



2024 Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) Workshop

Via Zoom (see details below)

Participant Agenda - Tuesday February 6, 2024

- 8:45am** **Zoom** online meeting – log on open for participants.
- 9:00am** **Welcome** - Ministry of Agriculture and Food
- 9:10am** **Opening Remarks** – Agricultural Land Commission (ALC)
- 9:20am** **Presentation 1 – BC Farm Industry Review Board (BCFIRB) Overview and Updates** - BCFIRB staff
- 10:05am** **Breakout Session – AAC Terms of Reference (TOR)**
Small group round table discussions to meet fellow AAC members and explore how TORs define a committee and impact decision making.
- 10:30am** **Break**
- 10:45pm** **Presentation 2 - ALR Overview and Permitted Uses in the ALR** – ALC staff presentation with Q + A
- 11:30pm** **Presentation 3 - Minister’s Bylaw Standards (MBS) Overview and Updates** – Ministry staff.
- 11:45pm** **Wrap-Up and Closing Remarks** – Ministry of Agriculture and Food
- 12:00pm** **Presentation 4 - AAC 101** (Optional – for new, or prospective members)
An overview of roles, responsibilities, legislation, and best practices.
- 12:30pm** **ADJOURN**



ZOOM DETAILS

Topic: 2024 Province-Wide AAC Workshop

Time: Feb 6, 2024 08:45 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://ca01web.zoom.us/j/64664395443?pwd=cEhqaDFzVWFHWWxBaGhaTk5aSmV2QT09>

Meeting ID: 646 6439 5443

Passcode: 772084

One tap mobile

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+16475580588,,64664395443#,,,,*772084# Canada

Dial by your location

• +1 647 374 4685 Canada

• +1 647 558 0588 Canada

• +1 778 907 2071 Canada

• +1 204 272 7920 Canada

• +1 438 809 7799 Canada

• +1 587 328 1099 Canada

Meeting ID: 646 6439 5443

Passcode: 772084

Find your local number: <https://ca01web.zoom.us/u/gdqWq03get>

2024 Province Wide AAC Workshop February 6, 2024

Summary of Proceedings

Welcome

Jeff Weightman, Acting Director of the Land Use and Geospatial Unit with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food (Ministry) greeted the group to start the Workshop. Jeff provided a territorial acknowledgement, spoke to his previous experience with Agricultural Advisory Committees (AACs), and hosted the Workshop for the morning.

Introductory Remarks – Ministry of Agriculture and Food (Ministry)

Arlene Anderson, Executive Director of the Corporate Policy and Priorities Branch with the Ministry, provided introductory remarks for everyone. She spoke to the approximately 80 local government AAC members and associated local government staff attending, and approximately 45 local governments represented. Arlene also mentioned this is the tenth AAC workshop which has taken place since 2003 and the second one provided online. She emphasized the important role that AACs play in supporting agriculture in their communities.

Introductory Remarks – Agricultural Land Commission (ALC)

Jennifer Dyson, Chair of the Agricultural Land Commission, also welcomed everyone on the call. She spoke to the value that AACs and their members bring to their communities across the province to support the agriculture sector. She spoke of her own experience working on her farm, the work the ALC does at the provincial level, and her role as the ALC Chair.

BC Farm Industry Review Board – Overview and Updates Presentation

Sara Thiesson, Senior Case Manager with BCFIRB, provided an overview of the work staff undertake with the Board including information on the formal process to review farm practices complaints as an administrative tribunal. (See attached presentation).

Breakout Session – AAC Terms of Reference (TOR)

Alison Fox, Land Use Agrologist with the Ministry, facilitated this breakout session for attendees to review the Ministry's model AAC TOR and compare with their own. The session was also an opportunity for participants to introduce themselves and discuss their own experiences working with AACs. Each of the 13 breakout rooms had about six attendees participating, with at least one Ministry or ALC staff in attendance.

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Summary of Proceedings

ALC – ALR Overview and Permitted Uses in the ALR Presentation

Mike Bandy, Regional Planner with the ALC, provided an informative overview of the ALC with a detailed summary of permitted uses in the ALR. (See attached presentation). Several questions from participants were asked.

Ministry of Agriculture and Food - MBS Overview and Update Presentation

Reed Bailey, Acting Team Lead for the Land Use Planning Team with the Ministry, provided an overview of the Minister’s Bylaw Standards (MBS) available for local governments to consider when updating their own bylaws. (See attached presentation). Reed spoke to some anticipated MBS updates and several questions were asked.

Wrap-Up and Closing Remarks

Jeff Weightman thanked everyone for attending. He also spoke to the potential for further engagement with local government Council and Boards and invited participants to reach out to the Ministry if they have any questions.

AAC 101 Presentation

Gregory Bartle, Land Use Planner with the Ministry, provided an optional summary presentation on AACs, including detailed information on associated legislation, roles and responsibilities, and best practices, for interested participants if they choose to remain on the call. (See attached presentation).

Adjournment

**2024 Province Wide AAC Workshop
February 6, 2024**

List of Attendees

1. Dave Murphy – qathet RD
2. Julia Dykstra – qathet RD
3. Brent Barclay - AF
4. Coralie Breen - RDN
5. Cherise Roberts - qathet RD
6. Thom Odell - AF
7. Jeff Nimmo - AF
8. Lilly Ford -Burnaby
9. Alix Mackay – SLRD
10. Randy Meyer – RDCK
11. Sadie Chezenko – RDCK
12. Dana Hawkins - RDCK
13. George Robinson - Lake Country
14. Carla Stewart - MVRD
15. Todd McKenzie – RDCO
16. Shaun O’Dea – RDCO
17. Aaron Godin - RDCO
18. Ali Garnett – Cowichan Valley RD
19. Adam Rieu - Maple Ridge
20. Jacquie Rasmussen, SLRD
21. Patrick Sorfleet - Sparwood
22. Chris Osborne – North Cowichan
23. Lavona Liggins - AF
24. Mike Bandy - ALC
25. Marcel Sache - Langley Township
26. Yuli Siao - Richmond
27. Conley Keyes - AF
28. Sadie Chezenko - RDCK
29. Jason Tran - Lake Country
30. Penny Cote - ACRD
31. Melisa Gun – Langley Township
32. Wallace Mah – Kent
33. Hayley Burns - Delta
34. Adriana Cameron - Grand Forks
35. Andrea Shaw - AF
36. Megan D’Arcy - RDBN
37. Amy Needham – ACRD
38. Karen Tabe - AF
39. Sarah Nicolls – Salmon Arm
40. Nicole Pressey - AF
41. Molley Gagne - BCFIRB
42. Alison Fox - AF
43. Lindsay Benbow - AF
44. William Shaw - AF
45. Megan Halstead - AF
46. Shaun O’Dea – RDCO
47. Dennis and Laura – RDNO
48. Harmanjit Dadhli - AF
49. Celeste Barlow – Kelowna
50. Duane Post - Kent
51. Sandra Follack – Lake Country
52. Dale Ross – Burns Lake
53. Kenna Jonkman - RDFFG
54. Randy Meyer – Creston
55. Claire Buchanan – ALC
56. Rushi Gadoya – Burnaby
57. Drew Bondar - AF
58. Clint Lambert – RDBN
59. Carie Liefke – Spallumcheen
60. Nicole Mak- ALC
61. Reed Bailey - AF
62. Michelle Baski – Pitt Meadows
63. Patricia Ross - Abbotsford
64. Mark Brownlie- North Saanich
65. Tom Boeve - RDNO
66. Jessica Stanley – RDN
67. Carrie Charron – Pemberton
68. John Greenall – TNRD
69. Colin Brown - Pemberton
70. Amanda Smith – Langley
Township
71. Valerie Miller - Delta
72. Steven De Sousa – Richmond
73. Claire Dewar – SLRD

**2024 Province Wide AAC Workshop
February 6, 2024**

List of Attendees

74. Shelly Donaldson – Metchosin
75. Andrea Gunnar - Spallumcheen
76. Jennifer Dyson - ALC
77. Irfane Fancey – North Saanich
78. David Grabavac – Lake Country
79. Mike Bose - Surrey
80. S Beeching – TNRD
81. Carrie Spencer – North Saanich
82. Chris Zabek - AF
83. Anton Schori – West Kelowna
84. Gregory Bartle - AF
85. Jeff Weightman - AF
86. Arlene Anderson - AF

Left at 9:55am:

1. Thom O'Dell - AF
2. Colin Brown - Pemberton
3. Molly Gagne - BCFIRB
4. Steven De Sousa - Richmond
5. Sara Thiesson - BCFIRB
6. Jeff Nimmo – AF left
7. Darcie - joined as a guest
8. Jessica Stanley - RDN left
9. Chelsey Andrews – AF left
10. Adam Rieu - Maple Ridge left
11. George Robinson - Lantzville left
12. Carla Stewart - MVRD

NOTE: Others may have joined later and/or left early and/or came back after leaving.



BC Farm Industry Review Board

And the Farm Practices Protection
(Right to Farm) Act (FPPA)

Sara Thiesson, Senior Case Manager

Martha Anslow, Executive Director



BCFIRB as an Independent Administrative Tribunal

- **Supervision Role** - of supply managed and regulated agricultural commodity boards and commissions in BC – ensuring sound marketing policy in the public interest
- Signatory to federal-provincial agreements
- **Quasi-Judicial Role** - hearing and making decisions on regulated marketing appeals, farm practices complaints, SPCA animal custody appeals

Tribunal Role



Appeals on decisions of commodity boards and commissions



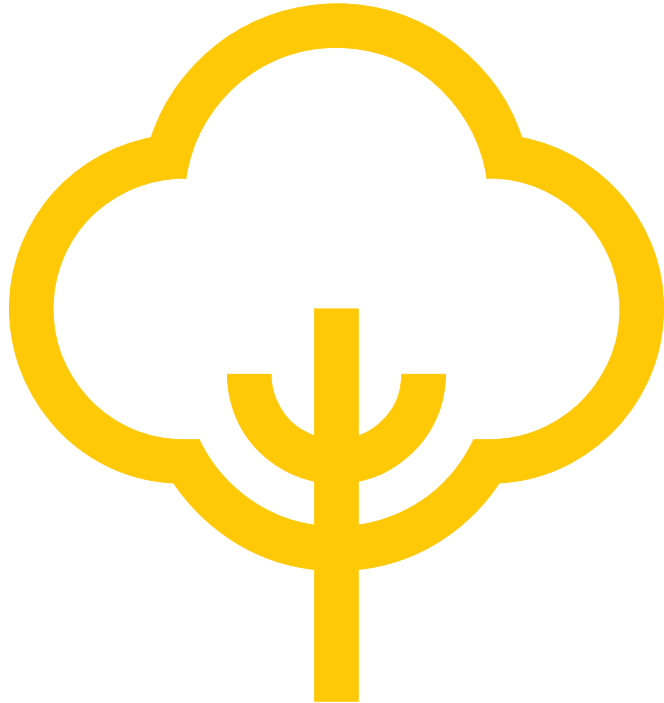
Complaints from persons aggrieved by odour, noise, dust or other disturbances arising from agriculture or aquaculture operations - **Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act**



