



# Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

SERVICE PLAN SUMMARY

2006/07 - 2008/09



Ministry of  
Agriculture and Lands

## Message from the Minister

As Minister of Agriculture and Lands, I will help ensure that B.C.'s agriculture and food sectors continue as one of the engines that drive our economy.

The ministry's four-themed approach will further strengthen the investment climate in B.C.'s agriculture sector. We will work to increase access to capital, improve access to Crown land, enhance the flow of knowledge and manage the urban/agriculture divide. We will apply this approach to significantly contribute to meeting Government's Five Great Goals.

Building on input from a MLA committee chaired by Parliamentary Secretary Val Roddick, the Agriculture Plan for British Columbia will support the Great Goals of "Create more jobs per capita than anywhere else in Canada," and "Lead the world in sustainable environmental management with the best air and water quality and fisheries management, bar-none".

We will review our aquaculture strategy with input from the Select Standing Committee on Aquaculture and the Pacific Salmon Forum led by John Fraser to ensure the industry continues to meet high environmental standards and to explore opportunities for technological innovation.

We will promote B.C.'s natural resource-based economy, taking advantage of opportunities presented by the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games and expanding trade in the Asia-Pacific region.

The ministry supports government's Great Goal of "lead the way in North America in healthy living and physical fitness" by ensuring through food safety and bio-security measures that B.C. continues to produce healthy food products.

B.C.'s Crown land administration will be enhanced through consultation and improving relations with First Nations, and by developing policies ensuring long-term sustainable benefits for all British Columbians. We will continue to use a science-based approach to managing contaminated sites for which the Province is responsible.

This brochure highlights programs and priorities in our 2006/07-2008/09 service plan, reflecting our commitment to contribute to the well-being of all British Columbians. I encourage you to read our full plan.



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pat Bell". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

Honourable Pat Bell  
Minister of Agriculture and Lands  
February 2006

# Purpose of the Ministry

To enhance economic development and environmental sustainability of agriculture (including aquaculture) and food sectors and Crown land, while delivering safe, high-quality products for the enjoyment and well-being of British Columbians.

## *Ministry Goals*

### **1. Competitive, world class agriculture and food sectors**

Continued investment and strong sector performance depend on competitiveness and profitability. We will improve access to capital and access to Crown land, enhance innovation and the flow of knowledge, promote market access, streamline regulations and manage the urban/agriculture divide.

### **2. Agriculture and food systems that are environmentally sustainable and promote human, plant and animal health**

There is increased interest in a product's origin, its quality, safety and impact on the broader environment. We will grow B.C.'s reputation as a leader and community partner by maintaining world class practices and promoting safeguards to increase confidence in our products.

### **3. Coordinated Crown land administration and allocation that optimizes the flow of sustainable benefits for British Columbia**

Crown land is a valued public asset. We will promote a balanced approach to its use so that British Columbians, today and tomorrow, have access to Crown land and enjoy a sustainable flow of social, environmental and economic benefits.

### **4. A centre of excellence promoting sustainability through the management and remediation of contaminated sites that are the responsibility of the Province**

The ministry leads a cross-government approach that identifies and assesses contaminated sites on provincial Crown land.

## *Support for the Five Great Goals*

The ministry goals support four of the government's Five Great Goals:

- » Make British Columbia the best-educated, most literate jurisdiction on the continent;
- » Lead the way in North America in healthy living and physical fitness;
- » Lead the world in sustainable environmental management, with the best air and water quality, and the best fisheries management, bar none; and
- » Create more jobs per capita than anywhere else in Canada.

## *Cross Ministry Initiatives*

The ministry works with other ministries on critical issues, including:

- » leading the invasive weed strategy;
- » coordinating agriculture, aquaculture and food industry access to information supporting the Asia-Pacific gateway;
- » supporting a new relationship with First Nations based on openness, transparency and collaboration;
- » implementing uniform standards for meat inspection in B.C.;
- » supporting healthy food choices through ActNow BC, championing the B.C. School Fruit and Vegetable Snack program; and
- » expanding agriculture opportunities, focussing on Mountain Pine Beetle affected areas.



## Ministry Vision and Mission

### *Vision*

World class food, agriculture and Crown land management systems that contribute to the prosperity of all British Columbians.

### *Mission*

For the benefit of British Columbians, we will:

- » promote sustainable agriculture and food systems; and
- » provide a balanced approach that promotes the sustainable use of Crown land resources.



