

Supporting B.C. Farmers Public Engagement “What We Heard” Report

INTRODUCTION: The Engagement Process

In Fall 2018 and Spring 2019, legislative amendments to B.C.'s *Agricultural Land Commission Act* (ALCA) were enacted. These amendments sought to promote the continued protection of the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), encourage farming and ranching in British Columbia, and strengthen the independence of the ALC to better fulfill its mandate of preserving the ALR. These changes considered the findings and recommendation of an independent Advisory Committee (the Committee) that concluded public consultations on revitalizing the ALR and the ALC in 2018.

Following the legislative amendments, the Ministry undertook additional public engagement to continue to address how to strengthen farming in B.C. The engagement process ran between September 19, 2019 and November 15, 2019. During that time, the Ministry of Agriculture sought to engage British Columbians on how to best:

- Support farmers and ranchers in the ALR to expand and diversify their businesses;
- Help new or young farmers become established on the land and in business; and,
- Ensure there is flexibility for residential options while prioritizing agriculture in the ALR.

British Columbians were encouraged to provide feedback by attending in-person meetings held throughout the province; completing an online questionnaire; and, making formal submissions. In summary:

- 1,580 online surveys were completed;
- 87 personal submissions were made;
- 613 British Columbians registered for in person sessions in Merville, Delta, Dawson Creek, Prince George, Kamloops, Kelowna, Castlegar and Cranbrook; and,
- 19 formal submissions from associations/institutes/local governments were received.

WHAT WE HEARD

Key themes that emerged in all formats of the engagement process included:

- The need to balance farming and residential uses on ALR land
- The importance of recognizing regional differences and regional realities for farming
- The impact that regulatory burdens can place on family farming operations
- The need for reasonable business opportunities to be able to occur within the ALR

The following sections reflect each format of engagement and present a more detailed description of what was heard.

ONLINE SURVEY SUBMISSIONS

The Ministry received 1,580 online survey submissions between September 19, 2019 and November 15, 2019. Additional information on the respondent demographics can be found in Appendix A.

ONLINE SURVEY SUBMISSIONS – THE RESPONSES

Question 1: How can the Ministry help new or young farmers become established on the land and in business?

Background

Most farmers in B.C. and across Canada are over the age of 55. Of B.C.'s 26,430 farmers nearly sixty percent are over 55, almost thirty-five percent are between 35 and 54, and seven percent are under 35. Farming can offer a variety of economic opportunities and be a viable business, however, entering the industry can be difficult for new entrants. Farm land is expensive in many parts of B.C. and the cost of starting a farm business may be a barrier to new farmers.

The Ministry currently funds programs such as the land matching program and has developed resources for new and young farmers, has created guiding documents such as the New Entrant Strategy, and has collected information about the needs of new farmers through the New Entrants Needs Assessment. Government is now considering what more it can do to help new or young farmers become established on the land and in the business of agriculture.

Themes raised by participants

Multiple residences: Many respondents supported the idea of multiple residences on ALR. Many B.C. farms are small and costly to operate. Further still, many B.C. farms are family-owned and operated and have been for generations. For many of these family-owned farms, multi-generational living arrangements are part of their succession plans. In these cases, additional residences allow for a younger generation to learn the family business and can also secure a safe spot for aging farmers to retire and live. The engagement process highlighted that there are economic benefits to multi-generational farming operations, and that having a secondary residence can be an important part of an overall farming succession plan.

In other cases, multiple residences support the farm's viability by augmenting the primary farming income. We heard from farmers who choose to rent the farmhouse and/or secondary dwellings or use these buildings to house farm workers.

Regulations: Respondents spoke of the huge learning curve required when starting a new farm business and noted that clear and simple rules would lessen that burden. Many noted that regulations regarding land ownership within the ALR is confusing, can lead to uncertainty for a new entrant, and can result in farmers spending too much time making sense of "what they can and cannot do on their land". Suggestions were made about working with the real estate community to ensure prospective purchasers of ALR understand the ALR regulations as they contemplate purchase.

Other respondents noted that some regulations limit their ability to conduct activities to augment their primary farming income. While some farmers that the Ministry heard from did identify that their farming operation was economically viable without secondary supportive income, others suggested that business opportunities such as food processing, restaurants, breweries, events and agri-tourism allow them to diversify their incomes and economic prospects.