Appeals of SPCA decisions (animal seizures)



BCFIRB manages about 40-70 cases on average per year – about 20-30% are complaints under the Farm Practices Protection Act



Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act - FPPA

- FPPA established in BC in 1996 (similar legislation in some other provinces)
- BCFIRB mandate:
 - Hears complaints from persons aggrieved by disturbances arising from farm operations conducted as part of a farm business
 - Studies on farm practices

Purpose of the FPPA



**BALANCE COMMUNITY
INTERESTS**



**PROTECTS FARMERS FROM
CERTAIN BYLAW
ENFORCEMENT, COURT
INJUNCTIONS AND
LAWSUITS RELATED TO
NUISANCE COMPLAINTS
(E.G., NOISE, DUST, ODOUR)
PROVIDED THEY MEET ALL
OF THE CRITERIA SET OUT
IN THE FPPA**



**PROVIDES NEIGHBOURS OF
A SPECIFIC FARM THE
RIGHT TO FILE A
COMPLAINT THROUGH
BCFIRB, ALONG WITH
FORMAL CONFLICT
RESOLUTION THROUGH
BCFIRB**



**BCFIRB HAS NO
JURISDICTION OVER ISSUES
REGARDING THE
ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH OR
POLLUTION**

Criteria for FPPA Protections to apply

Farm operation conducted as part of a farm business

Farm operation is conducted in accordance with 'normal farm practices'

Operating on agricultural land as defined in the Act (e.g., ALR, local government designation, licensed for aquaculture, etc)

Farm practice is not in contravention of health or environmental legislation or any land use regulation

BCFIRB Farm Practice Complaint Process

- BCFIRB's role is to determine whether farm is following "normal farm practice."
- Complaints are filed accompanied by a \$100 filing fee
- A call is held with the parties to confirm and discuss the issues on the complaint
 - Information on the complaint process is provided to the parties including the engagement of a Knowledgeable Person (KP) and the settlement process

Knowledgeable Person (KP)

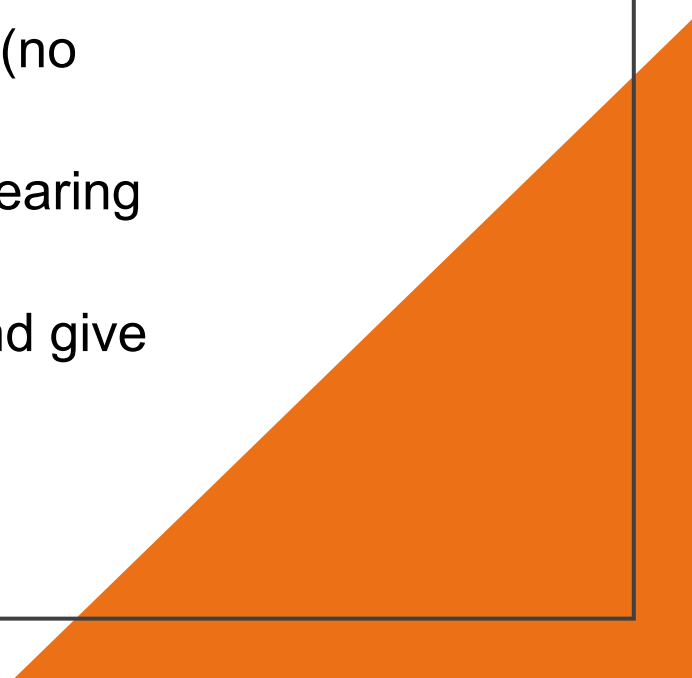


A KP IS A PERSON THAT CAN BE RETAINED BY BCFIRB TO PROVIDE EXPERT KNOWLEDGE TO SUPPORT THE COMPLAINT PROCESS BY COMPLETING A SITE VISIT/ ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPERTIES AND PREPARING A WRITTEN REPORT

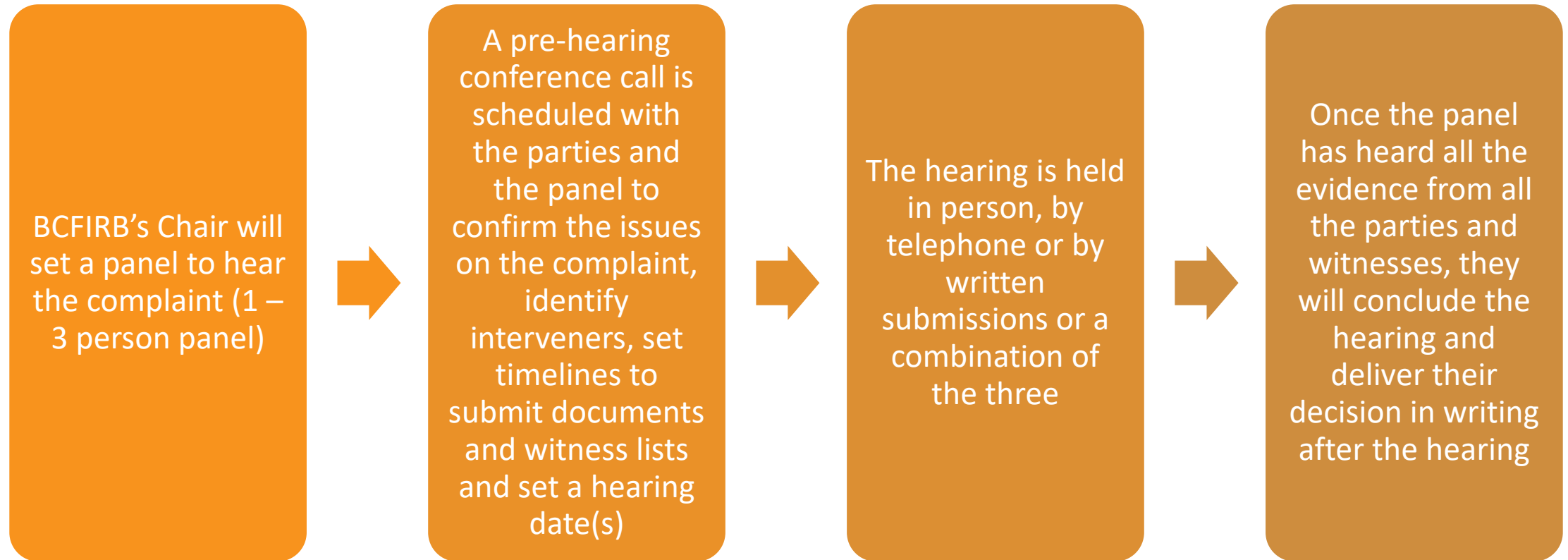


THE REPORT CAN ASSIST A BCFIRB PANEL TO MAKE A DETERMINATION OF “NORMAL FARM PRACTICE” AS PART OF A HEARING

KP Process cont.

- If both parties agree to engage in settlement discussions, BCFIRB will facilitate the process
 - If the parties reach an agreement, the complaint is withdrawn (no determination of normal farm practice is made)
 - If settlement is not successful, parties proceed to the formal hearing process for a decision by a BCFIRB panel
 - The KP will attend the hearing as BCFIRB's expert witness and give evidence to the hearing panel
- 
- A large orange triangle is positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide, pointing towards the top right.

Complaint Process – Formal Hearing



Dispute Resolution



BCFIRB promotes, where suitable, early dispute resolution through mediation, facilitation or other processes – **staff try and resolve as many complaints as possible before they proceed to hearing**

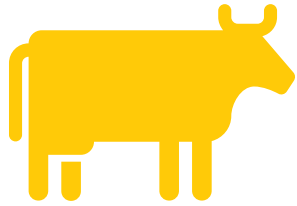


Encourages farmers and their neighbors to work together to resolve disputes



Can require parties to participate in a mandatory facilitated settlement

BCFIRB Decisions



After a hearing process, BCFIRB will either

Dismiss the complaint if the farm operation is determined to be following normal farm practices

Order the farmer to stop or change their practices if the farm operation is deemed not to be following normal farm practices



BCFIRB decisions may be appealed to the BC Supreme Court

Appeals of BCFIRB Decisions

60 days to appeal a BCFIRB farm practices complaint decision to the BC Supreme Court

A Notice of Appeal cannot simply challenge a BCFIRB decision as being wrong -- it must allege that BCFIRB made an error on a question of law or jurisdiction

Enforcement of FPPA Decisions

- The [Enforcement and Farm Practices Factsheet](#) outlines how FPPA decisions are enforced.
- If something is not a “normal farm practice”, local governments may enforce its bylaws (e.g., noise or nuisance bylaws) and the farm can be subject to lawsuits or injunctions.
- A BCFIRB order can be filed with the Supreme Court and if a farmer continues to use the practice that BCFIRB ordered them to modify or stop, they can be found in contempt of court – fine or prison.

Agricultural Land Reserve & Commission Overview

Provincial AAC Workshop – February 6, 2024

We gratefully acknowledge

The ALC gratefully and respectfully acknowledges our work spans across the ancestral territories of 204 First Nations.

We recognize that the historic relationship between Indigenous peoples and the land continues today, and respect the diverse teachings, traditions and practices within these territories.

We are joining you today from the ancestral territory of the Coast Salish peoples including of the x^wməθk^wəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish) and Səlílwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.



