

Ministry of Agriculture

2017/18 – 2019/20 SERVICE PLAN

September 2017



For more information on the British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture contact:

PO BOX 9120
STN PROV GOVT
VICTORIA, BC
V8W 9B4

or visit our website at
<http://www.gov.bc.ca/agri/>

Published by the Ministry of Agriculture

Minister Accountability Statement



The *Ministry of Agriculture 2017/18 - 2019/20 Service Plan* was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*. I am accountable for the basis on which the plan has been prepared.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lana Popham".

Honourable Lana Popham
Minister of Agriculture
August 29, 2017

Table of Contents

Minister Accountability Statement 3

Purpose of the Ministry..... 5

Ministry Goals, Objectives and Performance Measures 5

Resource Summary 7

Appendix A: Ministry Contact Information 8

Appendix B: Agricultural Land Commission 11

Appendix C: British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board..... 12

Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Agriculture (the Ministry) is responsible for the production, marketing, processing and merchandising of agrifood and seafood products; the institution and carrying out of advisory, research, promotional, sustainability and adaptation, food safety or plant and animal health programs, projects or undertakings relating to agrifood and seafood; and the collection of information and preparation and dissemination of statistics relating to agrifood and seafood. The legal and regulatory environment that guides the work of the Ministry includes 30 statutes which relate wholly or primarily to the Ministry. A complete list of legislation for which the Ministry is responsible is available at: <http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/amr/amr/1135179498>

Ministry Goals, Objectives and Performance Measures

The Ministry of Agriculture's goals are to help government achieve the following three commitments to British Columbians:

- The first commitment is to make life more affordable. British Columbians are counting on government to make their lives easier by containing costs and service fees.
- The second commitment is to deliver the services that people count on. Government services touch the lives of British Columbians every day, and there is so much more that we can – and must – do to provide these services where and when people need them. Additionally, in many cases, critical programs and services are delivered by Crown Corporations, and our Ministry will work with Board Chairs to improve levels of service to citizens.
- The third commitment is to build a strong, sustainable, innovative economy that works for everyone. Our government believes that all ministries and public sector organizations have a role to play in supporting broad-based economic growth, developing poverty reduction strategies, and helping create good-paying jobs in every region of the province.

Integrating with these priorities is government's commitment to true, lasting reconciliation with First Nations in British Columbia, as we move towards fully adopting and implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Beyond our work in supporting these commitments, the Minister of Agriculture has been tasked in the [mandate letter](#) to achieve the following specific objectives and performance targets:

- Establish Grow B.C. Revitalize the Agriculture Land Reserve and the Agricultural Land Commission. Help young farmers access land, and support fruit and nut growers and processors to expand local food production.
- Initiate Feed B.C. to increase the use of B.C.-grown and processed foods in hospitals, schools, and other government facilities.

- Bring back an enhanced Buy B.C. marketing program to help local producers market their products, and work with local producers to expand market access in the rest of Canada and abroad.
- Work with growers, processors, colleges and universities, as well as the Minister of Advanced Education and the Minister of State for Trade, to develop a B.C. Food Innovation Centre to innovate in the processing, packaging and marketing of B.C. food products, linking local food producers with new technology, and expanding exports and access to world markets.

Our Ministry will continue to develop specific objectives and performance measures for inclusion in our 2018/19 Service Plan, which will be released with *Budget 2018*.

Resource Summary

Core Business Area	2016/17 Restated Estimates ¹	2017/18 Estimates	2018/19 Plan	2019/20 Plan
Operating Expenses (\$000)				
Agriculture Science and Policy	16,455	16,343	16,536	16,536
Business Development	40,202	43,089	43,299	43,299
BC Farm Industry Review Board	1,206	1,214	1,233	1,233
Executive and Support Services	6,996	6,764	6,773	6,773
Sub-Total	64,859	67,410	67,841	67,841
Agricultural Land Commission	4,524	4,549	4,579	4,579
Production Insurance Special Account (Net)²	12,000	13,200	13,200	13,200
Total	81,383	85,159	85,620	85,620
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)				
Executive and Support Services	1,168	540	540	540
Total	1,168	540	540	540

Notes:

¹ For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2016/17 are consistent with the presentation of the 2017/18 Estimates.

² Production Insurance Special Account increases of \$1.2million in 2017/18 for increased insurable value and policy sales.

Further information on program funding and vote recoveries is available in the [Estimates and Supplement to the Estimates](#)

Appendix A: Ministry Contact Information

Ministry of Agriculture:

P.O. Box 9120 STN PROV GOVT, Victoria BC, V8W 9B4

Ph.: (250) 387-5121

Agriculture Science and Policy Division:

Ph.: (250) 356-1821, Fax (250) 356-7279

Business Development Division:

Ph.: (250) 356-1122, Fax (250) 356-7279

Ministry of Agriculture - Regional Offices:

