, research, industry education and relationship building. It collects grower levies based on production to fund its activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● US Trade investigation into blueberry imports ● Labour (cost and availability) ● Income declines for producers
BC Landscape & Nursery Association (BCLNA)	With over 500 members, the BCLNA represents the landscape trades, garden centres, wholesale and retail nurseries, suppliers, as well as educators, students and horticulture affiliates.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Labour shortages/access to labour ● Single use plastics ● Pest and border issues.
Certified Organic Associations of BC (COABC)	COABC is a primary industry organization, an umbrella agency, that represents organic certifying agencies and implements an organic certification accreditation program in BC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lack/loss of labour ● Looking for regulatory change to the organic act to allow the organization to restructure. ● Lack of capacity for the non-profit industry associations to address issues without stable revenues ● Lack of extension services
BC Shellfish Growers' Association	A non-profit organization that represents approximately 70% of shellfish farmers in British Columbia as well as processors, industry suppliers and service providers related to the industry.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lack of capacity/access to tenures ● Funding support programs ● Covid-related issues and protocols ● Aquaculture Act ● Ghost gear/derelict gear issues ● Sustainability certifications ● Production metrics/best practices ● Research/ technical issues
Seafood Producers Association of BC (SPABC)	The SPABC is an organization representing a significant number of wild BC seafood processors. The SPABC is committed to promoting a sustainable resource to provide a consistent supply of health, safe and delicious wild seafood; developing an economically sound industry; developing a market-driven industry; and supporting sales and marketing initiatives in existing and new markets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Access to resource – marine planning, competing sectors ● Environmental discharge permitting ● market issues, fish harvester and plant worker safety, labour availability, etc.

Name	Description	Key Issues/Interests
BC Association of Abattoirs	Representing BC Meat Producers providing sustainable, safe meats to BC families. The BC Association of Abattoirs was formed by the licensed meat industry in the spring of 2009 to collectively address the many challenges and build on the opportunities facing the provincially licensed A/B plants, and the federally registered red meat plants that produce meat/ poultry products for commercial markets within the province of BC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Succession planning • Upgrading and/or repairing existing equipment • Cost of waste tissue disposal/management • Seasonal bottlenecks and downturns
Small Scale Meat Producers	The Small-Scale Meat Producers Association represents BC farmers and ranchers who are raising meat outside of the conventional system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market and support systems for small-scale meat producers • To provide resources and foster research to support the small-scale meat-producing industry • To encourage the adoption of best practices by the small-scale meat-producing industry

Animal Health Center

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- The atmospheric river (AR) event on November 15, 2021, led to widespread flooding in the Sumas Prairie area, including the Plant and Animal Health Centre (PAHC) laboratories and Abbotsford Agricultural Centre offices.
- Mechanical systems that support the containment level 2, containment level 3 (CL) laboratories, other areas of the laboratory and office operations were damaged by flooding, including the acid neutralizer system, which treats effluent water before joining the municipal system, the incinerator used for the safe disposal of hazardous animal waste and the electron microscope, used for the diagnostic and identification of viruses.
- Most of the Animal Health Centre (AHC) laboratory sections became operational between March 3 and May 24, 2022, including serology, histopathology, bacteriology, parasitology, and Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) testing, avian influenza testing, avian necropsy, and PCR testing for avian pathogens.
- On April 13, 2022, the first case of Avian Influenza (AI) in the province was detected. At the time, given that the AHC was not yet operating, samples were rerouted to the National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease in Winnipeg.
- Since resuming AI testing at the AHC on April 29, 2022, the AHC has tested about 49,060 samples as of January 13, 2024, as part of the Ministry's response to the ongoing AI outbreak.
- Additional services, including all molecular diagnostics and limited necropsy services, resumed between July and September 2022.
- As the incinerator became operational, all remaining AHC testing and necropsy services resumed on November 28, 2022, apart from the following:
 - necropsy services for horses weighing more than 80 kilograms;
 - bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE or "mad cow disease") testing;
 - CL-3 laboratory for FAD testing; and,
 - electron microscopy.
- Full equine necropsy services resumed on March 8, 2023.
- BSE testing resumed on September 11, 2023.
- BSE laboratory is also now set up to provide Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) testing as well.
- Repair work of the CL-3 laboratory was completed, and the laboratory was re-commissioned for FAD testing on July 28, 2023.
- Electron microscopy service is expected to resume in April-May 2024 with the purchase of a new electron microscope.
- Limited flood mitigation measures have been put in place, and more extensive mitigations are being investigated.

- Plans to relocate the PAHC are underway. Although the PAHC has returned to full operations and services, the current facility was severely damaged by the 2021 AR event and could, in its current Sumas Prairie location, be impacted by future flooding.
- According to a report provided by Stantec in December 2023, another flood event similar or worse to the 2021 event is expected to occur in the next ten years.
- There are also some further impacts on the site due to the water table shift, which is resulting in hydrostatic pressure to the foundation of the facility leaving it in a state of structural instability.
- A business plan for a new facility that will provide enhanced animal and plant health services to British Columbians in a more secure and climate-resilient setting was completed in January 2024.

BACKGROUND:

- The AHC is the only accredited full-service veterinary diagnostic laboratory in British Columbia (B.C.) providing world-class veterinary laboratory diagnostic services to safeguard the health of all animals in B.C., protect the agricultural economy and shield the public against zoonoses (diseases transmissible from animals to humans).
- The AHC offers more than 400 fee-for-service laboratory diagnostic tests for agents that may be found in wild and domestic birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, and amphibians.
- The AHC also supports the *Animal Health Act* and the Office of the Chief Veterinarian in managing disease outbreaks and animal welfare issues.
- The range of diagnostic testing included bacteriology, histopathology, molecular diagnostics, necropsy, serology, virology, electron microscopy, and BSE and CWD testing.
- The AHC is the only laboratory in B.C. that is authorized and certified by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to test for FAD, such as AI and African Swine Fever.
- The AHC receives about 10,000 diagnostic case submissions and serves approximately 800 clients annually, including veterinarians, animal/farm owners, universities, and government agencies, to support disease control and prevention, farm profitability, business sustainability, and animal welfare, food safety, and public health.
- The turnaround time for testing at the AHC varies from eight-ten hours for a suspected FAD or a high consequence disease PCR test to about a week for a complete necropsy for a large animal. The latter completion time would include testing of multiple samples in all laboratory sections, necropsy, and histopathology evaluation by a veterinary pathologist.
- The AHC's ability to provide faster testing services is critical for the early detection and containment of animal disease outbreaks such as AI.
- Early detection is crucial for the effective and rapid containment of diseases to protect animal and human health and minimize negative economic impact.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- Veterinary diagnostic laboratories in other provinces (provincial and CFIA laboratories) supported B.C. clients while the AHC was not operational.
- Above-mentioned alternate arrangements for diagnostic testing at other labs led to significant delays in getting test results (up to a week or more) due to additional time required for shipping and transportation.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION:

- The estimated cost to restore the facility to operational status is \$7.6M to date with ongoing repairs of the facility due to structural instability.
- The cost of restoration of the incinerator was \$1.76 million.
- The cost of restoration of the CL3 facility was \$2.13 million.
- To date the cost to replace the electron microscope is \$1.2 million.
- To date, the cost of loss of consumables, equipment, and tests that have/are being submitted to other laboratory facilities is estimated at approximately \$2.5 million.
- Assessment of future flood events and potential flooding mitigation factors is underway.

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Abbotsford Agriculture Centre Recommendations & Implementation

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- The atmospheric river event on November 15, 2021, led to widespread flooding in the Sumas Prairie area, including the co-located Plant and Animal Health Centre (PAHC) laboratories and Abbotsford Agricultural Centre (AAC) offices.
- The PAHC laboratories and AAC offices were significantly impacted by this event, leading to the full closure of the facility for over four months with limited PAHC laboratory services. Restoration efforts spanned from 2022 into 2023, culminating in the final repairs to the facility's Containment Level 3 Laboratory and its commissioning completion in the fall of that year.
- As a result of the November 2021 flooding event, the water table of the site has risen and receded, resulting in hydrostatic pressure to the foundation of the facility and leaving it in a state of structural instability. This has resulted in cracks and leakage in the basement which are being monitored and repaired on an ad hoc basis. With future climate change impacts, it is anticipated that rehabilitative efforts and costs will increase to repair any further ongoing damage to the building systems. Further to that, another flood event similar or worse than the previous is expected in the next ten years.
- In spring 2022, a feasibility study was initiated to examine future flooding scenarios and determine options for safeguarding PAHC and AAC building assets and operations over the next several years. The study and report were prepared to determine the impact and mitigations derived from flood scenarios and provide options for the facility's future. Given the vulnerability of the site to pluvial (rainfall-related), fluvial (rivers and waterways-related) and groundwater (rising water table-related) flooding, there are limited options to ensure that the PAHC and AAC will not experience significant damage in the future, leading to severe structural, operational, and economic impacts.
- The government subsequently decided to proceed with planning a PAHC replacement project at a location outside of the Sumas River floodplain.
- The business plan will be jointly submitted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food (AF) as the owner of the program and the Ministry of Citizens' Services (CITZ) as the owner of the asset.
- Upon submission of the business plan, AF and CITZ plan to seek:
 - Approval to proceed with the procurement strategy for the project as presented in the business plan;
 - Approval to purchase the land necessary for the project; and,
 - Approval of funding for capital and operating costs.

ESTIMATE NOTE- FISCAL 2024/25 Ministry of Agriculture and Food

C o n f i d e n t i a l A d v i c e t o M i n i s t e r

- In light of the recent emergence of plant and animal diseases, there is a need to safeguard the citizens of British Columbia (B.C.) from diseases that could impact human health while simultaneously ensuring the protection of livestock and the agricultural food supply. This project presents the opportunity to modernize and improve the services that are currently offered at the PAHC and prevent future damage or loss of critical infrastructure in a more secure and climate-resilient setting.

BACKGROUND:

- The PAHC plays a crucial role in public health, food safety, food security, and the agricultural economy in B.C. The PAHC, amongst other sections, is comprised of the Animal Health Centre (AHC) and the Plant Health Laboratory (PHL) and is located in the AAC.
- The AHC is a leading veterinary laboratory in Western Canada, offering various laboratory diagnostic tests for agents that may be found in agricultural, wild, and domestic animals, while the PHL diagnoses, monitors, and assists in the prevention and management of plant pests and diseases.
- The site is located in the Sumas River floodplain and is at a low point relative to the surrounding topography, thus making it a natural water collection area. The geotechnical and water table conditions of the site after the November 2021 flood event have further deteriorated the flood mitigation options for this asset, making them complex, expensive, and of uncertain efficacy.
- Any flood mitigation construction on the site would also cause severe disruptions, noise, and vibrations, significantly impacting the PAHC precision-based daily operations and potentially resulting in a years-long closure of the facility while activities are undertaken to stabilize the asset.
- In addition to the flooding issue, for several years now the PAHC has been dealing with outdated infrastructure and resulting operational challenges which prevent expanding operations and limit the ability to provide comprehensive diagnostic services to the citizens of B.C.
- In July 2022, the government decided to proceed with project planning at an accelerated pace. Due to the high risk to the PAHC's operations, a decision was made by executives at AF, CITZ, and Infrastructure BC to prepare a business plan based on a functional program and Class D Cost Estimate. This decision was supported by Treasury Board staff in October of 2022.
- This business plan, which was prepared in two parts, outlines the development of a PAHC replacement project. The project includes the design and construction of a new facility to accommodate the PAHC, the Office of the Chief Veterinarian and other departments currently housed at the AAC.
- A functional program review was undertaken to determine the space needs and inform the service delivery options analysis. Options reviewed ranged from staying at the current site to full relocation of the facility. After a full risk analysis, the option of rebuilding the facility on a new site outside of the floodplain but within the Fraser Valley was chosen as the basis for the business plan.

ESTIMATE NOTE- FISCAL 2024/25 Ministry of Agriculture and Food

C o n f i d e n t i a l A d v i c e t o M i n i s t e r

- An interim business plan was prepared and submitted to the government in July of 2023 seeking approval to purchase a site in Abbotsford. This interim business plan was approved by the Treasury Board Secretariat in August of 2023. CITZ is currently searching for a suitable site.
- The final business plan, which encompasses the second of the two-stage business plan submission and provides a comprehensive description of the project requirements, was completed in January of 2024.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- There are no known veterinary and/or plant health diagnostic facilities within Canada that have been constructed within a floodplain without design and construction for flood mitigation. Such laboratories in Canada are also considered critical assets.
- There are no known veterinary and/or plant health diagnostic facilities within Canada that have had similar flooding events impacting facility structure and operations.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION:

- The estimated cost to restore the facility to operational status is \$7.6M to date with ongoing repairs of the facility due to structural instability.
- The cost of loss of consumables, equipment, and tests that have been submitted to other laboratory facilities during the recovery from the flooding event is estimated at approximately \$2.5 million.
- The costs for a PAHC facility are high-level estimates (i.e., a Class D Estimate) and revised funding requirements, including updated land costs, will be identified in the business case that will be presented to Treasury Board.
- Cabinet Confidences; Government Financial Information

Cabinet Confidences; Government Financial Information

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ALR/ALC OVERVIEW

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- Government has made it clear that farmland is for farming in British Columbia (B.C.).
- Pressures on B.C. farmland have continued to grow for many years, driving the cost of land out of reach for farmers and allowing valuable farmland to become damaged.
- In November 2018, the Government passed the *Agricultural Land Commission Amendment Act, 2018* (Bill 52) which resulted in:
 - Restricting the size of housing to address very large estate homes and speculation in the ALR so that farmers can afford to get onto the land and bring it into production,
 - Cracking down on dumping construction waste and filling in the ALR to protect our valuable, arable soil; and,
 - Re-instating one zone for the ALR in B.C. to make it clear that the whole ALR benefits from the same strong protections.
- In May 2019, the Government passed the *Agricultural Land Commission Amendment Act, 2019* (Bill 15) which:
 - Focused on giving the ALC the tools it needs to support farmers and ranchers in every part of B.C.,
 - Strengthened the independence of the ALC so it can better fulfill its mandate of preserving the ALR while encouraging farming and ranching within B.C.; and,
 - Included changes to the exclusion application process, panel flexibility, enforcement provisions, and requirements for notice of statutory right of way.
- In December 2021, the Government amended the Agricultural Land Reserve Use Regulation (ALRUR) so that ALR landowners have options for an additional residence, acknowledging their request for more residential flexibility on the ALR:
 - Depending on the size of the parcel and the size of the existing residence, these changes may allow an additional residence of 90m² or 186m².

BACKGROUND:

- 2017: A key mandate letter commitment was to revitalize the ALR and ALC.
- January 2018: as part of this mandate, Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture appointed an independent Minister's Advisory Committee (MAC) to lead stakeholder engagements.
- July 31, 2018: MAC released an Interim Committee Report to the Minister of Agriculture which contained immediate recommendations for legislative change.
- November 27, 2018: Bill 52 was passed. The three key changes included:
 - Restricting the size of principal residences,
 - Reunifying the ALR into one zone; and,
 - Restricting unauthorized fill placement in the ALR.

- February 22, 2019: Bill 52 changes were brought into force:
 - The Agricultural Land Reserve Use, Subdivision, and Procedure Regulation was renamed the Agricultural Land Reserve General Regulation and amended to set out application procedures; and,
 - A new ALRUR was adopted with new provisions about residential, soil, and fill uses of ALR land.
- April 30, 2019: MAC released the Final Committee Report to the Minister of Agriculture: Recommendations for Revitalization, detailing 32 recommendations. Appendix A outlines the status of these recommendations.
- May 30, 2019: Bill 15 was passed. The legislation strengthened ALC governance and independence, and further protected ALR land. Appendix B provides examples of the changes.
- With Bill 52, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food (AF) heard that some ALR landowners felt that the changes were too restrictive; they asked Government to consider increasing additional residence options in the ALR.
- September to November 2019: AF held a public engagement. Feedback was summarized in the Supporting B.C. Farmers "What We Heard" Report, where the need for more residential flexibility in the ALR was a key theme.
- January 27, 2020: The Policy Intentions Paper: Residential Flexibility in the ALR (Policy Intentions Paper) was released for public comment. This paper outlined ways to increase residential flexibility in the ALR through additional residence options.
- June 26, 2020: Further regulatory amendments were made due to public engagement:
 - Reduce the fee for non-adhering residential use applications to \$900,
 - Redistribute all application fees to a 50:50 split between local governments and the ALC,
 - Increase the volume of annual fill that can be deposited on properties in the ALR for maintenance of an existing farm road; and,
 - Permit the use of recycled concrete and asphalt for certain fill uses.
- September 4, 2020: Feedback on the Policy Intentions Paper was published in a What we Heard Report. The feedback was used to inform new rules on residential flexibility.
- December 31, 2021: New rules under the ALRUR came into effect, allowing for increased residential flexibility through additional residence options (provided the changes are permitted in local or First Nations government bylaws). The new rules permit ALR landowners to have two residences per parcel in specific circumstances:
 - If the parcel is 40 hectares or less, there is permission for two residences: one that is 500 m² or less in total floor area, and one that is 90 m² or less in total floor area; and,
 - If the parcel is larger than 40 hectares, there is permission for two residences: one that is of any size permitted by the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* (ALCA) at the time it was built, and one that is up to 186 m² in total floor area.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- B.C.'s ALR was established in 1973. Ontario and Quebec have similar farmland protection zones.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION:

- N/A

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Appendix A: Status of the 32 recommendations outlined in the MAC Report

- 2018 to present: Of the 32 recommendations outlined in the MAC report, 30 are considered completed. The following provides a breakdown of recommendations.
 - Recommendations that were fully implemented include recommendations two, three, seven, ten¹, 12, and 18.
 - Recommendations that were partially implemented, not implemented, or considered an ongoing process include recommendations one, four, five, six, eight, nine, 11, 13, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32.
 - The reasons that AF decided not to implement a recommendation or to only partially implement sections of a recommendation include the following:
 - Legislative amendments of non-ministry legislation would have been needed,
 - Further analysis would have been needed and could not have been accomplished given other priorities,
 - Legal advice received; or,
 - No specific action was taken as the objective was considered a continuous improvement project (e.g. sharing updates about ALR changes with stakeholders on an ongoing basis).
 - The status of recommendations 14 and 25, which have not been completed, and the status of recommendation 17, which has been partially completed, are as follows:
 - Recommendation 14: *Establish a maximum cumulative footprint for farm-related commercial and industrial uses permitted in the ALR.* A review is currently underway to determine whether work on the regulation should move forward.
 - Information relating to the policy that the ALC developed in relation to this recommendation is provided in Appendix A1.
 - Recommendation 17: *Protect the ALR from expansive accommodation.* Bill 52 partially addressed this recommendation, and the ALC had noted that the new regulations were revealing potential new issues. AF was to determine if further review is needed (would require significant consultation). To date, there has been no direction to pursue this recommendation further.
 - Further information on how Recommendation 17 was partially addressed is outlined in Appendix A2.
 - Recommendation 25: *Immediately work to address the imbalance between oil and gas development and agriculture in B.C.'s Northeast ALR.* As of 2020, a multi-agency task force had been working to develop a comprehensive and factual public facing report to provide the history and current context in Northeast B.C. with respect to oil and gas and agricultural land use, as well as an examination of the existing policy and regulatory frameworks for both sectors.
 - Further information on Recommendation 25 is outlined in Appendix A3.