Outline



- 1) ALR and ALC Overview
- 2) Legislative Framework
- 3) Permitted Uses in the ALR
- 4) Application Process

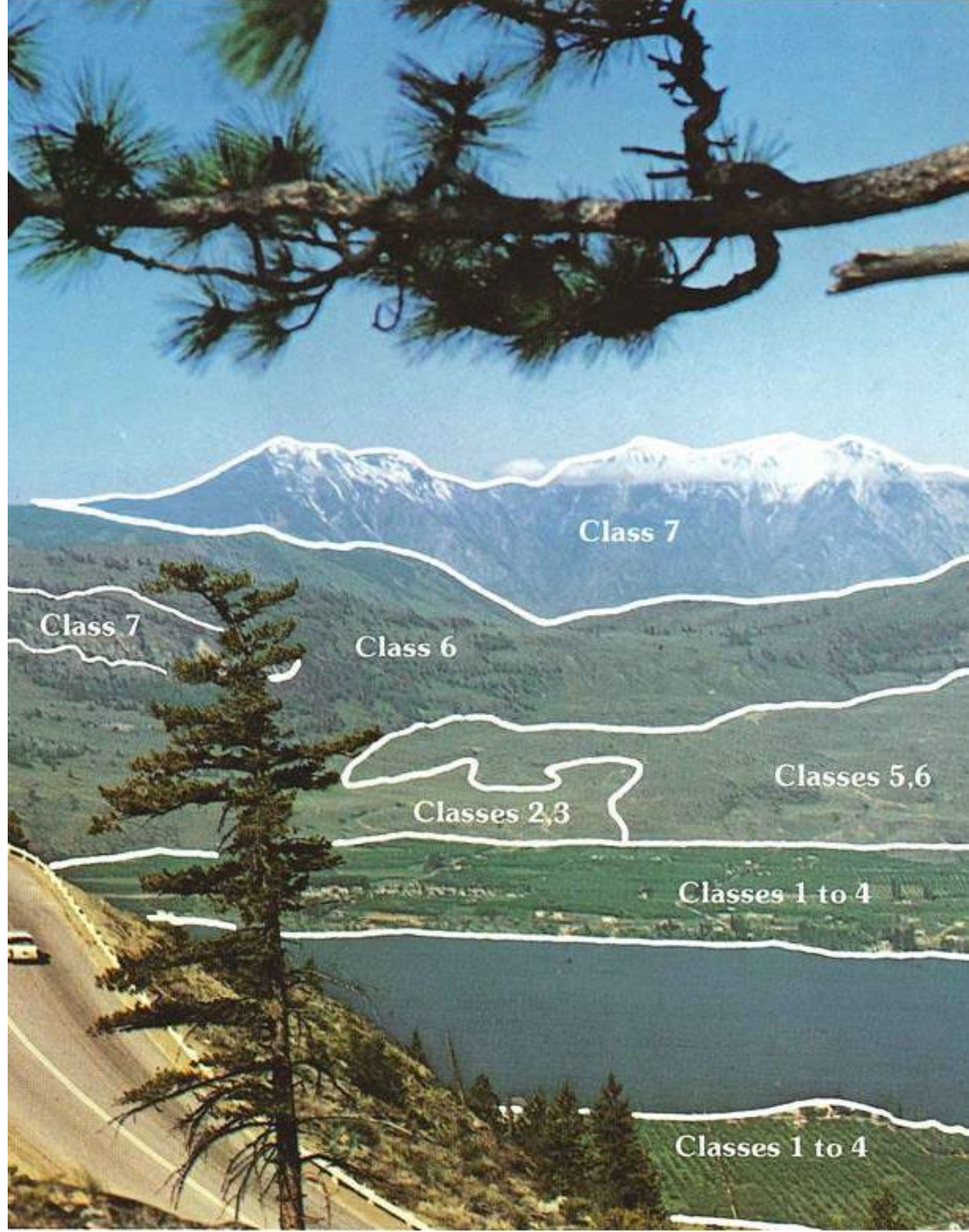
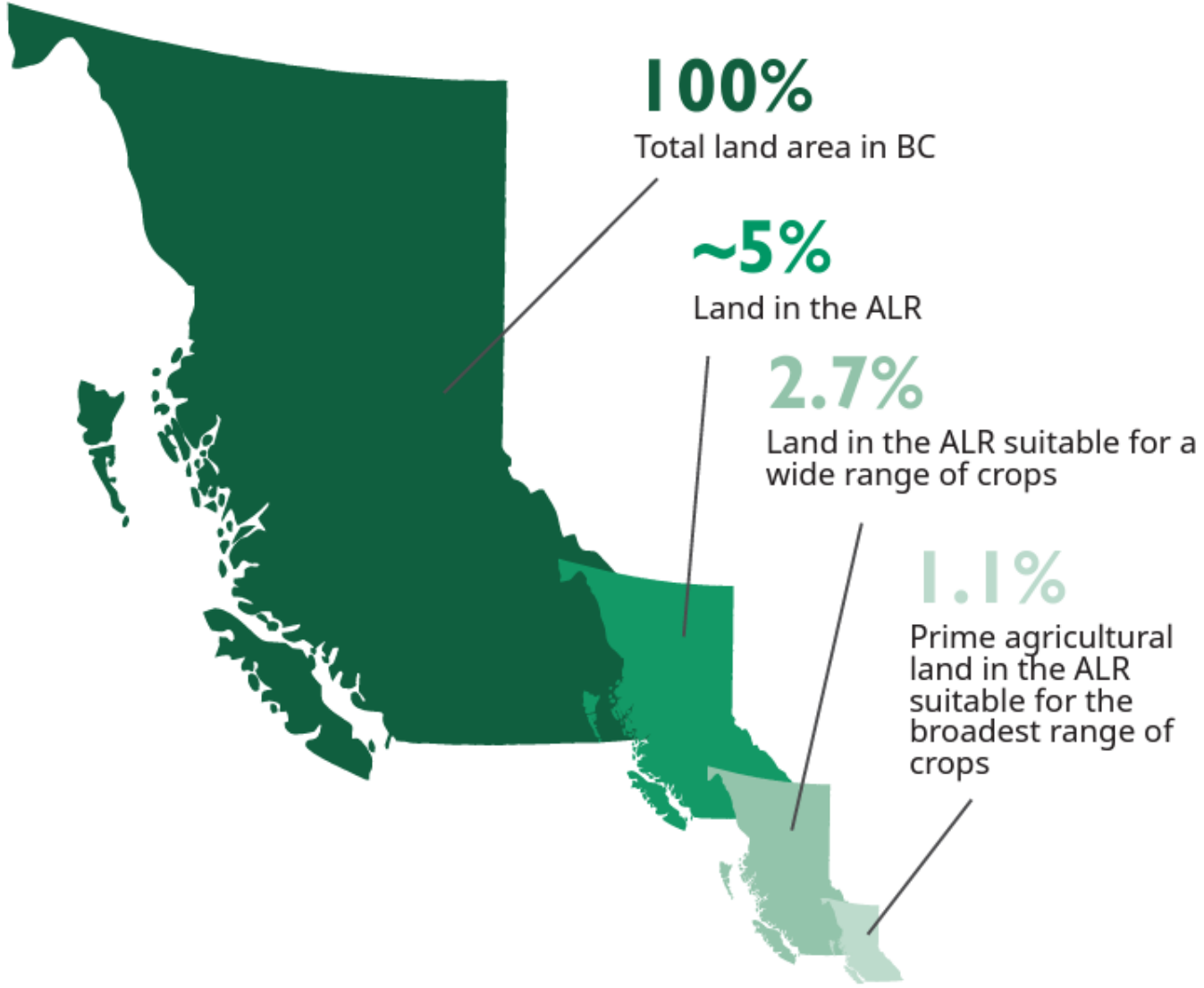
An aerial photograph of a combine harvester working in a field. The field is divided into two main sections: the left side has rows of blue crops, and the right side has rows of yellow crops. The harvester is positioned in the center, moving from the blue section towards the yellow section. The harvester's grain tank is visible, filled with yellow grain. The overall scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

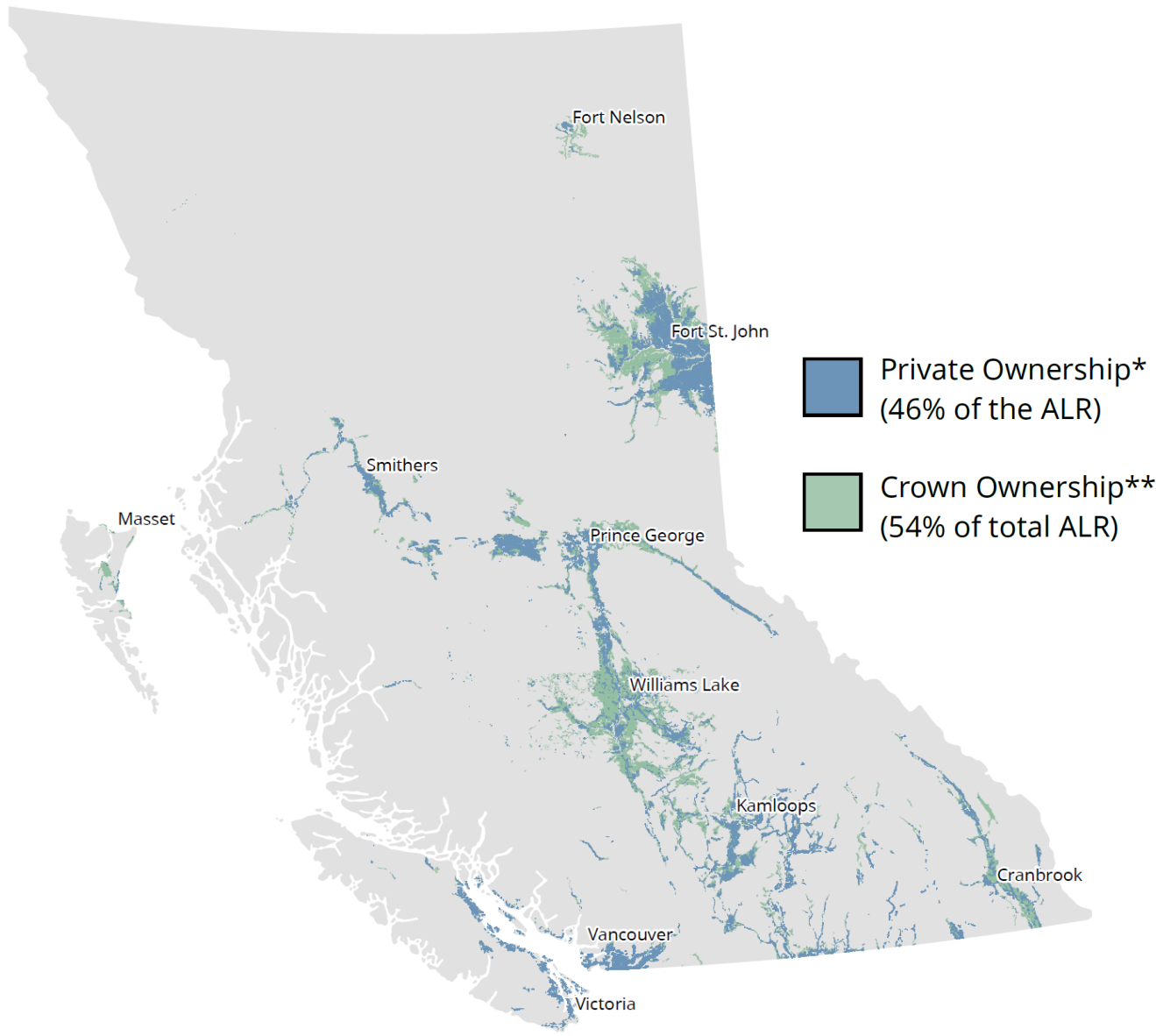
ALR and ALC Overview

Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR)

