



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND LANDS SERVICE PLAN SUMMARY 2007/08–2009/10

Message from the Minister



The Ministry strives to achieve world-leading stewardship of land, farm and food systems for the health and prosperity of British Columbians. An invaluable asset to B.C.'s economy, agriculture is an extremely dynamic industry, with global markets, weather uncertainties and cost pressures. In order to secure the

sector's long-term profitability, we must collectively address these challenges.

We continue to be guided by three themes in our efforts to do this - improving access to Crown land, enhancing the flow of knowledge, and managing the urban/agricultural divide.

A new B.C. Agriculture Plan, based on recommendations from a committee led by Parliamentary Secretary Val Roddick, with input from citizens in all corners of British Columbia, will be complete in 2007. The plan will support the development of a long-term vision for agriculture that will sustain and facilitate the growth and diversification of the agri-food sectors.

Our work with the aquaculture industry will ensure that the industry is competitive and meets B.C.'s rigorous environmental standards. We will continue to focus on open, honest exchanges with environmentalists, industry and First Nations as we develop a modern and sustainable aquaculture industry in B.C. and work towards our goal of the best fisheries management in the world.

As Minister responsible for the management of Crown land, I am committed to making Crown land decisions based on balancing social, environmental and economic interests. Since 2001, the Province has committed more than \$116 million to identify and clean up B.C. Crown contaminated sites. We have earmarked an additional \$48 million for work over 2007-2009.

We have already achieved a number of successes in remediating Crown contaminated sites, including cleanup of an abandoned landfill beside the Pitt River as well as remediation of the historic Britannia Mine site.

This brochure highlights programs and priorities in our 2007/08-2009/10 Service Plan, reflecting our commitment to contribute to the wellbeing of all British Columbians. I encourage you to read our full Plan.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat Bell".

Honourable Pat Bell

*Minister of Agriculture and Lands
February 2007*

Purpose of the Ministry

To promote environmental and economic sustainability for the agriculture, aquaculture and food sectors, supporting them in delivering safe and healthy food; and to manage Crown land in a manner that contributes to the economic, societal and environmental goals of government.

The Ministry provides programs and services that facilitate long-term business stability, promote environ-

mental stewardship on farms, and protect the health of British Columbians. The Crown Lands division develops policy to guide the allocation of Crown land and supports implementation, including effective involvement of First Nations. The Ministry's main client groups are: citizens of British Columbia; First Nations; local governments; industry and industry associations.

Strategic Context

B.C.'s agriculture faces many competitive challenges, including the threat of avian influenza, 'Mad Cow Disease', drought, hail, a strong dollar and high energy costs. Government is developing a long-term Agriculture Plan and sustainable aquaculture options. It is expected programs and services will emphasize:

- » Industry self reliance.
- » Societal and environmental values.
- » Innovation throughout the full value chain.
- » Collaboration across government.

The foci for Crown Land are economic, environmental and social benefits.

Opportunities

Strategic sector growth is supported by industry-government commitment to diversify products, markets, improve market access and strengthening the agri-food value chain. Healthier lifestyles foster specialty, higher valued products. Scientific and technology advancements support expansion, improve productivity and reduce costs.

Farms contribute environmentally, preserving and creating habitat for plants and animals. Implementing farm practices that minimize conflict with competing interests and proactive Agricultural Advisory Committees help positive community relationships. Reliable quality and safety food systems provide marketing opportunities.

Challenges

B.C.'s agriculture and seafood industries must compete with international producers that often have greater economies of scale and lower costs. Competition for inputs is raising costs, and affecting producers' ability to remain profitable and compete globally.

The Ministry continues to streamline regulatory requirements and assist industry in adopting outcome-based frameworks. Development pressures and urbanization are encroaching upon rural areas, placing greater pressure on the agricultural land base. Agriculture and food industries remain challenged by extreme weather and disease crises.

Crown Land Sector

Opportunities

Informed citizens, diverse landscapes and ecosystems, and resource wealth enable administration of Crown land for strategic investment and sustainable use. Growing demand for Crown Land strengthens revenue flows, thereby enabling environmental and societal objectives.

Challenges

Complexity of issues necessitates a balance of environmental, societal and economic values to advance the public interest, while affecting the speed of improvements to timely access for clients.



Vision

World-leading stewardship of land, farm and food systems for the health and prosperity of British Columbians.

Mission

The mission of the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands is to promote sustainable agriculture food systems and to provide a balanced approach that promotes the sustainable use of Crown land resources.

Ministry Goals and Performance Measures

Goal 1: Competitive, world class agriculture, aquaculture and food sectors.

Objectives

- 1.1 Strategic growth of the agriculture, aquaculture and food sectors.
- 1.2 Effective management of farm business and income risks.
- 1.3 British Columbians value and support agriculture and aquaculture.