Many stakeholders spoke about the limited availability of farmland and the need to protect it through the current ALCA and its regulations. Suggestions for doing so included maintaining the limit on house size, restricting the building of structures on the land, and limiting the subdividing of parcels so future farmers can purchase large parcels of farmland. Other suggestions included taxing ALR land that is not being used for farming to make it less attractive to let sit idle.

Education: Many responses suggested that the Ministry promote post-secondary programs in agriculture; support K-12 school programs that introduce children to farming, gardening, and raising animals; and, provide resources to new farmers on business development, financial literacy, and market development.

Financial Support: Submissions received spoke to the hardships that can be faced in starting up a farm. Several respondents suggested the need for increased government assistance in purchasing land, for example through low interest mortgages, easy-access loans, co-owning land, or increased opportunities to lease Crown owned ALR land. Other suggestions included government funding for infrastructure, fencing, clearing land, equipment purchases and safe water development.

Local market: Some respondents noted the importance of the local economy and support for farmers by encouraging the use of B.C. food in government institutions. Getting more local food into grocery stores was also noted.

Support for Current Farmers: Various respondents highlighted that new farmers are not necessarily “young” and that support for a new entrant should not be determined by their age. Respondents further suggested that supporting current and aging farmers and farming families creates positive experiences that can be passed on to new entrants.

Question 2: How can the Ministry support farmers and ranchers in the ALR to expand and diversify their business?

Background

Farmers and ranchers are business people and work hard to have sustainable, profitable and productive farm businesses. In addition to farming and ranching, some farm businesses engage in other ventures directly linked to farming on their farmland as part of their business model. Examples of additional farm uses that are permitted in the ALR include: wineries, breweries, distilleries and other alcohol producers; farm retail sales; storage, packing and processing of farm products; temporary or seasonal agri-tourism activities; production of compost; among many others.

Government is considering how best to support farmers and ranchers in the ALR expand and diversify their businesses, while limiting impacts to farmland.

Themes raised by participants

Economic opportunities: The Ministry received numerous ideas on ways to provide economic opportunities to farm business in the ALR. These included but were not limited to: restaurants, weddings, campsites, farm stands, farm stay vacations, pumpkin patches, antique farm stores, concerts, butcher shops, senior housing, wineries, breweries, distilleries, dog boarding, yoga studios, processing facilities, kids’ camps, storage facilities, home based business, and RV camper parking.

ALR for Farming and Farm-related Businesses: Overall there were mixed viewpoints on the diversification into value-add economic opportunities for farmers on the ALR. Some respondents felt strongly that ALR land should only be used for the primary production of food and were not supportive of ALR land being used for greenhouses, cannabis growing, or agri-tourism. Others felt that there should be some flexibility in the use of ALR land for farm uses other than primary production, so long as the ALR land was primarily being used for farming and value-added businesses were related to farming.

Multiple Uses of ALR: Some respondents expressed that farming as a sole source of income is not economically viable, and farmers need to be able to diversify their businesses through agri-tourism, processing or other business opportunities. Many submissions expressed frustration over the amount of regulations imposed on farmers. They felt these regulations limited their creativity and discretion to advance their farm business. People also expressed the desire for the government to create incentives to encourage farming and agriculture activity, as opposed to restrictions on entrepreneurial ideas or regulating activity to achieve an outcome.

Question 3: How can the Ministry ensure there is flexibility for residential options while prioritizing agriculture in the ALR?

Background

Residences are an important part of the ALR. They provide a home to those that steward their land, as well as support business opportunities to help balance farming demands. Residential uses, however, can impact the farm land, both in terms of the availability of the land for farming and in terms of increasing land costs. The ALR was originally developed in the 1970s to help strike that balance by preserving farmland from development.

Today, Government is considering how to ensure there are diverse residential options for people living in the ALR while at the same time prioritize the land to be used for farming or ranching.

Themes raised by participants

House Size: In general, respondents were supportive of the recent change that limited a principal residence size on ALR land to 500m². There were mixed viewpoints on flexibility for secondary residential dwelling options. Some people showed support for the new regulations in their potential to protect valuable farmland by restricting multiple residences on ALR land to those that would be in direct support of farming.