¹ Recommendation ten relates to maintaining a province-wide Agricultural Land Use Inventory (ALUI). AF has received an annual funding lift in the budget to carryout this work.

Communication related to the MAC Report Recommendations

- An AF news release from August 8, 2018, indicated that MAC had prepared an interim revitalization report for the Minister. The release noted that at the time 17 recommendations had been put forward and 14 issues were under consideration for the final report.
- AF has not publicly committed to implementing all the recommendations from the MAC report.

Appendix A1 – Provides information on the Policy that the ALC developed regarding Recommendation 14

From the MAC Report (page 71):

RECOMMENDATION 14: Establish a maximum cumulative footprint for farm-related commercial and industrial uses permitted in the ALR to:

1. Ensure agricultural production remains the primary ALR land use; and,
2. Not eliminate economic opportunities for farmers.

Five specific action items within recommendation 14 are proposed. The following describes each action and the overall status of the recommendation:

Actions	Status
1. Establish a Maximum Cumulative Footprint in the Regulation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While the recommendation did not proceed, the ALC developed <u>ALC Policy L-24</u>, Development of Farm Structures for Farm-Related Commercial and Farm-Related Industrial Uses in the ALR in October 2019. • The policy is used by decision makers at the ALC when considering the placement of fill, removal of soil, and applications for non-farm use pertaining to the development of farm structures for farm-related commercial and farm-related industrial uses.
2. One Cumulative Footprint per Farm.	
3. Pre-qualification Requirements, and Ongoing Thresholds.	
4. Include Additional Definitions in the Regulation.	
5. Require Applications to the Commission.	

Appendix A2 –Provides information on how Recommendation 17 was partially addressed

From the MAC Report (page 81):

RECOMMENDATION 17: Protect the ALR from expansive accommodation by:

1. Amending the definition of ‘sleeping unit’; and,
2. Clarifying what accommodation is not permitted as agri-tourism accommodation in the ALR.

Three specific action items within Recommendation 17 are proposed. The following describes each action and its status:

Actions	Status
1. Ensure that agri-tourism accommodation units in the ALR remain small-scale seasonal and short term.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action Item 1 was partially addressed as the ALRUR added a section which requires that tourism accommodation be provided on a seasonal or short basis only. • It is ambiguous whether the portion of the Action Item 1, which relates to ensuring that agri-tourism accommodation remain small scale has been addressed as section 33(2)(b) of the ALRUR limits the development area for tourism accommodation to less than 5 percent of the parcel size. This wording is similar to what was used in the previous regulation, the <u>ALR Use, Subdivision and Procedure Regulation</u>, and could be interpreted as addressing the action item’s request that agri-tourism accommodation remain small scale. It could also be noted that agri-tourism accommodation has remained small scale given that is limited in proportion to the to the size of the parcel.
2. Maintain the intent to provide an additional economic opportunity for farmers and ranchers whose primary use of the land is for farming.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action Item 2 was completely addressed. It is felt that this action was addressed as section 33 of the ALRUR which relates to agri-tourism accommodation has not prevented a legitimate farmer from being able to supplement their income with agri-tourism accommodation.
3. Amend the definition of ‘sleeping unit’ to more specifically limit scale and scope.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action Item 3 was not addressed.

Appendix A3 – Provides further information on the status of Recommendation 25

From the MAC Report (page 96):

RECOMMENDATION 25: Immediately work to address the imbalance between oil and gas development and agriculture in B.C.'s Northeast ALR:

1. Form a Deputy Minister-level, multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional Task Force to develop a Northeast ALR Strategy; and,
2. Establish an increased ALC presence to support farmers and ranchers in B.C.'s Northeast ALR.

Four specific actions items within two categories for Recommendation 25 are proposed. The following describes each action and its status:

Actions	Status
Need for a Deputy-Minister Task Force and Strategy	
1. Establish a Deputy Minister-level task force with internal and external agriculture partners and stakeholders from the natural resource sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A copy of the Terms of Reference for guiding the work the task force are posted on the AF's website.
2. Build a memorandum of understanding and operational agreement between the ALC and the BC Oil and Gas Commission for sharing impact assessments and other information so they can work more effectively together.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ALC and the British Columbia Energy Regulator (BCER), which had formally been the BC Oil and Gas Commission, have been in discussions and have agreed to collaborate on an audit of <u>Schedule B's</u> in an effort to try and improve reclamation. • Current audit timeline: The tabletop portion of the audit (review of Schedule B submissions) is just getting underway this winter and field audits are tentatively planned for June 2024. • Amendment to the delegation agreement would likely be needed and the ALC would first need to consult with First Nations on any changes to the agreement. At this time, the ALC does not have plans to move forward on this and bigger changes would likely be expected from consultation.
3. Consider whether/what portion of royalties from oil and gas development in the ALR should be directed to a regional agricultural development fund.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of January 2024, the ALC did not have any updates on the status of this Action item.

Need for an Increased ALC and AF Presence	
<p>1. The Committee recommends that AF work with other natural resource ministries to ensure the ALC and AF are sufficiently resourced to increase presence and support for ALR protection and for farmers and ranchers in B.C.'s Northeast ALR</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of January 2024, this work is ongoing.

Appendix B

- Bill 15: *Agricultural Land Commission Amendment Act, 2019* changes include the following:
 1. Requiring that exclusion applications be submitted to the ALC only by local governments, First Nations governments, the Province, or prescribed bodies to encourage these types of applications be done as part of thoughtful land-use planning process.
 2. Providing the chair of the ALC with more flexibility to organize commission members into a decision-making panel on applications when warranted, by topic, technical expertise or by an administrative region.
 3. Adding more compliance and enforcement capacity and tools, including a new offence for landowners who do not produce records to the ALC when ordered.
 4. Requiring a person who applies to register a statutory right of way under the *Land Title Act* to notify the ALC.
 5. Replacing the former ALC governance model of six panel regions and an executive committee with one commission maintaining regional representation by requiring membership from all six administrative regions.
 6. Adding new decision-making criteria to prioritize the protection and enhancement of the size, integrity, and continuity of the land base that the ALC must consider when exercising any power or performing a duty under the ALCA.
 7. Enabling the Chief Executive Officer of the ALC to register remediation order notes on title.

MAJOR CORPORATE ISSUE NOTE

Ministry/Ministries:

- Agriculture and Food

Issue:

- Overview of the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR)

Background:

- The ALR is a provincial land use zone in which agriculture is recognized as the priority use, farming is encouraged, and non-agricultural uses are restricted. The ALR protects approximately 4.6 million hectares of agriculturally suitable land across British Columbia (B.C.), representing five percent of B.C.'s land base.
- The ALR is regulated by the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* (ALCA) and its two regulations: the *Agricultural Land Reserve General Regulation* and the *Agricultural Land Reserve Use Regulation* (ALRUR).
- The Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) is the independent administrative tribunal responsible for the administration of the ALCA and its regulations. The ALC operates at arms-length from government, which cannot interfere in its decision-making.
- The purposes of the ALC, which are outlined in Section 6 of the ALCA, are as follows:
 - (a) to preserve the ALR;
 - (b) to encourage farming of land within the ALR in collaboration with other communities of interest; and,
 - (c) to encourage local governments, First Nations, the government, and its agents to enable and accommodate farm use of land within the ALR and uses compatible with agriculture in their plans, bylaws, and policies.
- The ALRUR establishes permitted farm and non-farm uses. Non-farm uses not permitted by regulation require a non-farm use application to the ALC. All applications to ALC must first be approved and forwarded by the relevant local or First Nations government prior to review by the ALC.
- Under the ALCA and its regulations, applications can also be made for excluding land from the ALR and non-adhering residential use.
 - Exclusion applications may only be submitted by the Province, local government, First Nation government, and other prescribed bodies who own the land under application pursuant to Section 29(1)(a) of the ALCA.
 - Non-adhering residential use applications are required if a landowner wants to build more or bigger residences than what is allowed in the legislation. The relevant local or First Nations government first must approve the application to forward the application to the ALC. The ALC can only approve the application if the residence is necessary for farm use.

- Local governments have a large role to play in how land uses are governed on the ALR. Most land uses cannot take place unless they are permitted under both local government bylaws and the ALCA. Local government bylaws can be more restrictive than the ALCA but cannot be more permissive. Different local governments' approaches to agricultural land use impact how effectively ALR land is preserved for agriculture in their area.

Implications / Considerations / Opportunities:

- The most pressing ALR-related issues are concerns regarding food and beverage processing, housing, illegal dumping of soil and fill, and alignment of laws with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration).

Processing

- The ALRUR permits processing in the ALR without ALC approval subject to certain conditions.
- Processing is allowed to occur in the ALR if:
 - At least 50 percent of the farm products being processed are produced on the same land as the processing facility, or by a co-operative the landowner is a member of; and/or,
 - For alcohol production, at least 50 percent of the farm product used in the alcohol must be harvested from the land the facility is on and/or another farm in B.C.
- These requirements are colloquially called the "50 percent rule."
- When these conditions are met, local or First Nation governments cannot prohibit processing from occurring; however, they may regulate it (e.g., setting maximum building size, setbacks, etc.).
- Any person who wishes to use ALR land in a way that is not already allowed in the legislation, such as conducting processing that does not meet the 50 percent rule, can make a non-farm use application to the ALC. Alternatively, a person could also ask the local government or First Nations government to apply to the ALC to exclude the land.

Housing

- The ALCA and ALRUR allow an ALR landowner to have a principal residence and a secondary suite within the principal residence, provided it is allowed by the local government.
- New rules were introduced on December 31, 2023, that provide ALR landowners with the opportunity to have a secondary residence without ALC approval in certain circumstances. If a parcel of ALR land has only one residence, a second residence can be added subject to local government approval, as follows:
 - If the parcel is 40 hectares or less, there is permission for two residences: one that is 500 m² or less in total floor area, and one that is 90 m² or less in total floor area.
 - If the parcel is larger than 40 hectares, there is permission for two residences: one that is of any size permitted by the ALCA at the time it was built, and one that is up to 186 m² in total floor area.

- The additional residence can be used for housing extended family, agritourism accommodation, housing for farm labour, or a rental property for supplement income. There is no longer a requirement that additional residences must be used by the landowner or immediate family members.
- An ALR landowner also has the option of applying for a non-adhering residential use, as described above.
- Under the *Housing Statutes (Residential Development) Amendment Act, 2023* (Bill 44), local governments lose the ability to reduce the number of dwelling units on ALR land down from the three allowed under the ALCA/ALRUR.
- On most parcels of ALR land, local governments must allow either a secondary suite or secondary residence but are not required to allow both. On some parcels of ALR land, local governments are required to allow both a secondary suite and a secondary residence.

Enforcement against illegal dumping of soil and fill

- The ALCA prohibits the removal of soil and placing of fill from ALR land unless it is done in accordance with Section 20.3 of the ALCA and Sections 35 to 36 of the ALRUR.
- Properties in the ALR have become targets for disposal of unauthorized and/or prohibited soil relocation since at least 2018.
- The ALC deals with offences associated with dumping prohibited fill on farmland by using tools such as notices of contravention, stop work orders, remediation orders, and/or administrative penalties.
- The ALC Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or compliance and enforcement officers can issue stop work orders (e.g., stop dumping).
- The ALC CEO can also issue remediation orders (e.g., remediate damage to land caused by illegal dumping) for anyone illegally dumping on the ALR. Further, the ALC CEO can order a penalty of up to \$100,000 for anyone illegally dumping on the ALR or ignoring a stop work or remediation order. For subsequent contraventions, the ALC CEO may issue a penalty that is double the amount of the first penalty.
- The ALC may ask the court for a compliance order to direct a person to comply with the ALCA and its regulations (e.g., stop illegal dumping) or comply with its stop work/remediation/penalty orders. Failure to comply with a compliance order is a contempt of court for which the court can order imprisonment or a fine.
- Illegal dumping and failure to comply with ALC orders are also offences under the ALCA. The ALCA could submit a Report to Crown Counsel on these contraventions to see whether the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) will approve charges and prosecute the alleged offences. CPS has full discretion on whether to proceed and must be satisfied that it is in the public interest to prosecute, and that there is a reasonable prospect of conviction.
- ALC's compliance and enforcement work is conducted independently of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food (Ministry).

- Dumping of prohibited soil and fill could also be dealt with under the *Environmental Management Act*, which is overseen by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

Alignment of laws

- Section 3 of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* requires the government to take all measures necessary to ensure the laws of B.C. are consistent with the UN Declaration, in consultation and cooperation with the Indigenous peoples in B.C.
- The Ministry prioritized the ALCA and its two regulations for alignment of laws work.
- During 2022 and 2023, the Ministry invited all 204 First Nations and certain Indigenous organizations to begin consultation and cooperation on the policy development process associated with this alignment of laws work.
- The Ministry met with 46 First Nations and Indigenous organizations through direct meetings and three virtual regional sessions.
- A Policy Scoping Paper integrating recommendations from Stage 1 is in development and will be shared for consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples and Indigenous organizations at a later date.

Page 102 of 206

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Page 103 of 206

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Page 104 of 206

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DUPLICATE

Page 105 of 206

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ALC Commissioners and Panels

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- The ALC Act (ALCA) requires the Commission to consist of at least 11 members but no more than 19, with maximum 3 members from each of the 6 ALR Administrative Regions, not including the Chair.
- The Commission Chair is appointed by Order in Council of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, and Commission members are appointed by Ministerial Order of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.
- There are currently 17 Commission members appointed to the ALC including the Chair, Jennifer Dyson.
- The Chair has the authority under the ALCA to appoint one or more Vice-Chairs to serve on the Executive Committee from the members appointed by the Minister and to appoint members to panels for decision-making.
- The Chair has appointed 6 Vice Chairs, one from each of the six administrative regions in the Province to serve on the Executive Committee.
- The Chair of the Commission may establish panels consisting of two or more members of the Commission based on administrative region, member expertise, application type or any other criteria determined by the Chair.
- The Chair has established:
 - a 2-3 member panel for each one of the six administrative regions in the Province.
 - a 6-member panel to decide on all soil and fill use applications from all six administrative regions.
 - a 3-member panel to decide on all filming applications that request more than 60 days of filming per calendar year from all six administrative regions.
- The ALCA sets out that Commission members must be appointed using a merit-based process based on their knowledge and experience in agricultural, land use planning, local government or first nations government.
- ~77% of the Commissioners (13 of 17) either own/operate or are involved in agricultural operations, including the production of livestock (dairy, beef, water buffalo, pigs & poultry), vegetables, forage, hazelnuts, grapes, tree fruits & other fruits for both local & global markets.
- ~67% of the Commissioners (12 of 17) have experience in local government, first nation band council, agrology, farm business advisory, tourism and community services.
- The Commissioners have experience serving on other boards, councils and associations that are agricultural and land use planning related, such as;

- BC Hereford Association
- BC Cherry Association
- BC Cattlemen's Association
- Agricultural Associations and Agricultural Advisory Committees within their communities.
- BC Dairy Association
- BC Agricultural Council
- BC Assessment
- Canadian Food Policy Advisory Council
- BC Grasslands Council
- Union of BC Municipalities
- First Nation Band Council

BACKGROUND:

Commission Chair

Jennifer Dyson

- Appointed Chair in May 2018 until May 14, 2025.
- Previous Commissioner/Vice Chair 2008 to January 2017 (~8 yrs).
- Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District
- Owner/Operator of a water buffalo dairy and direct farm market in Port Alberni.
- Formerly: Member of Minister's Independent Committee on ALC/ALR Revitalization, Environmental Farm Plan Working Group, and Island Agri-Food Initiative; Co-founder of Island Farmer's Alliance, Western Women's rep appointed by BC Agriculture Council to the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and former executive director of the Agricultural Workforce Policy Board.

South Coast Administrative Region Panel (3 Members)

Ione Smith - - Vice Chair and Panel Chair

- Appointed October 2017 until November 1, 2025
- Appointed Vice Chair and Chair of the South Coast Panel October 2018
- Sunshine Coast Regional District
- Founder of Upland Agricultural Consulting, Registered Professional Agrologist and Farm Business Advisor in Sechelt, member of BC Food Systems Network Steering Committee.

Susan Gimse

- Appointed October 2018 until Oct 25, 2025

- Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD)
- Owner/Operator of a cattle farm in Pemberton,
- BC Assessment Appeal Board Member and formerly: Chair of the Squamish Lillooet Regional District, Councilor for the Town of Pemberton, on the SLRD Area C Agriculture Advisory Committee, President and Board Member of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Executive of the Union of BC Municipalities.

Holger Schwichtenberg

- Appointed March 2021 until March 12, 2025
- Fraser Valley Regional District
- Owner/Operator/ Manager of cow dairy in Agassiz (Holberg Farm Ltd.),
- Chair of the BC Dairy Association and member of the Mainland Milk Producers Association
- Formerly: Director of the Mainland Milk Producers Association and Council member District of Kent.

Island Administrative Region Panel (2 Members)**Brenda Schoepp – Vice Chair and Panel Chair**

- Appointed in January 2023 until January 1, 2025
- Capital Regional District
- Sustainable Agriculture Team Lead on the Canadian Food Policy Advisory Council, Director of Creative Thought, Global Food Lead, Charter Member, Indigenous Works, Team Member for the National Index on Agri-Food Performance, Board Member on the Programs and Research Council at Royal Roads University, Executive on the Canadian International Council, Victoria Branch,
- Formerly: Farmer and Consultant

Jolleen Dick

- Appointed December 2022 until December 19, 2025
- Hupacasath First Nation Territory & Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District
- Elected Councillor with Hupacasath First Nation.
- Formerly: Tourism Development Manager & Indigenous Tourism Specialist, Tourism Vancouver Island, Executive Assistant, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Communications Coordinator and research Specialist, Hupačasath First Nation, Founder & Coordinator, Sunset Market at Victoria Quay.

