

Ministry of
Agriculture

2015/16
Annual Service Plan Report



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Minister's Message and Accountability Statement



It is my pleasure to present the [Ministry of Agriculture's 2015/16 Annual Service Plan Report](#). British Columbia has one of the most diverse agrifood industries in Canada, producing more than 200 agriculture commodities and 100 seafood species. The sector is an integral part of B.C.'s economy, employs 55,000 British Columbians, and contributes to the second largest manufacturing sector in the province. Over the past five years, the sector has grown by more than \$2.6 billion dollars, reaching a record \$13.1 billion in agrifoods revenue in 2015.

We will build on that momentum through the implementation of the B.C. Agrifood and Seafood Strategic Growth Plan. The Strategic Growth Plan provides us with a clear roadmap for the next five years and will guide us to build overall sector revenues to \$15 billion per year by 2020.

B.C. producers continue to receive support through Growing Forward 2 (GF2) as the federal and provincial government are investing about \$426.9 million in B.C. from 2013-2018. GF2 provides B.C. producers with risk management support and programs that offer income stability in difficult times, as well as Strategic Initiatives programming that supports the sector in innovation, competitiveness and market development, and adaptability and industry capacity. Overall, GF2 ensures our province's producers and processors are using the latest knowledge and technology so they can compete in both domestic and international markets and maximize their potential for economic growth.

The B.C. government has invested \$8 million in the Buy Local program since 2012 to help B.C. companies find new customers locally, while a network of 13 international trade offices, B.C. trade missions, and innovation and market development funding have all played roles in growing B.C.'s exports to a record \$3 billion in 2014. B.C. seafood accounted for \$1 billion of that and Atlantic salmon has been the top food export for the past five years. B.C. is committed to the socially and ecologically responsible management of our fisheries, including an environmentally and economically sustainable aquaculture industry for the benefit of all British Columbians.

The Agricultural Land Reserve is key to supporting and sustaining food production in B.C., our farming sector and those who work in it. The B.C. government, as part of Budget 2016, supported a \$1 million boost to the Agricultural Land Commission's annual funding. Effective April 1, 2016, a revised fee schedule will provide a reasonable balance between supporting the ALC to fulfill their mandate of preserving agriculture land and working with the farming and ranching community to look at opportunities to enhance their agricultural incomes; and new accountability measures will emphasize improved service levels for British Columbians.

We have also committed an additional \$1 million to our seven-year tree fruit Replant Program that supports growers' efforts to meet consumer demands for high-value, high quality B.C. fruit. In total, the Province's tree fruit Replant Program is committing \$9.4 million that will see at least 1,600 acres replanted by 2021, providing more than 2,600 jobs each year for the Okanagan.

In the last two years the B.C. government and the BC SPCA have worked together to replace or renovate BC SPCA facilities in 10 communities through a \$5 million contribution from the B.C. government. We also improved animal welfare for B.C.'s dairy cattle and commercially bred cats and dogs through the adoption of codes of practices as expected minimum standards in B.C.

Planning, budgeting and reporting are all elements of government's performance management and accountability process. Core to the [*Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*](#), the Ministry is required to produce a three-year service plan that outlines our key goals, objectives and performance measures and report annually on our results.

The Ministry of Agriculture 2015/16 Annual Service Plan Report compares the actual results to the expected results identified in the Ministry's 2015/16 Service Plan. I am accountable for those results as reported.



Honourable Norm Letnick

Minister of Agriculture

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Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Agriculture 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 28 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.leg.bc.ca/procs/allacts/>.

Strategic Direction and Context

The Ministry's operations are guided by the Minister of Agriculture's [Mandate Letter](#) and the [Province of British Columbia Strategic Plan 2015/16 – 2018/19](#), in which the agrifood and seafood sector and [Taxpayer Accountability Principles](#) are featured.

Agrifoods is one of the eight key sectors that show the greatest potential for economic and job growth identified in [Canada Starts Here: BC's Jobs Plan](#). The 2012 *B.C. Jobs Plan Agrifoods Strategy* set out 49 actions in three key areas of priority to help grow B.C.'s agrifoods sector: focusing on high-quality and high-value products, expanding domestic and international markets and enhancing industry competitiveness (of which 48 actions are complete and one will continue in the [BC Agrifood and Seafood Strategic Growth plan](#)). This strategy targeted investments for innovation and food safety, expanded domestic markets through the [Buy Local](#) program, and enhanced reputation and expanded markets for BC agrifoods overseas through strategic international trade missions. Over its first three years, the 2012 strategy helped contribute to over a billion-dollar increase in the sector's annual revenues, which surpassed \$12 billion in 2014 and directly employs around 55,000 British Columbians (22,900 in primary agriculture; 28,100 in food and beverage processing; and, 3,400 in primary seafood).

Replacing the 2012 *BC Jobs Plan Agrifoods Strategy*, the new *BC Agrifood and Seafood Strategic Growth Plan (Strategic Growth Plan)*, developed in collaboration with the [Minister's Agrifood Advisory Committee](#) comprised of leaders from the agrifood and seafood sector, business community, local food movement and agriculture post-secondary institutions, was released on December 2, 2015. The new *Strategic Growth Plan* was developed to proactively address three drivers important to the future of agriculture in BC, achieving economic growth, adapting to climate change, and maintaining food supply security. The plan lays out 20 actions organized around three priority areas: increase production, drive competitiveness, and build local, national and international markets that will drive the future of the BC agrifood and seafood sector and help to achieve the outcomes. As we did in the first *Agrifood Strategy*, we will continue to work closely with the industry to continue to diversify and grow the agrifood and seafood sector. Implementing these actions will help us reach our ambitious goal of increasing agrifood and seafood revenue to \$15 billion by 2020.

Provincial public sector organizations will operate under new *Taxpayer Accountability Principles* that strengthen accountability, promote cost control, and ensure they operate in the best interest of taxpayers. The Ministry, the [Agricultural Land Commission \(ALC\)](#) and the [BC Farm Industry Review Board \(BCFIRB\)](#) have embed the new *Taxpayer Accountability Principles* – cost-consciousness, accountability, appropriate compensation, service, respect, and integrity – into the

operations of the organizations to ensure decisions that are made reflect the priorities and values of government and the citizens of B.C. A 'Letter of Expectations' reflecting these principles and priorities was developed and will be implemented early in the the 2016/17 year.