Secondary Dwellings: Others expressed the need for secondary dwellings for situations they felt may not be considered “farm use” by the ALC. This included various housing purposes such as for aging farmers, seasonal farm workers, multiple families who wish farm the land together, as well as for supplementary income through rentals. Confusion and frustration were expressed regarding the requirement that manufactured homes receive approval from the ALC as these houses were not viewed as negatively affecting farm land.

Home Plate Strategy: Various respondents suggested using the Home Plate strategy whereby there is a maximum percentage or area of the land that can be covered with hard surfacing, which can be used to build whatever the land owner feels necessary to farm (multiple residences, a business, a barn, a parking

lot etc.). Others pointed out challenges to this approach related to regional issues, geography, local government by in and that it is a long-term idea to investigate.

Regional Differences: Many respondents referred to how different the various regions in B.C. are and how blanket rules were seen to not be effective. Many participants noted that there are different issues in different regions and that some regulations, especially those relating to housing, may be necessary in some regions and not in others.

ALR Land Assessment: Various submissions requested an assessment of current ALR land to determine whether some parcels are farmable. Participants noted that the size of land, quality of soil, and weather conditions all affect the ability for the land to be farmed. Suggestions to use the non-farmable land for secondary housing or other structures were made.

WHAT WE HEARD FROM PERSONAL EMAILED SUBMISSIONS

The Ministry received 87 emailed submissions which shared individual experiences with farming in the province and the difficulties they have and are currently experiencing.

What the Ministry heard from many of these submissions was that flexible housing options are needed and that recent legislative amendments created a sense of insecurity for many respondents. Many people shared personal stories about the planning that they have put in to securing a future for themselves and their families on ALR land and the perceived negative consequences that resulted from the legislative amendments.

Another concern expressed by many emailed submissions was around the need for flexibility to operate creative business ventures (farm to table, agritourism, farm retail sales, mechanic shops) within the ALR. Some of the submissions explained how in addition to farming, they currently have home based businesses that they are now worried will not be allowed. Some respondents identified a need for further flexibility to support value added opportunities on farms, such as canning, freezing, preserving and for slaughter facilities and/or on farm slaughtering.

A general theme throughout the emailed submissions was that farmers are working very hard and feel little to no benefits of their work. Some identified feeling “overregulated” by government. While understanding the intention of protecting ALR land, people described feeling that the regulations, intentionally or unintentionally, were ultimately impacting family farms that require a secondary residence to house aging parents, siblings, or as an income source.

Many people who emailed were not aware or fully aware of the consultation undertaken by the Independent Committee in 2018. They expressed concern with a perceived lack of consultation taken before Bill 52 and 15 were introduced. Many people felt that they were not properly informed of the consultations that were taking place and that there was a lack of advanced notice of the changes. Many submissions asked that Bills 52 and 15 be repealed and that a more thorough consultation with ALR land owners be done before any other regulations are made.

A few emailed submissions also raised concern around issues such as fill regulations, water regulations, satellite surveillance, oil and gas activity/impacts, foreign ownership and Site C.

WHAT WE HEARD FROM IN-PERSON ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS

The Ministry of Agriculture organized eight in person sessions in all 6 of the ALR panel regions throughout the province to provide the public an opportunity to voice concerns, ask questions and discuss new ideas. A general summary of main points raised at each session is provided below.

MERVILLE September 19, 2019 (Island Panel Region)

This session was attended by 135 people. The following is a summary of the discussion topics and concerns raised by those who attended this session.

- Lots of questions and frustrations regarding the closure of the Rusted Rake and the inconsistency of ALR requirements regarding food service areas for non-alcohol producers.
- Concerns related to recent changes made to residential uses of ALR do not support succession planning or generational farming. It was noted that second homes combined with the primary residence often make up a smaller footprint than the maximum primary house size of 500m².
- Parcels for farming in this region are often small and value-added business is necessary to make farming economically viable.
- Small farms may not be able to manage all the certifications needed to sell into a retail market, small scale livestock farms not having good access to slaughter facilities.
- Blanket regulations are not an effective way to address policy issues.
- Requests for better engagement and communication directly with ALR land owners, through sending letters directly to all ALR land owners and creating white papers for discussion before policies are passed. Concerns were raised with communicating only through the internet as not everyone uses these platforms.

