



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

SEPTEMBER 2006

FROM THE DESK OF PAT BELL

September is a great month for fresh starts. It's back to school and back to work, the perfect time to start a new routine, like adding more B.C. fruits and veggies to your diet. With fall just around the corner, many communities are gearing up for their annual fairs and exhibitions where there's always fresh produce and home baked goodies to sample.

Exercise is also an important part of a healthy lifestyle and what better way to get some exercise than to walk around your local fair? Research shows regular, brisk walking is one of the best exercises for overall fitness. It suits people of all ages and fitness levels, it's easy to get started and there's no complicated technique to learn or equipment to buy.

Walking is an excellent way to get fit because it uses nearly all the muscles. It's also easier on the back and joints than most other exercise because you're not

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Minister Bell and KNT First Nations chairman Dallas Smith at FrontCounter BC's official opening in Nanaimo. The ministry and the KNT are working together to develop a First Nations equivalent to FrontCounter BC.

KNT Clearinghouse

FrontCounter BC Nanaimo is working with the KNT First Nations to develop an innovative pilot project that will see the development of a First Nations equivalent to FrontCounter BC.

The so-called "clearinghouse" will act as a single window for First Nations consultations related to natural resource applications in the KNT territory. Input from the appropriate First Nations will be collected, consolidated and provided to the Province.

Dallas Smith, chairman of the KNT First Nations said he "hopes this initiative will help the Province and First Nations address natural resource development opportunities with greater efficiency and effectiveness."

The partnership between FrontCounter BC and the clearinghouse pilot project is tangible proof that the New Relationship forged between government and First Nations is working. Together we are creating innovative concrete outcomes that benefit all British Columbians and foster social, environmental and economic prosperity.

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jumping up and down. Studies have shown a daily 20-minute walk can reduce the risk of heart attack by as much as 50%, it also reduces high blood pressure and helps burn fat to keep weight under control.

As we enter our second year as an organization, FrontCounter BC is becoming an important part of the work this Ministry does. It gives natural resource-based business clients direct access to information on the permits and authorizations they need to keep their business going, or start up a new one.

In the last year, we officially opened offices in Kamloops, Prince George and most recently, Nanaimo. We also have a dedicated call centre at 1 877 855-3222 that provides a toll-free service to our clients. Before the end of 2006, we will have full service offices in nine communities and "satellite" FrontCounter BC services available through 52 government agent offices around the province.

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

Shellfish Farms Get Provincial Support

The Province is providing \$266,000 to help further B.C.'s shellfish industry. On August 3, the ministry announced \$166,000 for the Kwakiutl District Council to assist in the development of shellfish aquaculture operations for its members. In particular, the grant will be used to develop opportunities for the Kwakiutl, Da'naxda'xw, Quatsino and Gwa'sala-Nakwaxda'xw First Nations.

The Centre for Shellfish Research at Malaspina University College in Nanaimo received \$100,000 to support their current operations and further develop a field training and research facility for shellfish aquaculture at Deep Bay, located north of Qualicum Beach.

Earlier this year, the centre at Malaspina received \$2.25 million from the Province to implement a First Nations aqua-business training program. They now offer 16 courses ranging from beach management to business management. About 500 coastal residents are expected to participate in the program in the next five years.

B.C.'s main shellfish products are oysters and clams, but there is increasing production of geoduck clams, mussels and other shellfish products, including abalone and scallops.

DM & Honorary Chair of PECSF

I would like to acknowledge Larry Pedersen, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Lands, who is 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. Last year, over \$1.6 million – a record – was raised by provincial employees through on-line payroll donations and community and regional fundraisers. This year's campaign officially kicks off on September 19th.



In his role as Honorary Chair, Larry will take part in as many fundraisers and special events as possible. A life-long resident of B.C., Larry was appointed Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands in June 2005. Immediately prior to that he was the ADM of BC Timber Sales and for the previous 10 years, he was the province's Chief Forester. Throughout his career, Larry has worked in many regions around the province and has seen first hand the positive impact the funds have on our communities.

I encourage all ministry employees to contribute to this year's campaign. For more information visit www.bcpublicservice.ca/communityfund