The Ministry implemented legislative and administrative changes changes to the ALR and ALC, confirming the ALC's number one priority was to preserve agriculture land.

New regulations enacted in 2015 under the ALC Act were guided by extensive consultations with over 100 organizations representing the agriculture industry as well as local governments, land owners, communities of interest and over 1,600 citizens (through an on-line consultation process) – the message was clear - British Columbians wanted regulations to help preserve farmland and encourage agriculture. The new regulations enacted in 2015 allow farmers to undertake additional activities on ALR land without an application to the ALC; such as: the production of medical marijuana by federally-licensed facilities; the operation of co-operatively-owned on-site processing and packaging facilities; allowing breweries, distilleries and meaderies to operate on similar terms to wineries and cideries, including selling alcohol that was not produced on their farm in their lounges and restaurants; and allowing farmers to lease portions of their land for agricultural production.

These changes provide farming families the chance to earn a higher income and ensure B.C. has a growing agrifoods economy and reliable food source for years to come.

Recognizing the ALC required resources to carry out this important work, [Budget 2013](#) provided an additional \$4 million over three years. [Budget 2016](#) reflects an increase from \$1.97 million in 2012/13 to \$3.4 million in 2015/16.

The roles of the Board chair and the CEO were separated to ensure strong strategic and operational leadership, and the new direction and government mandate and objectives are being fulfilled. The ALC's existing system of 6 regional panels was formalized, now responsible for making decisions on local applications. On March 3, 2016, additional measures were announced to strengthen the ALC's accountability:

- Letter of Expectation to the Chair
- Ministerial Order with performance measures and targets
- New fee structure; and
- 90 business day money back guarantee (for the processing of complete applications)

Report on Performance

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Results

The Ministry's service plan is organized around three long-term goals:

- **Goal 1:** Agriculture and food sectors contribute positively to the economic diversity and well-being of the Province;
- **Goal 2:** An environmentally responsible agrifoods sector; and,
- **Goal 3:** Community and social well-being are enhanced by agriculture and food sector practices.

The Ministry is committed to supporting government's strategic priorities for a strong economy and a secure tomorrow, as laid out in the Minister of Agriculture's *Mandate Letter* and the Province of British Columbia Strategic Plan 2014/15 – 2017/18. The priorities in the Minister's *Mandate Letter* as well as in the above plans are consolidated and reflected in this service plan.

Through the implementation of the new Taxpayer Accountability Principles of cost consciousness, accountability, appropriate compensation service, respect, and integrity, the Ministry has integrated these principles into our three key goals, objectives and the ongoing business of implementing the goals. The actions, decisions and outcomes that we are working to achieve in agriculture, reflects the priorities and values of government and best serves the public interest.

Goal 1: Agriculture and food sectors contribute positively to the economic diversity and well-being of the Province.

Objective 1.1: An economically sustainable agricultural and food sector.

The Ministry supports sector profitability and self-reliance through programs and services that provide producers and processors with tools to adapt and sustain their businesses in the face of environmental and market risk.

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective:

- Promote, deliver and improve national business risk management programs and services.
- Provide strategic business development leadership and build business management awareness, market intelligence, and capacity within the agricultural and food sector.
- Provide carbon tax relief to the agricultural sector, as committed to in Balanced Budget 2013.
- Implement a sustainable, long-term tree fruit replant program that supports grower's efforts to meet consumer demands for high-value, high-quality fruit.
- Support local food initiatives, such as the Buy Local Program and BC Farmers Markets, to promote B.C. products domestically.
- Foster industry responsiveness to new and emerging capture fisheries and aquaculture opportunities to enable development and diversification of seafood products.
- Develop a new Agrifoods Strategy in collaboration with the sector through the Minister of Agriculture's Agrifoods Advisory Committee that will help increase production capacity, improve competitiveness and innovation, and expand domestic and international markets.

- Work with the Agricultural Land Commission and the Farm Industry Review Board to implement a new performance and accountability regime that is in compliance with the Taxpayer Accountability Principles by March 31st, 2016.

Performance Measure 1: Ratio of administrative costs to Production Insurance premiums.

Performance Measure	2013/14 Baseline	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Target	2017/2018 Target
Ratio of administrative costs ¹ to Production Insurance premiums	20:80	13:87	13.5:86.50	20:80	20:80

Data Source: Ministry of Agriculture.

¹ Administrative costs include both fixed and variable costs.

Discussion

Agricultural producers are accustomed to adjusting to difficult weather. If particularly bad weather strikes, ruined crops can devastate farm budgets. Insurance helps producers manage their risk of crop losses caused by hail, spring frost, excessive rain, flooding, drought, etc.

This measure indicates efficiency of government’s delivery of the Production Insurance program by comparing administrative cost ratios to the private sector’s. Production Insurance in Canada is delivered by provincial administrations.

The Ministry reports against a ratio of administrative costs to premiums, with a very tight, ongoing target of 20:80. B.C. selected this type of ratio because it is most comparable to the private sector. The value of private sector ratios for most insurance products ranges between 25:75 and 30:70. B.C.’s 20:80 target, with lower administrative costs than the private sector, represents a tight balance for B.C. between efficiency and resource requirements to protect the integrity of the program.¹

Objective 1.2: Strategic growth and development of the agrifoods sector.

The Ministry encourages growth in the agrifoods sector through programs that foster innovation, competitiveness and improved market access.

¹ Production Insurance administrative costs must strike an appropriate balance between maintaining program integrity (premium cost) and administrative cost. If coverage and claim settlements are inadequate premium costs increase. Provinces with diverse types of crops and relatively low farm cash receipts, such as B.C., tend to have higher administration costs, than provinces with homogeneous crop production and higher farm cash receipts. At the national level, three different administrative cost measures are used for comparative purposes: administrative costs to premiums received; administrative costs to value of coverage; and administrative costs per contract. B.C. uses the first ratio as it is most comparable to private sector insurance costs. The 20 per cent target is below private sector administration costs ratios and is set to strike the appropriate balance between program integrity and administration costs. In comparison, it is higher than the large agricultural provinces at just under 10 per cent but lower than the maritime provinces.

