BC’s Agricultural Land Commission
Agricultural Land Commission

• ALC is an Independent administrative tribunal
• Carries out mandate set out in ALC Act
• Interprets & applies the legislation written by gov’t
Sec. 6 Purpose of the ALC Act

- Preserve agricultural land
- Encourage farming on agricultural land in collaboration with other communities of interest
- Encourage local governments, First Nations, the government & its agents to enable & accommodate farm use of agricultural land & uses compatible with agriculture in their plans, bylaws & policies
The ALR – It’s A Finite Resource in BC

What’s In?
Total Area
ALR  +/-  4.6 million ha
BC    +/-  94.0 million ha

What’s Out?
4

What’s Out?
95%

What’s In?
5%
The ALR in BC

Land area of B.C. (100%)

Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) (5.0%)

Land in ALR suitable for a range of crops (2.7%)

Prime agricultural land in ALR (1.1%)
## ALR Area by Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>ALR Area (hectares)</th>
<th>Percent ALR Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Okanagan</td>
<td>224,977</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Island</td>
<td>116,207</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Coast</td>
<td>148,207</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interior</td>
<td>1,528,968</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kootenay</td>
<td>392,557</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North</td>
<td>2,210,783</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,621,699</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Bill 24 – ALC Act Changes

- September 5, 2014 - Came into force
- Split ALR into two zones (Zone 1 and Zone 2)
- Legislated 6 independent panels
- Role of the Chair defined
- Section 4.3 new considerations in Zone 2 (economic, cultural and social values)
Zone 1 and Zone 2

**Zone 1:**
South Coast, Island & Okanagan Panels

**Zone 2:**
Kootenays, Interior & North Panels
When exercising a power under this Act in relation to land located in Zone 2, the commission must consider all of the following, in descending order of priority:

(a) the purposes set out in Section 6;
(b) economic, cultural and social values;
(c) regional and community planning objectives;
(d) other prescribed considerations.
Governance Model

**Chair**

- North Panel
- Interior Panel
- Kootenay Panel
- Okanagan Panel
- South Coast Panel
- Island Panel

**Full Commission** = 19 members

**6 Regional Panels** = 1 Vice Chair + 2 Commissioners

**Executive Committee** = Chair + 6 Vice-Chairs

**Chair**
Executive Committee

• Chair and six Vice Chairs
• Responsible for:
  o deciding applications referred by the Chair
  o deciding applications referred by a regional panel
  o making reconsideration determinations
  o exercising any other functions delegated by the Commission (i.e. annual reporting)
The Full Commission

- Develop policies governing the Commission, pass resolutions and bylaws re: conduct of its affairs
- Recommend legislative or regulatory changes to Gov’t
- Determine ALR boundary
- Ensure local government land use planning is compatible with agricultural use of ALR
- Develop policy that encourages agriculture
Chair Oversight – Application Process

Refers all applications

Reviews all panel decisions (within 60 days)

- Region Panel
- Executive Committee (EC)

- Re-affirms decision
- Directs EC to reconsider
Chair Oversight

- Authority to refer a particular application to the Executive Committee within 60 days of a decision for reconsideration:
  - If believes may not fulfill the purpose of Section 6;
  - Does not adequately take into consideration the considerations set out in Section 4.3.
ALR Regulation Changes

• Government amended the regulations in 2015.
• Amendments include:
  o Medical marihuana production permitted
  o Farm retail & processing permitted by a Co-operative Association
  o Breweries, distilleries and meaderies permitted provided the 50% farm product input
  o Able to lease a portion of a farm for farm purposes
Local Government Partners

- Local governments, regional and municipal, are partners in agricultural land preservation
- First step in application process
- Adopt supportive land use plans, policy, and bylaws
- Work together to achieve compliance

75% of the ALR is under local government jurisdiction
2016/2017 Budget Lift

- $1.1M (33%) base-budget increase to better support:
  - regional panel decision making process
  - planning work with local governments
  - compliance and enforcement
Fee Changes – effective April 1

• **Application Fees:**
  - Zone 1 - $1,500 (LG portion $300)
  - Zone 2 - $900 (LG portion $300)

• **New Service fees** for approved applications:
  - Document review fees: $150 per document
  - Site Inspection fees: $350 per inspection
  - Monitoring fees: $500 - $2,000 annually
ALC Performance Targets

• Making decisions within 60 business days
• Refund of ALC fee portion after 90 business days
• Developing comprehensive compliance and enforcement approach
• Increasing engagement with local & regional governments & annual survey
• Annual client survey
Thank you

Frank Leonard, Chair
Kim Grout, CEO

Website: www.alc.gov.bc.ca
Email: ALCBurnaby@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca