

1999/00

STRATEGIC AND BUSINESS PLAN



**BRITISH
COLUMBIA**

**Ministry of
Agriculture and Food**

Canadian Cataloguing in Publication Data

British Columbia. Ministry of Agriculture and Food

Strategic and business plan. — 1998/99-

Annual.

ISSN 1481-3491 = Strategic and business plan

1. British Columbia. Ministry of Agriculture and Food — Periodicals.

2. Agriculture and state — British Columbia — Periodicals. I. Title.

S141.B74 354.5'09711'05 C98-960255-9

The agriculture and food industry is the only resource industry in British Columbia that is booming. The dynamic growth of our agri-food sector is a bright spot in the provincial resource economy, and among the most vibrant of industries anywhere in the country.

B.C. is the only place in Canada where the number of family farms has increased in the 1990s. Agriculture is the only primary industry in B.C. where job growth exceeded population increase throughout this decade. Last year, B.C.'s food industry showed Canada's second-highest export growth. And we achieved all of this despite international price collapses for bulk commodities such as apples, hogs and wheat, which have created a crisis in parts of the industry.

Our safety net provisions will deal with this crisis in the short term, but it sharply defines the clear challenge – that our agri-food industry must move forward from supplying bulk commodities, to creating more value-added products.

This year, we will cut red tape on environmental and labour constraints, and on liquor sales for the farm and winery industries. We will define the provincial interest to protect the Agricultural Land Reserve, and create B.C.'s first agri-food policy. We will consolidate our food safety legislation and streamline inspection services; and improve food quality legislation to allow our industry to certify products for specific markets.

We have emerged from ministry restructuring with renewed vigour and efficiency, having made the changes we needed to make to move forward. We are operating in new ways to build a solid base of public support for our agriculture and food industries, and to help each sector identify and address emerging opportunities.

Broadly speaking, we will continue to focus our energies on industry development and resource management. Fulfilling those two strategic objectives puts us in line with government-wide priorities for job creation and economic diversification, and accurately reflects what the agri-food industry in British Columbia needs this ministry to be – a proactive agent of growth and sustainability.

The coming year will not be without hardship or change. Pressure on global resources and markets will not ease overnight, and the pressure to keep hard-won consumer loyalty is a daily challenge. That has always been part of agricultural life in B.C., but look what we've made of it: agriculture now employs one in seven British Columbians – some 250,000 people – and last year generated more than \$17 billion in sales.

Just as we've weathered wind, hail, snow and flood – sometimes in the same growing season – the agriculture industry in B.C. is up to the challenge. Our objective is to lead Canada in growth figures by 2000.

This *Strategic and Business Plan* will help guide us in our support of a self-sustaining industry. It is a business map that shows us where we are, how we got here, and where we want to go.

We will continue to report to you on our progress.



Corky Evans
Minister of Agriculture and Food



CONTENTS

Introduction	5
Ministry Profile	5
Mission Statement	5
Ministry Priorities	6
Agri-Food Sector Challenges and Opportunities	7
Building B.C.'s Agri-Food Industry	8
Agri-Food Policy	8
Industry Development	8
Resource Management	9
1999/00 Resource Plan	10
Financial Resources	10
Special Funds	11
Human Resources	12
Review of Progress on 1998/99 Priorities	14
Industry Development	14
Resource Management	16
Priorities and Supporting Core Business For 1999/00	17
Industry Development	17
Resource Management	18
Ministry of Agriculture and Food Offices	19
Map of Ministry Regions and Offices	20
Table I: Ministry Budget Summary 1999/00	13

The agri-food industry is one of British Columbia's most successful resource industries. Nowhere else in Canada are family farms becoming more numerous, with strong potential for job creation and economic growth. However, to achieve these goals, the innovation, adaptability, resiliency and hard work that have been part of agri-food production and processing in this province for more than a century must continue to be present in all sectors of the industry and this ministry.

To provide a positive climate for growth and success in the agri-food industry, ministry staff concentrate on ensuring that each specific agri-food sector benefits from more-efficient use of ministry and other available resources. Development activities build on the solid agricultural foundations in B.C. – a secure, high-quality agricultural land base, proximity to local markets, a skilled and dedicated workforce, strong trade networks, and a tradition of business acumen and technical innovation.

