

Audit of the Agricultural Land Commission

Released: [September 2010](#)

1st Follow-up: [October 2011](#)

Discussed by the Public Accounts Committee: [December 2010 Transcript](#)

Self-assessment conducted by the Agricultural Land Commission

The Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) appreciates the opportunity to update the Auditor General on the progress to date in implementing the recommendations outlined in the September 2010, "Audit of the Agricultural Land Commission". The challenges facing the commission and identified in the audit continue and only modest steps have been taken to address the recommendations. The recommendations in the audit were helpful to the Chair in carrying out his review of the ALC's organization and operations in the Fall of 2010. The Minister of Agriculture asked the Chair to conduct a thorough review of ALC operations, policy, regulation and legislation to ensure the ALC continues to effectively fulfill its mandate to support farm families and enhance the integrity and sustainability of agriculture in British Columbia. The Chair's report "Review of the Agricultural Land Commission - Moving Forward: A Strategic Vision of the Agricultural Land Commission for Future Generations" was submitted to the Minister of Agriculture in November 2010. Further action on the recommendations is awaiting direction from government.

Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION AND SUMMARY OF PROGRESS	SELF-ASSESSED STATUS
<p>Recommendation 1: Ensure that ALR boundaries are accurate and include land that is both capable of and suitable for agricultural use.</p> <p>Actions taken, results and/or actions planned</p> <p>The Chair's report was submitted to the Minister of Agriculture in November 2010. The ALC is awaiting direction from government. Also, the ALC has undertaken a preliminary assessment of the resources needed for ALR boundary reviews.</p>	<p>No action taken</p>
<p>Recommendation 2: Seek government's support to make changes that will allow it to more effectively preserve agricultural land and encourage farming through the application process.</p> <p>Actions taken, results and/or actions planned</p> <p>The Chair's report was submitted to the Minister of Agriculture in November 2010. The ALC is awaiting direction from government.</p>	<p>Partially implemented</p>
<p>Recommendation 3: Engage in proactive long-term planning with local governments to encourage farming.</p> <p>Actions taken, results and/or actions planned</p> <p>The Chair's report was submitted to the Minister of Agriculture in November 2010. The ALC is awaiting direction from government. Also, the ALC has undertaken a preliminary assessment of the resources needed for proactive long-term planning.</p>	<p>No action taken</p>
<p>Recommendation 4: Work with Fraser-Fort George Regional District to address concerns it has with the District's processes.</p> <p>Actions taken, results and/or actions planned</p> <p>The Chair's report was submitted to the Minister of Agriculture in November 2010. The ALC is awaiting direction from government. Also, the ALC has undertaken a preliminary assessment of the resources needed to properly oversee delegation agreements.</p>	<p>No action taken</p>

SELF-ASSESSED PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations (Cont.)

Recommendation 5: Work with the Oil and Gas Commission to develop an action plan to implement the recommendations of the 2009 audit.	Partially implemented
Actions taken, results and/or actions planned	
The Chair's report was submitted to the Minister of Agriculture in November 2010. The ALC is awaiting direction from government. Also, the ALC has undertaken a preliminary assessment of the resources needed to properly oversee delegation agreements. Discussions with the OGC have taken place.	
Recommendation 6: Ensure that it has a sufficiently robust compliance and enforcement program.	Partially implemented
Actions taken, results and/or actions planned	
The Chair's report was submitted to the Minister of Agriculture in November 2010. The ALC is awaiting direction from government. The ALC is beginning to collaborate with provincial government resource management staff through the Resource Management Coordination Project, which provides the ability to draw on C & E resources throughout the province. Also, the ALC has undertaken a preliminary assessment of the resources needed to establish a robust compliance and enforcement program.	
Recommendation 7: Prioritize completion of the new database and finalize conversion of the original paper ALR maps into digitalized format.	Partially implemented
Actions taken, results and/or actions planned	
The Chair's report was submitted to the Minister of Agriculture in November 2010. The ALC is awaiting direction from government. Also, the ALC has undertaken a preliminary assessment of the resources needed for database management and mapping. The original paper ALR maps have been digitized, however, they are not currently linked to the Commission's database and analysis capability is extremely limited.	
Recommendation 8: Evaluate the collective impacts of its decisions on applications and its broader policy decisions.	No action taken
Actions taken, results and/or actions planned	
The Chair's report was submitted to the Minister of Agriculture in November 2010. The ALC is awaiting direction from government. Also, the ALC has undertaken a preliminary assessment of the resources needed for database management.	
Recommendation 9: Report publicly on the cumulative impacts of its decisions.	No action taken
Actions taken, results and/or actions planned	
The Chair's report was submitted to the Minister of Agriculture in November 2010. The ALC is awaiting direction from government. Also, the ALC has undertaken a preliminary assessment of the resources needed for database management.	