Jennifer Woike – appointed in October 2021 and expired October 2023

Okanagan Administrative Region Panel (3 Members)**Gerald Zimmermann– Vice Chair and Panel Chair**

- Appointed October 2014 until November 1, 2024
- Central Okanagan Regional District

- Grape grower in Kelowna, Trustee with Black Mountain Irrigation District, sits on the Central Okanagan Regional District Board, the Okanagan Regional Library Board, and the Okanagan Basin Water Board,
- Formerly: Served on the Commission -2008 to 2010 (2 years), City of Kelowna Fire Chief and Council member, Member on the Patient Care and Quality Review Board, Chair of the RDCO Fire Chiefs, Director of the BC Fire Chiefs Organization

Joseph Dueling

- Appointed December 2019 to December 30, 2024
- Regional District of the North Okanagan
- Practicing lawyer with Deuling and Company Law Office, owner/operator of a family farm with berries and fruit, cattle, pigs, bees, and chickens, Director of the North Okanagan Parks and Natural Areas Trust and the Lumby and District Senior Citizens Housing Society, Member of Lumby and District Chamber of Commerce
- Formerly: Director of the Lumby and District Chamber of Commerce, Trustee for School District 22

Erin Carlson

- Appointed December 2022 until December 19, 2025
- Okanagan Similkameen Regional District
- Supervisor and Operations Manager at Carcajou Fruit Company Ltd., Treasurer of the BC Cherry Association
- Formerly: Project Coordinator for the BC Cherry Association, Council member District of Summerland, Board member and Vice Chair of the Okanagan Regional Library, Director of the Savanna Ridge Cherry Co.

Interior Administrative Region Panel (2 Members)**Richard Mumford -Vice Chair and Panel Chair**

- Appointed October 2014 until November 1, 2024
- Appointed Vice Chair in January 2016
- Cariboo Regional District
- Owner/Operator of a cattle ranch in Alexis Creek and contractor with the BC Cattlemen's Association. Former manager with the Ministry of Forests and Director of a timber harvesting company

Robert Haywood Farmer

- Appointed January 2017 until January 1, 2025
- Thompson Nicola Regional District
- Owner of the Indian Gardens Ranch, member of the BC Institute of Agrologists, BC Cattlemen's Association and the BC Livestock Association., Director for the Kamloops Stock Association, a Panelist for the Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) Farm Advisory Committee and a Panelist for the Canadian Intermountain Joint Venture (CIJV), President of the BC Grasslands Council

- Formerly: Panelist for the Bank of Montreal Agricultural Advisory Board, the Farm Credit Appeal Board and the Farm Debt Review Board

Kootenay Administrative Region Panel (3 Members)**Jerry Thibeault- Vice Chair and Panel Chair**

- Appointed October 2018 until October 25, 2025
- Appointed Vice Chair in February 2023
- Previously served on the Commission from 2008 to 2015 (~7 yrs)
- East Kootenay Regional District
- Owner/Operator of a ranch in Cranbrook
- Formerly: East Kootenay Coordinator for a Highway Fencing Project with the BC Ministry of Highways, Livestock Inspector for Ownership Identification Inc. and the BC Ministry of Agriculture, Committee Chair with the Kootenay Livestock Association.

Danna O'Donell

- Appointed December 2022 until December 19, 2025
- Regional District of Kootenay Boundary
- Owner/farmer O'Donnell's Organic Farm in Grand Forks, BC, Certified Horticulturalist,
- Formerly: Director of Regional District Kootenay Boundary, member of the Executive Association Kootenay Boundary Local Governments and member of the Executive West Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital District

Wayne Harris

- Appointed December 2022 until December 19, 2025
- Regional District of Central Kootenay
- Owner and President of Kootenay Meadows/Mountain Valley Dairy Ltd., Director of Kootenay Milk Producers
- Formerly: Owner of Wayden Wood Products and worked in Sales for A.F.A. Forest Products

North Administrative Region Panel (3 Members)**Janice Tapp- Vice Chair and Panel Chair**

- Appointed October 2018 until October 23, 2025
- Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
- Owner/Operator of a cattle ranch in Fraser Lakes, President of the Nechako Valley Regional Cattlemen's Association, Vice President of the Fort Fraser Livestock Association, Director of the Fraser Lake Community Foundation Endowment Fund and Secretary/ Treasurer for the B.C. Hereford Association
- Formerly: Public-School Teacher

Andrew Adams

- Appointed October 2018 until December 1, 2024
- Regional District of Fraser Fort George

- Owner/Operator of Hope Farm Organics, Director for District C Central Interior Farmers Institute and the Prince George Farmers Market, Secretary for Eaglet Lake Farmers Institute, Land Matcher with BC Land Matching Program
- Formerly: Warehouse Manager for E.J Bartells, Park Ranger for the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Forest Ecologist, Forest Technician and Agronomist for DWB Consulting

Karen McKean

- Appointed April 2020 until April 30, 2025
- Peace River Regional District
- Licensed BC Interior Log Scaler with Northern Lights Log Scaling and a Ranch Hand with Ardill's Ranch Ltd., Regional Secretary/Treasurer for the Peace River Regional Cattlemen's Association
- Formerly: licensed BC Log Scaler with L and B Log Scaling and Peace Wood Products, Northeast BC and Yukon Female District Representative for the BC Hockey Association and Treasurer of the North Peace Eagles Female Hockey

Soil and Fill Panel (6 Members)

- Jennifer Dyson (Commission Chair)
- Robert Haywood Farmer (Interior Administrative Region)
- Rick Mumford (Interior Administrative Region)
- Susan Gimse (South Coast Administrative Region)
- Jerry Thibeault (Kootenay Administrative Region)
- Karen McKean (North Administrative Region)

Film Panel (3 Members)

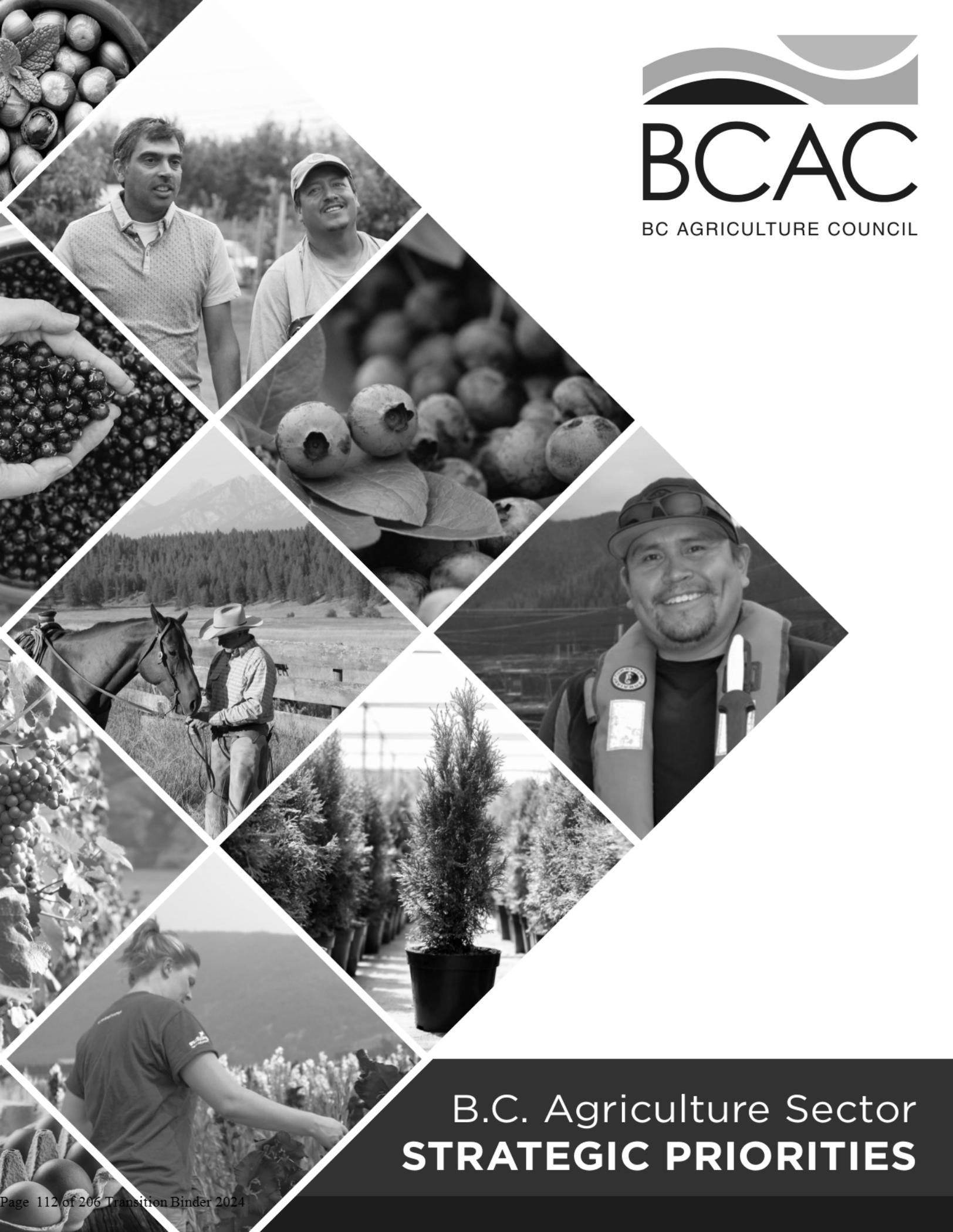
- Jennifer Dyson (Commission Chair)
- Bob Haywood Farmer (Interior Administrative Region)
- Ione Smith (South Coast Administrative Region)

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B.C. Agriculture Sector **STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

Page 113 of 206

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Page 114 of 206

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Page 115 of 206

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Page 116 of 206

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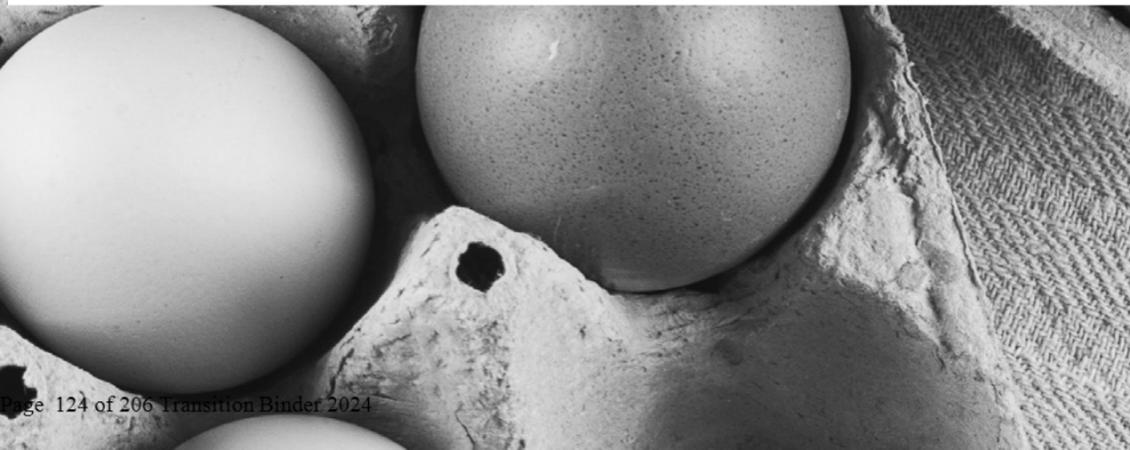
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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ABOUT BC AGRICULTURE COUNCIL

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Page 125 of 206

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BUSINESS RISK MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- Business Risk Management (BRM) programs play a critical part in providing tools for farmers to manage both production and financial risks and are essential to encourage and foster continued investment in the sector.
- British Columbia (B.C.) continues to support these programs through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (S-CAP), which shares the costs with Canada. (60 percent by Canada and 40 percent by B.C.)
 - Under S-CAP, 2017 through to the end of 2022, BRM programs provided \$234 million in support to B.C. farmers.
- S-CAP sets out a requirement for a national review of BRM programs. The ministry, with input from industry leaders, is working collaboratively with Canada and the other provinces to develop and implement program changes to continually improve the suite of programs.

BACKGROUND:

- Business Risk Management (BRM) programs are cost-shared with Canada under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership.
 - Producers contribute some of the costs, with the remaining costs covered on a 60 percent by Canada and a 40 percent by B.C. basis.
- The S-CAP Agreement between Canada and the provinces and territories came into effect April 1, 2023, replacing the expiring Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) Agreement.
- B.C. is collaborating with Canada and the other provinces to develop and implement changes nationally to ensure that adequate and equitable BRM protection is available to all farms.
- To improve the effectiveness of the BRM support, B.C. regularly consults with industry leaders through its Risk Management Advisory Committee, which is co-chaired by the Executive Directors of the Business Risk Management Branch (Byron Jonson) and the B.C. Agriculture Council (Danielle Synotte).
- The Business Risk Management Branch (BRMB) is responsible for the development and delivery of Production Insurance, Agriculture Wildlife Program, AgriStability, AgriInvest, AgriRecovery, Livestock Price Insurance (LPI) and the B.C. Bred Heifer Association Loan Guarantee and B.C. Feeder Association Loan Guarantee programs.
- Since fiscal 2022/23, BRMB was also responsible for the delivery of the Greenhouse Carbon Tax Relief Grant Program. This program was phased out due to the introduction of an 80 percent exemption to carbon tax for eligible greenhouse operations; this was implemented on April 1, 2023, by the Ministry of Finance.
- LPI is administered by Alberta under an agreement managed by BRMB (B.C. and Canada pay for the portion of administration costs incurred by Alberta for B.C.

ranchers).

- AgriInvest is delivered by the federal government and costs are shared with B.C.; BRMB administers this operational relationship.
- During the fiscal year, BRMB finished the final year of the 2021 Wildfire and Drought AgriRecovery Initiative. The Initiative provided financial assistance to producers to offset the extraordinary costs required to return to production, as a result of the wildfires and extreme drought conditions in 2021. \$254,000 was accessed from contingencies this fiscal for direct payments to the producers.
- During the fiscal year, BRMB also continued to run the 2021 Canada-British Columbia Flood Recovery Program for Food Security to respond to the flooding events and its related impacts on livestock and crops. The Program provides assistance to help offset the costs of returning to production. \$1.9 million was accessed from contingencies this fiscal for direct payments to producers.
- During the fiscal year, BRMB established the 2023 Wildfire and Drought AgriRecovery Initiative for a combined Federal/Provincial response of \$71.0 million. This initiative provided financial assistance to producers to offset extraordinary costs required to return to production as a result of widespread drought and wildfires in 2023. Access to contingencies was approved for \$23.62 million in fiscal 2023/24, \$4.0 million in fiscal 2024/25, and \$0.78 million in fiscal 2025/26 for a total provincial contribution of \$28.4 million.

	DESCRIPTION
Production Insurance	Stabilizes farm income by providing indemnities to insured producers who have crop losses due to uncontrollable natural perils.
AgriStability	A margin-based income stabilization program which protects producers against large declines in their farming income due to market conditions, production loss, and increased costs of production.
Agriculture Wildlife Program	Provides compensation to grain, forage, and cattle producers for non-insurable losses to crops and cattle caused by designated wildlife.
Livestock Price Insurance	Insurance that protects cattle and hog producers from unanticipated drops in average market prices.
AgriRecovery	Allows governments to provide financial assistance following catastrophic loss events; support is restricted to extraordinary costs required to return farms to full production.
AgriInvest	A savings account program that enables producers to have the flexibility to use the funds to cover small margin declines or for risk mitigation and other investments.
Bred Heifer and Feeder Association Loan Guarantees	Supports sector associations and rancher members to access capital to purchase livestock and expand their operations and increase investment in the industry.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE RISK / LOSS PROGRAMMING

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO RISKS/LOSSES ENCOUNTERED ANNUALLY BY PRODUCERS		GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO EXTRA-ORDINARY EVENTS WHICH CAUSE SIGNIFICANT LOSS OF CAPACITY TO OPERATE
PRODUCER/GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP: INSURANCE/FINANCIAL BACKING	GOVERNMENT ADMINISTERED PRODUCER, INCOME STABILIZATION	
<p>PRODUCTION INSURANCE INCOME REPLACEMENT DUE TO NATURAL PERIL LOSSES</p> <p>LIVESTOCK PRICE INSURANCE MARKET PRICE GUARANTEED INSURANCE</p> <p>BRED HEIFER & FEEDER ASSOCIATION LOAN GUARANTEES ACCESS TO CAPITAL FOR VALUE ADDED OR HERD EXPANSION</p> <p>PRODUCER FUNDED GOVERNMENT ADMINISTERED OR BACKED FINANCIALLY</p>	<p>AGRISTABILITY INCOME REPLACEMENT DUE TO MARGIN DECLINES</p> <p>AGRICULTURE WILDLIFE PROGRAM COMPENSATION FOR PRODUCTION LOSSES BY WILDLIFE</p> <p>AGRIINVEST SAVINGS INCENTIVE FOR PRODUCERS FOR FUTURE BUSINESS EXPANSION OR INCOME</p> <p>GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIZED AND ADMINISTERED</p>	<p>AGRIRECOVERY BUSINESS CAPACITY RESTORATION</p> <p>GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIZED AND ADMINISTERED</p>

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- B.C. delivers programs through a branch in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food (AF). All other jurisdictions deliver the programs through Crown Corporations, Special Operating Agencies or Commissions.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION:

- The total provincial budget in 2023/24 for the Business Risk Management Branch was \$28.02 million for program expenditures and administration, excluding the

AgriRecovery Initiatives. The branch was approved access to contingencies for \$3.3 million related to additional expenditures in the Production Insurance and Agriculture Wildlife programs.

- Due to the transition of the Greenhouse Carbon Tax Relief Grant program on April 1, 2023, to the Partial Exemption program operated by the Ministry of Finance, any unused portion of the \$7.555 million budget was to be used for additional S-CAP related expenditures.
- Production Insurance claims are paid from the Production Insurance Special Account.
- AgriStability, AgriInvest payments and administration costs are paid from the Agriculture Income Stabilization Trust.
- Agriculture wildlife compensation payments are expensed within AF's budget.
- There are 95 full-time equivalents.