DELTA October 1, 2019 (South Coast Panel Region)

A total of 85 people registered for this session. The following is a summary of the discussion topics and concerns raised by those who attended this session.

- People felt that the alcohol industry has support in pursuing value-add practices and would like agriculture to have the same support.
- Housing flexibility and security for residential uses was a very common topic and dominant theme.
- Questions around the differences in municipal regulations and ALC regulations around definition of a farm.
- Interest in knowing what level of farming needs to occur before ALC will approve and application for a secondary dwelling for farm use or other non-farm uses, and many types of questions related to identifying or defining farming/a farmer.
- Discussions on the limits of slaughter capacity.
- Feelings that the new regulations don't support "small scale" farmers.
- Discussions about types and forms of agri-tourism and the relative importance of agri-tourism as revenue as well as helping non-farmers see and understand farming.
- Lack of direct communication to land owners and a lack of communication between the different governing bodies for example between ministries, between local government and ALC and Ministry of Agriculture.

DAWSON CREEK October 2, 2019 (North Panel Region)

A total of 19 people registered for this session. The following is a summary of the discussion topics and concerns raised by those who attended this session.

- A range of concerns related to Agriculture and Oil and Gas, including health and safety, lack of remediation of lands, feeling inundated by letters from big companies with no support, complex legal and regulatory environment leads to a power imbalance between farmers/land owners and oil and gas companies.
- Concerns about residential uses and why restrictions are necessary when the parcel sizes in the north are so large.
- Discussion about where to go for meat slaughter and meat processing as livestock farmers have limited choices in the area.
- Concerns on the limited communication and information about the session as well as direct communication with farmers and ALR land owners in general about what government is doing.
- Concerns around foreign ownership related to both purchasing land to open a farm business but not returning value to community, and comments about companies coming in and buying open land to plant trees for carbon sequestration.

PRINCE GEORGE October 3, 2019 (North Panel Region)

A total of 63 people registered for this session. The following is a summary of the discussion topics and concerns raised by those who attended this session.

- Numerous questions about the role and the discretion of local governments and regional districts related to farm uses and non-farm uses of ALR land.
- Identification of the need for secondary residences for aging parents, family members, friends.
- Desire to allow land to be used for some types of activity like equipment storage and equipment repair, there are residents that are employed by the forestry sector during parts of the year that also have farms.
- Discussions around regional differences and the need for different regulations in different regions.
- Ranchers raised the promise of guaranteed income support in exchange for agreeing to support the creation of the ALR in 1973 and cited what was called the “Four Pillars”.
- Discussions around water issues and needing permits to as a result of Water Sustainability Act.
- Need for the Ministry of Agriculture to better communication to those who own land in the ALR.
- Concern that in general there are too many regulations, too many applications, too frequent changes in requirements, and overall too confusing a system for ALR and farming.
- Access to slaughter for small scale livestock was brought up, including issues with class E and class D licenses for slaughter and selling of animal products.

KELOWNA October 10, 2019 (Okanagan Panel Region)

A total of 88 people registered for this session. The following is a summary of the discussion topics and concerns raised by those who attended this session.

- The common view expressed was that the ALC protects farmland but not farmers.

- Another common theme was that ALR landowners need to be informed of changes via mail and that communications with all stakeholders needed to be improved.
- Multiple questions around definitions and meaning of regulations and a general theme of over regulation, including all the fees and an inability for an individually run, small business to manage all the regulation requirements.
- Concerns regarding the involvement of local government decision making and how that impacts the farm businesses expansion.
- Comment about rural agri-tourism opportunity as a good revenue generator, and how that impacts small rural towns hoping to attract businesses and tourists to down-town core areas.
- Community water, community irrigation and water use raised, water is essential for agriculture.
- Need for temporary foreign worker housing is very important for tree fruit industry, as well as lack of labour supply.
- There is a need for slaughter capacity.