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective:

- Facilitate access to new markets for B.C. agrifoods producers and processors by seeking resolution of trade barriers to B.C. agrifoods products in international and domestic markets, including interprovincial barriers to trade in wine.
- Help producers and processors capitalize on new domestic and international market opportunities.
- Work with the Minister of International Trade to ensure trade capacity for B.C. agricultural support is sufficient to secure additional Asian trade export growth.
- Deliver market development initiatives to develop and expand exports to the US; B.C.'s largest agrifoods export market.
- Support innovative product and process development, commercialization and technology adoption.
- Work with the provincial cattle sector to enhance branding of B.C. beef.
- Support the building of industry capacity through enhanced access to relevant information and funding programs, such as the Agrifood Resource Guide.
- Work with the Ministry of Justice to enact recommendations pertaining to agriculture and farmer's markets as outlined in Parliamentary Secretary John Yap's Liquor Policy Review.
- Through the Seafood Secretariat, maximize the economic potential of the seafood sector by leading coordination of provincial roles and responsibilities to ensure a businesslike approach to supporting industry development.

Performance Measure 2: Annual revenue growth in the agrifoods industry (% change).¹

Performance Measure	2013 Baseline ⁴	2014 Actuals ⁴	2015 Target	2015 Forecast	2016 Target	2017 Target
Annual revenue growth in agrifoods industry ²	Farm Cash Receipts ³ \$2.804 billion	5.0% growth in farm cash receipts	4.8% growth in farm cash receipts	4.5% growth in farm cash receipts		
	Seafood \$0.811 billion Available June 1 ^s	Not available	1.0% growth in landed value	Not available		
	Food and Beverage Manufacturing \$7.811 billion	6.6% growth in value of food and beverage shipments	4.8% growth in value of food and beverage shipments	9.1% growth in value of food and beverage shipments		
Total Annual Projected Revenue	\$11.548 billion Available June 1	Not available	\$12.813 billion	Not available		

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Cansim Tables 002-001 and 003-001 and adapted from Cansim Table 304-0015.

¹ Performance Measure no longer tracked as % growth rates in 2016/17 service plan.

² The agrifoods industry includes agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture, and processing/manufacturing.

³ Farm cash receipts include crop and livestock receipts as well as direct payments to the sector.

⁴ 2013 baseline and 2014 agriculture and manufacturing data has been revised by Statistics Canada as of May 2016. Seafood baseline 2013 and 2014 data revisions and 2015 estimates release date May 31 2016.

Discussion:

This measure reflects the growth in annual revenues by the agrifoods sector by monitoring growth in the value of farm cash receipts for crops and livestock, the landed value of seafood, and the value of shipments from B.C. food and beverage processors. Revenue growth is an indicator of the contribution of B.C.'s agrifood and seafood industries to the provincial economy. Targets are based on the average annual rate of change in revenues. Since these revenues are driven by market conditions, they are not wholly under the Ministry's control. In 2015, the forecasted growth for food and beverage manufacturing and primary seafood and agricultural sectors was higher than those realized in 2014. These increases reflect the rises in both average prices and production of many agrifood and seafood commodities.

Goal 2: An environmentally responsible agrifoods sector.

Objective 2.1: Sustainable management of British Columbia's soil, water and air resources for agrifoods production and processing.

The Ministry supports the agrifoods sector to proactively address environmental risks and the impacts of climate change.

Strategies

- Provide programs and activities that identify and address critical agricultural environmental issues and enable adoption of beneficial management practices supporting environmentally responsible production. For example, in 2015/16, the Agriculture Water Demand Model has been expanded to the Cariboo, East Kootenays, and Lillooet regions to enable the calculation of current and future water requirements to secure water for food production.
- Support local governments through the development and effective operation of Agriculture Advisory Committees.
- Work with the commercial fishing industry to maintain and expand world standard eco-certification, such as that set by the Marine Stewardship Council.
- Support improvements in the efficiency of water and energy use by the agrifoods sector.
- In July 2015, the Province announced that it will examine the rules and restrictions that guide the application and approval process to ensure that aquaculture operations are socially and ecologically sustainable and can co-exist with British Columbia's wild fishery resource. Specifically, the government will:
 - Establish a Minister of Agriculture's Advisory Council on Finfish Aquaculture that will include members from the aquaculture industry, non-governmental organizations and First Nations, as well as the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Forest, Lands and Natural Resource Operations.
 - Examine establishing a protocol for receiving advice from the Aquaculture Stewardship Council in regard to tenures for new aquaculture sites.

- Examine the feasibility of improved microbe detection at aquaculture sites arising from the work being undertaken by Genome BC in tandem with the other scientific evidence already available to the Province.

Performance Measure 3: Cumulative and annual number of Environmental Farm Plans completed.

Performance Measure	2013/14 Baseline	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Target	2017/2018 Target
Cumulative number of Environmental Farm Plans ¹	3976 ²	4221	4458	4658	4858
Annual number of Environmental Farm Plans completed	209	245	237	200	200

Data Source: Agricultural Research and Development Corporation reports and agreements.

¹ Canada-British Columbia *Growing Forward* Agreement (2008-2013) and *Growing Forward 2*, (2013-2018).

² The 2013/14 Base data are made up of the cumulative number of completed Environmental Farm Plans.

Discussion

This measure provides an indication of the response of farmers to environmental opportunities and risks on their farms. An Environmental Farm Plan is a voluntary, confidential assessment of opportunities to enhance environmental operations of B.C. farms and ranches. An assessment is conducted by the farm/ranch operator with the assistance of a trained planning advisor. The performance measure is the cumulative number of completed Environmental Farm Plans. These assessments are a pre-requisite to accessing cost-share funding to implement Beneficial Management Practices targeted at specific agri-environmental situations. A beneficial management practice is an agricultural management practice which ensures the long-term health and sustainability of land-related resources used for agricultural production which positively impacts the long-term economic and environmental viability of agricultural production, and minimizes negative impacts and risk to the environment.

Objective 2.2: Sustainable agrifoods management practices that assist successful mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

The Ministry supports the efforts of industry to develop innovative products, tools and processes to reduce and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, and works with industry, local governments and other partners to increase the capacity of B.C. farmers to adapt to climate change and weather related production risks and raise the profile of climate change adaptation across the sector.

Strategies

- Support the development and implementation of regional adaptation strategies in key agricultural areas of B.C. and provide support and services for the piloting and demonstration of innovation adaptation practices through the Ministry’s Climate Adaptation Program.
- Promote opportunities for reduction in carbon dioxide equivalent emissions and encourage improved environmental practice initiatives in the sector through the Ministry’s Beneficial Management Practices Program.