Performance Measure	2006/07 Baseline	2007/08 Target	2008/09 Target	2009/10 Target
Obj 1.1 Dollar value of industry investment (Million)	Agriculture \$240.9 ^{1,2,3}	Growth above \$240.9	Growth above \$240.9	Growth above \$240.9
	Food & Beverage \$172.1 ^{1,2,3}	Growth above \$172.1	Growth above \$172.1	Growth above \$172.1
Obj 1.1 Net cash income (Million)	\$386.8 ^{4,5}	Growth above \$386.8	Growth above \$386.8	Growth above \$386.6

1 Forecasted 3-year average.

2 Does not include aquaculture

3 Source: Statistics Canada. Private and Public Investment in Canada – Catalogue No. 61-205, special tabulation.

4 Average for 2003, 2004 and 2005 calendar years.

5 Source: Statistics Canada. Net Farm Income – Agriculture Economics Statistics – Catalogue No. 21-010.

Performance Measure	2006/07 Baseline ⁶	2007/08 Target	2008/09 Target	2009/10 Target
Obj 1.2 Level of coverage under business risk management programs	76% of eligible crops are insured under Production Insurance	70%	70%	70%
	83% of B.C. farm cash receipts covered by CAIS Program ^{6,7}	85%	85%	85%
Obj 1.2 Processing time for payments of claims under Production Insurance	85% of claims paid within 30 days of finalization ⁸	100%	100%	100%

6 Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) Program. Estimated to March 2007.

7 Excludes supply-managed commodities. 2005 Crop year.

8 A claim is considered finalized once claims have been calculated by field office staff and submitted to head office.

Performance Measure	2006/07 Baseline	2007/08 Target	2008/09 Target	2009/10 Target
Obj 1.3 Number of Agricultural Advisory Committees	26	27	28	29

Goal 2: Agriculture, aquaculture and food systems that are environmentally sustainable and enhance human, plant and animal health.

Objectives

- 2.1 Effective management of environmental risks.
- 2.2 Effective management of risks impacting human, plant, animal and fish health and food safety.

Performance Measure	2006/07 Baseline	2007/08 Target	2008/09 Target	2009/10 Target
Obj 2.1 Overall per cent industry compliance with aquaculture licensing and regulatory requirements	90% ¹	94%	97%	100%
Obj 2.1 Number of farms with environmental farm plans	1302 farms with completed farm plans ²	1500	1700 ³	1900 ³
	~325 farms plans implemented	375	425 ³	475 ³

¹ Estimate for 2006 calendar year.

² BC Agriculture Council December 31, 2006.

³ The Agricultural Policy Framework agreement, which supports the Environmental Farm Planning program, ends March 2008. Future targets are contingent upon continuing Federal-Provincial Funding, pursuant to the next Policy Framework being negotiated.

Performance Measure	2006/07 Baseline	2007/08 Target	2008/09 Target	2009/10 Target
Obj 2.2 Number of national on-farm food safety and quality programs implemented ^{4,5}	17	25	33 ⁶	41 ⁶
Obj 2.2 Per cent compliance with Fish Health Management Plans	100%	100%	100%	100%
Obj 2.2 Per cent of routine (diagnostic) samples completed within 5 days	80%	80%	80%	80%

4 There are about 30 national programs in various stages of development. Nine programs have passed phase 1 technical review and are ready for implementation and others are under development. Of the nine that have passed review, all are now in the implementation stages in B.C. In addition, B.C. has two quality programs established by provincial regulation.

5 Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Lands and Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

6 Targets are cumulative.

Goal 3: Administration of Crown lands that promotes sustainability and the greatest benefits for British Columbians.

Objectives

- 3.1** Effective, modern Crown land policies and administration that are accessible, efficient and client-oriented.
- 3.2** Effective management of high risk provincial contaminated sites to minimize impacts to human health and the environment.

Performance Measure	2006/07 Baseline	2007/08 Target	2008/09 Target	2009/10 Target
Obj 3.1 Per cent of operational policies reviewed and updated	11%	42%	73%	100%
Obj 3.2 Number of priority sites for which remediation is underway/ completed ^{1,2}	28 underway/ completed	36 underway/ completed	44 underway/ completed	52 underway/ completed ¹

1 There are currently over 845 potentially contaminated sites which have been prioritized and listed on the contaminated sites database.

2 The total amount of Ministry funding provided by the Province for the management of contaminated sites at March 31, 2007 is \$218 million, which includes ongoing activity at Pacific Place, Vancouver, BC. A liability of \$15 million will be accrued to fund the remediation of priority sites investigated for clean up costs in 2006/07.

Resource Summary Table

Core Business Areas	2006/07 Restated Estimates	2007/08 Estimates	2008/09 Plan	2009/10 Plan
Operating Expenses (\$000)				
Food Industry Development	18,079	18,849	23,622	23,822
Agriculture and Aquaculture Management	9,374	10,708	10,766	10,871
Risk Management	15,833 ¹	38,129	39,649	39,692
Crown Land Administration	36,869	38,360	38,596	38,790
Executive and Support Services	8,481	8,016	8,021	8,034
Sub-Total	88,636	114,062	120,654	121,209
Agricultural Land Commission	2,144	2,402	2,435	2,463
Integrated Land Management Bureau	63,551	62,311	55,811	56,330
Crown Land Special Account	69,037	80,020	49,820	50,270
Production Insurance Special Account (Net)	11,500	11,500	11,500	11,500
Ministry Total	234,868	270,295	240,220	241,772

¹ Treasury Board approved a budget lift in 2007/08 of \$21.12 million for the Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization program.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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For more information on this and other ministry Service Plans, please visit:

www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2007/serviceplans.htm