Government-wide restraint measures have accelerated the ministry's recent change in direction, quickly moving everyone closer to the goal of a stronger, self-sustaining industry. The ministry continues to focus its energies on dealing with issues in efficient land use and management, emerging technologies, positive regulatory change, and environmentally responsible farm and processing practices. Ministry staff are dedicated to fostering greater agri-food industry competitiveness by encouraging industry diversification and job creation.

Ministry Profile

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food is the longest-standing in the province's history, tracing its heritage to the Department of Agriculture Act passed in 1894. Since then, the ministry and the sectors it represents have significantly evolved – the agri-food industry in B.C. now generates \$17 billion a year and employs one in seven British Columbians, some 250,000 people.

Mission Statement

To foster the socioeconomic viability and sustainability of the agriculture and food sector throughout British Columbia.

The ministry is committed to the following values in pursuit of this mission:

- planning and delivering government services in a cost-effective and publicly accountable manner;
- providing responsive, courteous and professional service of high quality to clients, and
- building and maintaining among ministry personnel an effective spirit of teamwork and cooperation based on trust, integrity, flexibility, innovation and social equity, and equality of opportunity.



MINISTRY PRIORITIES

The agri-food sector in British Columbia is facing three fundamental changes:

- the continuing shift to a global economy,
- changing consumer preferences, and
- increased urban pressure.

In response, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food has changed the way it serves the industry in British Columbia. The ministry now concentrates its work on two key priorities: industry development and resource management. This *Strategic and Business Plan* reflects that focus.

Industry development supports value-added initiatives, competitiveness, investment and job creation. Resource management supports management and stewardship programs to create opportunities and remove constraints that will enable expansion of agriculture within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), and increase the productivity of farmed land.

Working in partnership with industry, rural communities, First Nations and all levels of government, the ministry's primary goal is to help strengthen the agri-food industry so that it can achieve greater profitability. The ministry also works hard to promote public- and private-sector cooperation, and to support sustainable growth under environmentally conscientious guidelines.



Fluctuating global markets, urban encroachment, and greater competition for markets and resources are all forcing B.C. producers and processors to take a considered and more sustainable approach to farming, production, distribution and marketing practices.

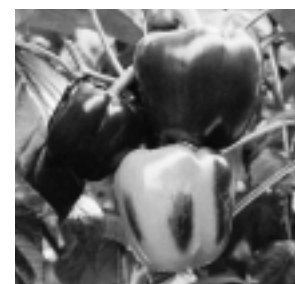
As the ministry continues to decrease its direct financial support for the sector, industry partnerships and public awareness of the value of agricultural activities and agri-food production are key ingredients in developing an environment of sustainability and growth. This means making the most of our skilled workforce, fully developing prosperous new niche commodities, and finding ways to continually meet consumers' evolving preferences. In short, it's business as usual.

Challenges

- risk management for the unpredictability of growing conditions – such as hail, drought, flooding, disease and insect infestation – or market declines
- increasing urban pressure on land use
- rising input costs and regulatory requirements
- changing consumer preferences
- public demand for environmental sustainability and accountability
- freer international trade and an increasingly global marketplace
- increased competition
- susceptibility to significant fluctuations in international markets (e.g., Asia)

Opportunities

- new products and specialty markets (e.g., organics, nutraceuticals and agroforestry) and expansion of exports (e.g., greenhouse and beef)
- natural resource strengths, including more intensive use of the ALR
- intense and widespread consumer loyalty for B.C. products
- competitive strengths (e.g., international reputation for quality products)
- direct marketing, on-farm processing, and agri-tourism
- value-added processing





Agri-Food Policy

Last year, farmers, food processors, retailers and distributors from across the province came together to begin developing a comprehensive provincial agri-food policy. More than 200 industry representatives participated in consultations in Nanaimo, Kelowna, Dawson Creek, Creston, Williams Lake, and Abbotsford. The ideas from those workshops provided a foundation for discussion in Naramata, where 80 people representing all areas of the agri-food sector met in November to shape solutions to the challenges facing the industry.

By listening to industry representatives, ministry staff identified two levels of recommendations and concerns. Those that could be acted-on immediately were pulled out of the process. The ministry and industry have already started to address items such as labour, environmental and regulatory issues through signed memoranda or action plans, a review of crop insurance, and bylaws to implement the *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act* through work with municipalities.

A number of other issues that emerged are more sweeping and complex. Resolving these social policy issues is beyond the scope of a single ministry. It will require commitments and buy-in from Cabinet, and from British Columbians as a whole in communities throughout the province.

This year, the Legislature's all-party Select Standing Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries will examine and make recommendations on the agri-food policy. After hearing from government agencies and selected groups and organizations in Victoria this spring, the Select Standing Committee will hold province-wide community consultations, giving all British Columbians an opportunity to contribute to solving today's agri-food industry challenges. The Select Standing Committee's report will be tabled in the Legislature in the spring of 2000.

The agri-food policy is expected to lead to new initiatives, but it will probably not substantially change the ministry's focus on its two key priorities, explained below.

Industry Development

Industry development strategies will vary by sector, ranging from developing new products and processing techniques, to targeting new markets. With increasing differentiation of consumer markets and heightened education and concerns for food quality and safety, quality assurance remains integral to retaining consumer and customer loyalty.

Ministry activities will focus on supporting industry development by:

- creating a positive business climate for investment by assisting with regulatory and taxation issues that the industry cannot readily manage itself,
- supplementing private risk management options with government-based programs that reduce major fluctuations in income and assist with major adjustment,

Industry development strategies will vary by sector, ranging from developing new products and processing techniques, to targeting new markets.

- supporting high-quality products by maintaining animal and plant health laboratory and regulatory systems, supporting on-farm quality control, and promoting and developing a regulatory framework that allows the industry to target specific markets such as organic, Integrated Pest Management, and other quality attributes,
- reinforcing consumer and customer loyalty through promotion of B.C. products (e.g., BUY BC),
- helping industry improve its competitiveness and profitability by facilitating industry-led efforts to identify opportunities and constraints, and to deal with factors such as training and skills development, market development, technology, and access to capital. The focus will be on helping industry in accessing and/or developing the infrastructure to improve these factors, and to develop new products, new markets and new processes that will maintain and enhance consumer and customer loyalty,
- encouraging high-value and value-added production and processing, and innovative marketing (including direct marketing) to strengthen opportunities throughout the food chain, and
- improving trade and supporting the interests of B.C.'s agri-food sector in trade negotiations and disputes.

Resource Management

Under the resource management objective, the ministry will work to help create opportunities and remove constraints to the expansion of agriculture within the Agricultural Land Reserve, and to increase the productivity of farmed land.

Key activities will include:

- Resource planning – to ensure that agriculture is well represented in land-use and water allocation decision making, and that options for agriculture are not unduly constrained.
- Resource-use regulation – to influence local and provincial regulations so that they encourage a full range of agricultural and agri-food uses.
- Resource management – to encourage improved Crown land allocation and management decision making, enabling expansion and sustainable intensification of agriculture.
- Taxation policy development – to ensure that the taxation system encourages the productive use of agricultural land.

Under the resource management objective, the ministry will work to help create opportunities and remove constraints to the expansion of agriculture within the Agricultural Land Reserve, and to increase the productivity of farmed land.



Financial Resources

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food continues to meet its budget targets. In 1998/99, this was achieved despite several unplanned initiatives, which included the costs for the Quayle Commission review of "provincial interest," the agri-food policy consultations, and the development of implementing the Whole Farm Insurance Pilot Program.

The ministry budget for the implementation of this business plan in 1999/00 is \$56.9 million. In addition, a number of programs, primarily farm safety net programs, are delivered in cooperation with the federal government. These include the Net Income Stabilization Account (NISA), Crop Insurance, and the Whole Farm Insurance Program.

These safety nets are based on federal-provincial multi-year agreements. Cost-sharing is based on a formula of 60 per cent federal funding and 40 per cent provincial funding, but this is affected by several factors, such as industry participation and rules that

affect provincial access to various components of the federal funding. In this business year, major efforts will be made to improve the provincial share of the federal base allocation. Preliminary estimates indicate that the provincial share of federal expenditures will range from \$28 million to \$37 million, depending on our success in obtaining a reallocation of federal expenditures.

The ministry introduced the Whole Farm Insurance Program in 1998/99 as a two-year pilot. The introduction of additional federal funds for 1999/00 and 2000/01 is allowing the ministry to reduce its expenditures on this program through federal offsets, while at the same time broadening coverage and increasing benefits to participants.

Because the federal and provincial programs are phased differently, consideration will need to be given to extending the provincial initiative. Funding and terms of agreement for the base safety net programs is also under review. Both interim funding agreements and a longer-term (i.e., five-year) agreement will be subjects of negotiation this year.

In addition, other federal funds are available to assist the agri-food sector in British Columbia. Investment Agriculture,

an industry development agency in the province, will receive \$4.8 million over the next four years for targeted adaptation. Two-thirds of this will benefit primary agriculture, while one-third will assist food processors in B.C. The ministry is also intensifying efforts to capture a larger share of other federal funds that may be available for ministry, industry, or joint industry-ministry initiatives. An agreement in principle that could capture as much as \$5 million over the next two years has been reached with the federal government.

The ministry will also develop an improved inventory of federal programs, become more proactive in accessing these funds, and monitor the share that B.C. is receiving to ensure that it is a fair share of federal program expenditures.

Special Funds

The ministry maintains a number of funds that enable improved and continuous (i.e., year-round) delivery of programs and support improved accountability for the program initiatives. Actual program requirements can be highly variable from year to year, particularly for farm safety nets, and these funding arrangements play a critical role in managing such variable demands.

The major special accounts and funds are listed below.

GRAZING ENHANCEMENT FUND SPECIAL ACCOUNT

This account supports the costs of enhancing grazing areas in the province which have been affected by provincial land-use decisions. In 1999/00, provision has been made for a total expenditure of \$2.5 million. The program is scheduled to continue until March 31, 2005.

OKANAGAN VALLEY TREE FRUIT AUTHORITY

This special account covers the costs of delivering the replant program to help revitalize the tree fruit industry. Now in its last scheduled year, this program is projected to spend \$2 million in 1999/00.

CROP INSURANCE STABILIZATION

Since natural hazards cannot be predicted, costs for crop insurance claims can vary considerably from year to year. With this special account, the ministry can both stabilize its budget and cover deficits in any particular year. In the long term, all costs are funded through industry and government premiums.



WHOLE FARM INSURANCE TRUST ACCOUNT

Just as natural hazards are unpredictable, market risks are also erratic, which is why this new trust was established. It enables the ministry to meet program commitments and over time to accumulate funds to cover large disasters – thereby providing industry with improved income stability. The fund will also allow the ministry to access federal funds being provided up-front in advance of claims being received.

COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST ACCORD

This special account funds implementation of the terms of the Columbia Basin Trust Accord. The trust reports to the Minister of Agriculture and Food, so it is included in government estimates.

OTHER AGREEMENTS

The ministry also oversees a number of trust agreements that have been established to support industry development. The largest of these are Investment Agriculture, which is funded by federal allocations leveraged through provincial expenditures under the federal-provincial safety net agreement, and the Beef Industry Development Fund, which was established through surpluses when the National Tripartite Stabilization programs were wound down. In addition, 10 other trusts are administered with \$14.2 million on account, to support the development of specific commodities.

Human Resources

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food has undergone significant staff reductions in the last several years. It has also made adjustments as a result of the creation of a separate Ministry of Fisheries, and the establishment of administrative operating agreements with the Ministry of Transportation and Highways and the Ministry of Small Business, Tourism and Culture.

Due to the reductions in the Agriculture Division in particular – as well as for the strategic reasons already mentioned – the ministry has refocused its efforts on industry development and resource management to concentrate on what can be most readily influenced by government, such as the business regulatory climate and resource planning. For factors that are largely under industry control, the ministry has shifted from providing extensive services to facilitating access to services.

The magnitude of the changes has meant significant reductions of direct service to industry. To reduce the impact of those changes, the ministry has provided new tools to help industry undertake the development it needs. These initiatives include some of the special trusts, as well as legislation to support self-funding. More aggressive access to federal funding is also being pursued.

Good progress has been achieved, but an electronic information delivery system and more staff training are still needed. Some additional minor adjustments will also be necessary to accommodate emerging industries and provincial priorities.

The agri-food sector has undergone a significant transformation in recent years, in products as well as in industry composition. Formerly seasonal, the agriculture workforce is now mainly year-round, and the makeup of both the workforce and farm ownership reflect the preponderance of immigration to B.C. from Asian countries over the last several decades. For those reasons, the ministry now provides critical and relevant information in other languages. Special efforts will be made over the next several years to expand that initiative to include First Nations people.

TABLE 1: MINISTRY BUDGET SUMMARY 1999/00 (\$MILLIONS)	
Ministry Operations	
Minister's Office	\$ 0.44
Corporate Services	8.31
Columbia Basin Trust	2.00
Food Industry	
Branch Operations	1.39
BUY BC	1.68
Crop Insurance (net of recoveries)	6.23
Net Income Stabilization Account (NISA)	3.00
Whole Farm Insurance Program (net of recoveries)	6.80
Agriculture Programs	
Animal Industry	2.67
Plant Industry	2.64
Regional Operations	4.76
Resource Management	1.19
Industry Development Support	3.14
Rent and Amortization Costs	4.54
Provincial Agricultural Land Commission (ALC)	2.67
B.C. Marketing Board	0.89
Okanagan Valley Tree Fruit Authority	2.00
Livestock Protection	0.02
Grazing Enhancement Fund	2.50
TOTAL	\$56.87

REVIEW OF PROGRESS ON 1998/99 PRIORITIES

Industry Development

IMPROVING RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

- Changes were made to the crop insurance program based on an independent program review.
- Enhanced marketing of crop insurance and NISA has resulted in increased uptake.
- The administrative process was streamlined, and an evaluation framework for the Whole Farm Insurance Program was put in place.

IMPROVING THE BUSINESS CLIMATE FOR INDUSTRY INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

- By implementing a 10-Point Action Plan on Agriculture and the Environment, the ministry has resolved many environmental issues to the satisfaction of industry.
- Support was continued for other regulatory improvements (e.g., employment standards MOU, streamlining of licensing, etc.).
- A draft policy was completed to guide the performance of regulated marketing systems.

FOCUSING INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS ON KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS

- Key sectoral and regional opportunities and constraints were identified for Vancouver Island, and a strategy was developed.
- The ministry engaged the services of the Job Protection Commission and helped secure government support for agri-businesses.
- Support was provided to the B.C. beverage industry and its packaging suppliers to undertake a feasibility study to identify options for recycling poly-coat flexible beverage containers.
- The ministry and BC Hydro conducted a review of opportunities for growing forest and farm crops on utility rights-of-way. A workshop has been held, and a pilot program is being developed.

IMPROVING LABOUR CONDITIONS

- Farm worker and other labour issues were addressed through a joint agreement with the Ministry of Labour and the BC Horticultural Coalition, and a staff secondment to the Agriculture Workforce Policy Board.



SUPPORTING HIGH-QUALITY PRODUCTION AND PRODUCTS THROUGH ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH PROGRAMS

- Strong animal/plant health diagnostic and monitoring services were maintained.
- Public agencies, local governments, and farmers were encouraged to conduct adequate weed control programs.
- The ministry supported initiatives such as animal care guidelines, Integrated Pest Management, Sterile Insect Release and organics to help industry capture consumers who make specialized food choices.

ADVANCING THE AGRI-FOOD POLICY CONSULTATION PROCESS

- The ministry led the consultation process to plan and oversee regional and provincial workshops, and to consolidate the information from those workshops.

ACTING ON KEY FOOD PROCESSING SECTOR OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS

- To support policy and program development, the ministry initiated a review of the B.C. food processing industry.

SUPPORTING MARKETING DEVELOPMENT

- The BUY BC program in 1998 continued to expand consumer, retailer and restaurant industry support: more than 1,060 companies now use the BUY BC logo, and more than 640 food service operators are registered as BC Cuisine members.
- BC Sharing has raised more than \$1 million worth of B.C. food for food banks.
- A \$200,000 grant was provided to the B.C. Wine Institute to help fund market development programs aimed at the retail and hospitality sectors.

SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT OF EMERGING INDUSTRIES

- The ministry identified and worked on opportunities and constraints in agro-forestry, organics and other emerging sectors.

LEADING FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL NEGOTIATIONS

- Negotiations on transitional and long-term safety net agreements – in order to gain a larger share of federal funding – resulted in the federal government agreeing to reconsider the B.C. allocation.
- The ministry continued to influence the development of the national position for the next round of World Trade Organization negotiations, to be held in Seattle in November 1999.

**ANALYSIS AND SUPPORT WERE PROVIDED FOR
RESOLUTION OF TRADE BARRIERS AND DISPUTES.**

Coordinating interministry legislative and regulatory initiatives

- The ministry coordinated policy development towards new Food Safety and Food Quality legislation for the province, to support public safety and enhance market development opportunities for the agri-food sector.

**SUPPORTING AND PROMOTING B.C.
INTERNATIONALLY**

- By supporting, promoting and defending the interests of B.C. industry internationally, the ministry helps support B.C. agri-food exports. These are already close to meeting the Canadian Agri-Food Marketing Council target for value-adding – five years ahead of schedule.
- The ministry supported the Canada-U.S.-Mexico Agricultural Accord meeting in Mexico.

Resource Management

**SUPPORTING ABORIGINAL AND RESOURCE
PLANNING INITIATIVES**

- The ministry supported negotiation of an interim agreement for Roberts Bank backup lands, and a subsequent plan for the sale and long-term lease, to increase the agricultural productivity of these lands.
- An information base and analysis were developed to support stronger resource planning efforts by the ministry and the agriculture industry.
- An environment/land-use policy was developed, including strategies for forestry and wildlife interactions, and objectives for ALR use.
- Provincial resource-use strategies were developed, in conjunction with commodity teams.

**SUPPORTING AND COORDINATING MAJOR
MINISTRY POLICY INITIATIVES**

- The ministry supported the Quayle Commission review of the "provincial interest" definition regarding the ALR and process for implementation.
- An analytical framework was developed to offer alternatives to the farmland taxation system.

Industry Development

RISK MANAGEMENT

- Re-engineer vegetable-sector crop insurance.
- Launch a negative-margin insurance pilot program as an extension of the Whole Farm Insurance Program.
- Conduct an evaluation of NISA.
- Lead negotiations to complete transitional safety net agreements and the framework for long-term (i.e., five-year) agreements.
- Provide support for safety net allocation negotiations.
- Wildlife management and conflict resolution.
- Coordinate provincial emergency response to agriculture and food industry issues in the event of a flood.

INVESTMENT AND DIVERSIFICATION

- Develop options for an extension of the tree fruit replant program.
- Launch the Vancouver Island Farmers Alliance initiative.

INDUSTRY SELF-RELIANCE

- Respond to an industry need for stable funding for farm organizations.

LABOUR CONDITIONS

- Support the Cabinet-appointed committee that is responsible for reviewing agriculture workforce issues.

MARKET AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

- Continue to develop direct farm marketing.
- Complete a new Memorandum of Understanding between government and the B.C. 4-H Council.
- Support Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation to distribute handbooks to teachers.

REGULATORY REFORM

- Implement new agricultural labour regulations.
- Finalize policies to guide the ongoing operations of the regulated marketing system, and lead the refinement of these policies and subsequent evaluations.
- Implement recommendations from a review of the Agriculture Workforce Policy Board.

FOOD PROCESSING SECTOR

- Continue tax and related analyses and undertake selective consultations on those issues that limit agriculture investment in the agri-food sector.
- work with industry to resolve barriers to growth.
- Identify opportunities for improved vertical relationships in the food chain.
- Develop a pilot agri-food business information project.
- Coordinate development and implementation of new Food Quality and Food Safety legislation for the province to support public safety and enhance market development opportunities for the agri-food sector.



BUY BC

- Revitalize and re-implement the BUY BC program.
- Develop and implement regional pilots.

SUPPORT FOR EMERGING INDUSTRIES

- Identify opportunities in:
 - agroforestry,
 - nutraceuticals, and
 - organics.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

- Provide liaison and support as required to the Select Standing Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries, in its portion of the review and development of a B.C. agri-food policy.
- Negotiate a larger B.C. allocation of federal expenditures on safety nets and other programs.
- Develop an inventory of relevant federal funds and programs, support increased access to these, and implement a tracking system to monitor whether or not British Columbia is receiving a fair share of these funds.
- Carry out policy analysis, coordinate the ministry's role in aboriginal negotiations, and develop the framework for an aboriginal agri-food program.
- Influence the national negotiating position for the next round of World Trade Organizations, and provide analysis and support for resolution of trade access problems and trade disputes.
- Support and coordinate the ministry response to the Business Task Force initiative.



Resource Management

ACCESS TO LAND AND WATER

- Develop riparian management guidelines, in consultation with industry and environmental agencies.