- Support innovation projects that assess the effectiveness of anaerobic digesters as well as other technologies to manage animal and agricultural waste; development of new varieties and products; and provide tools such as the Agriculture Water Demand Model to help water purveyors make informed decisions on current and future water use.
- Work with the agriculture industry, local governments and collaborate with the Ministry of Environment and other agencies to identify opportunities and challenges for the sector resulting in climate change, develop climate change adaptation strategies and increase the capacity of B.C. farmers to adapt to climate change.

Performance Measure 4: Number of Regional Adaptation Strategies completed.

Performance Measure	2013/14 Base ¹	2014/15 Actual ²	2015/16 Actual ²	2016/17 Target ³	2017/18 Target ⁴
Cumulative number of regional adaptation strategies completed	3	4	5	6	6
Annual number of regional adaptation strategies completed	3	1	1	1	0

Data Source: Regional agricultural adaptation strategies with ministry partnership.

¹ The 2013/14 base represents regional agricultural adaptation strategies completed by the B.C. Agriculture and Food Climate Action Initiative in the Peace, Delta, and Cowichan regions, with ministry funding partnership through Growing Forward 2.

² Regional adaptation strategies completed for the Cariboo (2014/15) and Fraser Valley (2015/16).

³ The 2016/17 target represents the completion of a new regional agricultural adaptation strategy for the Okanagan region.

⁴ The Growing Forward 2 funding period is from 2013 to 2018. No new regional adaptation strategy will be completed in 2017/18 in order to allow the implementation projects for each regional adaptation strategy to be completed within this period.

Discussion

Successful adaptation to climate change will be necessary for the agrifood sector to continue to grow and be an important contributor to the B.C. economy. Government and the agriculture industry have both made adaptation a priority, and are working in partnership to build resilience and adaptive capacity in the sector.

The regional agricultural adaptation strategies bring producers, local governments, agricultural organizations and experts together to assess the vulnerability of the region to climate change, set strategic direction and, plan and implement concrete adaptation measures.

Regional adaptation strategies have been developed for key agricultural regions of B.C., including the Cowichan, Delta, Peace, Cariboo, and Fraser Valley regions. Priority actions from the strategies are developed into projects that provide collaborative solutions to regional issues. Project outputs include farm-level toolkits and manuals; producer decision support tools; and projects that address specific agricultural climate adaptation concerns.

Goal 3: Community and social well-being are enhanced by responsible agricultural and food sector practices.

Objective 3.1: Promote a positive urban/agrifoods relationship to facilitate sustainable production for farms.

Agricultural activity depends on good relations with local government and community members. With only 1.5 per cent of British Columbians living on farms, it has become increasingly important for local governments to keep in touch with farm and ranch communities to help facilitate support for the agricultural sector. The Ministry, for example, is conducting work on vegetative borders to intercept dust from barn exhaust fans to reduce impacts on neighbours. Preservation of agricultural land in British Columbia is overseen by the Agricultural Land Commission, and the Ministry supports the Agricultural Land Commission’s work by promoting a positive urban / agricultural environment to ensure farmers can continue to farm in farming areas.

Strategies

- Promote a positive regulatory climate with local governments to support the agrifoods sector across B.C., in part by establishing standards to guide local government bylaw development in farming areas.
- Support and deliver on activities contributing to sustainable agriculture business development in First Nations communities.
- Build a greater understanding of agriculture’s contribution to communities through proactive, province-wide communication strategies.
- Work with the Ministry of Finance to implement a tax credit program for farmers who donate their farmed food to B.C. food banks and other charitable organizations.
- Ensure the Agricultural Land Reserve is working for B.C. and implement legislative changes that will protect valuable farmland in regions with growth pressures while allowing for responsible economic development opportunities in areas that are not under similar pressure.
- Through the Seafood Secretariat, lead engagement with Federal and Provincial agencies to ensure coordinated and consistent Provincial policy regarding siting and operation of aquaculture facilities.
- Projects, training, workshops and resources to provide youth with current information on the B.C. agriculture industry, farm safety, animal care, issues facing agriculture, and sustainable agriculture.

Performance Measure 5: Number of Agricultural Area Plans completed.

Performance Measure	2013/14 Baseline	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
Cumulative number of Agricultural Area Plans completed	57	65	68	69	73
Number of Agricultural Area Plans completed per year	5	4	3*	4	4

Data Source: Ministry of Agriculture survey of local governments conducted through the Ministry’s Regional Agrologist Network. *3 completed, an additional 4 in progress

Discussion

This measure provides an indication of how capacity is being built within farm communities to influence issues that affect agriculture. An Agricultural Area Plan is a community-based initiative

to develop practical solutions to agricultural issues and to identify opportunities to strengthen farming. Key stakeholders prepare the plan, which includes strategies for economic development, marketing, processing, agri-tourism and proposals for bylaw amendments to support agriculture. Relevant parts of an Agricultural Area Plan become a subset of the official community plan. In 2015/16 there were 68 completed Agricultural Area Plans throughout B.C., with four more underway. The ultimate number of Agricultural Area Plans will depend on how jurisdictions choose to operate – example: some small communities may choose to work together on one plan, while other communities may consider separate plans to be unnecessary, as agriculture is an integral part of their community’s economy.

Objective 3.2: Animal, plant and human health are safeguarded.

The Ministry, in partnership with federal, provincial and local government agencies, delivers services and initiatives to effectively manage food safety, plant, fish and livestock health risks contributing to positive public health and to maintaining consumer confidence domestically and internationally.

Strategies

- Continue to work with government and industry groups to identify and implement traceability and bio-security strategies that will reduce the risk of animal disease outbreaks.
- Implement and deliver comprehensive provincial level programs for animal, fish and plant health that manage the risks of animal and fish disease, plant pests and invasive species and contribute to national programs.
- Protect the health of British Columbians by implementing the new Provincial Food Safety Framework and continuing to increase awareness and adoption of food safety programs and practices in the agrifood sector
- Continue to develop and deliver a provincially-operated, cost-effective meat inspection program to ensure that provincially licensed abattoirs are in compliance with regulatory requirements and effective enforcement to address unlawful slaughter of animals intended for human consumption.
- Maintain a provincially operated, cost effective seafood inspection system to ensure food safety, industry support, fish health and welfare in aquaculture production facilities and the value chain for fish handling and processing.
- Deliver plant health management programs and services to promote healthy and viable crops.
- Advise growers on best management practices for pest control.
- Provide training for safe use of pesticides which would enable registration of low risk products.

