



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

AUGUST 2006

FROM THE DESK OF PAT BELL

Here we are in the heat of the summer, and it will be back to school (and work) time before we know it! And when I say heat, I mean HEAT. Here's an interesting stat for you. Over the weekend of July 21-22, 63 different temperature records were broken across the province from Vancouver Island to Fort St. John. I hope you've had a chance to chill out at a local lake, enjoy a hike in the shade of one of our provincial parks, or visit a cool B.C. community you'd never been to before.

I've been touring around B.C. meeting many ministry staff. Whether it's Victoria, Terrace, Smithers, Prince Rupert, Vanderhoof or Prince George, I've received great feedback, including stories of success and innovative ideas for building upon, and improving the business we do.

This month I'll be taking a bit of a mid-island tour, visiting staff in Nanaimo, Courtenay/Comox and Campbell River.

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Minister Bell joins Premier Gordon Campbell and MLAs John Rustad and Shirley Bond to announce 248 hectares of Crown land being given to the UNBC for research, teaching and Nordic Sports.

Land Grant Doubles the Size of UNBC

The Province, with the support of Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, is providing 248 hectares of Crown land to UNBC for research, teaching and use in Nordic sports, nearly doubling the size of the Prince George campus.

Premier Gordon Campbell, Minister of Advanced Education Murray Coell, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation Tom Christensen, and local MLAs Shirley Bond and John Rustad were all in Prince George to make the announcement.

The land, which is inside city limits, was part of a 370 hectare parcel the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation requested as part of their treaty settlement package in 2004. Through negotiation, the Lheidli T'enneh, UNBC and the province were able to reach an agreement to meet the needs of all parties.

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While in Nanaimo, I'll take part in celebrations to mark the official opening of FrontCounter BC. The Nanaimo office is the third to open in the province and a big part of the business they do is processing aquaculture applications. In fact, the Nanaimo office processes all aquaculture applications for the entire province.

With the continued expansion of FrontCounter and increasing demand for services, a dedicated call centre will now handle all calls to the toll-free FrontCounter BC number, 1-877-855-3222 (FCBC). Previously, the Kamloops office fielded all calls to the number! Results from the Kamloops Pilot Project highlighted that the majority of clients preferred accessing FrontCounter BC by telephone. Now that FrontCounter BC is gaining momentum and acceptance from clients, the increase in volume required a different approach to be sustainable. I'd like to thank the Kamloops office for taking this extra duty on for the past year.

Until next month,

Pat Bell

Minister of Agriculture and Lands

To respond to this newsletter, or for more information, please e-mail: AL.MINISTER@GOV.BC.CA



Ministry of
Agriculture and Lands

Survey Plan Submissions Go Hi-tech

B.C. is staying abreast of technological advances when it comes to land surveying. The Province is now accepting survey plans and applications electronically via the Land Title and Survey Authority of BC (LTSA).

Electronic submission of survey documents is something industry and those responsible for processing survey plans, asked for – and the province has delivered.

"Timely, efficient and accurate registration and recall of these plans is crucial to the development process; providing certainty of research and security of tenure to the development community," said Richard Redfern, President of the Association of British Columbia Land Surveyors. "This makes B.C. consistent with other provinces such as Alberta, where digital survey plan submission is already in place."

Electronic commerce and related activities carried out by B.C.'s survey professionals help fuel B.C.'s key economic drivers. The survey professional field is growing at an exponential rate and is expected to accelerate further once the management of digital signatures is ratified here and in other jurisdictions.

The LTSA is responsible for processing land survey plans and applications and still accepts hardcopy (paper) submissions.

ILMB Helps Secure Land for Golden Tourism Centre

Contributed by: Ian Johnston, ILMB Cranbrook

Business has been brisk at the British Columbia Visitor Centre @ Golden since it opened May 27, 2006. The centre was built as a partnership between Golden Area Initiatives, the Town of Golden, the provincial and federal governments, and Kicking Horse Resort.

The ideal location for the centre adjacent to Highway 1 was identified, but the land turned out to be privately owned. That's where the Integrated Land Management Bureau stepped in to help arrange a land exchange with the property owner. Without ILMB, the visitor centre probably wouldn't have been built in its "ideal," easy access spot near the highway.

The new visitor centre is the first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified building in the Kootenays and was built using locally produced engineered wood products. The more than-500 square metre space has a rail tunnel architectural theme.

The Golden Visitor Information Centre is an important part of the Kootenay-Rockies tourism strategy and is part of a larger strategy to welcome tourists to B.C. for the 2010 Winter Olympics.