



# BC's LANDS

# Update



Honourable Pat Bell  
Minister of Agriculture and Lands

Featuring News From the Lands Sector of B.C.'s Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

MAY 2006

## FROM THE DESK OF PAT BELL

Although it's only May, summer rapidly approaches. With just a few weeks left in the spring session of the legislature and less than two months left in the school year, it'll be summer vacation time for many of you before you know it.

Despite the break from the legislature, I've got a fairly busy, and some might say ambitious, schedule planned heading into summer. My goal is to get out into the regions and meet with as many ILMB and Agriculture and Lands staff as possible. I'm also looking forward to attending the official opening of FrontCounter BC Prince George later this month.

It's hard to believe that this new ministry was formed less than a year ago. You've all done a bang-up job, from the establishment of the Integrated Land Management Bureau to the extremely successful launch of FrontCounter BC,

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*FrontCounter BC cross-government partners accept their award from the Premier.*

## FrontCounter BC Gains Momentum

FrontCounter BC gained major recognition by taking top honours in the Cross-Government Integration Category at the Premier's Innovation and Excellence Awards. The awards ceremony was held in Victoria on March 29th and attended by more than 500 public servants.

FrontCounter BC has been extremely successful in serving people with business needs related to the natural resource sector, including the Canadian Forces.

For the second time in less than a year, the military came to Kamloops to hold a complex training exercise involving more than 900 reservists. The exercise was previously held in the United States. FrontCounter BC staff contacted several ministries to coordinate permits and authorizations as well as stickhandle any issues or concerns. This helped simplify the process for the client, by cutting down on the number of meetings and individual contacts required. The military has acknowledged the importance of FrontCounter BC's role in keeping the exercise in Kamloops, remarking "it cannot be this simple. This is marvelous."

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to the formation of the Crown Contaminated Sites Branch. We have a lot to celebrate and I hope we'll have that chance this summer.

Also important to note, our province has made the Spirit Bear B.C.'s official mammal. This builds on the announcement government made in February about the new land use decisions for the Central Coast and North Coast that protect a total of 1.8 million hectares. The protected areas include more than 200,000 hectares of the Spirit Bear's habitat, including the more than 103,000 hectare Kitsoo Spirit Bear Conservancy on Princess Royal Island, which is home to the greatest concentration of Spirit Bears in British Columbia.

Until next month,

#### Pat Bell

Minister of Agriculture and Lands

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Ministry of  
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Another example of great service provided by FrontCounter BC is their work on behalf of the Council of Forest Industries. They needed to conduct research across six different Forest Districts and didn't know where to start. FrontCounter BC offered to coordinate the authorization process, saving COFI from having to apply for each authorization at several different offices. They were thrilled with the quick results achieved through their single point of contact with FrontCounter BC. COFI had estimated the authorization process would take 60 days, but with FrontCounter BC's help it took just seven business days.

FrontCounter BC is now open in Prince George, Surrey and Nanaimo. Offices in Smithers, Cranbrook, Fort St. John, Williams Lake, and Victoria will be open by the end of the year. For more information visit [www.frontcounterbc.gov.bc.ca](http://www.frontcounterbc.gov.bc.ca) or call 1-877-855-FCBC (3222)



Kamloops Regional Executive Director Steve Carr and FrontCounter BC Provincial Implementation Team Project Director Nelson Grant celebrate success!

## Central Coast and North Coast Update

B.C. has created a new land-use designation to protect sensitive environmental areas while preserving First Nations' traditional rights and future economic opportunities.

The new conservancy designation is a key factor in the implementation of the Central Coast and North Coast land use decisions. Conservancies allow Crown land to be set aside for the protection of its biological diversity, natural environments and recreational values, and the preservation and maintenance of First Nations' social, ceremonial and cultural uses.

The new designation paves the way for the creation of 24 conservancies, covering about 541,000 hectares on B.C.'s central and north coast, including the Kitsoo Spirit Bear Conservancy, the primary habitat of the province's new official mammal. An additional 85 conservancy areas are expected to be established by the end of 2007.