Performance Measure 6: Per cent of routine diagnostic animal and plant samples completed within seven working days.

Performance Measure	2013/2014 Baseline	2014/2015 Actual	2015/2016 Actual	2016/2017 Target	2017/2018 Target
Per cent of routine diagnostic animal and plant samples completed within seven working days ¹	86%	87%	83.5%	85%	85%

Data Source: Ministry of Agriculture

¹ Samples tested in-house and not referred to another laboratory. Diagnostic tests require minimum times to complete, depending on the nature of the test.

The Plant Health Unit advises growers on the best management practices for pest control and provides training for safe use of pesticides. This training enables registration of low risk products. The Plant Health Diagnostic Laboratory provides plant health diagnoses and helps to fulfill the Plant Health Program's mandate of providing programs and services to promote plant protection. The Laboratory receives samples from growers of all commodities in B.C., pest management consultants, industry groups, home gardeners and the public. In collaboration with the plant health team and other ministry staff, the lab increases the capability for early detection of new insect and disease threats.

Discussion

The Abbotsford Agriculture Centre houses the Animal Health Centre and the Plant Health Diagnostics Laboratory. The Animal Health Centre is a veterinary diagnostic laboratory, with a mandate to diagnose, monitor and assist in controlling and preventing animal disease in B.C. Although primarily concerned with food-producing animals, the Centre also provides diagnostic services for companion animals, wildlife, zoo animals, marine mammals and fish. Submissions are made to the laboratory by veterinarians, livestock producers, government agencies, humane societies, zoos, aquariums and members of the public. The Centre offers a wide range of veterinary laboratory tests on a fee basis to diagnose disease and other causes of poor production or mortality in animals. Samples from wildlife, marine mammals and the British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals investigations are also regularly submitted to the Centre for examination and diagnostic tests.

Turnaround time (TAT) is used as our performance measure for the Animal Health Centre Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (AHL) as it is one of the most noticeable signs of laboratory service and is often used as a key performance indicator of laboratory performance in general. We are an American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians accredited laboratory with a fully audited quality assurance program to address our results quality, but users of the Animal Health Centre's services are interested in service quality, which as well as delivering test accuracy, also includes availability, cost, relevance and timeliness. Of these characteristics, timeliness is perhaps the most important to the producer or veterinarian looking at other livestock or poultry at risk. Unsatisfactory TAT is a major source of complaints to diagnostic laboratories regarding poor service and consumes much time and effort from laboratory staff in complaint resolution and service improvement if it is not addressed.

Variation between the 2015/16 target and the actual is primarily due to the Salmonella Enteritidis outbreak associated with baby chicks which were sourced from Alberta. The Salmonella testing for the hundreds of small back yard flocks possibly infected with Salmonella was carried out free of charge by the AHC. Salmonella testing requires an extended culture time within our lab and also the final isolates of the Salmonella bacteria must be sent to a national lab for typing before the case can be completed. The National lab was also overwhelmed by this outbreak which impacted 4 provinces adding to the delays in reporting.

Financial Report

Discussion of Results

The Ministry of Agriculture 2015/16 budget was \$80.229M. Through the year, additional funding was obtained as follows:

Core Business	Other Authorizations (\$000)	Description
Business Development	525	Gallagher Lake Irrigation Infrastructure Damage
Business Development	2,000	Buy Local BC Program
	2,525	Total Other Authorization

The Ministry's total expenditure spending of \$81.921M is a combination of the base budget and contingency approvals and other authorizations.

Looking forward, the Ministry has a budget of \$81.472M reflecting a modest increase for the Economic Resource Stability Mandate and increase capacity for the Agriculture Land Commission while continuing to support from prior years, key initiatives of Greenhouse Carbon Tax Relief, and the Tree Fruit Replant Programs.

Financial Report Summary Table

	2015/16 Estimates	Other Authorizations	Total Estimates	Actual	Variance
Operating Expenses (\$000)					
Agriculture Science and Policy	16,088	0	16,088	15,579	509
Business Development	39,745	1,806	41,551	43,022	(1,471)
BC Farm Industry Review Board	1,201	0	1,201	1,205	(4)
Executive and Support Services ...	7,789	0	7,789	6,823	966
Agricultural Land Commission	3,406	0	3,406	3,292	114
Production Insurance Special Account (Net)	12,000	0	12,000	12,000	0
Sub-Total	80,229	1,893	82,122	81,921	114
Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual ¹	0	0	0	(455)	455
Total	80,229	1,893	82,122	81,466	569
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)					
Executive and Support Services ...	754	0	754	702	52
Agricultural Land Commission	80	0	80	76	4
Total	834	0	834	778	56

Appendix A: Contact Information and Hyperlinks

Contact Information

Ministry of Agriculture:

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

Appendix B: List of Crowns, Agencies, Boards and Commissions

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 B.C. 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 work of the ALC is carried out by a provincial government appointed Chair, 6 Vice-chairs and 12 Commissioners from six regions of the province, who are collectively the board of directors of the ALC. The board is supported by professional staff located in Burnaby.

The purposes of the ALC as set out in s.6 of the Agricultural Land Commission Act are: 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. Zone 1 (Island, South Coast, Okanagan) represents 10% of the ALR but produces 85% of total farm cash receipts (or revenues) while zone 2, generates less farm revenues. It makes sense to allow greater flexibility to allow farm families to realize other economic development activities.

When exercising its powers in Zone 2 (the North, Kootenay and Interior region) under s. 4.3 of the Agricultural Land Commission Act, the ALC also considers in descending order of priority:

- the purposes of the commission set out in section 6;
- economic, cultural and social values;
- regional and community planning objectives; and
- other prescribed considerations.

Further information about the work of the ALC may be found at: <http://www.alc.gov.bc.ca>.

Goals, Objectives and Strategies:

Goal 1: Preserve Agricultural Land and Encourage Farming

Objective 1.1: Preserve the provincial agricultural land base through comprehensive decision making.