CASTLEGAR October 30, 2019 (Kootenay Panel Region)

A total of 33 people registered for this session. The following is a summary of the discussion topics and concerns raised by those who attended this session.

- General questions for ALC on new language of legislation, application process and guidelines.
- The need for residential flexibility was discussed and was a common theme, including rental revenues and that many parcels in area are very small and not suitable for farming.
- Subdivision of large properties that are not suitable for farming was discussed.
- Questions on the ALC commissioner appointment process and how it works.
- Concerns about going through local governments and not directly to the ALC, because some activities were being refused at the local government level.
- Labour issues such as lack of qualified skilled laborers, cost of labor and available government programs like trade school supplemented with employment insurance or internship program.
- Questions related to growing cannabis on ALR.
- Food safety certification issues and how it can limit small operations to sell into a retail store.
- Ministry should create a “Domestic Navigator program” to help diversified farmers sell locally.
- Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program considered a valuable initiative to attracting consumers to local farmer’s markets.
- Questions and discussion around on farm businesses (agritourism, alternate revenue streams).
- Regulatory requirements related to water use, outdoor burning, agricultural wastes, Health Authority requirements related to food processing, and many others are causing extreme stress in farmers and ranchers that have been operating for decades.
- Better overall communication on what is happening, not just by email or news release, not everyone has a computer, mail is a good option.
- Invasive weed management and lack of ability to have good long term, enforceable weed management on rights of ways and vacant lands really impacts farms and ranches.

CRANBROOK November 5, 2019 (Kootenay Panel Region)

A total of 57 people registered for this session. The following is a summary of the discussion topics and concerns raised by those who attended this session.

- Discussion on how different regions are and how they experience different issues. Many in attendance expressed views that mega mansions are not an issue in the rural areas.
- Personal experiences were given on how miscommunications between regional district and ALC negatively affected individuals. Also concerns that applications that are endorsed by the regional district are not being approved.
- Discussion on secondary residences needed for succession planning and how important it is for a farming family and any land owner.
- Improving communication across all the regions in the province about what is happening would help people participate.
- Concerns related to management of crown ALR and that agriculture is not promoted as the primary use, eroded relationship with forestry.
- Overburden of regulations water, nutrient management and many others.
- Ministry should look at increasing productivity, yields and value of products.
- Need to support range land identified.
- Young people need to be supported to see a success path in farming and can be deterred by perceived overregulation and ongoing processes.

KAMLOOPS November 14, 2019 (Interior Panel Region)

A total of 133 people registered for this session. The following is a summary of the discussion topics and concerns raised by those who attended this session.

- Discussions on housing on ALR including secondary residences, co-housing, mobile homes and a lot of uncertainty was expressed about the process to seek approval from the ALC.
- Improvement on communication from ALC and Ministry to the public, farmers and ALR land owners was identified as a need.
- General desire for the Ministry to provide more funding, basic science, programs, and services across all types of farming and ranching to help farms and ranches become more competitive against jurisdictions that provide a lot of support.
- Questions around the February deadline for grandfathering of secondary home applications.
- Bureaucratic application process and fear of the process itself, including that application fees are too high, especially for housing.
- Concerns for an inadequate process related to notice of intent for fill placement/removal.
- Concerns for crown ALR land uses not being used for agriculture, range land and leasing crown lands.
- Concern about follow through by Trans Mountain on weed control.
- Home based businesses, agri-tourism are things that can help bridge the lack of revenue/downturn.
- Dissatisfaction with the consultations before the legislation was changed.

WHAT WE HEARD FROM FORMAL SUBMISSIONS

The Ministry received 19 formal submissions from the following organizations and full submissions have been posted on the Supporting BC Farmers website.