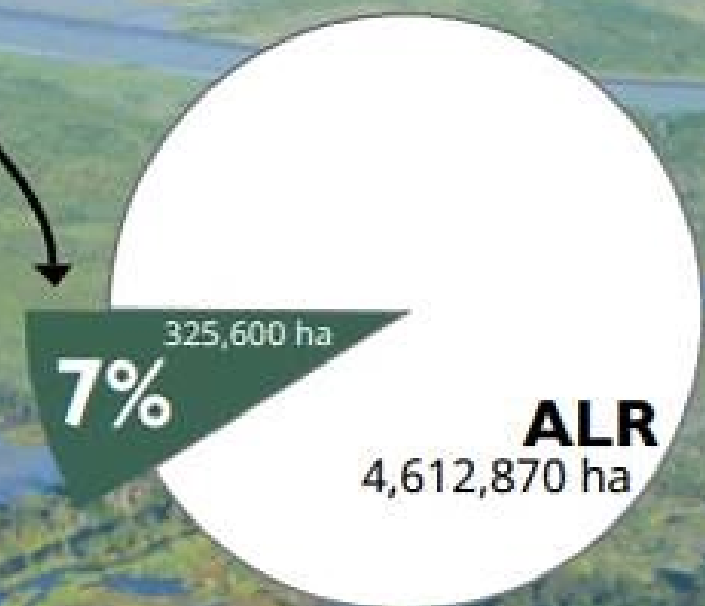
- A provincial land use zone designated under the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* where:
 - Agriculture is recognized as priority use
 - Farming is encouraged
 - Non-agricultural uses are regulated
- Established based on biophysical characteristics and capability to support agriculture
- Represents ~5% of province's land base



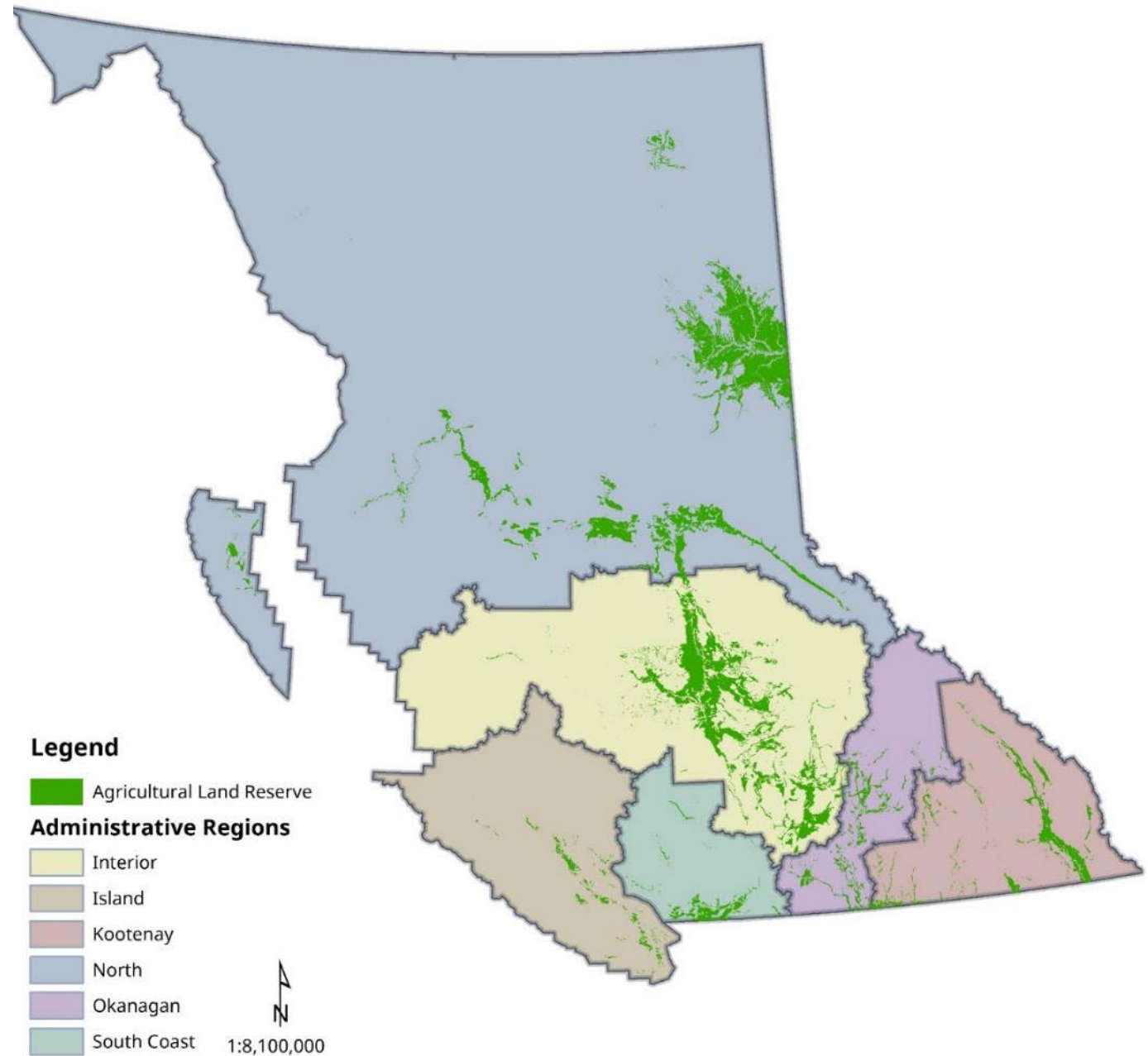
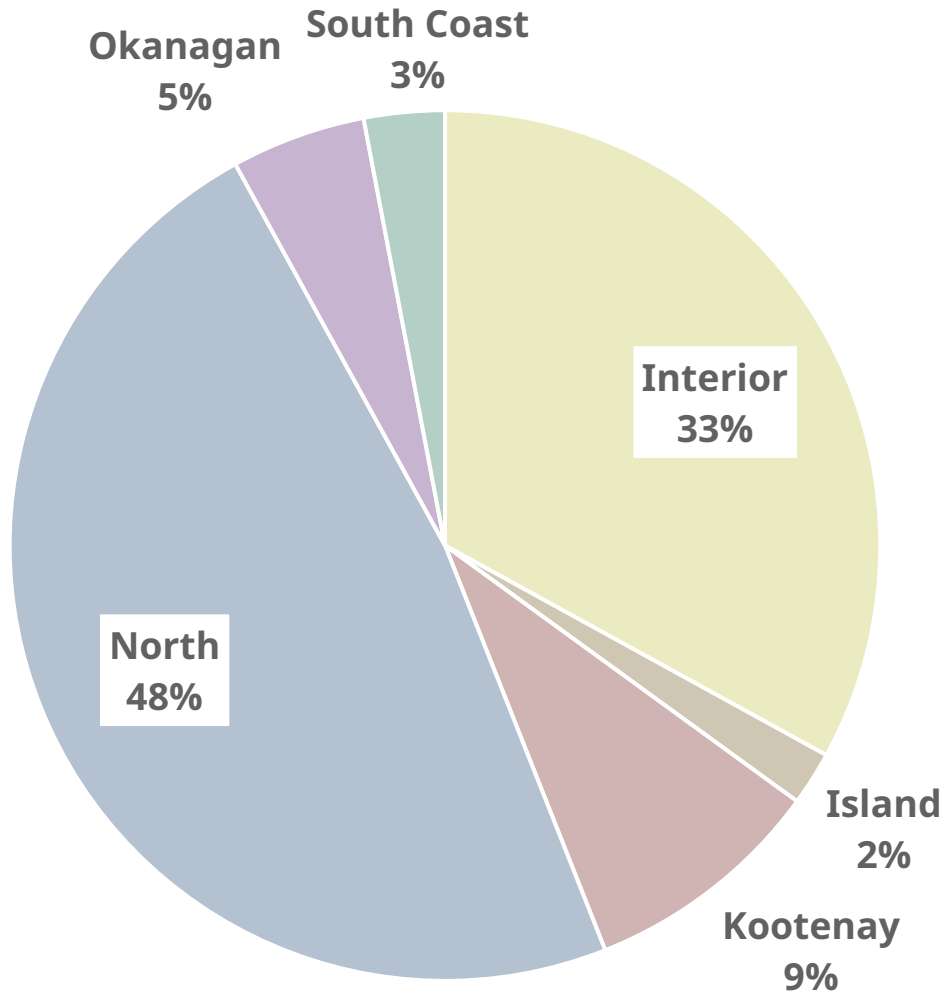




