



## **Tsawwassen First Nation Agreement-in-Principle Agricultural Land Reserve**

### **Maintaining the integrity of the Agricultural Land Reserve**

British Columbia's Land Commission Act came into effect April 18, 1973, and a commission was appointed to establish a special land-use zone in partnership with local governments to protect BC's agricultural land base. This zone was called the Agricultural Land Reserve.

Over the years, amendments to the Agricultural Land Commission Act have strengthened the role of local governments and improved administrative procedures at the Agricultural Land Commission. The commission's mandate was broadened to include a more active role in land-use planning at the local level. The legislation provides for a balanced approach in determining whether a proposal in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) is in the provincial interest. For more background information, please go to the Agricultural Land Commission Web site at [www.alc.gov.bc.ca/Publications/Alr\\_history.htm](http://www.alc.gov.bc.ca/Publications/Alr_history.htm)

### **The Agricultural Land Reserve and the Tsawwassen Agreement-in-Principle**

The Tsawwassen First Nation will be provided with land over which it will have governance powers. These Tsawwassen lands will be composed of the Tsawwassen reserve, which will become treaty land, and provincial Crown lands next to the reserve. The First Nation will not have governing authority over an additional 62 hectares in the land offer. These other lands include the Fraser River, Boundary Bay and Beach Grove parcels. With the exception of the Beach Grove parcels, which comprise a registered provincial heritage site, all the lands that will be transferred are in the ALR.

The Tsawwassen First Nation's objective is to ensure lands in the land offer support the growth and development of the Tsawwassen First Nation as a viable community now and into the future.



## Frequently Asked Questions

**1) What will happen to the ALR designation after the AIP is ratified by the parties?**

The AIP confirms that all provincial Crown lands will be transferred subject to the ALR designation in effect at the time of transfer. The AIP does not propose to remove the ALR designation on the offered parcels. Instead, the AIP records the process that will take place with the Agricultural Land Commission to assess what prospects exist for excluding Tsawwassen lands, over which the First Nation has governance authority, from the ALR.

**2) Will the provincial government remove the ALR designation before the Final Agreement?**

The Agricultural Land Commission will remain responsible for making any decisions regarding the removal of the ALR designation.

**3) What process will the Agricultural Land Commission undertake in considering these lands?**

As an independent agency, the Agricultural Land Commission will use its own policies and procedures in assessing whether the ALR designation should be removed from any Tsawwassen lands.

**4) Will the ALR designation remain intact on the Tsawwassen lands over which the First Nation doesn't have governing powers?**

The assessment process that will take place with the Agricultural Land Commission after the AIP will not apply to these lands. For Tsawwassen lands that are outside the boundary of the Tsawwassen First Nation government, the Agricultural Land Commission will continue to require a resolution from the Corporation of Delta recommending the land be excluded from the ALR. In other words, the process for dealing with ALR designations for other Tsawwassen First Nation land holdings will involve the same process as any application to the Agricultural Land Commission.

**5) Will the Tsawwassen First Nation government be considered a local government under the terms set out in the Agricultural Land Commission Act?**

Local governments may receive delegated authorities from the Agricultural Land Commission within certain terms and conditions regarding the use of ALR lands within their jurisdictional boundaries. Those authorities include allowing a non-farm use or providing for a subdivision in a specified area. After the treaty is in effect, the Tsawwassen First Nation government's powers will include such delegated authorities.

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