



- Fed to B of D via email
- /ct
JA
Office of the Mayor

CITY OF PORT ALBERNI

City Hall
4850 Argyle Street,
Port Alberni, B.C. V9Y 1V8
Telephone: (250) 723-2146 Fax: (250) 723-1003

November 26, 2013

The Honourable Bill Bennett
Minister of Energy and Mines and Minister
Responsible for Core Review
PO BOX 9069, STN PROV GOVT
VICTORIA, BC V8W 9E2

The Honourable Pat Pimm
Minister of Agriculture
PO BOX 9043 STN PROV GOVT
VICTORIA BC
V8W 9E2

Dear Honourable Ministers:

As the Ministers responsible for the Core Review process and for agriculture in the province I am writing to you both in regards to possible changes to the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC).

There is no denying that our province's vast farmland is highly productive and central to our ability to maintain a vibrant agriculture industry and food supply. Protecting this landbase through the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) has been largely successful in mitigating urban encroachment and conversion to other non-agricultural uses.

It has been brought to our attention that the Province is considering changes to the ALC and ALR as part of the government's Core Review process. This has raised concerns from our council because of the values we hold for the promotion of farming and protection of farmland.

Council for the City of Port Alberni has voted unanimously in support of the BC Food Systems Network campaign to preserve the ALC and ALR. We therefore strongly encourage you to:

- retain the ALC as a province-wide, independent administrative body and the ALR as one zone for the whole province.
- work to strengthen the ALC by supporting their current reform efforts; and
- provide local governments with an opportunity to discuss any proposed changes to the ALR with the Province and the ALC;

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Yours truly,
CITY OF PORT ALBERNI



John Douglas
Mayor

- c. UBCM Member Municipalities
Premier Christy Clark
Scott Fraser, MLA Alberni-Pacific Rim