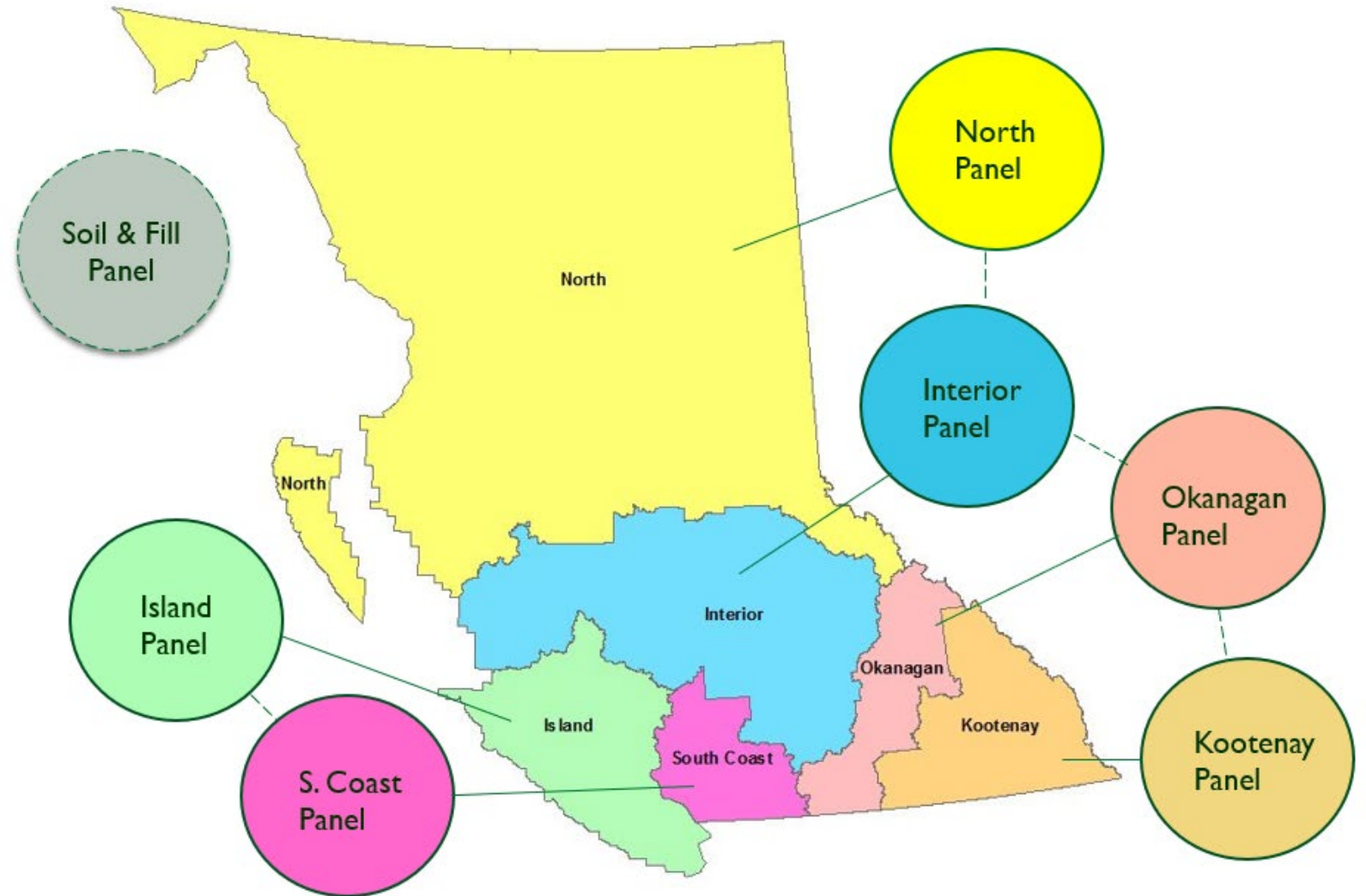
Estimates suggest ~ 7% of the ALR is not available for agriculture due to water bodies and infrastructure.



ALR Administrative Regions



Agricultural Land Commission (ALC)



ALC Purposes and Priorities

Agricultural Land Commission Act Section 6

- **Purpose of the Commission:**
 - Preserve the ALR
 - Encourage farming with other communities of interest
 - Encourage local governments, First Nations, the government... to enable and accommodate farm use within the ALR
- **Priority of the Commission:**
 - Protect and enhance the size, integrity, and continuity of the ALR
 - Use of the ALR for farm use





Legislative Framework

Legislative Framework

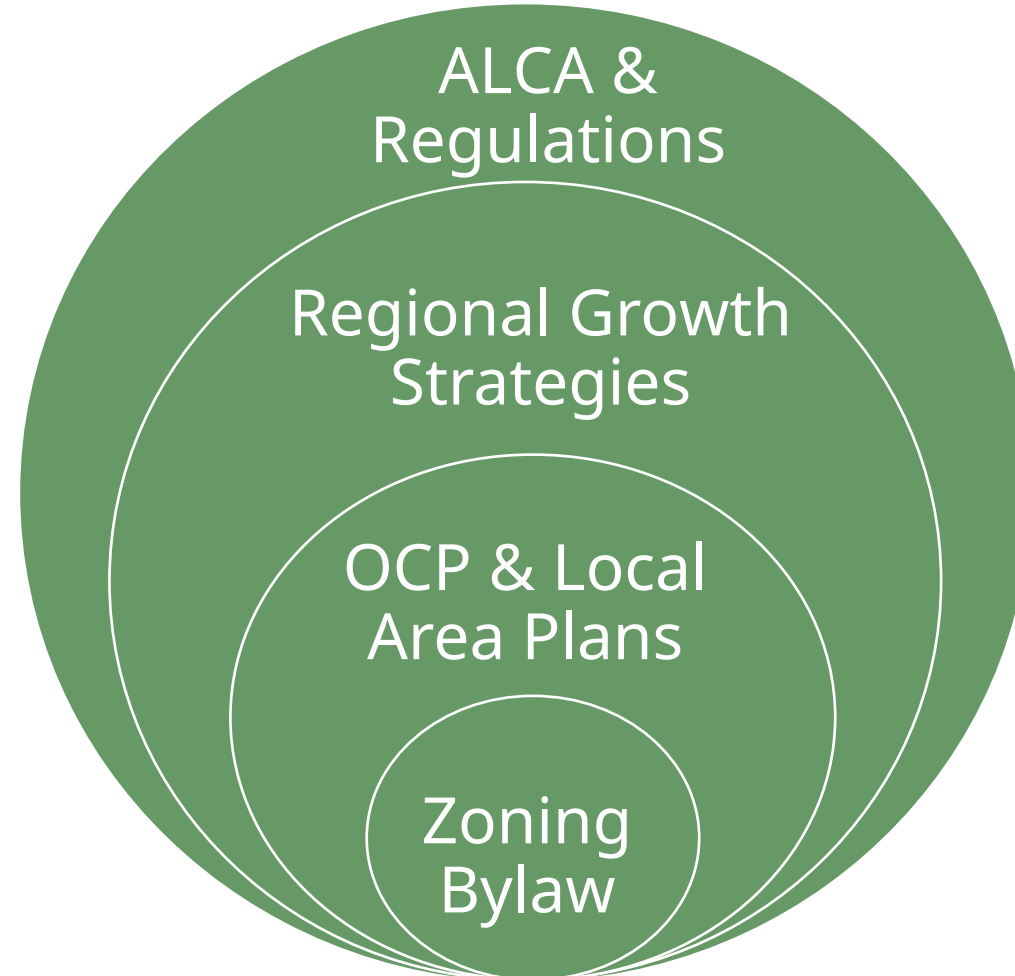
Agricultural Land Commission Act

***Agricultural Land
Reserve General
Regulation***

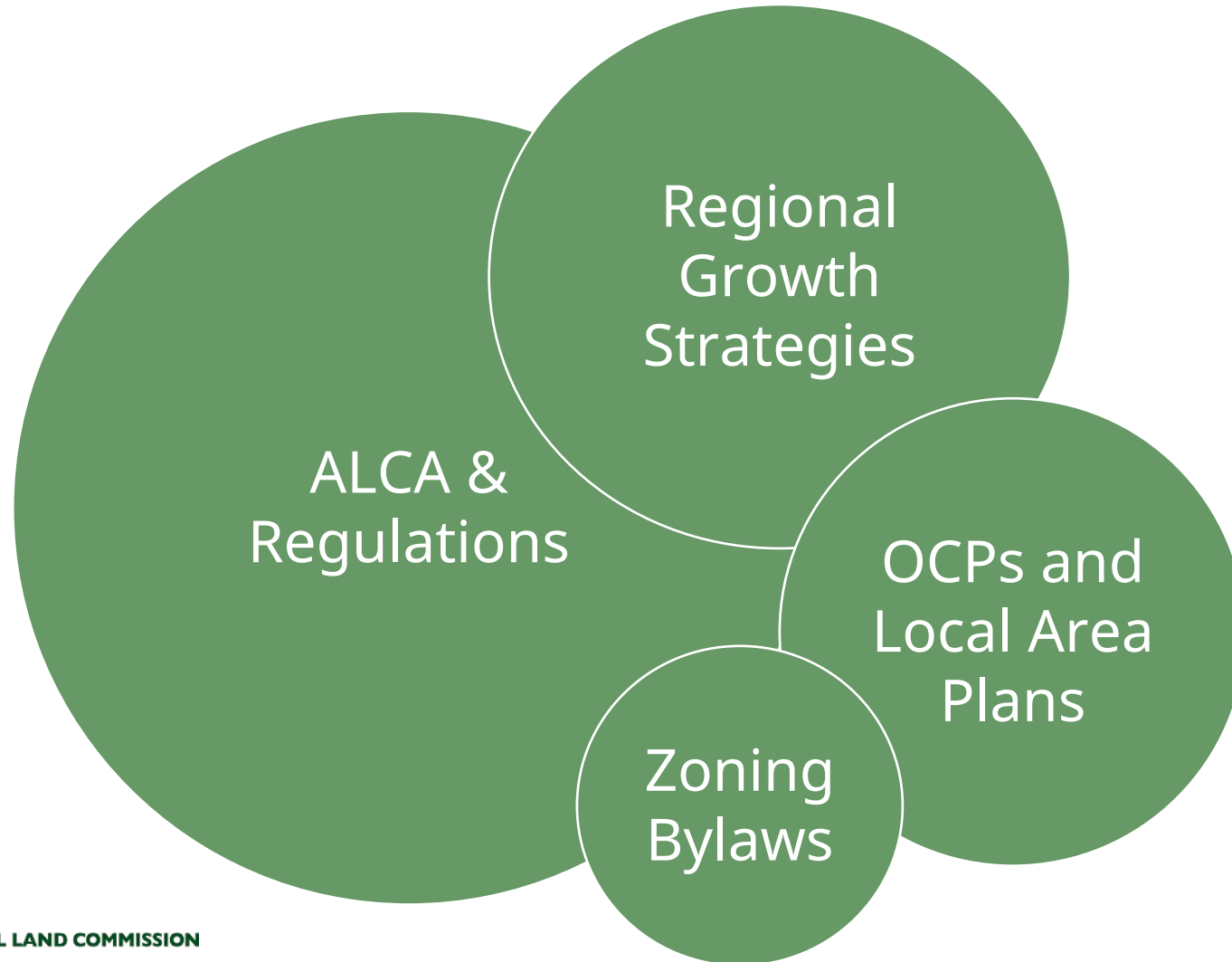
***Agricultural Land
Reserve Use
Regulation***

***Agricultural Land
Reserve Policies and
Information Bulletin***

Legislative Framework: The Goal



Legislative Framework: The Reality



Local Government Role

- **Local governments play an essential role in agricultural land planning and preservation:**
 - Developing bylaws to protect ALR land, enable farm use, and regulate other land uses
 - Issuing permits for development consistent with the ALCA
 - Initial review of ALC applications
 - Collaborative compliance and enforcement



An aerial photograph of a combine harvester working in a field. The field is divided into two main sections: the left side is covered in blue plastic mulch with rows of young green plants, and the right side is a field of mature, golden-brown crops. The harvester is positioned in the center, moving from the right towards the left, with its grain chute visible. The text "Permitted Uses in the ALR" is overlaid in large white font across the center of the image.