	AgriStability	Production Insurance	Wildlife Damage Compensation	Livestock Price Insurance	Wildlife Mitigation	Carbon Tax Relief	TOTAL BRMB BUDGET
FTE (Full Time Equivalents)	40	45	9	1			95
Salaries and Benefits	3,326	3,320	675	118			7,439
Operating Expenses	659	1,514	346	96			2,615
Transfer to Income Stabilization Trust	7,787						7,787
Transfer to Production Insurance Account		10,000					10,000
Wildlife compensation/mitigation payments			3,390		120		3,510
Carbon Tax Relief payments						7,555	7,555
Expense Recoveries	-4,685	-3,321	-2,737	-143			-10,886
TOTAL	7,087	11,513	1,674	71	120	7,555	28,020

*Table shows only Provincial share of budget expenditures. Excluded is the Federal and Producer related premium expenditures of the AgriStability (\$21 million), AgriInvest (\$4.2 million), and Production Insurance programs (\$25.2 million).

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
Name: Michelle Koski	Name: Kevin Schmidt	Name: Byron Jonson
Date approved: January 26,	Branch: Business Risk	Branch: Business Risk

2024	Management	Management
Phone: Government Financial Information	Phone: 236 766-7086	Phone: 236 766-7053
Cell: Government Financial Information	Cell: Government Financial Information	Cell: Government Financial Information

MAJOR CORPORATE ISSUE NOTE

Ministry/Ministries:

- Ministry of Agriculture and Food (AF) (lead – food supply security, agricultural production, trade)
- Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (SDPR) (lead – food insecurity and food access for people in need)
- Ministry of Health (HLTH) (lead – food access, monitoring and surveillance)
- Ministry of Education and Child Care (ECC) (lead – school food programs)

Issue:

Food security typically refers to one of three major components:

1. **Food supply security** – decreasing levels of agricultural production, impacts of weather events, supply chain reliability, and lack of economic competitiveness.
2. **Food insecurity** – inadequate or insecure access to food due to financial or other constraints.
3. **Indigenous food security**– disproportionately higher levels of food insecurity and supply-chain risks for rural and remote First Nations that have resulted in higher rates of poverty and unemployment, lower participation in the agrifood economy, and significant declines in key traditional foods (ex: salmon, berries, medicines).

Background:

Major Trends Impacting B.C.'s Food Supply

- In the mid-20th century, British Columbia produced over 90% of its domestic food consumption needs by volume – this was down to 48% in 2001 and 34% in 2021. At the same time, B.C.'s population has increased from 1.2 million in 1951 to 5 million in 2021.
- Today, approximately two-thirds of B.C.'s food needs are met by interprovincial or international imports.
- From 2001 to 2021, land under cultivation shrank from 2.6 to 2.3 million hectares, with large declines among area of irrigated land (irrigated land, including greenhouses, makes up <5% of cultivated land but produces more than half of our food) from 111,000 hectares in 2001 to 67,859 hectares in 2021. Greenhouse area did increase from 4.5 million metres squared to 5.9 million metres squared from 2001 to 2021.
- A focus on the economic value of food (vs. volume of production) has masked the extent of this pressure – the GDP value of BC's agrifood sector has continued to steadily increase as farmers have intensified their production, and found ways to get more value through quality and marketing to niche consumers with willingness to pay more (ex: exporting cherries and blueberries to international markets).
- The last decade has seen farm profit margins being eroded. Producers consistently are earning more but also spending even more to stay afloat. In both 2021 and 2022, the agriculture sector as a whole operated at a loss and, based on engagement with the sector, net losses are expected to have continued throughout 2023 and 2024.
- At the same time, the squeeze on farmers' incomes is not translating into affordable food for consumers – British Columbians have experienced the biggest increases in food prices in 40

years – 9.5% in 2022, 5.4% in 2023 and predicted to settle in 2024 between 2.5-4.5%.

- Traditional foods have played a significant role in the continuity of First Nations communities, and they are concerned with how the decline in availability is impacting spiritual and cultural practices and retention of members in community.

2017 - 2022

- In 2017, government reintroduced a focus for the Ministry of Agriculture and Food on strategies to improve food self-sufficiency – **Buy BC** (persuading consumers to buy local and helping producers market themselves locally), **Grow BC** (supporting producers to expand their businesses), **Feed BC** (using public procurement to stimulate demand for BC food).
- In 2019, government launched a **Food Security Task Force** focused on developing new technologies to improve the sector’s productivity and sustainability. The most significant changes proposed were the creation of “agri-industrial land” within the ALR as a set aside for processing space (not implemented) and an institute for agritech innovation (implemented).
- In the early COVID-19 pandemic, there were ongoing supply-chain disruptions. AF, HLTH, SDPR and EMCR began coordinating on responses to food supply-chain disruptions.
- Following the 2020 election, SDPR received a new mandate to “work to increase food security for people in need” and AF, SDPR and HLTH formalized coordination in an ongoing cross-government steering committee.
- Also in 2020, ECC received a mandate letter commitment to “work with school districts to create more local school meal programs” and “work with AF to integrate Feed BC into this plan”.
- The heat dome, wildfires and atmospheric river of 2021 had a significant impact on BC food producers and food supply-chains. The Climate Adaptation and Preparedness Strategy, funded in Budget 2022, included an agricultural extreme weather preparedness program and water infrastructure funding.
- In August 2022, ECC announced the Student and Family Affordability Fund (SFAF – \$60 million one-time funding) to help school districts provide food programs, school supplies, and support with school-related fees for families in need.

2022 - Present

- Upon Premier Eby taking office in late-2022, new mandate letters were issued to SDPR, AF and ECC with stronger language on food security, including direction to AF to develop an emergency preparedness strategy for food security, SDPR to lead work on dignified access to food, and ECC to create more local school meal programs.
- Budget 2023 reflected that direction, with \$214 million over three years announced for school food programs through Feeding Futures beginning in the 2023/24 school year, and over \$200 million in 2022 year-end funds for AF and SDPR food security initiatives. This included:
 - AF initiatives included the Indigenous Food Security Fund (\$30m), Food Processing Growth Fund (\$20m), the Food Affordability and Innovation Fund (\$20m), Fraser Valley Flood Mitigation Fund (\$20m), Agricultural Water Infrastructure Program (\$15m), Perennial Crop Renewal Program (\$15m), Farmed Animal Disease Program (\$5m) the

Food Security Emergency Planning and Preparedness Fund (\$20m).

- Over \$50 million allocated by SDPR to strengthen food banks, food distribution and food access via Food Banks BC, United Way BC and smaller community partners.
- The 2023 drought and wildfire season was the most severe in British Columbia's history, with 2.84 million hectares of land burnt and significant reductions in forage available for animals. January 2024 also brought extreme cold to some parts of province, notably causing damage to fruit trees and wine grapes in the Okanagan and destroying much of the 2024 harvest.

Advice/Recommendations

- Budget 2024 included \$83 million for the Agricultural Water Infrastructure Program and \$70 million for replanting orchards, farms and vineyards.
- In July 2024, government released an updated Poverty Reduction Strategy, which includes addressing food insecurity and helping people meet basic needs as key priorities.
- In August 2024, following the bankruptcy of the BC Tree Fruits Co-operative, AF announced a \$20 million support package, including a new Tree Fruits Climate Resilience Program. In September 2024, an additional \$4 million was committed as bridge financing to ensure Co-operative members receive money owed to them for past harvests.

Implications / Considerations / Opportunities:

Food Supply Security

- The top request of the BC Agriculture Council and BC Food and Beverage is the creation of an "Agri-Food Competitiveness and Growth Strategy", with an aim to improve provincial food security and improving food producer and processors incomes as core outcomes.
- A strategy to expand agri-food production in B.C. would need to address structural issues, and moving the dial would require ongoing investment. Key considerations:
 - Fiscal capacity – B.C. invests a lower share of the agri-food sector's GDP contribution back into the sector than any other major province.
 - Competition with other jurisdictions – investing in uncompetitive commodities will not be able to sustain results if the underlying competition issues are unaddressed. For example, the B.C. apple sector is uncompetitive against Washington state growers, and subsidies that do not address underlying market challenges will be ineffective.
 - Processing and supply chain – underinvestment and consolidation have led to a lack of processing, cold storage and other supply-chain capacity issues.
 - Land costs – Land prices are largely out of reach for new entrants into the sector and for existing companies to expand.
 - Workforce and automation – the sector currently struggles to attract domestic workers and these gaps are becoming harder to address with changes to Temporary Foreign Worker rules and minimum wages.
 - Water availability – expanding food production will require increasing water use by the agriculture sector in a time of increasing drought and water demand from other users.

Food Insecurity and Affordability

- The total percentage of people who were food insecure in B.C. increased from 16.8% in 2022 to 21.8% in 2023, and demand for food banks increased by 45% from 2021 to 2023. Rates are even higher for children, with 29% living in food insecure households in 2023 compared to 22% in 2022.
- Rising demand continues to outpace existing funding for hunger relief non-profits, and access to sustainable funding is an ongoing challenge.
- The longstanding consensus in social policy has been that food insecurity is best addressed through increasing low-income households' incomes rather than charitable responses such as food banks.
- In British Columbia, Feeding Futures, the Student and Family Affordability Fund, and the Farmers Market Nutrition Coupon Program each provide relief to a portion of people with low incomes, and could be scaled up and/or adapted to improve access to nutritious food for priority groups.
- There may also be some opportunities to address market failures due to lack of competition in the grocery sector, as recommended by the Competition Bureau of Canada in 2023, such as supporting new grocery models and independent retailers.

Indigenous Food Security

- Food security is an outcome that First Nations are seeking to improve in pursuing their rights and title, however, building a strong Indigenous agri-food economy and reducing food insecurity will require investment and intervention outside of the treaty and rights context.
- To-date, AF and SDPR's approach has focused on supporting Indigenous businesses, non-profit or nation-led institutions or community projects that can be complimentary to and arms-length of marine and land-based governance discussions between First Nations and WLRS, MIRR or FOR.
- First Nations have consistently emphasized a desire to see food security clearly reflected in natural resource policy and decision-making.

Decision(s) Required / Next Steps:

Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences

Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences

MAJOR CORPORATE ISSUE NOTE
Tree Fruit Sector Update

Ministry/Ministries: Ministry of Agriculture and Food

Issue:

- Rising input costs and declining margins are impacting almost all commodity groups in British Columbia (B.C.), including the tree fruit sector. B.C.'s tree fruit sector has experienced a challenging past few years. In the case of cherries, the sector has experienced financial loss due to successive extreme weather events (most recently the January 2024 freeze). For apples, many in the sector have experienced low returns (price per pound) for their production as the sector has struggled with low quality fruit and to adapt to increasingly competitive markets.
- On July 26, 2024, the BC Tree Fruits Cooperative (the Co-op) Board of Directors unanimously endorsed a resolution to begin the wind-up process of the Co-op. This has left many growers with uncertainty on how to manage their 2024 harvest and marketing.

Background:

B.C. Fruit Growers Association:

- The B.C. Fruit Growers Association (BCFGA) is an industry association that lobbies on behalf of approximately 40 percent of the tree fruit growers (primarily apple growers) in the province. The Co-op is a cooperative that manages the packing and wholesaling services for approximately 200 (40 percent) of tree fruit growers in the province. While the memberships overlap, the extent of overlap is not clear.
- A key issue identified and acknowledged by BCFGGA and other industry leaders in the 2021 Tree Fruit Stabilization Plan (TFISP) - is that there is a lack of leadership and direction for the apple sector. Unlike the cherry and wine/grape sectors, the apple sector has not adapted to the demand for new varieties that are resilient, high quality, effectively marketed, and aligned with consumer preferences.
- The Tree Fruit Stabilization Plan (2021) was, and continues to be, intended to guide the apple sector to a more competitive place. Provincial investments in the sector have been targeted and strategic (e.g. marketing strategies, opportunity assessments, replant programs, consideration of an Apple Marketing Commission, etc.). The Ministry of Agriculture and Food has transitioned implementation of the Tree Fruit Stabilization Plan to a newly formed tree fruit and grape sector leadership group called the Cross Commodity Advisory Council.
- While there are challenges in the apple sector, there are also many apple growers that grow

high quality, high demand fruit. These successful growers either integrate packing/sales into their operations, or contract with an independent packer. The proliferation of private fruit storage/packing houses in the Okanagan is a main contributor to the closure of the Co-op and has resulted in a “race to the bottom” for tree fruit pricing. If apple growers are not vertically integrated (with packing/marketing functions) they are ultimately price-takers in the private packing market and hold little leverage on pricing other than the quality of their fruit.

Tree Fruit Growers Cooperative Closure:

- The Co-op is a private business governed by its members. On July 26, 2024, the Co-op’s Board made the sudden decision to apply for creditor protection in court and it has caused stress and uncertainty for the co-op’s members.
- The bankruptcy process is overseen by the courts. A ‘monitor’ has been assigned, who is meant to uphold the interests of the growers who are the owners of the Co-op.
- With the sudden closure of the Co-op, many members did not receive payments they were owed by the Co-op. These growers are owed approximately \$4M by the co-op for fruit they delivered last year and early this year. However, when the Co-op filed for creditor protection this meant the Co-op members were considered unsecured creditors and would need to wait until the court proceedings were complete before they received payments.

Implications / Considerations / Opportunities:

BC Fruit Growers Association

- Prior to the election, BCFGAs significantly ramped up their lobbying efforts and have had ongoing meetings with both the Premier’s office as well as the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. As of September 2024, BCFGAs have requested that the province provide the following:
 - a one-time \$24M fund for all tree fruit growers based on acres grown, crop produced, or land leased for farming. They assert that this direct subsidy will ensure that the tree fruit industry remains viable and will allow for new on-farm investment to be made.
 - The development of a Horticulture Climate Disaster Recovery and Resiliency Fund - that AgriRecovery be triggered to provide support and to remain competitive with Washington State, which has declared local emergencies in several counties and provided access to emergency loans at sub-prime rates.
 - That additional costs be covered under the Enhanced Replant Program (ERP), including irrigation, labour, and infrastructure (e.g. trellising). They have requested that the ERP be topped up from the current \$70M to \$150M.
 - That significant changes should be made to the Business Risk Management (BRM) programs. They have identified several issues within the BRM programs and

- suggested that they are not responsive to “new climate realities”.
- That the Province lobby the federal government to match a seven cent per pound subsidy that they claim is provided to Washington State growers. Alternatively, the BCFGAs are requesting that Canada restrict the flow of “subsidized” agriculture from the US.
 - BCFGAs have expressed support for Canada’s Grocery Code of Conduct and for “any proposals or inquiries in which government investigate why farmers are not receiving adequate value for their crops [from retailers]”.
- The Province responded to the above requests on August 13, 2024, with the following announcements:
 - The Province is enhancing its AgriStability program to raise the AgriStability compensation rate to 90 percent and double the compensation cap for all farmers for the 2024 program year.
 - A new Tree Fruit Climate Resiliency program to provide \$5M to help tree-fruit farmers buy equipment and pursue projects to strengthen farm resilience and preparedness for extreme weather events.
 - Direction to Ministry of Agriculture and Food staff to begin exploring, in consultation with industry, options for a one-time fund with an emphasis on smaller producers.
 - A temporary exemption around processing on the Agricultural Land Reserve specifically for tree fruit.
 - The Province has historically provided the below financial support for the tree fruit sector (apples and stone fruit):
 - BRM payments to the tree fruit sector since 2020 total \$158.7M. (This represents ~60 percent of the total BRM dollars expended over this period. This amount will grow as 2023 and 2024 payments continue to be made).
 - Non-BRM (program) funding to the tree fruit sector since 2020 totals \$38.57M. Examples of this funding include the earlier replant program, BuyBC (marketing) funding, facility upgrade programs, and funding to support TFISP. Not included are significant resources for extension services (on-farm agronomy support from experts) and other core operating functions that the Ministry provides to food producers across the province.
 - Total Funding (BRM and non-BRM) to tree fruit sector since 2020 = >\$200M.
 - After significant industry engagement, the Ministry launched the Enhanced Replant Program (\$70.5M announcement on March 13, 2024) on September 20, 2024.

Advice/Recommendations

Tree Fruit Growers Cooperative Closure:

- In response to the announcement of the Co-op, the Ministry established an emergency table with leaders in the sector to urgently work on solutions to specific issues like:
 - Access to packers
 - Food safety certification for export
 - Financing – because all growers have not received full payment for their crops
- The Province announced (September 4, 2024) that it will temporarily redirect an estimated \$4M in provincial funding to be used as bridge financing to ensure Co-op members receive the money owed to them for past harvests without having to wait until the court process plays out. This is being facilitated through the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC (IAF), who has received past funding from AF to support this initiative.
- The Province has provided \$100K to BCFGA to support food-safety certification previously done by the Co-op. This was identified as a priority through the industry-led emergency table and is providing personalized assistance to the 179 apple-growing members of the Co-op to ensure they maintain market access and optimize their harvest timing.
- An agreement has been reached between the monitor and Novum to lease the Co-op's storage facility in Kelowna which will allow growers access this season to the controlled atmosphere and cold chain storage for this harvest. Novum has until October 30, 2024 to remove conditions and purchase the Kelowna site.

Decision(s) Required / Next Steps:

Advice/Recommendations

Advice/Recommendations

MINISTRY TRANSITION ISSUE NOTE

Ministry/Ministries:

- Agriculture and Food

Issue: Agriculture Economy (Sector Snapshots)

Background:

- The Ministry of Agriculture and Food (the Ministry) produces Sector Snapshots, which are one-page documents to provide highlights of the most recent available data on British Columbia agriculture, seafood, and food and beverage processing sectors, and corresponding exports. They are published annually on the Ministry's website using data from Statistics Canada, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and Ministry surveys.
- The most recent data available is for 2022. Sector Snapshots for 2023 will be produced by early 2025.

British Columbia's agriculture sector includes primary production from farmers and ranchers.

- Primary agriculture production includes livestock, grains and oilseeds, greenhouse and field vegetables, fruits, floriculture and nursery products.
- It does not include post-farm processing or seafood.

AGRICULTURE KEY FACTS for 2022

- ❖ **Sales: \$4.56 billion**
- ❖ **Gross Domestic Product¹ (GDP): \$2.25 billion**
- ❖ **Share of Provincial GDP¹: 0.8%**
- ❖ **Net Farm Income: \$ -204 million**
- ❖ **Agriculture Jobs³: 31,515**

INDUSTRY TRENDS

- Primary agriculture in B.C. generated \$4.56 billion (+12.0% from 2021) in Farm Cash Receipts (FCR) excluding direct program payments.
- Crop production was responsible for \$2.49 billion in FCR (+14.2% from 2021).
- Livestock production generated \$2.07 billion in FCR, (+9.4% from 2021).
- Grains and oilseeds saw the largest year-over-year gains in FCR, (+67.2% from 2021), driven by supply shortages in other grain-producing areas of the globe.