Strategies

- Consideration of Section 6 of the mandate in all Commission decisions.
- Consideration of Section 4.3 of the mandate in all Commission decisions with Zone 2.
- Consideration of agricultural capability and suitability of lands under application.
- Consideration of the potential impacts on the land base and the agricultural use of the land base with regard to all application requests and land use planning initiatives.

Objective 1.2: Expand current planning functions to include proactive planning related to community planning, major projects and emerging issues.

Strategies:

- Encourage local governments to engage in discussions with the Agricultural Land Commission and planning staff regarding their land use planning processes.
- Encourage local government and other land use agencies to develop agriculturally sympathetic land use planning.
- Review Agricultural Land Reserve boundaries in select areas of the Province with a vision to confirming the accuracy and appropriateness of the boundary.
- Become involved in major projects at the early conceptual developmental phase.
- Research and assess emerging issues that impact the agricultural land base.

Objective 1.3: Ensure a high degree of compliance with the *Agricultural Land Commission Act*, regulation and orders of the Agricultural Land Commission.

Strategies

- Ensure compliance with the Act, regulations and orders of the Agricultural Land Commission based on current resources.
- Follow up on complaints of inappropriate use of Agricultural Land Reserve lands.

Objective 1.4: Propose ways to strengthen the Agricultural Land Commission's mandate and improve operations.

Strategies

- Work with the Minister responsible to bring forward proposed legislative and regulatory changes to strengthen the Agricultural Land Reserve and the mandate of the Agricultural Land Commission.

Discussion

The core business functions of the Agricultural Land Commission are land use planning and application processing, compliance and enforcement, strategic planning and corporate policy development and working with local governments and stakeholders on land use matters affecting the Agricultural Land Reserve. The Commission adjudicates 500-700 land use change applications per year, and the ALC reports out annually on its operational activities and changes to the ALR through the publication of an annual report.

Operational highlights for 2015/2016 include:

- the launch of a new web-based application submission system to improve application processing efficiencies and ensure cost-efficient and effective delivery of public service;

- the restructuring of the Commission into 6 regional panels to improve responsiveness and increase interaction with local governments and stakeholders;
- the review and update of the ALC's interpretative policies in response to amendments to the Agricultural Land Reserve Use, Subdivision and Procedure Regulation; and
- the creation of a new Compliance and Enforcement Coordinator position and the hiring of two new Compliance and Enforcement Officers as a first step to improving response to complaints of misuse of lands in the Agricultural Land Reserve.

For more information on the operation and fiscal performance of the Agricultural Land Commission in 2015/2016 please refer to the [ALC's 2015-2016 Annual Report on the ALC's website](#).

Appendix B: List of Crowns, Agencies, Boards and Commissions

British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board

Executive Summary¹

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 B.C. regulated marketing boards and commissions, the Board provides oversight, policy direction and decisions 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 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 the *Agricultural Produce Grading Act* and are supported by the *Administrative Tribunals Act*. They include:

- supervising B.C.'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 of Minister of Agriculture decisions to refuse, suspend, revoke or not renew agricultural produce grading licenses;
- hearing appeals related to certain animal custody and cost decisions of the B.C. 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.

Through its annual strategic plan and other strategic documents, the Board establishes the goals, objectives, strategies and performance measures it believes are necessary to achieve its mandates.

BCFIRB is engaging with the Ministry to develop a Letter of Expectations in response to the Taxpayer Accountability Principles announced in June 2014.

Further information about the British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board may be found at <http://www.firb.gov.bc.ca/>.

¹ The complete report is available on [BCFIRB's](#) website.

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Measures:

Goal 1: A regulated marketing system with effective self-governance.

Objective 1.1: The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board and marketing boards and commissions practice good governance in their external and internal operations.

Strategies:

- Ensuring that marketing boards and commission activities and decisions are administratively fair, in compliance with legislation/regulations and in accord with sound marketing policy.
- Requiring boards to give consideration to the government policy framework and the public interest.
- Providing supervisory intervention when necessary.
- Working to achieve priorities within budget while continuing to place importance on board and staff development and training.
- While preserving its independence as a tribunal, continuing to work to ensure effective relations with the Ministry of Agriculture, regulatory agencies at all levels, and stakeholders.

Performance Measure 1: BCFIRB and the boards and commissions it supervises exercise appropriate governance and fiscal procedures in exercising their mandates.

Performance Measure	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
BCFIRB & boards/commissions exercise appropriate governance & fiscal procedures.	Met	All meet 2015/16 expectations	Met	All meet 2016/17 expectations	All meet 2017/18 expectations	All meet 2018/19 expectations

Discussion

Use of appropriate governance and fiscal procedures demonstrates accountability for legislated authorities and supports good industry outcomes. While some improvements remain, BCFIRB is largely satisfied with the progress that boards and commissions have made towards demonstrating best practices in their governance and fiscal procedures. As examples, progress was demonstrated in the areas of election rules, publication of key governance documents, transparent and accountable financial management, relationship building and training.

Performance Measure 2: Boards and commissions demonstrate that their programs, policies and decisions reflect legislative intent, sound marketing policy and consider the public interest.

Performance Measure	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
Programs, policies and decisions reflect legislative intent, sound marketing policy and consider the public interest.	Met	All meet 2015/16 expectations	Met	All meet 2016/17 expectations	All meet 2017/18 expectations	All meet 2018/19 expectations

Discussion

A primary objective of supply-managed industries is to maintain orderly marketing while supporting the public interest and strengthening social license. Boards and commissions, with BCFIRB support as required, continued with several initiatives to support the proactive management of risks that is needed to ensure a continuous supply of safe, high quality products to consumers, while actively responding to growing public expectations. Initiatives continued in the areas of, for example, animal welfare, disease management, food safety, regional and new entrant opportunities and environmental sustainability.

Performance Measure 3: The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board demonstrates fiscal responsibility by operating within budget.

Performance Measure	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
BCFIRB expenditures are on budget.	5.4% over-budget	Expenditures are within 5%	Met	Expenditures are on budget	Expenditures are on budget	Expenditures are on budget

Discussion

BC Farm Industry Review Board's 2014/15 official budget of \$891,000 was augmented to \$1.201 million in 2015/16 in recognition of chronic budget pressures and expanding responsibilities. Despite the budget increase, ongoing effort was required in 2015/16 to manage the budget to target with total expenditures for the fiscal year at \$1.205 million. Intensive budget management will also be required in 2016/17. BCFIRB cannot necessarily predict its full workload or the particular complexity of individual cases, which must be conducted independently and in accordance with the principles of administrative law. BCFIRB will also need to manage transition with new board members and staff retirement.