Abbotsford

1767 Angus Campbell Road, V3G 2M3

Ph.: (604) 556-3001

Fax: (604) 556-3030

Toll free: 1-888-221-7141

Animal Health toll free: 1-800-661-9903

Courtenay

2500 Cliffe Avenue, V9N 5M6

Ph.: (250) 897-7540

Fax: (250) 334-1410

Cranbrook/Invermere

635 – 4th Street, Invermere, V0A 1K0

Ph.: (250) 342-4219

Fax: (250) 342-4262

Creston

1243 Northwest Boulevard, V0B 1G6

Ph.: (250) 402-6429

Fax: (250) 402-6497

Dawson Creek

4th Floor, 1201 103rd Avenue, V1G 4J2

Ph.: (250) 784-2601

Fax: (250) 784-2299

Toll free: 1-877-772-2200

Duncan

5785 Duncan Street, V9L 5G2

Ph.: (250) 746-1210

Fax: (250) 746-1292

Fort St. John

10043 100th Street, V1J 3Y5

Ph.: (250) 787-3240

Fax: (250) 787-3299

Toll free: 1-888-822-1345

Kamloops

2nd Floor, 441 Columbia Street, V2C 2T3

Ph.: (250) 828-4506

Fax: (250) 828-4154

Toll free: 1-888-823-3355

Kelowna

Unit 200 1690 Powick Road, V1X 7G5

Ph.: (250) 861-7211

Fax: (250) 861-7490

Toll free: 1-888-332-3352

Kelowna – Hardy Place

200 – 1500 Hardy Street, V1Y 8H2

Ph.: (250) 712-3797

Fax: (250) 712-3269

Toll free: 1-877-343-2767 (AgriStability)

Oliver

Suite 201 583 Fairview Road, V0H 1T0

Ph.: (250) 498-5250 or 5251

Fax: (250) 498-4952

Toll free: 1-888-812-8811

Prince George

2000 South Ospika Boulevard, V2N 4W5

Ph.: (250) 614-7400

Fax: (250) 614-7435

Toll free: 1-800-334-3011

Smithers

3333 Tatlow Road, V0J 2N0

Ph.: (250) 847-6379

Fax: (250) 847-6353

Toll free: 1-888-540-8611

Vernon

2501 – 14th Avenue, V1T 8Z1

Ph.: (250) 260-4610

Fax: (250) 260-4602

Toll free: 1-877-702-5585

Williams Lake

300 640 Borland Street, V2G 4T1

Ph.: (250) 398-4500

Fax: (250) 398-4688

Toll free: 1-800-474-6133

Agricultural Land Commission

133- 4940 Canada Way, Burnaby BC, V5G 4K6

Ph.: (604) 660-7000

Fax: (604) 660-7033

Email: ALCBurnaby@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca

Internet: <http://www.alc.gov.bc.ca>

BC Farm Industry Review Board

780 Blanshard Street, Victoria BC, V8W 9B5

Ph.: (250) 356-8945

Fax: (250) 356-5131

Email: firb@gov.bc.ca

Internet: <http://www.gov.bc.ca/bcfarministryreviewboardw>

For more information about the Ministry of Agriculture, including full contact information, visit our website at: <http://www.gov.bc.ca/agriw>

Appendix B: Agricultural Land Commission

Purpose of the Commission

The Provincial Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) is the independent administrative tribunal dedicated to preserving agricultural land and encouraging farming in BC. The ALC is responsible for administering the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), a provincial land use zone where agriculture is the primary land use taking place on the limited agricultural land base. The ALR is based on the biophysical resource base (soil and climate) where lands are capable of growing crops. As an administrative tribunal operating at arm's-length from government, the ALC is accountable to the legislature through the Minister of Agriculture. Its operations are funded by a vote of the legislature.

In general, an administrative tribunal is a specialized government agency established under provincial legislation to implement legislative policy. The ALC is expected to exercise its role in a non-partisan manner and Commission members must faithfully, honestly and impartially perform their duties.

The ALC's goals, objectives and strategies are guided by its legislative mandate as set out in s.6 and s.4.3 of the ALC Act as noted below.

The ALC's mandate as set out in s.6 of the Agricultural Land Commission Act is:

- To preserve agricultural land;
- To encourage farming on agricultural land in collaboration with other communities of interest; and
- To encourage local governments, First Nations, the government and its agents to enable and accommodate farm use of agricultural land and uses compatible with agriculture in their plans, bylaws and policies.

Appendix C: British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board

Purpose of the Board:

The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board (the Board) is an independent administrative tribunal that operates at arm's-length from government. As the regulatory tribunal responsible for the general supervision of BC regulated marketing boards and commissions, the Board provides oversight, policy direction and decisions to ensure orderly marketing and to protect the public interest. In its adjudicative capacities, the Board provides a less formal system than the court for resolving disputes in a timely and cost effective way. The Board consists of a part-time board of up to ten members and nine full time equivalent staff positions and is accountable to government for its administrative operations.

The Board's performance measures have changed in 2017/18 to 2019/20 Service Plan for streamlining and clarification purposes. The Board will be further reviewing its Service Plan measures in 2017/18 to determine if additional refinements are warranted.

The Board's statutorily mandated responsibilities are established in the *Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act*, the *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act*, the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act*, and are supported by the *Administrative Tribunals Act*. They include:

- Supervising BC's regulated marketing boards and commissions;
- Being a signatory to formal federal-provincial cooperation agreements in regulated marketing;
- Hearing appeals of regulated marketing board and commission orders, decisions and determinations;
- Hearing appeals related to certain animal custody and cost decisions of the BC Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals;
- Hearing farm practices complaints from persons disturbed by odour, noise, dust or other disturbances arising from agriculture or certain aquaculture operations; and,
- Conducting farm practices studies.

The Board has adjudicative independence in its decision-making, and through its strategic plan and other documents, establishes goals, objectives, strategies and performance measures necessary to achieve its administrative role as a public sector agency, including cost-consciousness, accountability, appropriate compensation, service, respect and integrity. Further information about the Board may be found at www.gov.bc.ca/bcfarministryreviewboard