ECONOMICS

- The agriculture sector's contribution to GDP rose from \$2.12 billion to \$2.25 billion (+6.2%) accounting for 0.8% of B.C.'s total GDP.
- The top 10 commodities by sales revenue in B.C. in 2022 were dairy, chickens, licensed cannabis, fresh fruit, floriculture, greenhouse vegetables, field vegetables, eggs, nursery products, and beef.
- The top 5 agricultural exports by sales revenue in 2022 were mushrooms, blueberries, floriculture, cherries, and pork.
- The commodities experiencing the highest annual growth in sales compared to 2021 included wheat (+142%), oats (+92%), broccoli (+69%), beets (+65%), canola (+53%), raspberries (+51%), and cannabis (+46%).

A STORY OF RISING COSTS

- For the second straight year, net farm income was negative overall across the province's 15,840 farms.
- Despite rising FCR, expenses increased steeply in 2022 compared to 2021. Notable increases include share rent (+70.8%), fertilizer (+61.2%), machinery fuel (+51.7%), interest (+27.8%) and heating fuel (+19.6%).
- Average cultivated farmland values rose in 2022 (+8.0% from 2021), after experiencing an 18.1% increase the year before.
- The Kootenay (+33.6% from 2021) and Okanagan (+14.3% from 2021) regions experienced the largest farmland value increases in 2022.
- Average farmland values range across B.C., from \$2,200 per acre in Peace River-Northern region to \$139,000 per acre along the South Coast.

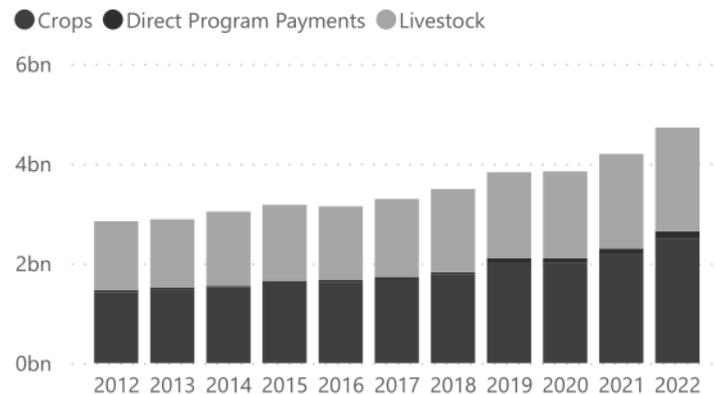
Footnote:

1 GDP at chained 2012 dollars. Excluding unlicensed cannabis and aquaculture.

2 Support activities includes establishments primarily engaged in providing support services that are essential to crop and animal production.

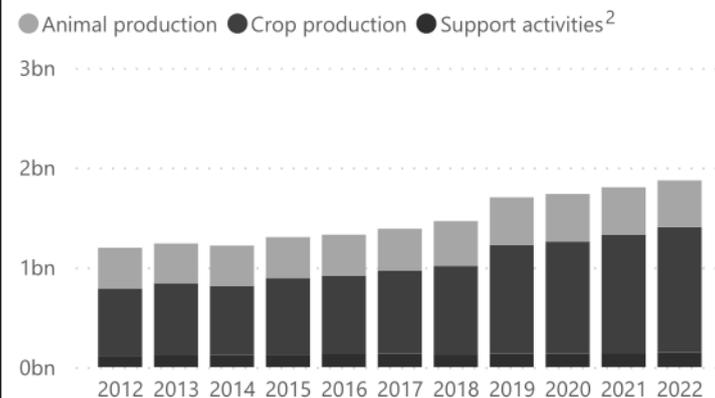
3 Includes Farm product wholesaler-distributors.

B.C. Agriculture Farm Cash Receipts



Source: B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food (Sector Tables 2023)

B.C. Agriculture GDP (chained 2012)



Source: B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food (Sector Tables 2023)

British Columbia Farmland Value by Region

Region	Farmland Value \$/acre	2021-2022 % change
South Coast	139K	3.2%
Vancouver Island	64K	0.0%
Okanagan	34K	14.3%
Kootenay	22K	33.6%
Thompson-Nicola (irrigated)	20K	8.3%
Cariboo-Chilcotin	4K	11.1%
Peace-Northern	2K	6.6%

Source: Farm Credit Canada, 2022 Farmland Values Report

British Columbia's exports include a wide variety of goods originating from its farms, food & beverages processing and fishing industries.

- Agrifood, processed food & beverages, and seafood exports performed stronger than overall B.C. exports in 2022.
- All major sectors of B.C. agriculture have products listed in the ranking of top exported items.

EXPORT KEY FACTS for 2022

- ❖ **B.C. Exports (all industries): \$64.9 billion**
- ❖ **B.C. Agrifood, Processed Food & Beverages, and Seafood Exports: \$6.16 billion**
- ❖ **Share of B.C. Agriculture & Food in Provincial Exports: 9.5%**

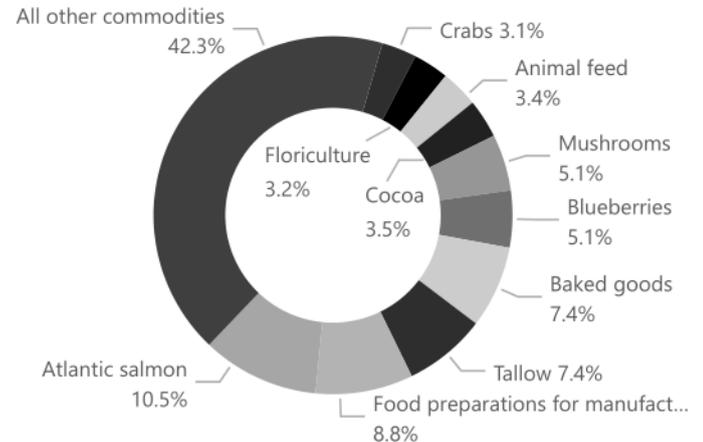
PERFORMANCE

- B.C.'s total agrifood, processed food & beverages and seafood exports reached a dollar figure of \$6.16 billion in 2022 (+20.5% from 2021).
- Agrifood, processed food & beverage exports were \$4.61 billion (23.7% from 2021) while primary and processed seafood exports were \$1.55 billion (+12.0% from 2021).
- The number of nations to which B.C. exported agri-food products in 2022 was 143, down 10 nations compared to the previous year.
- Fruits and nuts were the leading group among non-seafood products, with \$598 million exported, followed by bread and baked goods (\$577 million). Vegetables ranked third, with \$484 million in 2022.
- Primary and processed seafood exports' annual growth of 12.0% in 2022 was led by halibut, shrimp and Atlantic salmon.
- Atlantic salmon tops the list of the seafood industry's most exported products, with more than \$700 million in sales, approximately half of this group's total exports.

DESTINATIONS

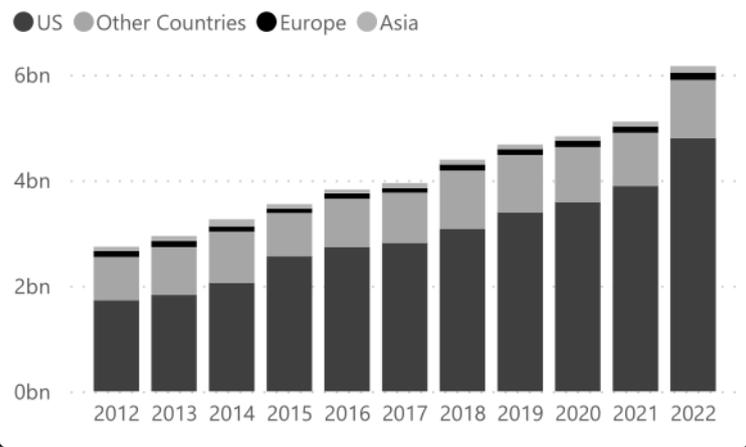
- Exports to the US comprised 81.3% of total B.C. agricultural exports and 67.8% of seafood product exports. There was a 23.7% increase in agricultural products and 12.0% increase in seafood exports.
- Leading products of B.C. agriculture exports to the US were animal fats and oils, grains and pastas, fresh vegetables. Fresh Atlantic salmon, salmon fillets, and fresh halibut were the top exports among seafood.
- Japan (3.6% share), South Korea (2.9%), China (2.6%), and Australia (1.1%) saw the largest increase in B.C. agricultural (non-seafood) product exports.
- China is the second largest buyer of B.C. seafood products (after the US) with 18.3% of the share in value. Sales to China were +24.5% higher in 2022, having live crabs, fresh clams, frozen shrimp and prawns as highlights.
- Japan (5.3% share of seafood exports), Hong Kong (2.0%) and Lithuania (1.1%) complete the Top Five list in B.C. seafood products destination. Ukraine is down one spot (to 6th place), after a 60.9% reduction in trade was recorded in 2022.

Top 10 Exported Commodities by Value (2022)



Source: B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food (Sector Tables 2023)

Agrifood, Processed Food & Beverages, and Seafood Exports by Destination



Source: B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food (Sector Tables 2023)

British Columbia's food and beverage processing sector comprises the processing of agriculture and seafood products.

- There were 3,379 food and beverage manufacturing establishments registered in B.C. in 2022.
- Food and beverage manufacturing is the second-largest manufacturing sector in the province in terms of sales.

FOOD AND BEVERAGE PROCESSING KEY FACTS for 2022

- ❖ **Sales: \$14.2 Billion**
- ❖ **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)¹: \$3.68 Billion**
- ❖ **Share of Provincial GDP¹: 1.36%**
- ❖ **Food & Beverage Processing Sector Jobs²: 39,145**

FOOD & BEVERAGE PROCESSING

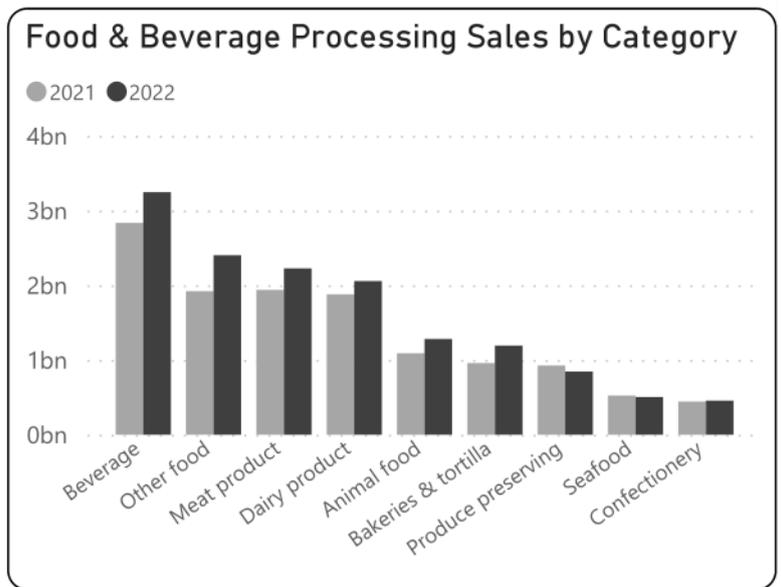
- B.C. remains third among provinces in Canada in beverage processing sales and fourth in food processing sales.
- Processed food and beverage sales in B.C. were \$14.2 billion in 2022 (+13.6% from 2021). Stronger beverage sales and an increase in the number of manufacturing establishments drove the sector's growth.
- Beverage processing sales were \$3.2 billion in 2022 (+14.6% from 2021). The sales growth trend observed since the previous year continues as the industry highlight.
- Total food & beverage processing sector jobs are 39,145 (-2.1% from 2021), driven by food production (-2.9% from 2021), which was slightly offset by beverage and tobacco production (+0.1% from 2021).
- From a total of 3,379 food or beverage manufacturing establishments registered, 48.7% have at least one and 35.5% have 5 or more employees.
- The largest subsectors of food processing were meat processing with \$2.2 billion (+14.8% from 2021), followed by dairy processing with \$2.1 billion (+9.4% from 2021), and animal food manufacturing with \$1.3 billion (+17.5% 2021).

INTERNATIONAL EXPORTS

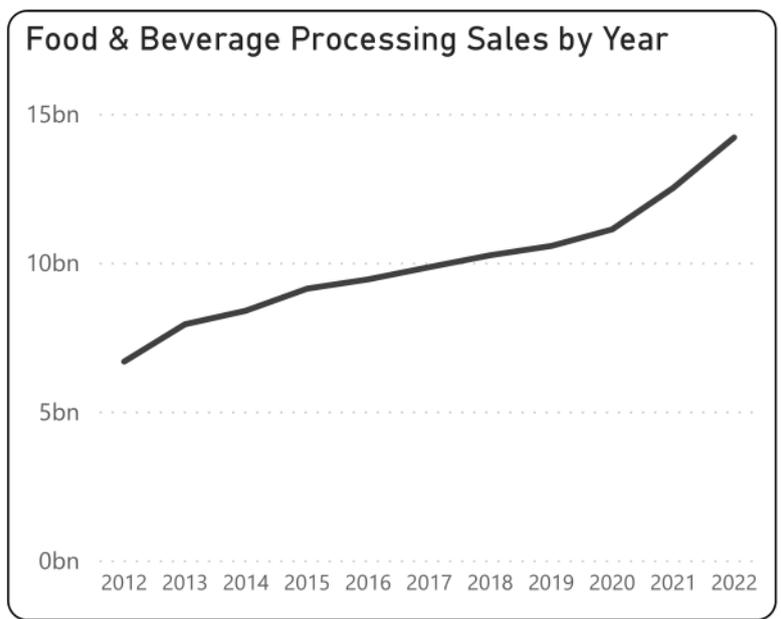
- B.C. exported a record \$3.79 billion (21.6% increase) in processed food and beverage products to 95 different international markets in 2022.
- B.C.'s top five export markets were the US (\$4.8 billion), China (\$400 million), Japan (\$246 million), South Korea (\$139 million), and Hong Kong (\$63 million).
- Top five export commodities: Atlantic salmon (\$649 million), food preparations for manufacturing & natural health products (\$543 million), tallow (\$458 million), baked goods (\$457 million), and blueberries (\$316 million).

Footnote:

- 1 GDP at chained 2012 dollars. Excluding unlicensed cannabis, including seafood preparation and packaging.
- 2 Including 2,415 jobs in seafood preparation and packaging.



Source: B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food (Sector Tables 2022)



Source: B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food (Sector Tables 2022)

British Columbia's agriculture, seafood and food and beverage sectors include primary production in agriculture, aquaculture and commercial fisheries, and processing of food and beverages.

➤ Over 200 primary agriculture products and about 100 fish, shellfish, and marine plant species are produced in B.C.

KEY FACTS for 2022

- ❖ **Gross Domestic Product¹ (GDP): \$6.17 billion**
- ❖ **Share of Provincial GDP: 2.3%**
- ❖ **Net Farm Income: -\$204 million**
- ❖ **International Exports: \$6.16 billion**
- ❖ **Agriculture, Seafood and Food & Beverage Processing Jobs²: 73,055**

ALL SECTORS

- B.C. agriculture, seafood, and processed food and beverage sales were \$20.13 billion in 2022, (+13.3% from 2021).
- Total sales included \$4.56 billion in Farm Cash Receipts (FCR), \$14.20 billion in food and beverage processing (including seafood), and \$1.37 billion in seafood landed value.
- Total agriculture, seafood, and food and beverage processing Gross Domestic Product (GDP) \$6.17 billion (+1.9% from 2021). The sector's share of the provincial GDP¹ remains unchanged at 2.3%.
- While inflation supported FCR prices, it also increased farmers' operating expenses at an even faster pace (+14.8% from 2021). Along with increased depreciation, higher costs led to the second year in a row where B.C. agriculture operators faced net income losses (\$204 million).
- Agrifood exports were up 23.7% while seafood exports were up 12.2% from 2021.

AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

- Primary agriculture in B.C. generated \$4.56 billion in FCR (+12.0% from 2021).
- The agriculture sector's contribution to GDP rose from \$2.12 billion to \$2.25 billion (+6.2%) accounting for 0.8% of B.C.'s total GDP.

FOOD AND BEVERAGE MANUFACTURING

- B.C. remains third among provinces in Canada in beverage processing sales and fourth in food processing sales.
- Processed food and beverage sales in B.C. were \$14.20 billion in 2022 (+13.6% from 2021). Stronger beverage sales and an increase in the number of manufacturing establishments drove the sector's growth.

INTERNATIONAL EXPORTS

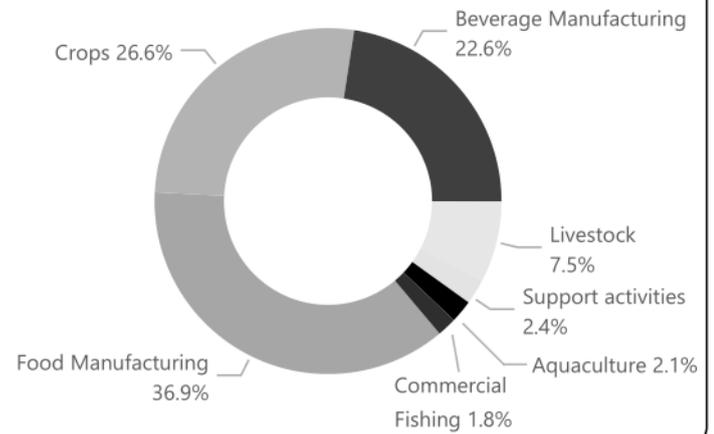
- B.C. exported a record of \$6.16 billion (+20.5% from 2021) in agricultural, seafood and processed products in 2022.
- B.C.'s top five export markets were the US (\$4.80 billion), China (\$400 million), Japan (\$246 million), South Korea (\$139 million), and Hong Kong (\$63 million).
- Top five export commodities in 2022 were miscellaneous prepared health and/or snack foods (\$622 million), breads and pastries (\$457 million), chocolate and other food stuffs containing chocolate (\$216 million), preserved fruits (\$164 million), roasted coffee and coffee substitutes (\$80 million).

Footnote:

1 GDP at chained 2012 dollars. Excluding unlicensed cannabis.

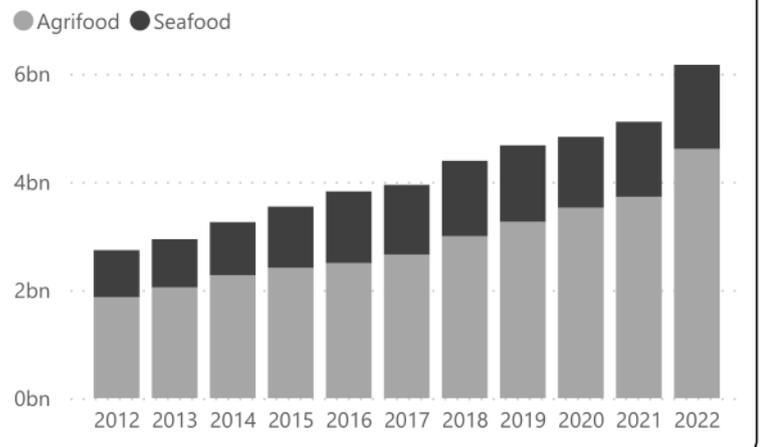
2 Includes Farm product wholesaler-distributors.

