

2015 Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) Workshop

Wednesday February 18, 2015 – from 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM

Newlands Golf and Country Club, Langley BC

Participant Agenda

- 9:00am** **Registration and morning refreshments**
- 9:30am** **Welcome and Opening Remarks** - Minister of Agriculture Norm Letnick (*tentative*)
- 9:40am** **Topic 1: How your AAC can Strengthen Farming in your community**
Ministry of Agriculture (AGRI) Staff Presentation on Strengthening Farming 101
AAC roles, responsibilities and jurisdiction
- 10:00am** **Topic 2: Sustainable Local Food Systems**
Real Estate Foundation 2015 Research Findings – David Hendrickson
- 10:30am** **Nutrition Break**
- 10:45am** **Topic 3: Primer on ALR changes and Medical Marihuana**
AGRI Staff Presentation and Q + A session
- 11:30am** **Discussion Session I**
A facilitated discussion where participants will be divided by topic areas to explore and discuss:
- Challenges to successful agriculture in your region
 - Mechanisms to make the AAC more effective to local government
 - Barriers for farmers/communities to access resources and funding
 - Economic development strategies for agriculture
 - Issues related to water management
- 12:30pm** **Lunch**
- 1:15pm** **Panel Session 1: The ‘Everything You Wanted to Know’ AGRI Panel**
Panel representation of a local government politician, planner, agrologist and farmer/grower
Facilitated Q+A
- 2:15 pm** **Discussion Session II - Stories of Success!**
A facilitated discussion where participants will be divided by topic areas to explore and discuss examples from across BC of successful Ag Area Plan implementation and strengthening farming initiatives.
- 3:15pm** **Nutrition break**
- 3:30pm** **Topic 4: Top Priorities for the Ministry’s Strengthening Farming Program in the new term 2015- 2019**
AGRI Staff presentation and facilitated Q + A
- 4:15pm** **Wrap-Up and Closing Remarks** - Richard Bullock, Agricultural Land Commission Chair (*tentative*)
- 4:30 pm** **ADJOURN**