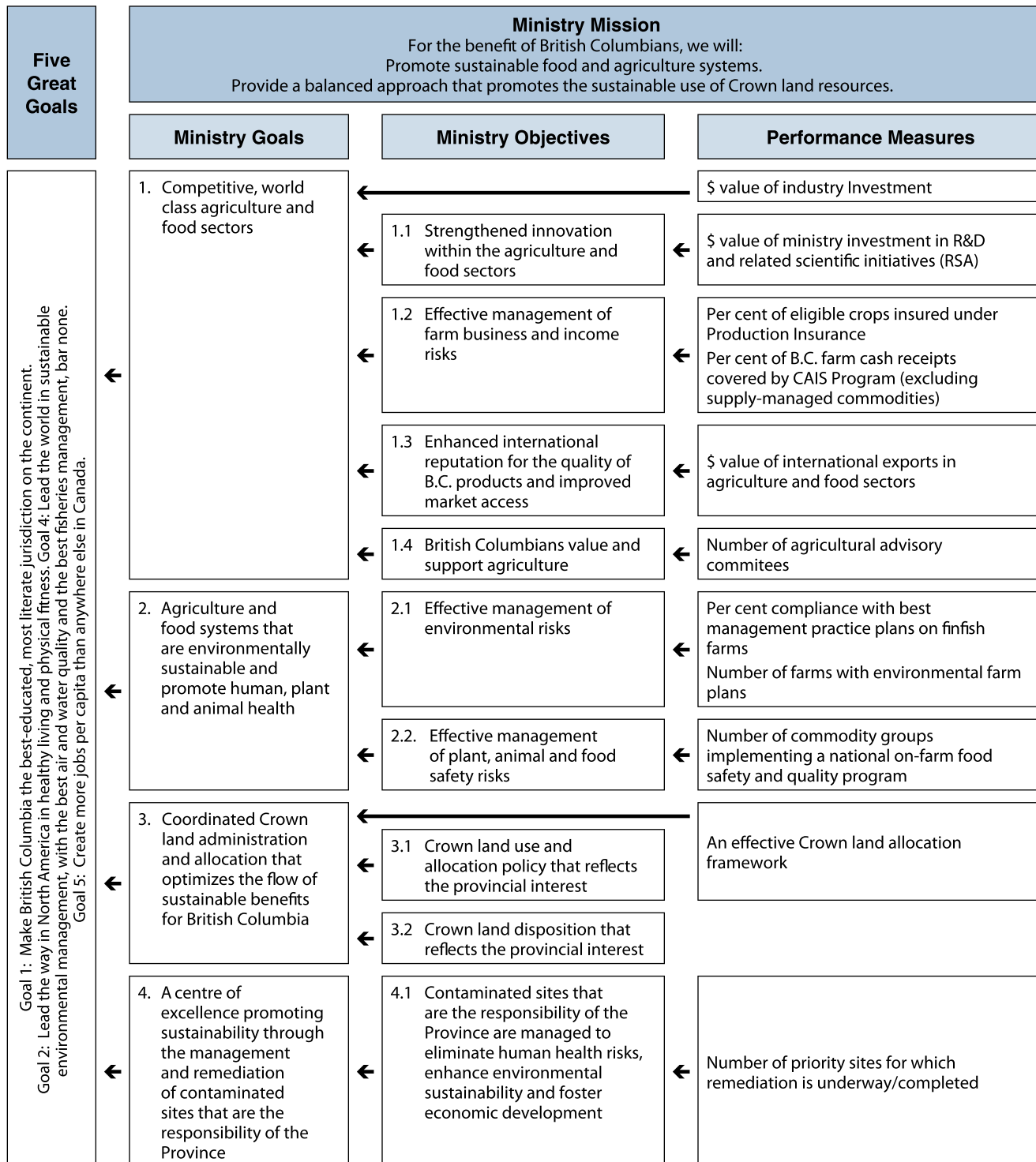
# Core Business Areas

- 1. Food Industry Development** - With nearly \$23 billion in consumer sales and more than 282,000 jobs supported, agriculture is an important contributor to the B.C. economy. Food industry development is responsible for working in partnership with industry to support and undertake research and innovation initiatives, and disseminate information on issues affecting agriculture and food sectors. This area is also responsible for animal and aquatic surveillance and diagnostics, coordinating province-wide land and water policies and programs regarding environmental farm management, providing for youth development programs and promoting public awareness and support of the agriculture and food industries. In addition, this area works in partnership with various stakeholders to plan, address and resolve local land use planning and management opportunities and challenges.
- 2. Agriculture and Aquaculture Management** - Long-term competitiveness on the world stage and continued investment is critical to prosperity for British Columbia. Agriculture and aquaculture management provides policy and legislation leadership for the agriculture and food sectors, reduces the regulatory burden and barriers to international and inter-provincial trade and promotes communication and understanding of farming within local government and communities. This area also leads the provincial coordination of invasive plant management and development of an Agriculture Plan and an Aquaculture Strategy for British Columbia, supports the Agricultural Policy Framework Agreement and provides strategic support to the regulated marketing system.

Plant health management and diagnostics, food safety and quality initiatives including science-based approaches to monitoring and product tracking (traceability), and licensing, compliance and enforcement of aquaculture and livestock are also responsibilities of this area.
- 3. Risk Management** - The ministry aims to create a stable platform for sector development providing a comprehensive approach to managing risk for farmers. Risk Management products such as the Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization Program and Production Insurance help to stabilize farm businesses when faced with severe weather, economic or other impacts that could otherwise put them out of business.
- 4. Crown Land Administration** - British Columbia's natural resource wealth is globally significant and its contribution to the economic, environmental and social well-being of the province is profound with 94% of the provincial land base, and associated resources, remaining under Crown ownership. This core business provides leadership across government for Crown land administration, including development of a strategic Crown Land Allocation Framework, and operational policy and procedures in support of this framework. The development of tenure documents and planning tools, and completion of economic analyses are other areas of responsibility. In addition, the ministry provides leadership in the management of B.C.'s contaminated sites program by coordinating the identification and remediation of priority sites.
- 5. Executive and Support Services** - Executive and Support Services includes the Minister's and Deputy Minister's offices, and the operational budget for the Corporate Services Division.

# Ministry Performance Plan Summary

This section details ministry goals, objectives, and performance measures, and illustrates how they contribute to government's Five Great Goals.









## Contact Information

For more information on the British Columbia  
Ministry of Agriculture and Lands visit our website at:  
[www.gov.bc.ca/al](http://www.gov.bc.ca/al)

The complete ministry service plan and other  
related planning resources is available at:  
[www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2006/sp/al](http://www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2006/sp/al)