Agrifood GDP by Sector (2022)



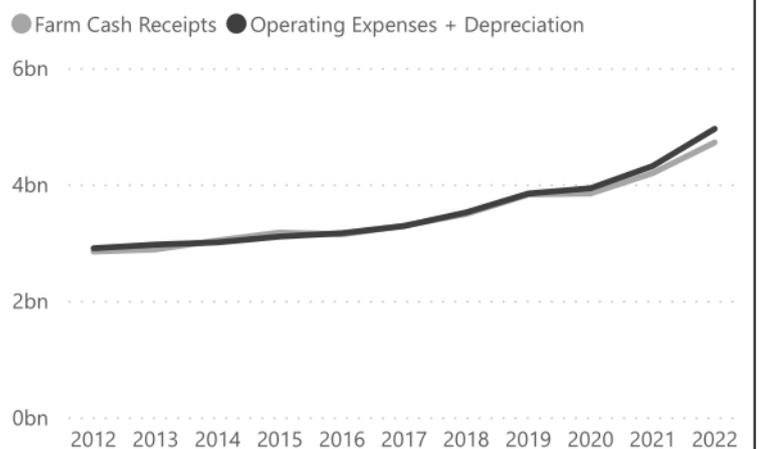
Source: B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food (Sector Tables 2023)

Agrifood and Seafood Products Exports



Source: B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food (Sector Tables 2023)

Revenues and Costs for Primary Agriculture Producers



Source: B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food (Sector Tables 2023)

British Columbia's seafood primary production sector is comprised of wild commercial fishing and aquaculture, while the processing sector includes post-vessel or post-farm processing.

- B.C. consistently ranks as the 4th largest farmed Atlantic salmon producer in the world.
- B.C. led the nation in sales of farmed salmon, crabs (non-queen), wild clams, tuna, rockfish, wild sablefish, hake, wild salmon, farmed clams, lingcod, sea cucumbers, pollock, sea urchins, Pacific cod, skates, and dogfish.

SEAFOOD KEY FACTS for 2022

- ❖ **Sales: \$2.85 billion (primary wholesale + processing)**
- ❖ **Harvest: 213,342 metric tonnes**
- ❖ **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)¹: \$720.5 million**
- ❖ **Share of Provincial GDP¹: 0.3%**
- ❖ **International Exports: \$1.55 billion**
- ❖ **Seafood Jobs²: 4,810**

SEAFOOD PRIMARY PRODUCTION

- B.C. seafood wholesale value was \$2.35 billion in 2022 (+14.9% from 2021).
- Wild commercial fishery harvest was 115,243 metric tonnes (-28.0% from 2021) worth \$441.0 million in landed value (+0.2% from 2021).
- In 2021, about 2,227 vessels harvested wild seafood in B.C. waters⁴ (-1.4% from 2020).
- There were 828 aquaculture operations licensed to produce fish, invertebrates, and algae in 2022 (-1.8% from 2021).
- The aquaculture harvest was 98,099 metric tonnes (+1.9% from 2021), while farm gate value was \$932.1 million (up 23.2% from 2021).
- Top 10 seafood commodities in sales were farmed Atlantic salmon, crabs, halibut, prawns, wild geoducks, farmed Pacific salmon, tuna, rockfish, wild sablefish, and farmed oysters.
- There were 2,395 jobs in seafood primary production (-8.2% from 2021).

SEAFOOD PRODUCT PREPARATION AND PACKAGING

- Seafood product preparation and packaging sales was \$503 million in 2022 (-3.8% from 2021) and the contribution to GDP¹ was \$478 million (+9.8%).
- There were 2,415 jobs in seafood processing (-13.8% from 2021).

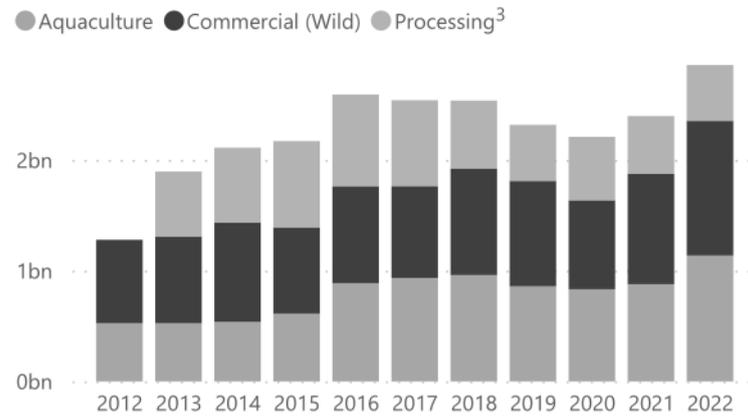
INTERNATIONAL EXPORTS

- Exported seafood products include both primary seafood production and post-vessel and post-farm processed seafood products.
- In 2022, B.C. exported \$1.55 billion (+12.0% from 2021) in seafood products to 63 countries (3 more than in 2021) and 40 US states.
- Top five seafood international export markets were: US \$1.06 billion (68.0% share); China \$281 million (18.1%); Japan \$81 million (5.2%); Hong Kong \$30 million (2.0%); and Lithuania \$14 million (1.1%).
- Of the top 10 export markets, the fastest growing in percentage change in 2022 were Lithuania (+816%), Taiwan (+93.1%), United Kingdom (+38%). Decrease in sales to Hong Kong, Ukraine and Romania was noted.
- Top seafood exports: \$703 million (+25.3% from 2021) of farmed Atlantic salmon, \$399 million of shellfish (-6.9% from 2021), \$155 million (+45.2% from 2021) of wild salmon, \$127 million (-2.7% from 2021) of groundfish.

Footnotes:

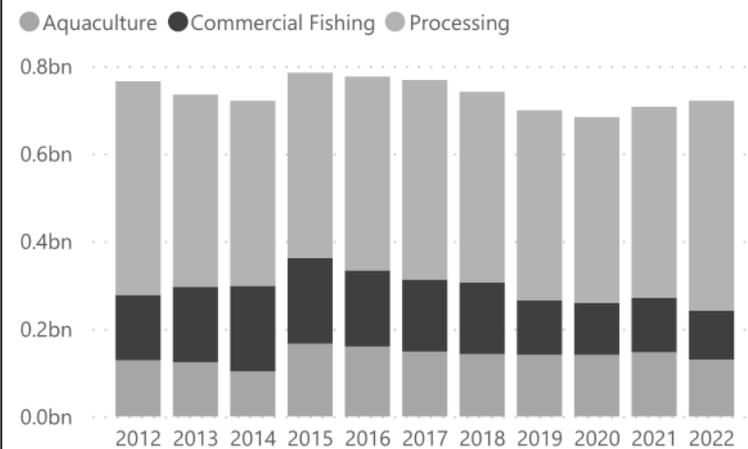
- 1 GDP at chained 2012 dollars.
- 2 Wild commercial fishing, aquaculture, and seafood processing jobs.
- 3 Suppressed data in 2012.
- 4 Latest data available is 2021.

Seafood Sales (Dollars)



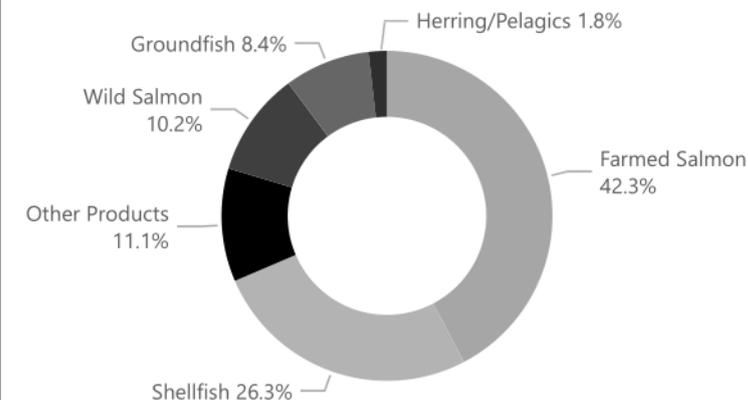
Source: B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food (Sector Tables 2023)

Seafood GDP (Dollars)



Source: B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food (Sector Tables 2023)

Seafood Exports (2022)



Source: B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food (Sector Tables 2023)

Wine

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- The British Columbia (B.C.) government is strongly committed to supporting B.C.'s wine making industry.
- B.C.'s vineyards and wineries provide good jobs and have established B.C.'s local, national, and international reputation for quality wines.
- B.C. had 396 licensed grape wine wineries as of March 2023.
- Over the past year, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food (the Ministry) has supported B.C.'s wine industry in several ways:
 - Announced \$70M for the 2024 Enhanced Replant Program for grapes, berries, and tree fruit, of which wine grape growers are anticipated to receive \$23M.
 - Cost shared funding to B.C. wine organizations for local and international market development through the Buy BC Partnership, B.C. Agriculture and Food Export Program, and The Perennial Crop Renewal Program; and,
 - Continued Ministry participation in the industry-led Business Technical Advisory Panel (BTAP) with B.C. alcoholic beverage sector associations to engage on liquor policy interests, opportunities, and challenges.
- B.C. wines are achieving domestic and worldwide recognition and making B.C. an award-winning, premier wine region.
- The Ministry is aware of the environmental and economic challenges facing the wine sector including cold temperatures in December 2022 and January 2024, which have had impacts on vine health and productivity.
 - Ministry Production Insurance staff contacted all grape insurance policy holders and worked with them throughout the 2023 crop year. 606 claims were submitted for yield and vine loss; over \$23M has been paid and an additional \$5M is expected to be paid as clients file their final crop record.
 - Staff are actively monitoring the January 2024 freeze impacts and more information becomes available as the season progresses. The targeted Production Insurance loss adjusting strategy and dedicated response team that was put in place in 2023 has expanded in 2024 in response to this second freeze event.

BACKGROUND:

Overview

- B.C. is home to 1,234 vineyards. 86.8 percent of wine grape acreage is located in the Okanagan region.
- Of B.C.'s 450 licensed wineries, 396 are grape wineries, with the remaining being fruit wineries.
- B.C.'s wine industry employs over 18,000 people and has an economic impact of \$3.8B annually.

- In 2022, B.C. exported \$4.1M in wines, a change of -28.2 percent from 2021.
- B.C.'s wine industry faces several challenges including significant excise costs, low import tariff barriers, competition from global imports, and lack of access to the national market through direct sales, and environmental and climate conditions leading to reduced tourism and availability of B.C. Grapes.

Extreme Weather Response

- Cold temperatures in successive years have impacted the wine industry. The December 2022 freeze resulted in severe bud damage. Cold weather in January 2024 is also causing concern and assessments of potential damage are underway. The Geographic reach of bud damage in 2024 appears to be more widespread than 2022. Early industry reports have stated 97-99 percent bud damage for 2024. As spring progresses, the actual effects of the winter damage on the 2024 crop and vines will be realized, as well as any cascading impacts to the wineries.
- Producers are being advised to adjust their pruning practices to leave more potential buds on the plant to compensate for vine damage (if warranted).
- Business Risk Management (BRM) Programs help producers manage the impact of crop and income losses. Production Insurance provides coverage for grape plants and yield loss from weather events. 77 percent of grape acres are insured (>9,000 acres) with \$112M vine loss coverage and \$44M yield loss coverage.
- While the extent of the areas impacted by extreme freezing temperatures resulted in the highest number of grape and vine loss insurance claims, losses due to freezing is not unique since 90 percent of historical grape and vine claims are due to freezing.
- The December 2022 freeze event had a dramatic impact on the 2023 grape crop and vines.
 - In response to this event, Ministry staff engaged early and directly with the Wine Growers British Columbia., British Columbia Grape Growers' Association and B.C. Tree Fruits Cooperative to provide messaging to their members regarding program deadlines, claim, and payment processes.
 - In 2023, 322 policies filed a total of 606 claims for yield and vine loss.
 - Ministry Production Insurance staff contacted all grape insurance policy holders and worked with them throughout the 2023 crop year.
 - A targeted loss insurance adjusting strategy and a dedicated claims response team were put in place to support the volume and complexity of 2023 grape claims.
 - The Ministry has processed 451 claims (74 percent) and to date, has paid over \$23M.
 - Based on 2023 insurance claims, the estimated losses for vines are 10-16 percent and production losses are 50 – 60 percent.
- The January 10-14, 2024, freeze event had the Southern Interior experiencing temperatures ranging from -23 to -30 degrees Celsius, which can be fatal to grape buds and vines.

- The potential for severe vine damage is very high, affecting producers in Lillooet, Kamloops, Shuswap, West Kootenay, Okanagan, and Similkameen.
- This will manifest in 2024 crop losses and may impact crop potential for several years due to plant loss which will require vineyard renovation or replacement. Industry reports indicate the latter.
- In response to this event, Ministry staff have reached out to, and held many meetings with, Wine Growers British Columbia and the BC Grape Growers' Association, as well as provided these associations messaging for their members.
- Ministry staff participated in several winter damage workshops held by Industry in January and February 2024. Ministry staff also held numerous meetings with association representatives and growers to discuss the potential effects of the winter freeze and how BRM programs can assist growers.
- Many viticulturists are in the field assessing vines to determine levels of damage.
- Industry is advising producers to adjust their pruning practices to leave more potential buds on the plant to compensate for vine damage.
- Early industry reports have stated 97-99 percent bud damage for 2024. As spring progresses, the actual effects of the winter damage on the 2024 crop or vines will be realized, as well as any cascading impacts to the wineries.
- As of March 2024, B.C. has received 520 grape notices of loss. We expect to receive over 600 notices of loss for 2024.
- The targeted Production Insurance loss adjusting strategy and dedicated response team that were put in place in 2023 has expanded in response to this second freeze event.
- AgriStability helps stabilize farm income by managing the risk of large income declines, such as those that may be caused by a winter freeze event. AgriStability enrollment is still available for the 2024 program year and the deadline for enrollment is April 30, 2024. In addition, farms can enroll as late participants for the 2023 program year until June 30, 2024.

2024 Enhanced Replant Program

- Announced on March 13, 2024, the \$70M 2024 Enhanced Replant Program is to assist grape, berry and tree fruit growers with costs associated with replanting heartier, climate resistant varieties that produce in-demand, premium fruit.
- Of the \$70M, wine grape growers are anticipated to receive \$23M.
- As part of this investment, government is also establishing a B.C. wine-grape sector task force to develop a research and varietal road map for an economically viable B.C. wine-grape industry. The task force will run for two years and provide practical recommendations to producers and the industry about how to remain profitable and resilient. It will be comprised of Canadian and international experts with members anticipated to be identified this year.

- This funding is anticipated to assist approximately 1000 farmers.
- The Ministry will be developing planting guidelines with industry, to ensure that the replanted varieties are best positioned to adapt and perform well in consideration of B.C.'s changing climate, pests, diseases, and market pressures.

Business Technical Advisory Panel

- The Business Technical Advisory Panel (BTAP) was initiated in 2017. It consists of representatives from B.C.'s liquor manufacturing, retail, and hospitality sectors, and is a primary platform for industry to discuss with the B.C. Government (i.e., Ministries of Public Safety and Solicitor General, and Agriculture and Food) policy issues of joint concern. The group was paused in 2021 and was refreshed in 2023.
- The BTAP process provides a more effective and unified opportunity to prioritize liquor policy concerns, compared to government consideration of individual requests from different parts of B.C.'s alcoholic beverage sector.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- In 2022, B.C. ranked third among Canadian provinces in beverage processing sales.
- B.C. wine grapes accounted for 38.7 percent of all Canadian-grown wine grape sales.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION:

- In 2023/24, the Ministry's program support to B.C.'s wine sector included:
 - \$107,000 supported six wineries and wine associations/organizations to conduct export market development activities through the B.C. Agriculture and Food Export Program
 - \$166,000 supported seven wineries and wine associations/organizations through the Buy BC Partnership Program.
 - \$70,000 supported an Opportunity Assessment through the Perennial Crop Renewal Program.
 - \$13,000 supported various wine grape extension projects focused on cover cropping and winter damage management.
 - The Perennial Crop Renewal Program has allocated ~ \$2.3M in FY23/24 to support grape removal and replant (16 percent allocation based on Farm Gate Value).

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Alternate Contact:
Name: Michelle Koski, ADM	Name: Zac de Vries	Name: Linda Dun
Date approved: January 31, 2024	Branch: Food and Beverage	Branch: Food and Beverage
Phone: Government Financial Information	Phone: 778 974-6174	Phone: 250 940-8558
Cell: Government Financial Information	Cell: N/A	Cell: Government Financial Information

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD
30-60-90-Day Issues

Issue / Decision / Activity	Brief Description
30 Days	

Advice/Recommendations

Avian Influenza	Fall is when large avian influenza outbreaks occurred in the Fraser Valley in 2022 and 2023. Preparedness and mitigation efforts are underway between the ministry, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, and industry representatives to ensure that communications and operational response crews are ready.
One Health Proclamation	This item has been approved by the Proclamations Office. It has also been approved by all ministries involved (AF, HLTH, WLRS; ENV; BC CDC). This proclamation will come out on November 3 rd . One Health is an integrated, unifying perspective that highlights the need to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals, and ecosystems. Acknowledging the close and interdependent nature of these three domains enables actors across sectors to work collaboratively to identify and address ongoing and emerging threats through sustainable, holistic, and effective interventions. One Health Day, recognized internationally on November 3 rd , promotes the importance of this approach in safeguarding human, animal, and environmental health.

Issue / Decision / Activity	Brief Description
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Advice/Recommendations: Intergovernmental Communications

60 Days

Advice/Recommendations

Indigenous Food Systems and Agriculture Skills and Training Program

Opening of third and final intake. Application intake date notionally mid-December 2024. Delivered externally by Investment Agriculture Foundation (IAF). Third intake will be focused on strategic priorities. The Indigenous Food Systems and Agriculture and Skills Training (ISAT) program supports First Nations and Indigenous communities, businesses, and organizations in increasing Indigenous participation in agriculture, seafood, food processing and related community economic development initiatives. The program does so by addressing labour capacity and workforce challenges within the food, seafood, and agriculture sectors.