Permitted Uses in the ALR

Permitted Farm and Non-Farm Uses



Farm retail sales



Farm product processing



Cannabis production



Alcohol production facilities



Agri-tourism activities



Forestry



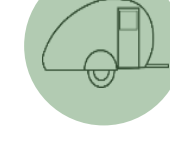
Parks and similar areas



Gathering for an event



Home-based business



Agri-tourism Accommodation

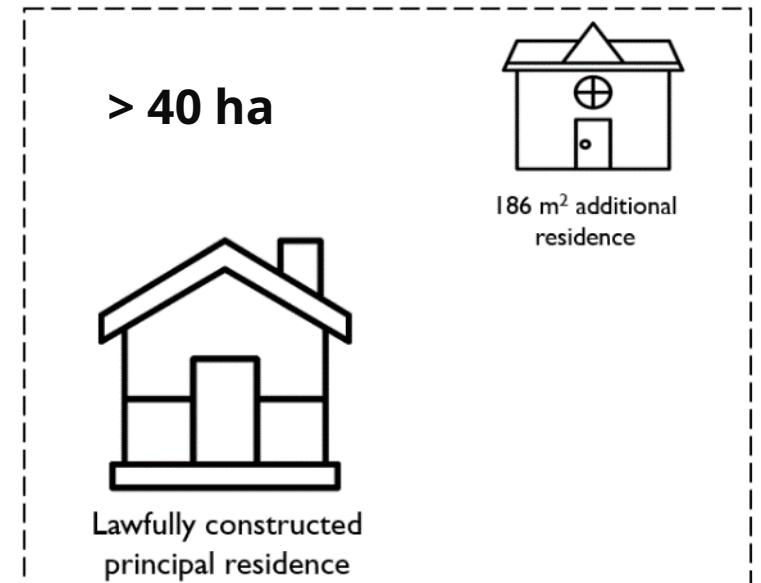
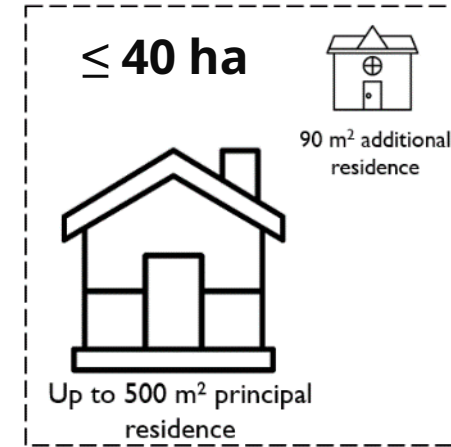
Residential Uses

- Since 2019, principal residence (up to 500 m²) with secondary suite
- 'Residential flexibility' introduced in 2021
 - allows detached additional residence (90/186 m²)
 - does not specify occupancy
- Local governments able to further regulate or prohibit based on community interests
- Provincial Housing Legislation introduced 2023 – ALCA prevails



Residential Uses

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Additional Housing for Farm Use

- Non-adhering residential use (“NARU”) application
- Consideration given to agricultural necessity
- [ALC Policy L-26](#)
 - establishes guidelines for decision-making
 - criteria for streamlined approval for temporary farm worker housing




NARU Sub-Type (2022/23)	Total	Approved	Refused
Additional Residence	56	37	19
Principal Residence >500 m ²	12	7	5

Soil & Fill Considerations

- All placement of fill or removal of soil on ALR land requires authorization unless permitted by regulation
- Up to 1,000 m² fill placement/soil removal footprint for principal residence and farm structures permitted
- Additional fill area requires submission of a Notice of Intent (or Soil Use application)
- "Fill" means any material brought onto agricultural land

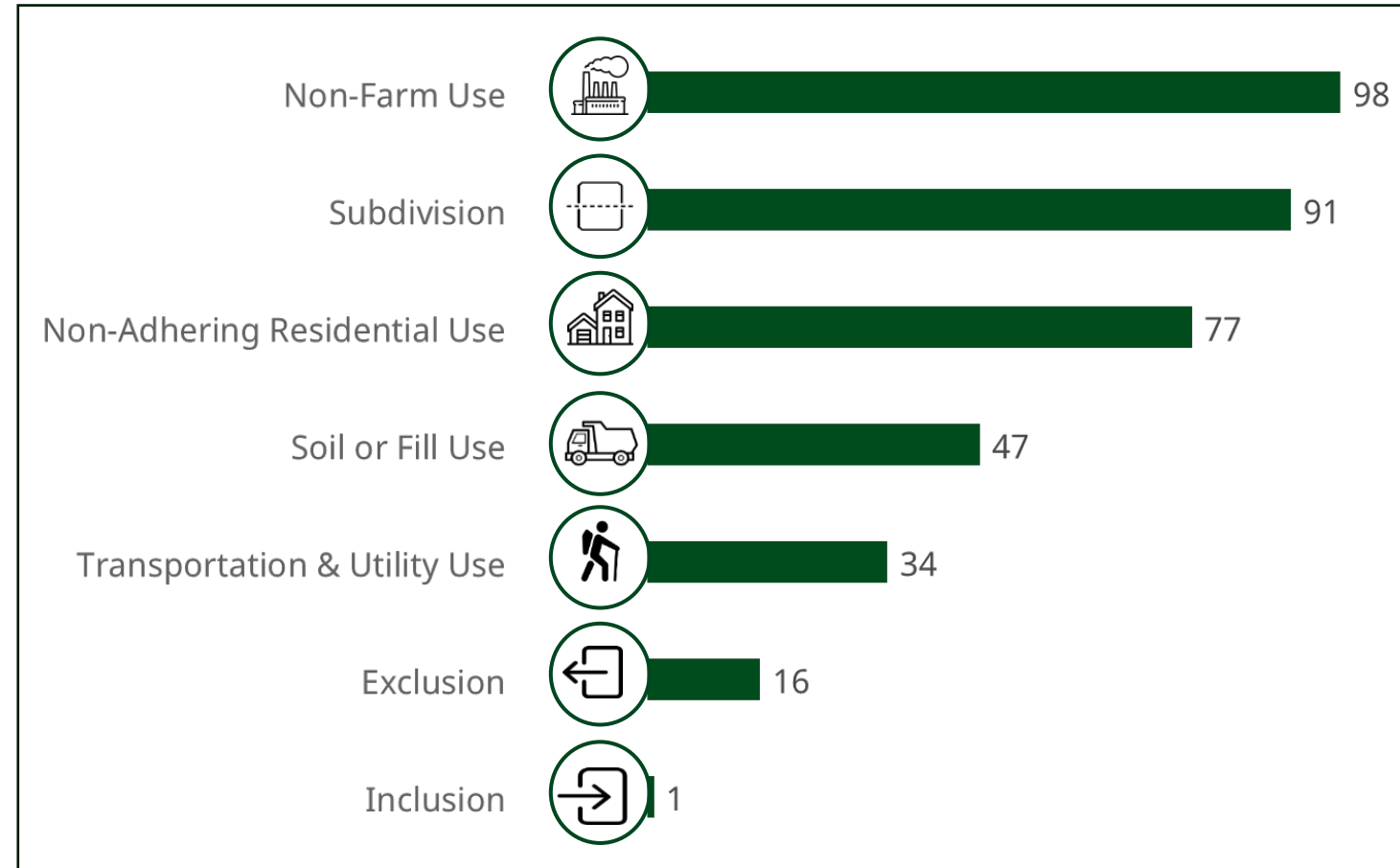


An aerial photograph showing a green tractor with a yellow hopper moving through a field. The field is divided into two sections: the left side is covered in blue plastic mulch, and the right side is a dark, tilled soil. The tractor is positioned in the center, moving from left to right, and is applying a substance from the hopper to the soil. The text "ALC Application Process" is overlaid in large white letters across the center of the image.

ALC Application Process

ALC Applications

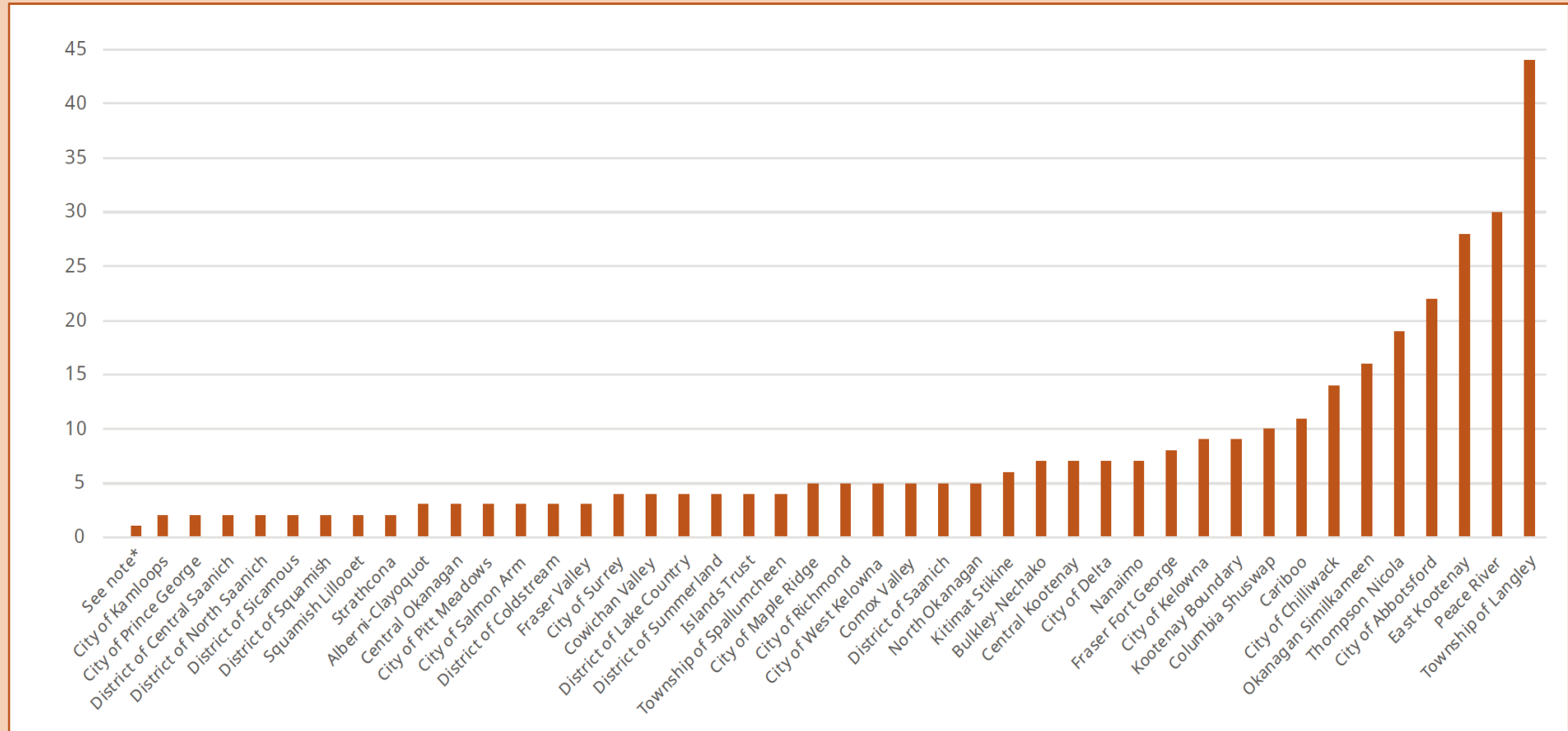
- ALC approval is required to:
 - Conduct a use not permitted in the ALC Act or ALR regulations
 - Conduct a use that doesn't comply with the thresholds permitted in the ALC Act or ALR regulations
 - Exclude land, include land, or subdivide land in the ALR



