
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Editor
Quesnel Cariboo Observer

Re: Bell, Simpson butt heads over agriculture, Apr. 9, 2006

The importance of Crown land to the Province of British Columbia cannot be overstated. I appreciate the comments from Cariboo North MLA Bob Simpson on the recent changes to the Land Act & Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing Act, but wanted to take the time to clarify a couple of points.

As Minister responsible for Agriculture and Lands, one of my main objectives is to improve access to Crown land. The amendments to the legislation are in line with that goal. The changes do not mean government loses its checks and balances, as stated by MLA Simpson – if anything the changes allow for a better, more coordinated response.

Land disposition can now be carried out by the following ministries:

- Transportation for airports and head leases at major ports
- Forests and Range for grazing leases
- Tourism, Sport and the Arts for commercial recreation, golf courses, alpine ski and all season resorts

The Ministry of Agriculture and Lands still has primary statutory responsibility for the administration of Crown land in B.C. and we'll continue to work with our counterparts across government to ensure a coordinated approach is taken. The wise allocation of Crown land has and always will be fundamental in sustaining communities and businesses in B.C. Crown land decisions are made based on balancing social, environmental and economic interests to help government achieve its Five Great Goals.



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