This program is a sub-program of the overarching Agriculture Workforce Development Initiative (AWDI) Program funded through Social Development and Poverty Reduction and delivered by Investment Agriculture Foundation (IAF).

90 Days

None

ORDER IN COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED WITHIN 90 DAYS

Position	Institution	Authority for Appointment	Expiry Date
Chair	BC Farm Industry Review Board	LGiC	December 13, 2024
Chair	BC Turkey Marketing Board	LGiC	December 21, 2024
Chair	BC Broiler Hatching Egg Commission	LGiC	December 21, 2024
Chair	BC Chicken Marketing Board	LGiC	December 21, 2024
Member	BC Chicken Marketing Board	LGiC	December 21, 2024
Chair	BC Hog Marketing Commission	LGiC	December 21, 2024
Chair	BC Vegetable Marketing Commission	LGiC	December 21, 2024
Chair	BC Cranberry Marketing Commission	LGiC	December 21, 2024

MINISTERIAL ORDER APPOINTMENTS EXPIRING WITHIN 90 DAYS

Position+ Panel	Institution	Authority for Appointment	Expiry Date
Member- Interior	Agricultural Land Commission	Minister	January 1, 2025
Member- North	Agricultural Land Commission	Minister	December 1, 2024
Vice Chair/Member- Island	Agricultural Land Commission	Minister	January 1, 2025
Member- Island	Agricultural Land Commission	Minister	December 19, 2024
Member- Kootenay	Agricultural Land Commission	Minister	December 19, 2024
Member- Kootenay	Agricultural Land Commission	Minister	December 19, 2024
Member- Okanagan	Agricultural Land Commission	Minister	December 19, 2024
Member- Okanagan	Agricultural Land Commission	Minister	December 31, 2024

Commissions, Boards and Organizations – Ministry of Agriculture and Food

As of Sept 5, 2024

Green highlight- expire within year

Yellow highlight- expire early next year

Blue highlight- new appt not yet in effect

British Columbia (BC) Farm Industry Review Board (BCFIRB)				
<i>Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act (NPMA)</i>				
Mandate	<p>In relation to regulated marketing, BCFIRB is responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The general supervision of regulated agricultural commodity boards created under the NPMA, • Hearing appeals filed by any person who is aggrieved by or dissatisfied with orders, decisions or determinations of the commodity boards; and, • Acting as a signatory to federal-provincial agreements for supply-managed commodities. <p>BCFIRB also has mandates complaints related to farm practices under the <i>Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act</i>, and B.C. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (BC SPCA) animal custody decisions under the <i>Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act</i>.</p>			
Composition	<p>Up to <u>10</u> individuals, appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council (LGIC), after a merit-based process, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One member designated as chair, • One or more members designated as vice-chairs, after consultation with the chair; and, • Other members appointed after consultation with the chair 			
	Name	Position	Expiry Date	
	Peter John Donkers	Chair	Appointed	Dec 13, 2024 ¹
	Sandra Gunta Vitins	Vice Chair / Member	Appointed	Nov 1, 2025
	Wendy Holm	Member	Appointed	July 31, 2026
	Pawanjit Singh Joshi	Member	Appointed	July 31, 2025
	Dennis Lapierre	Member	Appointed	July 31, 2025
	Neil Turner	Member	Appointed	July 31, 2026
	Jane Pritchard	Member	Appointed	July 31, 2025
David Zirnhelt	Member	Appointed	July 31, 2025	

¹ Effective Nov. 15, extends current appointment from November end date to December to account for election.

Supply-Managed Commodities

BC Broiler Hatching Egg Commission				
British Columbia Broiler Hatching Egg Scheme				
Mandate	To oversee the production activities of BC broiler hatching egg producers and regulate the marketing of their products, and to lead producers in dealings with the chicken meat industry, with stakeholders in the national marketing scheme, and with provincial and municipal government bodies.			
Composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair, appointed by LGIC; and, • 4 members who are registered producers, elected by registered producers 			
	<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>		<i>Expiry Date</i>
	William P. Vanderspek	Chair	Appointed	Dec 21, 2024 ²
	Daniel Zylstra	Vice Chair	Elected	June 2026
	Shane Driessen	Member	Elected	June 2025
Beata Kunze	Member	Elected	June 2027	
Calvin Breukelman	Member	Elected	June 2028	

BC Chicken Marketing Board				
British Columbia Chicken Marketing Scheme, 1961				
Mandate	To regulate the pricing and production of BC chicken in accordance with consumer expectations on animal care, food safety and sustainability. Further, to grow the market for BC chicken while maintaining principles of strategic planning, accountability, fairness, effectiveness, transparency and inclusivity.			
Composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair, appointed by LGIC, • 2 additional members appointed by LGIC; and, • 2 members who are registered growers, elected by registered growers 			
	<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>		<i>Expiry Date</i>
	Kevin Klippenstein	Chair	Appointed	Dec 21, 2024
	James K. Collins	Member	Appointed	Dec 21, 2024 ³
	Carol Anne Paulson	Member	Appointed	Oct 12, 2025
	Ray Nickel	Vice Chair	Elected	March 2025
Dale Krahn	Member	Elected	March 2027	

² Will be processed post-election.

³ Collins not seeking reappointment. Crown Agencies and Board Resourcing Office (CABRO) seeking new candidate; will be processed post-election.

BC Milk Marketing Board British Columbia Milk Marketing Board Regulation				
Mandate	<p>The BC Milk Marketing Board has the authority to promote, control and regulate the production, transportation, packing, storing and marketing of milk, fluid milk and manufactured milk products within BC.</p> <p>Specific duties and responsibilities include licensing of producers, vendors and transporters, allotting quotas, administering and publishing milk prices, coordinating on-farm milk pick-up and delivery to processors, compliance and inspections, and preparing and disseminating industry information.</p>			
Composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair, appointed by LGIC, • 4 members who are licensed producers, elected by licensed producers; and, • 1 member who is not a licensed producer, appointed by the Milk Industry Advisory Committee 			
	<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>		<i>Expiry Date</i>
	Janice Comeau	Chair	Appointed	July 31, 2025
	Tom Hoogendoorn	Vice Chair	Elected	December 2026
	Jeremy Wiebe	Executive Treasurer	Elected	December 2026
	Jeff Zonneveld	Ind. Member	Elected	November 2025
	David Janssens	Member	Elected	December 2024
Kevin Mammel	Member	Elected	December 2024	

BC Egg Marketing Board British Columbia Egg Marketing Scheme, 1967				
Mandate	<p>To develop and grow a cohesive and sustainable BC egg industry that meets the needs of consumers while being socially and environmentally responsible, transparent, supportive and adaptive, making principle-based decisions and raising health, safety and sustainability standards.</p>			
Composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair, appointed by LGIC; and, • 4 members who are registered producers, elected by registered producers 			
	<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>		<i>Expiry Date</i>
	Algis Sakalauskas	Chair	Appointed	Nov 1, 2025
	Walter Siemens	Vice Chair	Elected	March 2025
	Jon Krahn	Member	Elected	March 2027
	Jeff Regier	Member	Elected	March 2025
	Derek Janzen	Member	Elected	March 2028

BC Turkey Marketing Board British Columbia Turkey Marketing Scheme				
Mandate	To bring together and promote the welfare of all persons interested or engaged in the raising of turkeys in BC, to gather and disseminate information about the raising, breeding, feeding and selling of turkeys, and to promote the marketing and sale of turkeys and turkey eggs, and to enlarge the market and demand for turkeys and turkey eggs through advertising.			
Composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair, appointed by LGIC, • At least 3 members who are registered growers, elected by registered growers; and, • Optional fourth member who is a registered grower, elected by registered growers 			
	<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>		<i>Expiry Date</i>
	Kalpna Solanki	Chair	Appointed	Dec 21, 2024 ⁴
	Shawn Heppell	Vice Chair	Elected	April 2024
	Debra Etsell	Member	Elected	March 2027
	James Krahn	Member	Elected	March 2025
Randy Redekop	Member	Elected	March 2026	

Non-Supply-Managed Commodities

BC Cranberry Marketing Commission British Columbia Cranberry Marketing Scheme, 1968				
Mandate	To regulate the transportation, processing, packing, storage and marketing of any variety of cranberries grown in the Province of British Columbia.			
Composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair, appointed by LGIC, • Up to 4 members who are registered growers, elected by registered growers; and, • 1 member who is not a grower, appointed by the commission 			
	<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>		<i>Expiry Date</i>
	Stephanie J. Nelson	Chair	Appointed	Dec 21, 2024 ⁵
	Todd May	Member	Elected	February 2025
	Jack DeWit	Secretary	Elected	March 2025
	Jeff Hamilton	Member	Elected	March 2027
Andreas Dolberg	Ind. Member + Vice Chair	Appt by commission	January 2025	

⁴ Will be processed post-election.

⁵ Will be processed post-election.

BC Hog Marketing Commission British Columbia Hog Marketing Scheme				
Mandate	To promote, control and regulate the production, buying, selling, shipping for sale, offering for sale or storage, and transportation of hogs grown in BC for processing.			
Composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair, appointed by LGIC; and, • Up to 5 members who are registered producers, elected by registered producers (the Commission's current policy is to elect three members) 			
	Name	Position	Expiry Date	
	Bonnie Rae Windsor	Chair	Appointed	Dec 21, 2024 ⁶
	Chad Goertzen	Member	Elected	November 2025
	Tyler McNaughton	Member	Elected	December 2025

BC Vegetable Marketing Commission British Columbia Vegetable Scheme				
Mandate	<p>The BC Vegetable Marketing Commission provides for orderly marketing of the following vegetable crops:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenhouse vegetable crops, including beefsteak tomatoes, tomatoes-on-the-vine, peppers and cucumbers, • Processing vegetable crops, including peas, beans, corn, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cauliflower, cole crops, and strawberries; and, • Storage crops, including potatoes, carrots, rutabagas and others. 			
Composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair, appointed by LGIC; and, • Up to 8 members who are commercial producers, elected by commercial producers 			
	Name	Position	Expiry Date	
	Derek Sturko	Chair	Appointed	Dec 21, 2024 ⁷
	Craig W. Evans	Vice Chair	Elected	2025
	Hugh Reynolds	Secretary	Elected	March 2027
	Natalie Veles	Ind. Member	Elected	Jan 2027
	Ken Sandhu	Member	Elected	May 2027
	Kevin Husband	Member	Elected	April 2026
	John Newell	Member	Elected	May 2025
	Michael Minerva	Member	Elected	May 2026
	Paul Guichon	Member	Elected	May 2025

⁶ Will be processed post-election.

⁷ Will be processed post-election.

Agricultural Land Commission, College of Veterinarians of BC and Indigenous Advisory Council on Agriculture and Food (IACAF)

Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) <i>Agricultural Land Commission Act (ALCA)</i>					
Mandate	<p>The purposes of the ALC as set out in Section 6 of the ALCA are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To preserve agricultural land, To encourage farming in collaboration with other communities of interest, To 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; and, The commission, to fulfill its purposes, must give priority to protecting and enhancing all of the following in exercising its powers and performing its duties under this Act: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The size, integrity and continuity of the land base of the agricultural land reserve; and, The use of the agricultural land reserve for farm use. 				
Composition		<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Expiry Date</i>	
		Jennifer Dyson	Chair and Member	Appointed May 14, 2025	
		Kim Grout ⁸	CEO	Appointed At Pleasure	
		<i>Interior Admin Region:</i>			
		Richard Mumford	Vice Chair and Member	Appointed Nov 1, 2024	
		Chad Stump	Member	Appointed Nov 1, 2026 ⁹	
		Robert Haywood-Farmer	Member	Appointed Jan 1, 2025	
		<i>Island Admin Region:</i>			
		Brenda Lee Schoepp	Vice Chair and Member	Appointed Jan 1, 2025	
		Jeffrey McCallum	Member	Appointed Aug 1, 2026	
		Jolleen Candace Dick	Member	Appointed Dec 19, 2024 ¹⁰	
		<i>Kootenay Admin Region:</i>			
		Wayne Harris	Member	Appointed Dec 19, 2024	
	Danna O'Donnell	Member	Appointed Dec 19, 2024		
	Jerrold Thibeault	Vice Chair and Member	Appointed Oct 25, 2025		

⁸ Reappointed by OIC December 2022.

⁹ Chad Stump is replacement for Richard Mumford. Appt effective Nov. 1, 2024

¹⁰ Jolleen not seeking reappointment, Jeffrey McCallum appointed to fill her upcoming vacancy and maintain island panel functionality after Woike did not stand for reappointment

	<p><u>North Admin Region:</u> Janice Tapp Andrew Adams Karen McKean</p> <p><u>Okanagan Admin Region:</u> Gerald Zimmermann Cheryl Lynn Lashuk Joseph Deuling Erin Carlson</p> <p><u>South Coast Admin Region:</u> Ione Marie Smith Susan Gimse Holger Schwichtenberg</p>	<p>Vice Chair and Member Member Member</p> <p>Vice Chair and Member Member Member Member</p> <p>Vice Chair and Member Member Member</p>	<p>Appointed Appointed Appointed</p> <p>Appointed Appointed Appointed Appointed</p> <p>Appointed Appointed Appointed</p>	<p>Oct 23, 2025 Dec 1, 2024 Apr 30, 2025</p> <p>Nov 1, 2024 Nov 1, 2026¹¹ Dec 31, 2024 Dec 19, 2024</p> <p>Nov 1, 2025 Oct 25, 2025 March 12, 2025</p>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ALCA requires a minimum of 11 members of which the ALC Chair is appointed by LGIC and the members of the six administrative regions are appointed by the Minister. Each administrative region must have one but not more than three members appointed to represent it and no two members can be from the same regional district. The Chair determines the number and type of decision-making panels and their composition so the chair's needs impact the number of total appointments needed. The ALC chair may appoint a vice-chair of a panel as she sees fit. 			

College of Veterinarians of British Columbia (CVBC)	
<i>Veterinarians Act</i>	
Mandate	<p>The mandate of the CVBC is to ensure that the public and animals of BC are served by a competent and ethical profession. To do this the CVBC must set and enforce standards of practice and conduct that apply to all veterinarians in BC.</p> <p>The <i>Veterinarians Act</i> creates the CVBC and sets out its general powers and duties relating to the regulation and advancement of the veterinary profession in BC. The Act also prohibits the unauthorized practice of veterinary medicine by any person who is not a registered member of the CVBC. The CVBC will intervene in clear cases of unauthorized practice.</p>

¹¹ Gerald Zimmerman being replaced by Lynn Lashuk, her appt is effective Nov 1, 2024

	The CVBC administers this mandate through the Council, which governs and oversees the College and its activities. The Council, except for public members who are appointed <u>by the Minister</u> , are elected by the members of the CVBC pursuant to the <i>Veterinarians Act</i> and the CVBC/BC Veterinary Medical Association Bylaws.			
Composition				
	<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>		<i>Expiry Date</i>
	Dr. Jane Pritchard	President	Elected	Mar 11, 2025
	Dr. Michele Martin	Vice President	Elected	Mar 6, 2026
	VACANT	Public Member	Appointed	
	VACANT-Christine Arnold	Public Member	Appointed	Apr 21, 2026 ¹²
	Mr. Gian Sihota	Public Member	Appointed	Apr 1, 2026
	Mr. Harinder Mahil	Public Member	Appointed	Oct 4, 2025
	Dr. Gigi Lin	Elected Member	Elected	Mar 22, 2027
Dr. Justin McLash	Elected Member	Elected	Mar 6, 2026	
Dr. Kirsten Riphagen	Elected Member	Elected	Mar 22, 2027	

Indigenous Advisory Council on Agriculture and Food			
Mandate	The mandate of the Indigenous Advisory Council on Agriculture and Food (IACAF) is to serve as an advisory council to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food on actions, strategies, and issues pertaining to the enhancement of agriculture and food opportunities for Indigenous peoples in BC.		
Composition			
	<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	

¹² Resigned to become Registrar; Notice of Position posted for replacement for her and Kari Michaels. CABRO and CVBC still looking for replacements. Still have quorum, not critical to complete prior to election.

