



# 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

NOVEMBER 2006

## FROM THE DESK OF PAT BELL

It's been an extremely busy time in Victoria with hundreds of Union of B.C. Municipalities' members in the capital for their annual convention.

I met with a number of representatives over the course of the week and had some great conversations, and in some cases made major advances. For example, I met with representatives from the Town of Princeton and the Upper Similkameen Indian Band to discuss their proposal to develop a parcel of Crown land for residential use. We signed a Statement of Intent on October 25 with all parties in agreement to pursue the project. Later this month we'll get together to formalize the agreement.

The Province showcased the success of the Central and North Coast land use decisions at UBCM. ILMB staffed a booth highlighting these historic land use decisions. FrontCounter BC also had a good presence for the duration

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Minister Bell presented a commemorative plaque to FrontCounter BC Victoria staff Ken Albrecht, Christine Zotzman, Linda McPhee and Richard Brunning at the official opening.

## Satellite FrontCounter BC Office Open in Victoria

FrontCounter BC Victoria is now officially open! Like all FrontCounter BC offices, the Victoria office has its own unique qualities. Unlike other offices, Victoria is a satellite office reporting to Nanaimo FrontCounter BC.

The Victoria office also shares space with Small Business Victoria, a division of Small Business BC. This is part of a new provincewide partnership that gives FrontCounter BC and Small Business BC clients access to the services of both programs through each other's offices. All FrontCounter BC offices in the province now provide access to Small Business BC services.

For information on FrontCounter BC, visit [www.frontcounterbc.gov.bc.ca](http://www.frontcounterbc.gov.bc.ca) online or call toll-free 1-877-855-3222 (FCBC). For more information on Small Business BC, visit [www.smallbusinessbc.ca](http://www.smallbusinessbc.ca) online or call toll-free 1-800-667-2272.

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of the conference. A number of staff took turns working a FrontCounter BC booth, handing out new FrontCounter BC magnets (which were extremely popular) and answering questions from delegates.

Five FrontCounter BC offices are now officially open, and we are making new advances almost on a weekly basis. Ranchers can now go into any FrontCounter BC office and use a Community Access Terminal to complete cattle age verification registration. We also have a fantastic new partnership with Small Business BC, there's more about that in this newsletter.

ILMB has inked a new Agreement with the Greater Vancouver Regional District to ensure geo-spatial data in the Lower Mainland are referenced properly to the new GPS-based reference system. The 5 year agreement will allow the Province to maintain, promote and provide ever greater access to provincial geo-spatial reference standards in the region. This includes ensuring the system is widely accessible for infrastructure projects and other developments for the 2010 Winter Olympics.

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](mailto:AL.MINISTER@GOV.BC.CA)



Ministry of  
Agriculture and Lands

## Ministry Loses Long-time Lands Employee

It is with much sadness we announce the passing of ILMB employee Andrea LaCasse on October 7, 2006 after a courageous battle with cancer.



Andrea LaCasse

Among the many contributions Andrea made over the years, few are as enduring as the relationship she developed with B.C.'s film industry. Andrea developed a process unique to ILMB which results in film licenses being issued in just 3 to 5 days. She created a manual for staff outlining every step of the process from first point of contact to approval.

Andrea represented the best of the public service. Her passion for work, commitment to excellence, knowledge of business, and respect for clients are a lasting legacy to those who had the pleasure of working with her. Her laughter and zest for life will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

## Mountain Caribou Recovery Consultations Underway

The Province is working with stakeholders to develop a successful mountain caribou recovery plan. Mountain caribou have declined from 2,500 individuals in 1995 to about 1,900 individuals in 16 herds today, with an increase of 69 animals in the last two years.

The independent mountain caribou science team's findings and conclusions clearly demonstrate recovery of mountain caribou in B.C. is possible over the long term. The findings are the result of nearly two years of extensive research on mountain caribou in British Columbia by a team of independent mountain caribou experts from British Columbia, Alberta and Idaho.

According to the science team's research, potential recovery actions could include removing mountain caribou predators such as cougars and wolves; removing other ungulates such as deer and moose from mountain caribou habitat; further protection of core mountain caribou habitat from logging; further management of recreation activities in mountain caribou habitat; and translocation of mountain caribou from larger to smaller herds. Our efforts to date have helped. These include protecting significant habitat in herd areas, extensive inventory studies of every herd and a moratorium on new commercial recreation tenures in the Kootenay region. The Hart herd in the Mackenzie region is doing well with more than 700 mountain caribou and there are four other herds with more than 200 animals.

To view the mountain caribou science team's findings and conclusions, please visit: <http://ilmbwww.gov.bc.ca/sarco/mc/>