



Honourable Pat Bell
Minister of Agriculture and Lands

BC's LANDS



UPDATE

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

OCTOBER 2005

FROM THE DESK OF PAT BELL

The first Front Counter BC centre is now open in Kamloops and this is something I'm really excited about. Front Counter BC is going to change the way natural resource-based businesses pursue and develop opportunities in B.C.

What's so unique about this venture is that it will actually make it easier for people to find out information about natural resource-based business opportunities by simplifying the application process.

In the past, clients told us they were frustrated with having to chase down applications and approvals at various offices in different locations through a number of ministries and agencies. Front Counter BC changes that. Front Counter BC staff are your direct link to B.C.'s natural resource ministries and agencies. In essence, the person you meet at the front counter does all the hard work for you! Front Counter BC staff are your single point of contact for access to B.C.'s natural resource ministries and agencies.

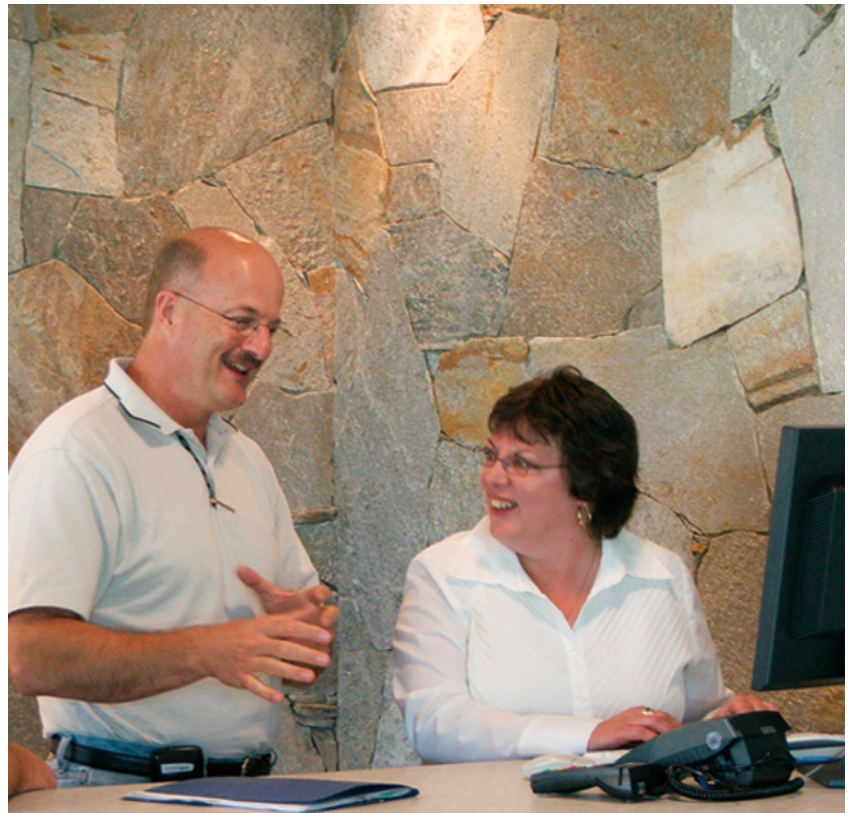
Of course all authorizations are still subject to provincial, regional and federal regulations. Front Counter BC staff help clients proactively identify environmental, public health and safety issues.

These important concerns are addressed as an essential part of the process while the authorization process proceeds efficiently.

Keep watching for this newsletter for updates on Front Counter BC as we roll out this exciting new initiative in a community near you!

Pat Bell

Minister of Agriculture and Lands



Agriculture and Lands Minister Pat Bell discusses plans for the opening of the FrontCounterBC Natural Resources Opportunity Centre with Deborah Lipscombe, Regional Manager for the Government agent in Kamloops, on a temporary assignment to NROC as the Implementation Director. The rock on the wall behind them is from Revelstoke. The office also features pine panelling from mountain pine beetle-stained lumber.

FrontCounterBC Opens in Kamloops

FrontCounterBC Kamloops is officially open for business! FrontCounterBC is a single window service for clients of provincial natural resource ministries and agencies.

Kamloops MLA Claude Richmond and Kamloops-North Thompson MLA Kevin Krueger officially opened the Kamloops centre September 16, 2005. Highlights of the grand opening festivities included, John Jules a resource counsellor with the Kamloops Indian Band performing a drum ceremony, and Dick McMaster, a director from the Wilderness Tourism Association of BC, speaking about the importance of FrontCounterBC to natural resource-based businesses.

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ILMB Offers One-Stop Access to Crown Land

The Integrated Land Management Bureau is a client-focused organization that provides services related to the general management of Crown land. ILMB acts on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands and other provincial ministries and agencies to provide services to clients such as:

- co-ordinating and accepting applications for access to Crown natural resources (tenures, permits, licences, Crown grants, etc) through regional FrontCounterBC – Natural Resource Opportunity Centres;
- delivering natural resource authorization adjudication services on behalf of mandated ministries;
- developing, implementing and revising land-use plans;
- managing and delivering resource information;
- prioritizing and coordinating recovery planning for broad-ranging species-at-risk.

The bureau works within the Crown land-use and policy planning framework set by the ministry. ILMB works under a specific service agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands to provide one-stop access to Crown land authorizations in a manner that supports the sustainable economic development of the province's natural resources.

To respond to this newsletter, or for more information, please e-mail:

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Ministry of Agriculture and Lands



Native drummer John Jules pounds out a beat at the official opening of the new FrontCounterBC Natural Resource Opportunity Centre in Kamloops. Claude Richmond and Kevin Krueger, Kamloops area MLAs, also took part in the ceremony.

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"We've been encouraging government agencies to co-ordinate the referral and permit approval process for some time now because it makes sense," said McMaster. "Small businesses simply don't have the time or money it takes to track down permits and approvals from the various regulatory agencies in different locations. This is something government has the capacity to do more efficiently and effectively."

FrontCounterBC Kamloops is the first of eight Centres. Additional FrontCounterBC offices will be phased into operation over the next two years. Prince George and Nanaimo are scheduled to open in early-2006. Offices in Surrey, Cranbrook, Williams Lake, Smithers and Fort St. John will open in the latter part of 2006 and early 2007.

FrontCounterBC staff:

- help clients complete application packages;
- land information, maps, land-use plans;
- guide clients through required authorizations;
- follow up and track the status of applications;
- liaise with B.C. ministries, agencies and the federal government;
- begin referral processes with First Nations;
- assist with economic development opportunities;
- provide a single provincial government response to applications.

For more information please contact:

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The Kamloops Centre's particular focus is on the Thompson-Nicola Regional District (although staff can help clients find information on natural resource opportunities elsewhere in the province) and as such, particular detail went into making the environment inside the office physically resemble the region and natural resources found there. For example, the stone used on the wall behind the reception area is called micalite and can be found in quarries around the Revelstoke area. The blue stain pine used for wainscoting in the public area comes from pine that has been attacked by pine beetles. Copper sheeting reflects the presence of mining in the area. A glass etching of Kamloops Lake done by local artist Chuck St. John is also featured prominently in the reception area.



Above is the new logo for FrontCounterBC