Kootenay Livestock Association

- Lack of rural and rancher representation on the independent Advisory Committee
- Disagreement with the one zone approach, too many differences between rural and urban farms
- Farming requires financial incentives
- More information required, farm viability economic model
- Engagement should put more weight on those farming and less on survey submissions

BC Bison Association

- Bill 52 negatively effects their members and don't reflect regional differences, would like 3 distinct areas to be recognized in the province being the Lower Mainland including Vancouver Island, the Okanagan, and the Central and Northern Interior
- Flexibility in housing for succession planning and seasonal workers/those in remote areas.
- Farm families rely on off-farm income and value-added farm ventures

Salt Spring Island Farmers' Institute

- Support for the submission made by the Alberni Farmers' Institute

Alberni Farmers Institute

- Businesses that provide value added-products should be permitted on ALR land
- Financial support for new farmers (regardless of age)
- New definition of "farm" that supports community food security
- Better engagement with farmers and food producers before making legislation and policy
- Multiple dwellings not restricted to "family"

BC Cherry Association

- A review of timeline and regulation for getting approved housing for employees is needed
- Size of packing facility restrictions harmful for producers
- Difference between ALR land owners and those that are actively farming; regulations need to reflect this

Fraser-Fort George Regional District

- More ALC and provincial support needed in the north
- Look at an area by parcel-based Home plate or business area policy to allow more non-farm uses (ex: agritourism)

City of Delta

- Need to address the lack of additional farm house options and revisit home site severances for retiring farmers.
- Supportive of Local decision making from those who have the local knowledge
- Supportive of agritourism

- Not supportive of cannabis grown on ALR
- Maximum cumulative footprint of 2% for farm-related uses is too small

District A Farmers' Institute

- Removing rights of farmers to augment their income will drive farmers off the land
- Support for keeping regional panels
- Farmers are burdened by bureaucracy
- Not supportive of local government applying to ALC on land owner's behalf
- Request for more transparency in ALC's decision making process
- Support for secondary dwellings
- Farm cafés should be allowed
- Regional differences need to be considered when writing legislation

Comox Valley Farmers Institute

- Support for the submission made by the Alberni Farmers' Institute

Goat Association

- Diversification is needed
- Engage with farmers and ranchers on which diversification options are relevant
- Communicate regulation changes before they change
- Secondary residences often needed to make farm financially viable

BC Fruit Grower's Association

- Protect the ALR from development by those not actively farming
- Allow those that can prove they are actively and continuously farming to increase the value of their crops with value-added packing and processing and extension of their operations on their property
- An allowance for Co-operatives to place production and packing facilities on ALR property
- Eliminate regulatory duplication, expense and delays for farmers
- Raise agricultural program support above the level of non-ALR provincial jurisdictions

Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

- Additional engagement between ALC, local governments and producers
- Better communication between ALC and local government
- Residential flexibility is needed for farmers
- Farmers should be supported regardless of farming being their primary business

Dunster Community Association

- Concern over foreign investment in their area
- Desire for subdivision of large acreage

Kamloops Food Policy Council

- ALR rules are difficult to navigate, and farmers feel afraid and confused by recent changes
- Farmers need business and marketing assistance (training, infrastructure, marketing supports)

- Slaughtering and butchering is an ongoing challenge for small farmers and ranchers - abattoirs are expensive, often far away from the farm, and book up quickly
- Small parcels (10 acres) would help promote new entrants and keep more land productive
- Rewards for regenerative practices (e.g. soil conservation)
- Financial support for habitat conservation (current incentives are to make all land productive)
- Mapping of invasive species, GMO's and spraying (help for certified organic growers)
- Deliver a province-wide agricultural extension services program

Vancouver Fraser Port Authority

- The importance of protecting industrial land for growing trade, and recommendations based on protecting that land, not just agricultural

Canadian Federation of Independent Business

- Summary of CFIB survey data on agri-business in BC and recommendations based on this data
- Recommendations on tax burden, labour shortages, regulatory burdens, value added diversification and residential flexibility

BC Real Estate Association

- Bill 15 limiting private property rights
- Need for residential flexibility

Delta Farmers' Institute

- Support for curtailing lifestyle estates but current legislation is overly restrictive
- Suggestions around using bylaws instead of ALC applications

BC Cattlemen's Association

- Provide ranchers/farmers with protection and support to carry out agricultural activities
- There should be no further regulation regarding private property rights
- The province needs to manage with a goal of making agriculture more profitable
- Active farming operations must be allowed to diversify income (through a variety of means) if the productive capacity of the land is not diminished