	Chief Byron Louis	Member	Appointed	Mar 31, 2025
	Harold Aljam	Member	Appointed	Mar 31, 2025
	Jared Williams	Member	Appointed	Mar 31, 2025
	Nikki Lorentz	Member	Appointed	Mar 31, 2025
	Tribal Chief Shelley Leech	Member	Appointed	Mar 31, 2025
	Taylor Behn-Tsakoza	Member	Appointed	Mar 31, 2025
	Mary-Lee Flamond	Member	Appointed	Mar 31, 2025
	Fred Fortier	Member	Appointed	Mar 31, 2025
	Steven Stark	Member	Appointed	Mar 31, 2025

Annual Overview of Industry Events and Meetings – 2025

Event	Date	Location	Attendee(s)	Notes
January				
Mainland Milk Producers AGM	January	Clarion Hotel and Conference Centre Abbotsford		
First Nations Leaders Gathering (FNLG)	Jan 21 and 22	Vancouver		https://firstnationsleadersgathering.gov.bc.ca/
BC Agri-Food Industry Gala	January	Clarion Hotel and Conference Centre Abbotsford		Agri-Food Industry Gala features an evening reception including: interactive food stations, live entertainment, a silent auction, and our annual awards presentation. Need to purchase tables.
Pacific Ag Show/Lower Mainland Horticultural Conference	January	TRADEX, Abbotsford		https://agricultureshow.net/

Event	Date	Location	Attendee(s)	Notes
				<p>Formerly called the Growers' Short Course</p> <p>Provides producers the opportunity to get the latest information on research, farming practices and market opportunities from some of the industry's most knowledgeable experts. Details on how to purchase tickets, as well as an agenda overview, will be provided in the coming weeks.</p> <p>The Lower Mainland Horticultural Conference is delivered by the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food in partnership with the Lower Mainland Horticultural Improvement</p>

Event	Date	Location	Attendee(s)	Notes
				<p>Association and the Pacific Agriculture Show. Funding for the conference is provided in part by the governments of Canada and British Columbia through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.</p>
February				
Islands Agriculture Show	February	Cowichan Exhibition Park, Duncan	Not something normally attended	<p>Two-day conference for horticultural and livestock producers of all sizes on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. Held in conjunction with an agricultural trade show, the conference features sessions on crop</p>

Event	Date	Location	Attendee(s)	Notes
				<p>production, livestock production, business planning, water management, and climate adaptation. The Islands Agriculture Show is delivered in partnership with the Islands Agriculture Show Society.</p>
Southern Interior Horticultural Show	February	Penticton Trade and Convention Centre		<p>The Southern Interior Horticultural Show is a B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food delivered project in partnership with the tree fruit and grape industries to provide producers the opportunity to get the latest information on research, innovation, and farming practices from some of the industry's most knowledgeable experts.</p>

Event	Date	Location	Attendee(s)	Notes
March				
2024 Poultry Conference	March	Coast Langley City Hotel and Convention Center 20393 Fraser Hwy, Langley, BC		
Seafood Expo West	March	Boston	TBD	w/JEDI
Natural Products Expo West	March	Anaheim	TBD	w/JEDI
April				
BC Meats AGM Conference and Trade Show	April			
Grocery & Specialty Food West 2023 Show	April	Vancouver		https://gsfshow.com/ The show, hosted by the Canadian Federation of Independent Grocers, will bring together grocery manufactures

Event	Date	Location	Attendee(s)	Notes
				<p>and retailers—including specialty grocers, independents, major chains and warehouse operators—from across Canada to discover new innovations and build relationships within the grocery industry.</p> <p>The Buy BC team will set up a booth that will simulate a retail grocery aisle and, on it, promote local products made by Buy BC logo license partners.</p> <p>The show is expected to have roughly 300 exhibitors (see here for current list) and 3,000 attendees.</p>
Canada Produce Marketing Tradeshow	April			https://convention.cpm.ca/

Event	Date	Location	Attendee(s)	Notes
May				
BC Dairy Day	May	Victoria/Legislature		Hosted by BC Dairy
BC Beef Day	May	Victoria/Legislature		Hosted by BC Cattlemen's Assoc.
Bakery Showcase	May	Vancouver		<p data-bbox="1562 639 1898 750">https://www.bakeryshowcasecanada.ca/location/vancouver/</p> <p data-bbox="1562 779 1898 1208">The show, hosted by the Baking Association of Canada, will bring together industry professionals from bakeries (retail, wholesale, commercial, in-store), grocery, pizzerias, restaurants and food-service outlets.</p> <p data-bbox="1562 1256 1898 1406">The Buy BC team will set up an information booth promoting Buy BC and other Ministry's</p>

Event	Date	Location	Attendee(s)	Notes
				programs to participants.
June				
BC Cattlemen's Convention/AGM	June			
FoodPro West 2023	June	Vancouver		https://www.foodprobc.com/ Hosted by BC Food & Bev Assoc.
July				
Annual Agriculture Minister's FPT	July			
Pacific Northwest Economic Region Conference (PNWER)	July			https://www.pnwer.org
August				

Event	Date	Location	Attendee(s)	Notes
September				
Convention of Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM)	Sept			
October				
BC Ag Day	October			Organized by BCAC
BC Food and Beverage Awards	October	Vancouver		https://www.bcfbawards.com/
November				
BC Dairy Industry Conference	November - TBC	Vancouver		
BC Greenhouse Growers' Association 25 th Annual Reception/Banquet	November - TBC			
December				

Event	Date	Location	Attendee(s)	Notes

Government 101

Overview of Key Roles, Structures & Processes

October 2024



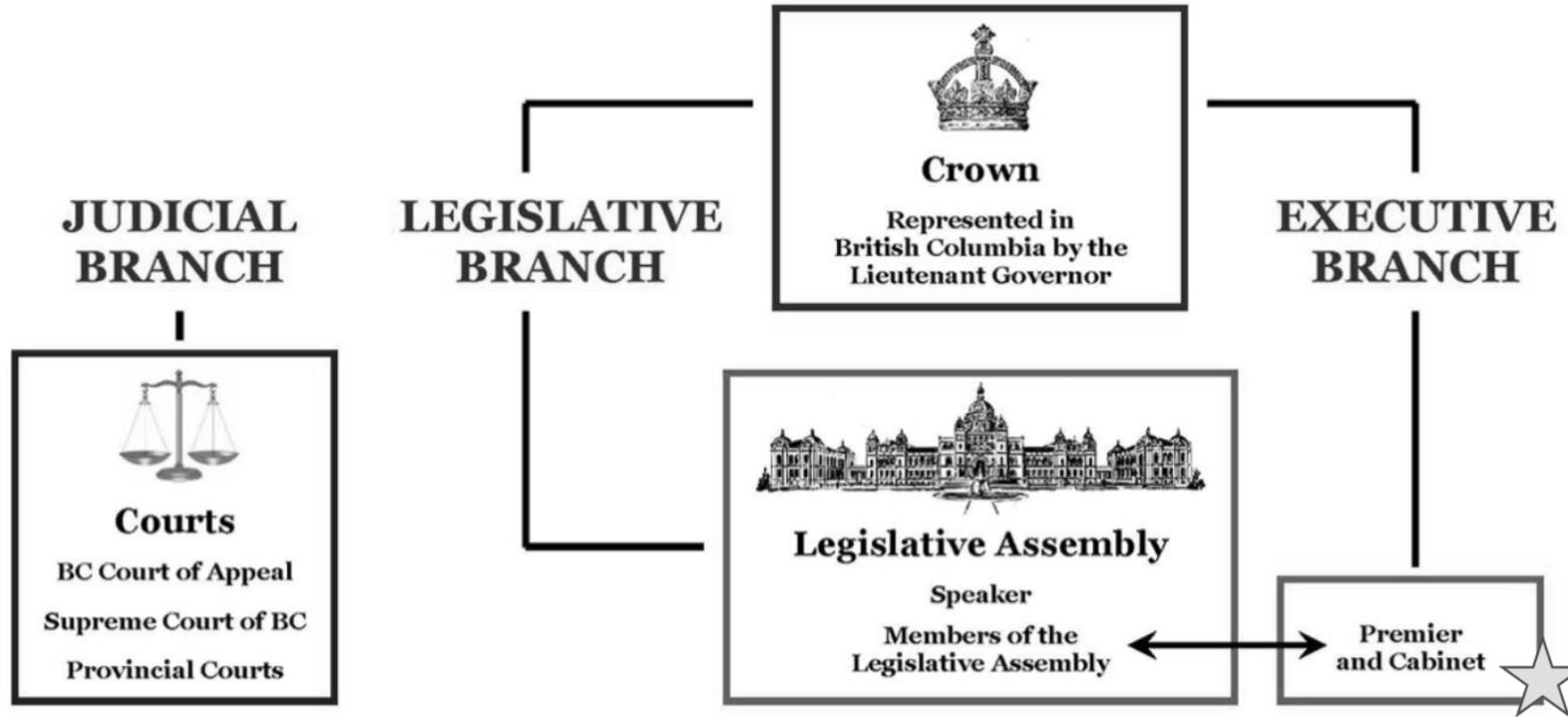
Overview

- Introduction
- Office of the Premier
- Roles & Responsibilities
- Government Decision Making
- Cabinet Confidentiality
- Conflict of Interest
- Records Management

Introduction



The Three Branches of Government



The Executive Council or Cabinet

- Established under section 9 of *Constitution Act*
- Ultimate decision-making body of government
- Members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor on advice from Premier
- Chaired by the Premier

Office of the Premier



Office of the Premier

- The Office of the Premier has two principal roles:
 - 1) **Political:** overseen by the Premier's Chief of Staff, who acts as the senior political advisor to government
 - 2) **Non-partisan Public Service:** overseen by the Deputy Minister to the Premier
- Premier's **Chief of Staff** and **Deputy Minister to the Premier** work collaboratively to:
 - Support the Premier to advance government's policy and legislative agendas
 - Represent the Premier in providing direction to their respective staffs:
 - Chief of Staff provides direction to political staff, including Ministers' chiefs of staff
 - Deputy Minister to the Premier provides direction to public servants

Key Roles

Premier's Chief of Staff

- Most senior political advisor
- Provides strategic advice to the Premier and Executive Council (Cabinet) to advance government's policy and legislative agenda
- Coordinates and develops governments strategic and policy objectives
- Coordinates cross-government communications and issues management
- Develops and maintains relationships with major stakeholders
- All Ministers' chiefs of staff report to the Premier's Chief of Staff

Deputy Minister to the Premier

- Most senior public servant (non-political official)
- Serves as Cabinet Secretary and head of the BC Public Service
- Provides non-partisan advice to the Premier on public policy, development of legislation, and operational issues
- Ensures effective administration of programs and services, the development and implementation of key policy initiatives
- Manages a professional and non-partisan public service
- All Deputy Ministers report to the Deputy Minister to the Premier

Roles & Responsibilities



Page 183 of 206

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Advice/Recommendations

Page 184 of 206

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Advice/Recommendations

Page 185 of 206

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Advice/Recommendations

Page 186 of 206

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Advice/Recommendations

Page 187 of 206

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Advice/Recommendations

Page 188 of 206

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Advice/Recommendations

Government Decision-Making



Cabinet-Level Decisions



Policy

Cabinet considers and provides direction on significant new policies or shifts in policy. It may also provide direction on contentious issues and issues with significant cross-government and inter-governmental implications.



Fiscal

Treasury Board considers and provides direction on the overall financial decision making of the province and the execution of the fiscal plan, including making regulations or issuing directives to control or limit expenditures.



Legislative

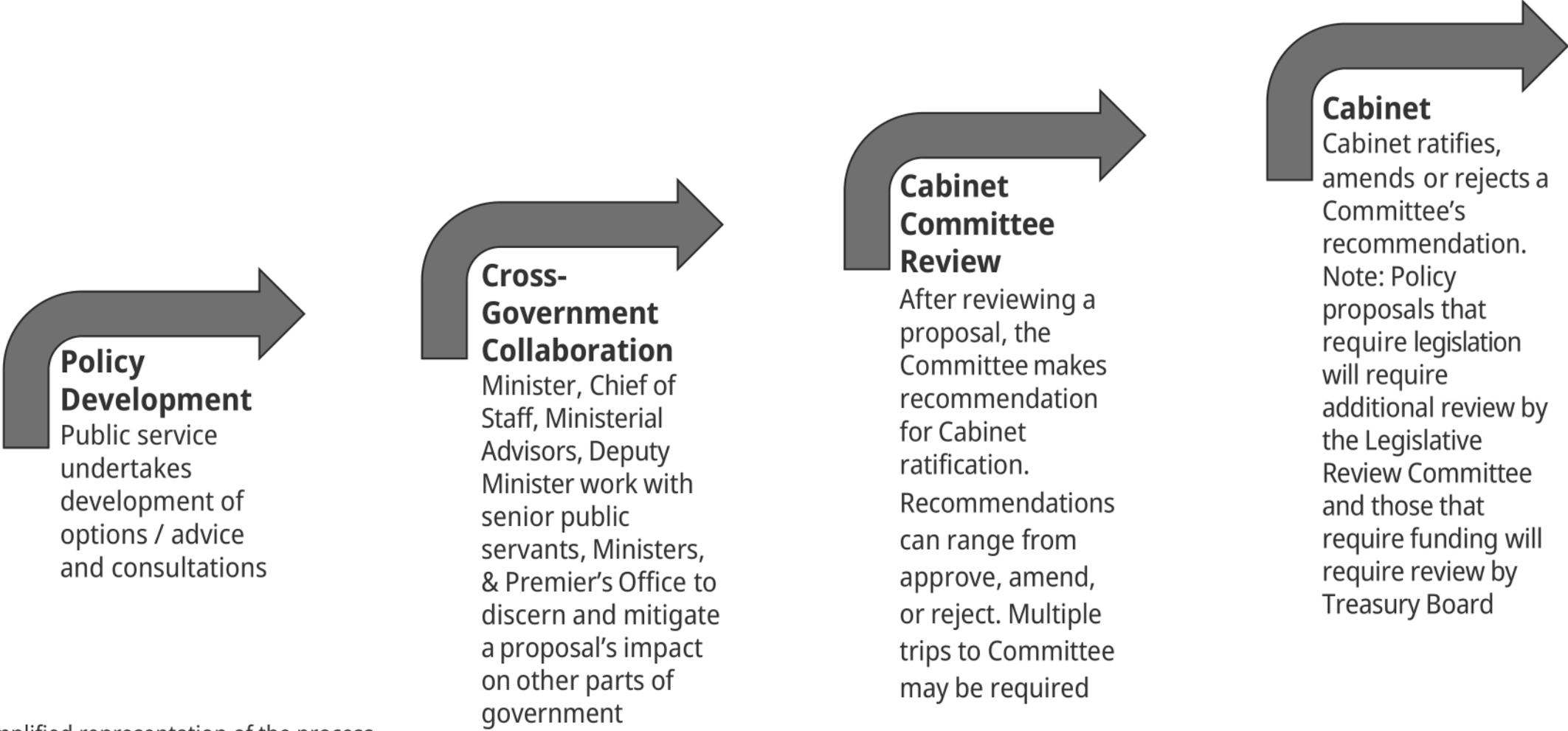
Cabinet considers and provides direction on legislative priorities and legislation.



Regulations / OICs

Cabinet considers and provides direction on regulatory changes, appointments and more through Orders in Councils (OICs).

Government Decision-Making: Key Steps*



*This is a simplified representation of the process

Mandate Letters

- Usually, Mandate Letters are issued to each Minister by the Premier and set out the expectations and deliverables regarding their portfolio and priorities for government as a whole
- Mandate Letters act as a guide for the Minister and Deputy Minister to follow in their day-to-day work, as well as the means for evaluating it
- How and when Mandate Letter deliverables are achieved is determined through collective decision making at Cabinet
- Any policy proposal that falls outside of the objectives set out in Mandate Letters requires approval from the Premier's Office to enter into the Cabinet review and decision-making process

Page 193 of 206

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Advice/Recommendations

Cabinet and Cabinet Committees

- Policy or program proposals require formal Cabinet approval to proceed:
 - This process involves a Cabinet Submission, sometimes more than one, for review and decision
 - Policy and funding decisions are determined separately, through Cabinet and Treasury Board respectively
 - This process applies even if the item is listed in a Minister's Mandate Letter
 - The Deputy Minister to the Premier, in their role of Cabinet Secretary, is responsible for what advances into the Cabinet review process
 - The process and administration of Cabinet and Cabinet Committees is managed through the office of Cabinet Operations
- Cabinet and Cabinet Committees reach decisions through discussion and consensus
- Decisions are set out in minutes and are formally communicated to ministries through Records of Decision

Role of Cabinet Committees in the Review Process

- Prior to proceeding to Cabinet for decision, a submission may be vetted by a Cabinet Committee
- Practically speaking, Cabinet Committees help manage the high volume of items requiring decision so that Cabinet meetings can focus on the most significant, high-profile public policy issues
- Cabinet Committees are established by the Premier, by convention or by legislation
- Membership is composed of Cabinet Ministers and some government caucus MLAs. Each Committee is chaired by a member of the Executive Council (Cabinet)
- Cabinet Committees assess submissions and make recommendations to Cabinet, which the Chair reports out on at a full Cabinet meeting
- Cabinet can ratify, amend or reject the Committee's recommendation and Ministers are expected to leave Cabinet with a united voice

Cabinet Confidentiality



Cabinet Confidentiality

- The work undertaken by Cabinet and its Committees is and must remain confidential. This includes anything that would reveal the substance of Cabinet deliberations:
 - Cabinet and Treasury Board Submissions and supporting documents
 - Discussion around the Cabinet table
 - Attendees, agendas and dates that items are scheduled to come forward
- Cabinet is a safe place to talk frankly and emerge with one voice
- All Ministers, MLA Cabinet Committee members and their supporting political staff are required to uphold the confidentiality provisions under the oaths or confidentiality agreements they have taken:

Cabinet Minister	Oath for Member of Executive Council
MLA Cabinet Committee Member	Oath of Confidentiality for Committees of Executive Council
Ministers' Chiefs of Staff	Political Staff Oath Confidentiality Agreement for attending Cabinet & Committee meetings

Cabinet Confidentiality

- The requirement for Cabinet confidentiality prohibits direct and indirect disclosures outside of government – to stakeholders, lobbyists or the media
- Breaches in Cabinet confidentiality violate the collective responsibility shared by all Cabinet Ministers and can have serious implications for Government as a whole
- Confidentiality applies to Cabinet as an entity – individual ministers do not have the authority to waive it

Advice/Recommendations

Conflict of Interest



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

Conflict of Interest

- Ministers and political staff are required to avoid conflicts of interest
- Ministers must abide by the *Members' Conflict of Interest Act*, which prohibits acting in an official capacity if a conflict of interest or a perceived conflict of interest exists
- Similarly, political staff must abide by the conflict of interest requirements outlined in the Standards of Conduct for Political Staff
- There are three types of conflict of interest: real, potential and perceived
- A conflict of interest exists if an official power or an official duty or function is performed when the person knows that there is the opportunity to further a private interest
- A private interest does not include an interest that applies to the general public or affects a minister as a broad class of people
- **Effectively managing conflicts of interest is one of the primary ways that public confidence in the integrity of government is fostered and maintained**

Conflict of Interest Commissioner

- The Conflict of Interest Commissioner is an independent, non-partisan Officer of the Legislative Assembly who is responsible for independently and impartially interpreting and administering the *Members' Conflict of Interest Act*
- All Members of the Legislative Assembly are required to file a confidential disclosure statement with the Commissioner within 60 days of being elected, and after that, annually
- Once the contents of the confidential disclosure statement have been finalized, a Public Disclosure Statement is prepared, which contains most, but not all, of the information provided to the Commissioner
- The Public Disclosure Statement is filed with the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and is available for public inspection

Records Management



Records Management

- All records created are subject to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA)*, whether they are considered transitory in nature or are related to government decisions
- These include both hard copy and electronic records (E.g., emails, texts, Post-It notes, notebooks)
- Records relating to government decisions need to be maintained by Ministers and Ministers' office staff
- Maintaining records does not equate to disclosure of records
- Records belong to government, not to individual members of Executive Council or political staff

Records Management

- Content related to Cabinet and Cabinet Committee deliberations cannot be disclosed under section 12 of FOIPPA
- Section 13 of FOIPPA provides a similar rule for policy advice or recommendations developed for a Minister
- Information and Privacy Analysts in the public service help with redacting content from records from records in accordance with FOIPPA as part of preparing responses to freedom of information requests
- Some records are proactively disclosed, including Minister's calendars and travel expenses

Records Management

- Deputy Minister Offices (DMOs) are responsible for the proper management of government records that reside in a Minister's Office and sign off on the final response packages for freedom of information requests
- DMO and Minister's Office staff should establish protocols regarding records management and responses to freedom of information requests
- Minister's Office staff should undertake training via the Corporate Information and Records Management Office related to records management, freedom of information requests, and protecting the personal privacy of individuals
- Specific executive training may be available via dedicated sessions in addition to online learning courses through the Public Service Agency
- **Staying on top of records management is key – any record you didn't need to keep but is still in existence is subject to FOIPPA**

