



BC's AGRI-FOOD

Update



Honourable Pat Bell
Minister of Agriculture and Lands

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

SEPTEMBER 2006

FROM THE DESK OF PAT BELL

This edition marks the one-year anniversary of my newsletter and it's amazing to look back over all I have shared with you through this newsletter in that time. One thing is certain: there is never a dull moment in the agriculture sector!

In mid-August I attended the XVI Tri-National Agricultural Accord in Banff. The meeting, attended by senior officials from Canada, the U.S. and Mexico, was very successful on several fronts. We achieved general consensus on trade remedies, with a specific emphasis on anti-dumping. We agreed it is important to continue to push for elimination of obstacles to cattle trade that have resulted from concerns about BSE. We discussed other topics such as biosecurity and avian influenza, and we got a report on the new federal regulations related to removal of Specified Risk Material. Overall I was pleased with the outcome and thought the agreement reached was very positive.

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Staff profile: Deputy Minister Larry Pedersen

From time to time, the newsletter will feature ministry staff profiles in an effort to better acquaint you with the people who make Agriculture and Lands the best ministry in government. This inaugural profile is of Deputy Minister Larry Pedersen.

Larry is a lifetime resident of B.C. He was born in Summerland and has lived in many regions of the province including Quesnel, Prince George, Salmon Arm, Williams Lake, Smithers and Victoria.

Larry received his Bachelor of Science in Forestry from the University of British Columbia in 1975 and has worked in a variety of positions with the B.C. Forest Service as well as in the private sector. Larry was appointed Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands in June 2005. Immediately prior to that he was the Assistant Deputy Minister of B.C. Timber Sales and for the previous 10 years, he had been the province's Chief Forester.



Experience in progressively responsible positions has given Larry a strong background in public administration and strengthened his ability to balance the interests of a wide variety of stakeholders. He has a strong interest in sustainability and is committed to balancing economic, social and environmental issues.

Recently, Larry has agreed to be this year's Honorary Chair of the Provincial Employees Community Services Fund (PECSF). Celebrating over 40 years of helping B.C. communities, the PECSF commits every dollar raised to charitable organizations. In his role as Honorary Chair, Larry will take part in as many fundraisers and special events as possible.

Larry has been married to Debbie for 30 years and they have three sons. He loves to sing and is a founding member of the Arbutus Singers choir in Victoria.

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September is here and the Agriculture Planning Committee is back on the road. The committee, chaired by Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture Planning and Delta South MLA Val Roddick, is developing recommendations for a sustainable, long-term plan for the agriculture sector. The committee will be in Cranbrook (Sept. 6), Abbotsford (Sept. 22), Vanderhoof (Sept. 25), Williams Lake (Sept. 26), Kamloops (Sept. 28) and a Vancouver Island session is expected to be held in October. The specific times and locations for the sessions are on the committee's website at www.harvesttohome.bc.ca.

The sessions in June went very well and the group got some valuable input from the communities they visited. I strongly encourage you to provide your input either in person or through the website. It's important that we get as much input as we can in order to develop the best possible Agriculture Plan for B.C.

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

Aquaculture update

In early August the Minister embarked on a Vancouver Island tour with stops in Courtenay, Comox, Campbell River, Port McNeill and Nanaimo.

On Aug. 1, the Minister visited staff in Courtenay before attending a meeting with the B.C. Shellfish Growers Association in Comox. The next day he traveled to the Broughton Archipelago with staff and a representative from the Coastal Alliance for Aquaculture Reform, made time to visit the state-of-the-art Englewood fish processing plant in Port McNeill, and met with members of the Musgamagw Tsawataineuk Tribal Council.

In Nanaimo on Aug. 3, as part of a trip to Malaspina University-College, the Minister announced the Centre for Shellfish Research is receiving \$100,000 to support current operations and further develop a field training and research facility for shellfish aquaculture at Deep Bay. In addition, \$166,000 has been allocated to the Kwakiutl District Council to assist development of shellfish aquaculture opportunities for some of its members. The news release is available at www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2005-2009/2006AL0028-001003.htm.

The Minister finished off his "Island Tour" Aug. 3 in Victoria with the release of the 2004 and 2005 Annual Inspection Reports on Marine Finfish Aquaculture Sites. The reports show a high level of compliance overall by the 77 operational or active sites inspected in 2004 and the 75 sites inspected in 2005. In most cases, for 2005, companies were in the 90 to 100 per cent range for all compliance components. The report can be viewed in full at: www.agf.gov.bc.ca/fisheries/aqua_report/2004-5/index_2004-5.htm.



Minister Bell reaches for a geoduck with one hand while holding a red sea urchin in the other as part of a recent tour of the Centre for Shellfish Research at Nanaimo's Malaspina University-College.