



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

DECEMBER 2006

FROM THE DESK OF PAT BELL

As the year comes to a close it's a time to look back and celebrate the achievements of 2006. Highlights include the historic Central Coast and North Coast land use decisions, FrontCounter BC winning a Premier's Award, unveiling recovery plans for B.C.'s spotted owls, releasing the first ever biennial Crown contaminated sites report. The list just goes on and on. And before year's end we've chalked up more accolades!

ESRI (Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc.) Canada recently presented an Award of Excellence to ILMB in recognition of the innovative iMap website (www.nric.ca). The award presentation was a major highlight of ESRI's annual meeting. ESRI said, "ILMB's effort in making an enormous amount of data available to the B.C. government and the public sets an example for other governments across Canada."

The Crown contaminated sites branch has been racking up awards for the Britannia Mine Remediation

Spirit Bear Auction

Minister Bell got more than the "bear" minimum for the government sponsored "BC Spirit Bear" that he auctioned off as part of the B.C. Lions Society's Kermode Spirit Bears in the City fundraiser. Minister Bell worked the crowd like a true auctioneer, selling the bear for \$12,100 – all of which goes to charity. The auction in Victoria raised about \$150,000 for the B.C. Lions Society.



Staff Recognized for Contributions to Lheidli T'enneh Final Agreement

A landmark treaty initialled by the Province and the Lheidli T'enneh marks the end of over 13 years of negotiations. It also positions the 312-member northern B.C. band to be the first to reach a final agreement under the B.C. Treaty Commission process.

ILMB staff received a warm acknowledgement from Trevor Proverbs, Chief Provincial Negotiator of the Lheidli T'enneh final agreement, for their contributions to the first Final Agreement under the new process.

In a letter thanking the staff from all the agencies that assisted with the agreement, Trevor singled out several individuals from ILMB and the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands. Trevor concluded, "Please accept my sincere thanks for the role you each have played in helping us get to this stage. I look forward to working with many of you in the future as we continue our successes on the treaty front."

More information about the Lheidli T'enneh Final Agreement visit: www.gov.bc.ca/arr/ and www.lheidli.ca

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Project. The Britannia Water Treatment Plant won gold in the Infrastructure category from the Canadian Council of Public Private Partnerships. The province also won top honours at the 2006 Fraser Basin Council Sustainability Awards in the Caring for Ecosystems category for the overall remediation of the old mine site.

The FBC awards are presented biennially to honour individuals, businesses, government and community organizations who support social, economic and environmental sustainability throughout the Fraser Basin.

FrontCounter BC Kamloops also received major kudos – a surprise visit from Premier Gordon Campbell! The Premier is a huge supporter of FrontCounter BC and was thoroughly impressed with what he saw in Kamloops. The Kamloops office regularly receives well over 600 inquiries and processes more than 160 authorizations a month.

Have a safe and happy Christmas, all the best to you and your family in 2007.

Pat Bell

Minister of Agriculture and Lands

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Ministry of
Agriculture and Lands



Senior Program Engineer Barry Azevedo (2nd from right) accepted the award from the Canadian Council for Public Private Partnerships on behalf of the Province. Pictured from left to right, Minister of Transportation Kevin Falcon, EPCOR Senior Vice President Dr. Steve Stanley, Barry Azevedo and Fraser Milner Casgrain CEO Michel Brunet.

Britannia Water Treatment Plant Wins National Award

The Britannia Mine Water Treatment Plant won the top award in the infrastructure category at the 2006 National Awards for Innovation and Excellence in Public-Private Partnerships in Toronto.

The winning team includes the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands as the client, Partnerships BC as the Public-Private Partnership facilitator, and EPCOR as the private partner. The award recognizes the Province and EPCOR for an innovative partnership that ends a century of heavy metal pollution in Howe Sound.

Previously, acid rock drainage flowed into Howe Sound untreated. Now, the water treatment plant captures and removes hundreds of tonnes of heavy metal contaminants from the historic Britannia Mine every year.

Meet B.C.'s Man on the Ground at Britannia

Barry Azevedo, a senior program engineer with the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands' Crown contaminated sites branch, has been involved directly with the Britannia Mine Remediation Project for more than a decade.

Barry is a professional environmental engineer with 17 years experience in the field. He started working on the Britannia Mine file in 1996, initially as a regulator. After settlement discussions with the historical mine operators were initiated in 1998, his responsibility changed and he began representing the Province as the owner of the contaminated land. When the Crown contaminated sites branch assumed responsibility for the Britannia project, Barry became a part of the branch within the ministry.

Barry also project manages and provides senior technical direction on remediation work at Pacific Place and the Prince Rupert Skeena Cellulose Pulp Mill Site. Barry says he enjoys his job managing complex projects