



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

APRIL 2006

FROM THE DESK OF PAT BELL

While some parts of the province are thawing out from winter, spring is in full bloom in the capital.

FrontCounter BC Kamloops staff expect the spring and summer months to be their busiest yet as more people become familiar with the services they offer. FrontCounter BC Kamloops' business remained steady through the winter with an average of 400 inquiries a month, leading to about 80 projects a month.

The FrontCounter BC pilot project recently won major acclaim at the Premier's Innovation and Excellence Awards in Victoria, taking home top prize in the Cross Government Integration Category. Based on FrontCounter BC's tremendous success, it is now a provincial initiative with offices opening across B.C. This month we'll be opening offices in Prince George, Nanaimo and Surrey.

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Minister Bell dances with Chair of KNT First Nations Dallas Smith to celebrate the signing of a government-to-government land use protocol agreement as part of the historic Central and North Coast Land Use Decisions.

New Base Map Online Store Up and Running

The new Base Map Online Store is part of government's ongoing long-term plan to deliver services when and where needed. Base map products and services are now available to customers online 24 hours a day, seven days a week and many can be purchased over the Internet using a credit card.

The service replaces LandData BC and gives customers improved access to quality maps and images vital to their business.

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The next phase of the Central and North Coast LRMPs is progressing smoothly. On March 27, the Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation and I met with eight chiefs from the KNT First Nations in Alert Bay to celebrate the next phase of the historic agreement. We signed a land use protocol agreement that incorporates First Nations' culture, ecological and economic interests and allows the LRMP process to move forward.

Government signed a similar agreement with Turning Point First Nations finalizing the land use agreement for the North Coast just days earlier, on March 23. These government-to-government agreements include the formation of Land and Resource Forums that allow the Province and the First Nations to work together to finalize and implement land use plans for the Central Coast and North Coast.

Until next month,

Pat Bell

Minister of Agriculture and Lands

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Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

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"We tested the Online Store in December and then asked a few of our clients who wanted to order some photographs to use the site," said Cheri Stutz, GIS mapping manager, Chartwell Consultants Ltd. "It was great, no one had to ask us for help navigating through this process and they were also able to make a simple customized map of their area. This gives our clients a powerful tool and saves us a lot of time."

To access the Base Map Online Store, visit: ilmbwww.gov.bc.ca/bmgs/ecommerce-intro.html



Minister Bell and Cheri Stutz discuss some of the benefits the Base Map Online Store offers. Stutz's clients have found the new service efficient and easy to use.

Warren Mitchell Retires

After 32 years with the province, Assistant Deputy Minister for Crown Land Administration Warren Mitchell has retired from government.

Over the years there has been speculation by some that Warren's youthful good looks combined with years of experience must mean he started working for the Province straight out of pre-school. Now's the time to clear up that myth and set the record straight!



Warren is well educated and currently registered in British Columbia as a Registered Professional Biologist and as a Registered Professional Forester. Over his years in government he has always been well respected and highly esteemed by his peers and co-workers. His prime experience and area of expertise has been in Crown land resource management and strategic land use planning. Before coming to the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, Warren worked for the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management, Ministry of Forests and the Land Use Coordination Office.

Those who know Warren well doubt he'll be heading off into the sunset to retire quietly. Best wishes and good luck Warren.