WHAT COMES NEXT

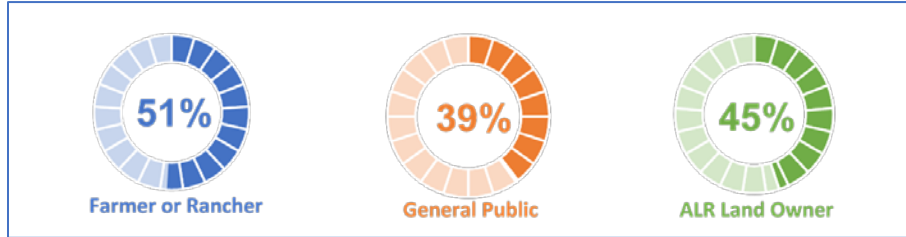
The Ministry understands the importance of being responsive to the needs of farming families and ensuring that the legislative and regulatory framework as well as ministry-led programming supports the needs of farmers, ranchers and farming families throughout B.C.'s diverse agricultural regions.

The Ministry is considering what was heard during the engagement process as it continues to develop policies to support a vital and resilient industry in British Columbia. The Ministry thanks all those that took the time to provide feedback in this process.

Appendix A – Online Survey Respondent Demographics

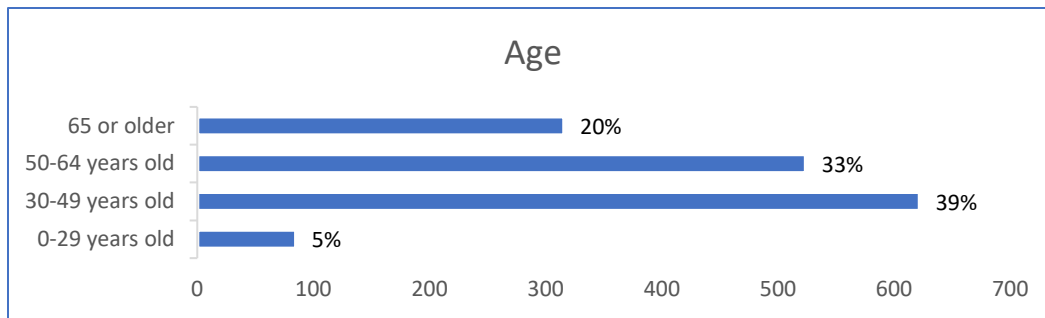
What Group Do You Identify With?

The most represented groups were farmers or ranchers (51%); ALR land owners (45%); and the general public (39% of respondents)¹.



What is your age range?

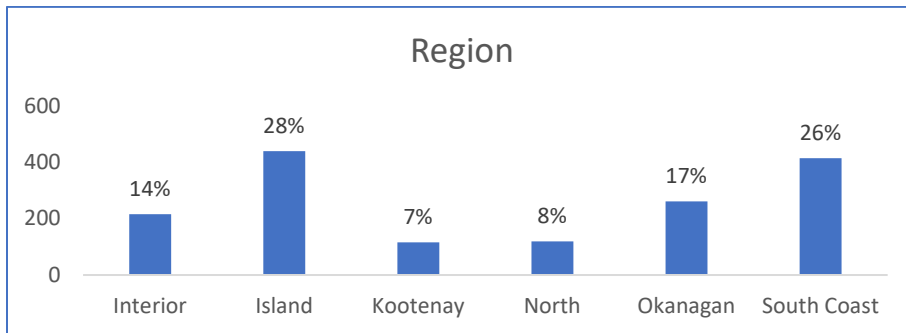
The majority (72%) of respondents were between 30 and 64 years of age, 20% were 65 years and above, and 5% were under the age of 30.



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In What ALR Region of BC Do You Live?

Submissions came from all six ALR regions in B.C. with the Island (28%) and South Coast (26%) being the most represented regions².