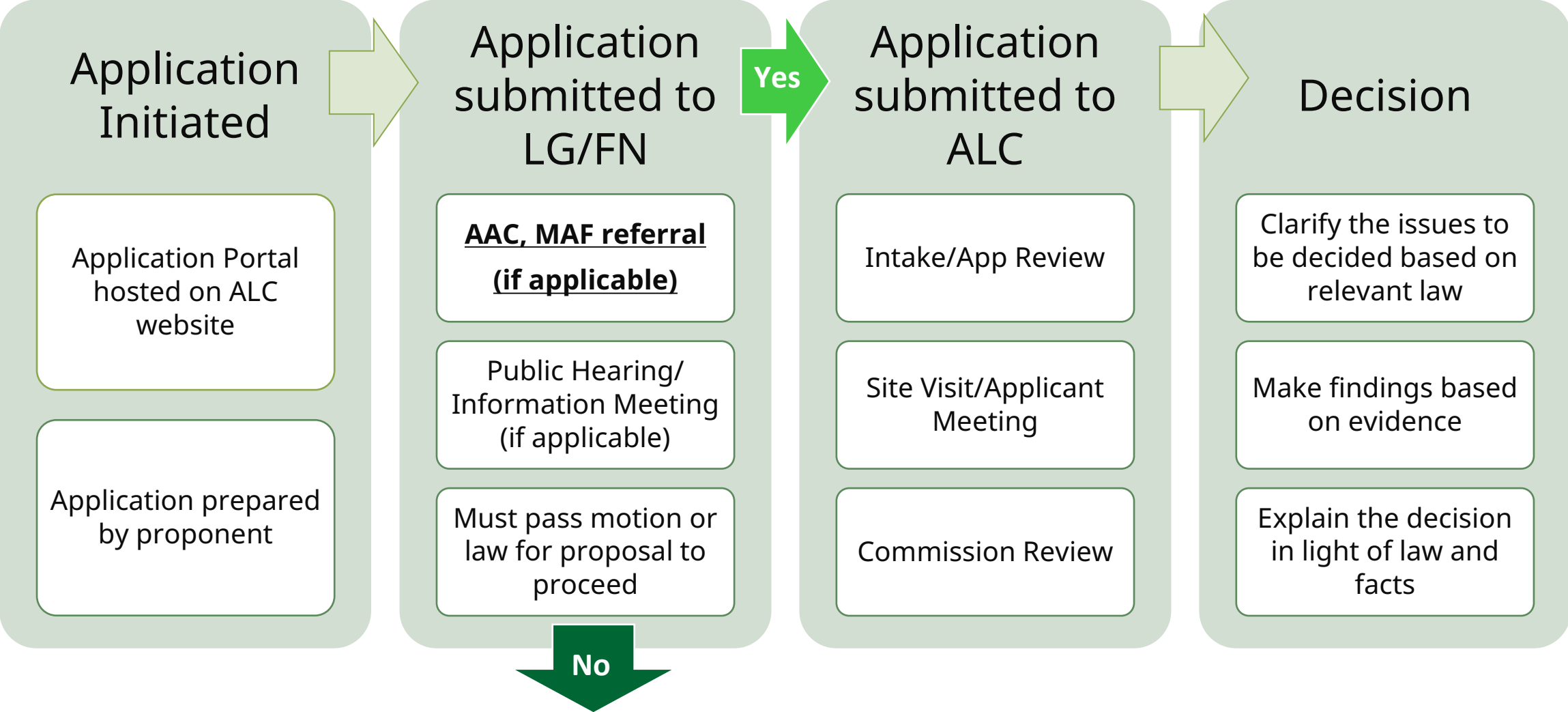
ALC Applications 2022/23

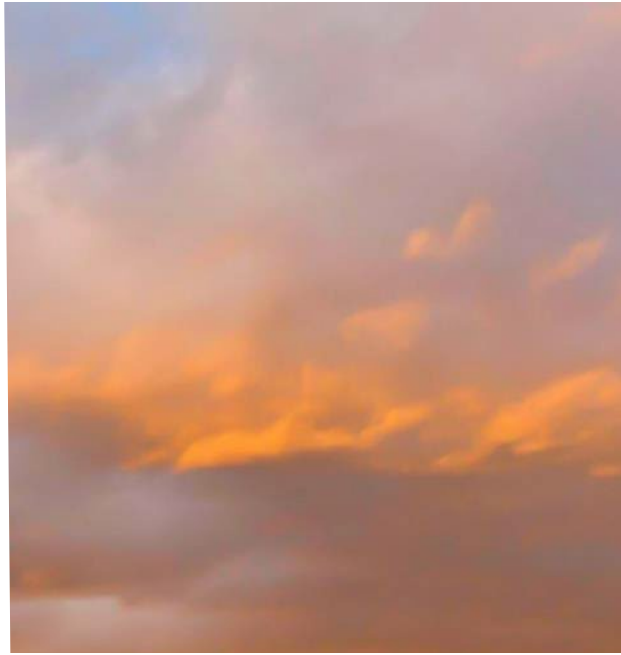
NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT (2022/2023)

* City of Cranbrook, City of Nanaimo, City of Penticton, City of Powell River, City of Vernon, District of Hope, District of Invermere, District of Metchosis, District of Mission, District of New Hazelton, District of North Cowichan, District of Peachland, District of Sooke, qathet, Sunshine Coast, Town of Ladysmith, Town of Lake Cowichan, Town of Oliver, Town of Osoyoo, Tsawwassen First Nations, Village of Keremeos, Village of Radium Hot Springs.



Application Process





Resources

- **ALC Legislation, Policies, Information Bulletins, etc.**
 - <https://www.alc.gov.bc.ca/resources/>
- **ALC Regional Planners**
 - Email: ALC.Referrals@gov.bc.ca



Thank you

Website: www.alc.gov.bc.ca

What are Minister's Bylaw Standards?

Agricultural Advisory Committee Workshop
February 6, 2024



Ministry of
Agriculture
and Food





What We're Covering

- ▶ Why support the agricultural sector?
- ▶ What are Minister's Bylaw Standards (MBS)?;
- ▶ Why are they important?;
- ▶ Two current MBS projects; and
- ▶ How 'Right to Farm' regulated local governments are impacted

So, why Support the Agriculture Sector?

- ▶ Agriculture is a significant contributor to BC's economy
 - ▶ BC Farm Cash Receipts increased to \$4.69 B in 2022 from \$3.96 B in 2020
- ▶ Agriculture supports B.C. jobs
 - ▶ In 2020, 30,000 people employed in primary agriculture
 - ▶ By comparison, Forestry and Logging employed 17,000
- ▶ Food security is more important than ever
 - ▶ Global food crisis is only getting worse due to many factors – changing climate, global conflicts, etc...



What are Minister's Bylaw Standards (MBS)?

- ▶ Authority to develop standards for local governments when developing bylaws impacting agriculture
- ▶ 1995 Bill 22 'Right to Farm' suite of provincial legislation:
 - ▶ *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act (FPPA)*;
 - ▶ Farm Practices Board (now BCFIRB);
 - ▶ *Municipal Act* amendments (now *Local Government Act*); and
 - ▶ *Land Titles Act* amendments.



Why are the MBS Important?

▶ As described in the Ministry's [Guide to Bylaw Development in Farming Areas](#) publication:

- ▶ “Local government plans and bylaws have a critical role to play...”
- ▶ “It is important that we create a stable environment for the farming community...”
- ▶ “Local governments are encouraged to adopt these standards...”





Minister's Bylaw Standards - the Details

- ▶ Includes 11 themes/topics established over the years since 1996
 - ▶ Zoning Designations, Minimum Lot Sizes, Temporary Farm Worker Housing, Setbacks, etc.
- ▶ Comprehensive consultation with the agriculture sector and local governments