Goal 2: A principles-based, outcomes-oriented approach to regulation.

Objective 2.1: The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board and marketing boards and commissions use a principles-based approach to regulating.

Strategies:

- Working with boards and commissions to develop, adopt and employ a principles-based approach to regulation.
- Requiring all British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board, marketing board and commission orders, decisions and determinations to be made available to the public, except where privacy legislation and policies apply.
- Promoting policies that reflect B.C. interests at both the federal and provincial levels.

Performance Measure 4: The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board and the boards and commissions it supervises demonstrate the application of the

Strategic, Accountable, Fair, Effective, Transparent and Inclusive (SAFETI) principles in their programs, policies and decisions.

Performance Measure	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
BCFIRB & Boards and Commissions apply SAFETI principles.	Met	All meet 2015/16 expectations	Met	All meet 2016/17 expectations	All meet 2017/18 expectations	All meet 2018/19 expectations

Discussion

BCFIRB is very satisfied with progress made on implementation of the principles-based approach to regulation, including SAFETI, in 2015/16. BCFIRB recognizes principles-based regulation is a significant culture shift for boards and commissions and encourages them to maintain their progress in 2016/17. BCFIRB will look to the boards and commissions to demonstrate leadership in delivering the third phase of the principles-based approach to regulation that reflects the SAFETI principles in 2016/17.

Performance Measure 5: British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board orders, decisions, determinations, practices and procedures and other information are published. Marketing board and commission orders, decisions and determinations are published promptly after being made in order to preserve rights of appeal under the NPMA.

Performance Measure	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
Orders, decisions & determinations are published promptly.	Met	All meet 2015/16 expectations	Met	All meet 2016/17 expectations	All meet 2017/18 expectations	All meet 2018/19 expectations

Discussion

In 2015/16, BCFIRB routinely posted all of its complaints and appeals decisions on its website after seven days following the decision as required by its Rules of Practice and Procedure. Supervisory decisions were similarly posted in a timely fashion. BCFIRB also published all significant correspondence. Boards and commissions are making progress on publishing orders, determinations, decisions and other information in a timely manner. For example, boards and commissions generally posted amendments to their General Orders in a timely manner. BCFIRB again reminds boards and commissions of the importance of publishing information promptly to provide transparency and accountability to the regulated marketing system and to protect rights of appeal under the NPMA by those aggrieved by or dissatisfied with an order, decision or determination of a board. BCFIRB also continues to emphasize the importance for boards and commissions to provide clear and public rationales for decisions taken. BCFIRB is encouraged by examples, such as the Chicken Board’s Schedule 15 decision template as a record of decision, and encourages other boards and commissions to consider models for demonstrating the consideration of SAFETI principles in their decision-making.

Performance Measure 6: The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board and the boards and commissions it supervises work to maintain and where possible grow the market for BC produced product.

Performance Measure	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
No production or base allocation loss in supply-managed sectors.	Exceeded	No Loss	Met	No loss	No loss	No loss

Discussion

The farm-gate value for regulated marketing products increased marginally, contributing an estimated farm-gate value of just over \$1.6 billion for 2014. Regulated marketing sectors continue to contribute more than one-half of the \$2.9 billion farm gate value of all agricultural output in the province, with a commensurate economic contribution from downstream processing and marketing sectors. In their annual reports, marketing boards and commissions identified several significant undertakings in 2015/16 to develop markets and promote demand; to anticipate opportunities, challenges and risks; and to respond to issues as they arose.

Goal 3: Effective, fair and independent resolution of inquiries and disputes.

Objective 3.1: Ensure issues and disputes arising within the British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board’s jurisdiction are resolved in a fair and timely manner.

Strategies:

- Using farm practices studies to help prevent and resolve farm practices disputes.
- Using supervisory processes to help prevent and resolve regulated marketing disputes.
- Using timely, fair and accessible processes to help resolve complaints (under the *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act*), and appeals (under the *Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act*, *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* and the *Agricultural Produce Grading Act*).

Performance Measure 7: BCFIRB reports annually on time from filing to resolution, cost per case, and user satisfaction for each of its appeals and complaints processes beginning 2015/16.

Performance Measure	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
BCFIRB reports annually. Appeals and complaints are routinely handled within target process timelines	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

The table below summarizes BCFIRB’s appeals and complaints activities in 2015/16.

	Farm Practices Complaints	Regulated Marketing Appeals	Appeals under Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act
Carried forward from previous fiscal year	9	17	2
New appeals filed	4	12	13
Active appeals	13	29	15
Appeals resolved in fiscal year	10	25	11
Appeals carried forward	3	4	4

Discussion

Each of the 13 appeals filed under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* was resolved within the 29 business days established within BCFIRB's Practice Directive. Of the four *Farm Practices Protection Act* complaints filed in the fiscal year, three were resolved within the time line specified in the Practice Directive while the fourth is continuing into fiscal 2016/17. For the 12 regulated marketing appeals filed under the *Natural Products Marketing Act* only one went to hearing and it was decided within the timeframe established in the Practice Directive. The remainder were resolved through alternative dispute resolution processes.

Work continued in 2015/16 to set the groundwork for conducting user satisfaction surveys as provided for in amendments to the *Administrative Tribunal Act*. No survey was initiated pending resolution of methodological and other preliminary matters identified in part through discussion with the tribunals community (for example notification to appeal and complaint applicants that contact information may be used for survey purposes).

BCFIRB also collected preliminary benchmark cost-per-case information for its respective appeals and complaints mandates. While there is considerable variability from case to case, approximate average cost-per-case estimates are \$5075, \$5140 and \$2025, for *PCAA* and *NPMA* appeals, and *FPPA* complaints, respectively.

BCFIRB's formal supervisory review process is a strategic approach to managing systemic industry issues that could otherwise result in large numbers of appeals or delays with little to no long-term benefit to industry or the associated value chain. Supervisory reviews support broad consultation and examination of inter-linking program and policy considerations leading to more beneficial outcomes for industry and, by extension, the public. BCFIRB held two formal supervisory reviews (Vancouver Island Regulated Vegetable Review; Chicken Operating Agreement Review) in 2015/16 and carrying on into 2016/17.