REGULATORY REFORM AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

- Implement ditch maintenance guidelines in the Fraser Valley.
- Negotiate for greenhouse bylaw for Delta, which will support continued growth of this industry.
- Develop an analytical framework to compare options to amend the farmland assessment and taxation framework, for greater productivity in the ALR.
- Develop the information base and undertake analyses to support stronger resource planning efforts by the ministry and the agri-food industry.
- Secure interagency support for access to land and water for agriculture, and for increased multiple resource use, to increase opportunities for expansion and intensification of the sector.
- Participate in interagency analysis of climate change issues, to assess and manage the impact of international agreements on the agri-food sector.
- Provide support to regional staff on resource planning issues.
- Support program evaluation, effectiveness reporting and performance measures within the ministry.
- Support development of an information base for effectiveness reporting at the ministry and program levels.

Minister's Office

Room 346, Legislative Buildings
 Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4
 Phone (250) 387-1023,
 Fax 387-1522

Victoria headquarters location

808 Douglas Street, V8W 2Z7
 Phone (250) 387-5121,
 Fax 387-5130

Victoria headquarters mailing address

P.O. Box 9043 Stn. Prov. Gov't.
 Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E2

Abbotsford Agriculture Centre

1767 Angus Campbell Road,
 V3G 2M3
 Toll-free 1-888-221-7141

Regional

Phone (604) 556-3075,
 Fax 556-3030

Resource Management

Phone (604) 556-3100,
 Fax 556-3099

Animal Health

Phone (604) 556-3003,
 Fax 556-3010

Courtenay

331B 6th Street, V9N 1M2
 Phone (250) 334-1239,
 Fax 334-1472

Cranbrook

42-8th Avenue South, V1C 2K3
 Phone (250) 426-1535,
 Fax 426-1546

Creston

456 Northwest Boulevard
 Box 1980, V0B 1G0
 Phone (250) 428-3225,
 Fax 428-3271

Dawson Creek

1201 103rd Avenue,
 V1G 4J2
 Toll-free 1-888-398-3322
 Phone (250) 784-2255,
 Fax 784-2299

Duncan (Access Centre)

5785 Duncan Street,
 V9L 5G2
 Phone (250) 746-1210,
 Fax 746-1292

Fort St. John

350 - 10003 110th Avenue,
 V1J 6M7
 Toll-free 1-888-822-1345
 Phone (250) 787-3240,
 Fax 787-3299

Kamloops

162 Oriole Road, V2C 4N7
 Toll-free 1-888-823-3355
 Phone (250) 371-6051,
 Fax 828-4979

Kelowna

1690 Powick Road,
 V1X 7G5
 Crop Insurance (toll-free)
 1-888-332-3352
 Phone (250) 861-7211,
 Fax 861-7490

Oliver

Court House, Box 940
 9971 350th Avenue,
 V0H 1T0
 Toll-free 1-888-812-8811
 Phone (250) 498-5250,
 Fax 498-4952

Prince George

Experimental Farm Site
 2288 Old Cariboo Highway,
 V2N 6G3
 Toll-free 1-800-334-3011
 Phone (250) 963-2501,
 Fax 963-2520

Sidney

Bldg. 20, 8801 East Saanich Road,
 V8L 1H3
 Phone (250) 655-5649,
 Fax 655-5657

Mailing address

P.O. Box 9099 Stn. Prov. Gov't.
 Victoria, B.C. V8W 9A9

Smithers (Access Centre)

1020 Murray Street, Bag 5000,
 V0J 2N0
 Phone (250) 847-7246,
 Fax 847-7592

Vancouver – Food Industry

Canada-B.C. Agri-Food
 Marketing Centre
 2000 - 300 West Georgia Street,
 V6B 6E1
 Phone (604) 666-5259,
 Fax 666-0954

Vernon

4607 23rd Street,
 V1T 4K7
 Phone (250) 260-3000,
 Fax 549-5488

Williams Lake

640 Borland Street, V2G 1R8
 Toll-free 1-800-474-6133
 Phone (250) 398-4500,
 Fax 398-4688

Other Addresses

Agricultural Land Commission

133 - 4940 Canada Way,
 Burnaby, B.C. V5G 4K6
 Phone (604) 660-7000,
 Fax 660-7033

British Columbia Marketing Board

107 - 1208 Wharf Street
 P.O. Box 9129 Stn. Prov. Gov't.
 Victoria, B.C. V8W 9B5
 Phone (250) 356-8945,
 Fax: 356-5131

Okanagan Valley Tree Fruit Authority

4200 Highway 97
 PO Box 6000,
 Summerland, B.C. V0H 1Z0
 Phone (604) 494-5021,
 Fax 494-5024

MAP OF MINISTRY REGIONS AND OFFICES