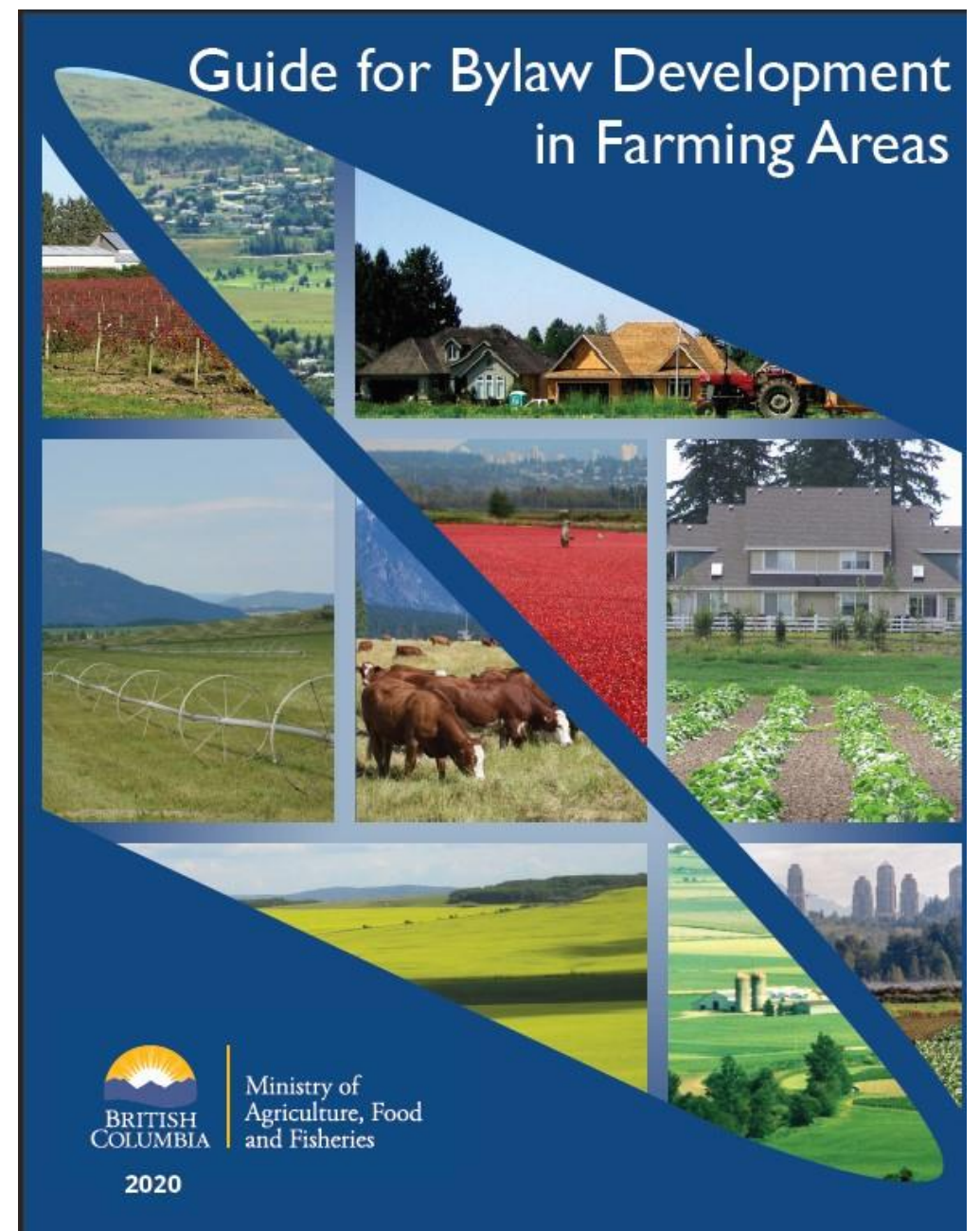
An aerial photograph of a rural landscape. A paved road runs diagonally from the top left towards the bottom right. To the left of the road is a dense line of green trees. To the right of the road are large, rectangular green agricultural fields. The bottom left corner of the image shows a field of yellow flowers. The overall scene is bright and sunny, with shadows cast by the trees and fields.

Minister's Bylaw Standards - the Details

- ▶ An attempt to strike a balance across the province that meets the needs of all stakeholders
- ▶ Designed for local government bylaws affecting *farming areas*...
- ▶ **Questions for consideration:** Which MBS have been adopted by your local government? Which ones have not?

Minister's Bylaw Standards - Updates

- ▶ 1. Cannabis Production in the ALR **NEW!**
- ▶ 2. Temporary Farm Worker Housing in the ALR update
- ▶ Each one requires Minister's approval
- ▶ Once complete, they will be published in an updated version of the Ministry's Guide for Bylaw Development in Farming Areas.



'Right to Farm' (RTF) Regulated Local Governments

- ▶ Carrot and a stick
- ▶ Three 'Farm Bylaw Standards' have been developed for RTF regulated local govts:
 - ▶ Mushroom farms and On-farm Composting;
 - ▶ Audible Bird Scare Devices; and
 - ▶ Edge Planning.
- ▶ There are four unique RTF regulated local governments in BC:
 - ▶ Township of Langley;
 - ▶ City of Delta;
 - ▶ City of Kelowna; and
 - ▶ City of Abbotsford.



That's it!

Thank you





Ministry of
Agriculture
and Food

Agricultural Advisory Committees- Roles and Responsibilities

Province Wide AAC Workshop

February 6, 2024

Prepared by: Land Use and Geospatial Unit staff

Agenda

1. What is an AAC?

- What do AACs do?
- AAC Terms of Reference
- Best Practices & Farm Community Links

2. AACs Across B.C.

3. Starting a new AAC

- Select vs Standing Committees
- AACs vs APCs
- Composition
- Open Meetings
- Mutual Respect

4. Final Thoughts, Questions





How it starts

- ▶ Appointed by Council or Regional Board
- ▶ Operates under Council or Board's Terms of Reference (TOR)
- ▶ Advisory, not decision making
- ▶ Day-to-Day & Broader Issues



The Work

- ▶ **Day-to-day (Reactive) roles**
 - ▶ Zoning Amendments & ALR applications
 - ▶ Comment on urban edge development
- ▶ **Long range (Proactive) roles**
 - ▶ Developing agri-tourism policy
 - ▶ Create awareness (e.g. farm tours)
 - ▶ Agricultural Area Planning
 - ▶ Study impact of recreation on agriculture

Terms of Reference

- ▶ ToR should be reviewed on regular basis and updated from time to time
- ▶ May include:
 - ▶ Purpose of the AAC
 - ▶ Membership
 - ▶ Meeting Procedures
- ▶ The Ministry's website includes a model AAC Terms of Reference

MODEL TERMS OF REFERENCE

Role or Purpose

➤ The purpose of the Agricultural Advisory Committee is to advise the (regional district / municipality) on agricultural issues within the (region / community) including:

(Choose and add other items as appropriate)

- applications initiated under the Agricultural Land Commission Act (ALCA) and Soil Conservation Act (SCA)
- applications to amend official community plans and bylaws
- assisting with comprehensive reviews or development of:
 - bylaws;
 - official community plans;
 - agricultural area plans
 - farm 'edge' policies
 - park and recreation plans; and
 - transportation plans;
- major development proposals with potential impact on agriculture;
- irrigation, drainage and other water management issues; and
- effectiveness of noxious insect and weed control regulations and programmes.

➤ In the review of ALCA and SCA applications and bylaw amendments, the Committee shall comment on the following:

- the effect of the proposal on the agricultural potential of the subject property;
- the effect of the proposal on adjacent ALR properties and surrounding agricultural production;
- the effect of the proposal on water resources and transportation issues;
- a rating of the priority or impact of the application on the maintenance of the ALR;
- where appropriate, possible alternatives to the proposal; and
- the identification of issues relating to the protection of the ALR lands specific to the application, including the use of appropriate buffering techniques aimed at enhancing land use compatibility.

(Additional suggested roles of the Committee)

➤ The Agricultural Advisory Committee may also make recommendations on:

- raising awareness of agriculture;
- enhancing an understanding of agriculture's role in the local and /or regional economy;
- addressing competition for the agricultural land base;
- examining legislation to identify improvements to support agriculture;
- improving opportunities for joint funding of drainage and irrigation works;
- reporting on the impacts of park and recreation proposals on agriculture; and
- identifying and effecting change regarding the impact of transportation and utility corridors on agriculture.

AGRICULTURAL
ADVISORY
COMMITTEES



A link to your farm
community



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries



Best Practices

- ▶ Meeting times reflecting farming schedules
- ▶ Clear conflict of interest guidelines
- ▶ Frequent contact between AAC & staff liaison (monthly emails)
- ▶ AAC should tackle applications (reactive) **and** broader issues (proactive)



More of what works

- ▶ Effective relationship between the AAC and council or regional board
- ▶ AAC liaison to other committees?
- ▶ Connect with the farm community beyond AAC members...


A photograph of a greenhouse interior, showing long rows of green plants growing in a structured environment. The plants are supported by stakes and are arranged in neat rows, with a central aisle visible. The greenhouse structure, including the roof and support beams, is visible in the background.

Sector Representation

- ▶ Appoint farm representatives to committees
- ▶ Input from farmers' institutes
- ▶ Ministry of Agriculture and ALC staff contacts
- ▶ Council or board member as farm/ranch liaison
- ▶ Staff person focused on agricultural issues
- ▶ Farm tours and on-farm workshops for staff, politicians and/or the public

A vertical image on the left side of the slide showing the British Columbia flag and a large fern frond against a blue sky.

Across the Province

- ▶ There are now 34 AACs in BC
 - ▶ Ministry of Agriculture and ALC staff assist when requested
 - ▶ A number of new AACs established in the past several years
- 
- A decorative graphic on the right side of the slide consisting of overlapping, semi-transparent green geometric shapes in various shades of green.

How to Start an AAC

- ▶ Is there interest in the community and the Council or Board to start one?
- ▶ Should it be a formal body or community group?
- ▶ Is it a Select or Standing Committee?



Types of Committees

- ▶ An AAC may exist as one of three types of formal body:
 - ▶ A **Standing Committee**
 - ▶ A **Select Committee**
 - ▶ And infrequently, a farming focused **Advisory Planning Commission (APC)** tasked with agricultural issues



Standing Committee vs Select Committee

- ▶ **Standing Committee:** section 141 of the Community Charter
“At least half of the members of a standing committee must be council members.”
- ▶ **Select Committee:** section 142 of the Community Charter
“At least one member of a select committee must be a council member.”

AAC's in Regional Districts

- ▶ For **Regional Districts**, Standing **and** Select committees are established under s.218 of the Local Government Act.
- ▶ Only one member of a Regional District Board is required to be a member of a standing or select committee.

AAC's as an Advisory Planning Commission

- ▶ A special kind of APC specifically focused on agriculture
- ▶ Established by bylaw
- ▶ Councillors **may not** sit as an APC member
(They may attend and observe meetings, however)

“A council may, by bylaw, establish an advisory planning commission to advise council on all matters respecting land use, community planning or proposed bylaws and permits” [LGA, S. 461]

Composition

- ▶ Number of Councillors
- ▶ Advisory role
- ▶ Outside voices
- ▶ Diversity
- ▶ Chair?



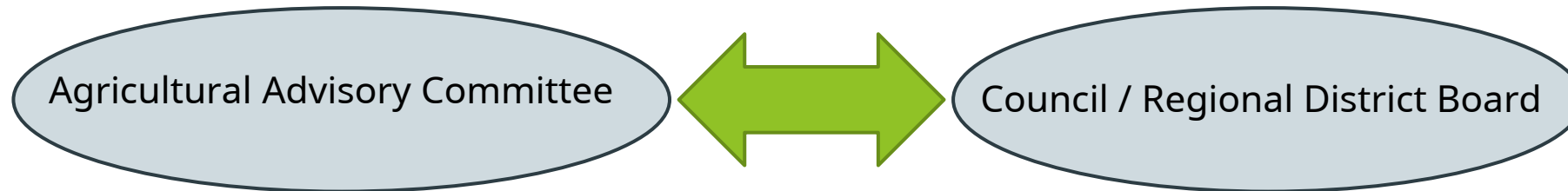


Managing Meetings

- ▶ Community Charter requires all meetings to be 'open'
- ▶ For Standing or Select Committees and APC also
- ▶ Manage meetings carefully to avoid applicants taking control!

Wrap Up

- ▶ AACs are often the voice of the agricultural community within local government
- ▶ They are an 'advisory' body



- ▶ The concept of 'respect' can make a difference



Questions and Comments