Two BCFIRB decisions were the subject of Judicial Review in 2015/16, both under the *PCAA* (*Binnersley vs. BCSPCA* and *McKinnon vs. BCSPCA*). The Judicial Review process for these is ongoing into 2016/17.

While BCFIRB did not undertake any farm practices studies in 2015/16, previous propane cannon studies continue to provide a basis for guidance to BCFIRB, the Ministry of Agriculture, local governments and the BC Blueberry Council in addressing this type of noise complaint. There were no propane cannon noise complaints filed with BCFIRB in 2015/16.

The *Administrative Tribunals Statutes Amendment Act, 2015* was introduced in March 2015 and changes were made to the *Administrative Tribunals Act* in December 2015, along with consequential

amendments to the *NPMA*, *PCAA* and *FPPA*. These changes reflected efforts by BCFIRB, the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Justice and other tribunals in support of legislative and regulatory changes to enhance the capacity of tribunals to resolve disputes. Work was ongoing in 2016 to review BCFIRB’s Rules of Practice and Procedure to ensure they meet the requirements of the new legislation. Updated rules for each mandate will be posted to the BCFIRB website early in fiscal year 2016/17. BCFIRB also updated and re-published its respective Practice Directives in 2015/16.

BCFIRB also monitored and supported federal legislative and regulatory initiatives, including a Farm Products Council of Canada review of orders issued under the federal *Agricultural Produce Marketing Act* to reduce regulatory burden while supporting the objectives of orderly marketing.

Performance Measure 8: Demonstrated increased use of Alternative Dispute Resolution by marketing boards and commissions and the British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board.

Performance Measure	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
ADR is used whenever appropriate	Met	Met	Whenever Appropriate	Whenever Appropriate	Whenever Appropriate

Discussion

BCFIRB is satisfied that whenever it was appropriate throughout 2015/16 it employed an ADR process in resolving inquiries, complaints and disputes. BCFIRB is also satisfied that boards and commissions continue to routinely use dispute prevention and resolution options as appropriate in their decision-making processes.

Appendix D – Minister’s Mandate and Actions Summary.

In the Premier’s annual *Mandate Letter* to the Minister dated June 10, 2014, the Minister of Agriculture received direction on strategic priorities for the 2015/16 fiscal year. These priorities and the ministry’s resulting actions are summarized below:

Mandate Letter Direction	Ministry’s Action
1. Balance your ministerial budget in order to control spending and ensure an overall balanced budget for the Province of British Columbia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Complete</i>
2. Ensure the Agricultural Land Reserve is working for British Columbia and implement this spring’s legislative changes that will protect valuable farmland in regions with growth pressures while allowing for responsible economic development opportunities in areas that are not under similar pressure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Complete</i> • Bill 24 amendments brought into force Sept 3rd. • ALC panel appointments complete. • Completed consultations with over 100 organizations representing the agriculture industry as well as local governments, land owners, communities of interest and over 1,600 citizens (through an on-line consultation process)
3. Ensure the Agricultural Land Commission regional panels are constituted by September 30, 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Complete</i> • OIC to appoint chair.
4. Update industry growth objectives as outlined in the <i>BC Jobs Plan</i> and the agriculture sector plan, <i>BC Agrifoods, a Plan for Growth</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Complete</i> • Speech from the Throne commits to a new agrifood strategy developed with Minister’s Agrifoods Advisory Committee (MAAC) • MAAC has developed the new <i>Agrifood and Seafood Action Plan 2020</i>.
5. Work with the Ministry of Finance to implement the 25 per cent tax credit for farmers on the value of farmed food that is donated to food banks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Complete</i> • Ministry of Finance overall lead, with AGRI. • Budget 2015 committed to “explore options in the coming year to give farmers credit for their philanthropy”
6. Creation of a long-term and sustainable tree fruit replanting program upon the expiry of the current program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Complete.</i> • 7-year (long-term) program announced November 21.
7. Work with the BC Association of Cattle Feeders to develop and promote their "Certified BC Beef" brand.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Complete.</i> • BC Abattoirs Association (BCAA) (assuming program from BCACF) has rebranded “Certified BC Beef” to “100% BC Beef”. AGRI is supporting promotion of “100% BC Beef”.
8. Work with Intergovernmental Relations to break down interprovincial trade barriers on BC wine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Complete and ongoing.</i> • Complete: BC and Manitoba • Implementing: Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia • Attempting to expand to include all provinces
9. Work with the provincial organic farming sector to create a "BC Organic" brand to market BC organic foods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Complete and ongoing.</i> • Consultations on a province-wide approach for certification completed Mar 31, 2015. • In order to ensure consumer confidence, the strategy includes mandatory certification, a transition plan, and support for farmers seeking certification.
10. Work with the Minister of International Trade to ensure trade capacity for BC agricultural support is sufficient to secure additional Asian trade export growth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Complete</i> • There were 11 tradeshow/promotional events and 6 trade missions completed to date in FY2014/2015. All tradeshow/promotional events have been completed. • Minister Wat led a mission to China, Japan, and Korea in November 2014 with a focus on agrifood, including a BC delegation at China Seafood in November 2014. Promoted export opportunities in BC’s Agrifoods sector as a result of the CKFTA.
11. Work with the Ministry of Justice to enact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Complete and ongoing.</i>

<p>recommendations pertaining to agriculture and farmer's markets as outline in Parliamentary Secretary John Yap's Liquor Policy Review.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Justice has implemented changes to farmers' markets. • Two recommendations were part of ALC consultations, now are part of regulatory proposals • Remaining recommendations planned for industry engagement 15/16 or later
<p>12. Continue to promote Buy Local BC with the additional \$2 million that was committed in Strong Economy, Secure Tomorrow.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Complete and ongoing.</i> • Additional \$2 million announced in December 2014 for 2014/15 • Additional \$2 million announced as part of Budget 2015 for 2015/16. • Ministry still seeking long term funding solution
<p>13. Ensure a common platform of compensation and accountability principles is implemented across our broader public sector. Implement these new principles across the public sector organizations and agencies that fall under your ministerial responsibility.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Complete and ongoing.</i> • Completed review of taxpayer accountability principles and have engaged with ALC/BCFIRB. • Implementation for ALC being proposed as part of all proposed regulatory changes • Staff determining if any regulatory changes for BCFIRB are required.