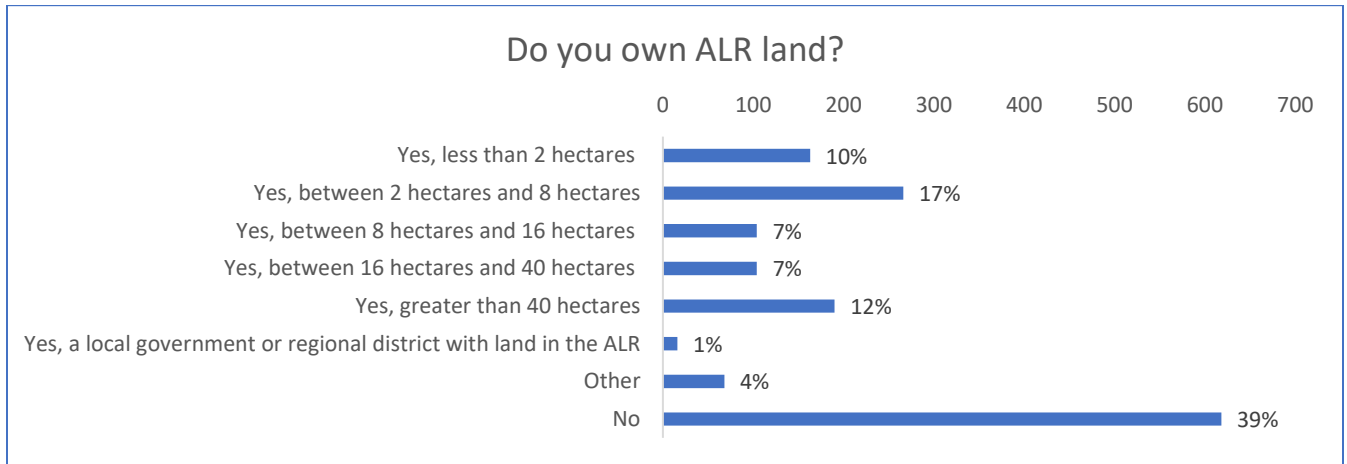


¹ Respondents were able to select multiple groups for which they identified with, therefore, percentages will not total 100%.

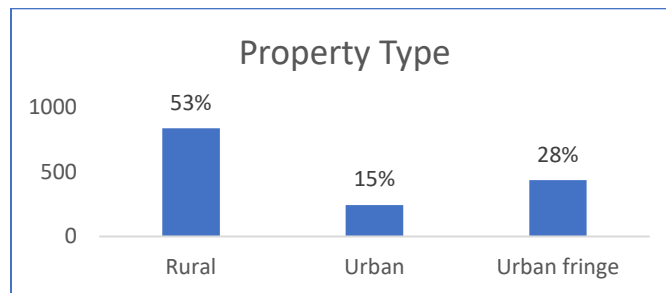
² Percentages total 99% because a small percentage of respondents (1%) selected "prefer not to answer."

Do you own ALR Land?

There was representation from small, medium and large ALR parcel land owners. For example, 10% of respondents owned less than 2 hectares, 17% owned between 2 and 8 hectares, 14% owned between 8 and 40 hectares, and 12% owned greater than 40 hectares³.

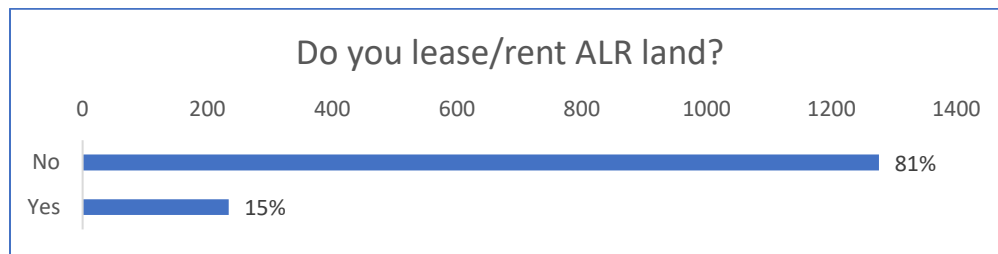


The majority (53%) of respondents own ALR land in a rural area, while 28% own in an urban-fringe area⁴.



Do you lease or rent land in the ALR?

Furthermore, a small percentage (15%) of respondents reported renting and or leasing land in the ALR⁵.



³ Percentages total 97% because a small amount (3%) of respondents selected “prefer not to answer.”

⁴ Percentages total 96% because a small amount (3%) of respondents selected “other” and 1% selected “prefer not to answer.”

⁵ Percentages total 96% because a small amount (2%) of respondents selected “prefer not to answer” and 2% did not answer this question.