



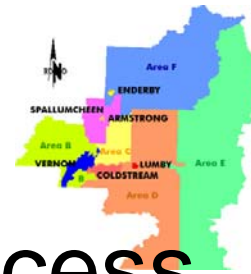
Regional District of  
North Okanagan

# Development

## Application Procedures

Version 1 (updated December 2009)

# A Guide to the Provincial Agricultural Land Commission Process



## What is the Agricultural Land Reserve?

The Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) is a provincial zone in which agriculture is recognized as the priority use. Farming is encouraged and non-agricultural uses are controlled.

The ALR covers approximately 4.7 million hectares. It includes private and public lands that may be farmed, forested or vacant land. Some ALR blocks cover thousands of hectares while others are small pockets of only a few hectares.

In total, the ALR comprises those lands within BC that have the potential for agricultural production.

The Agricultural Land Reserve takes precedence over, but does not replace other legislation and bylaws that may apply to the land. Local and regional governments, as well as other provincial agencies, are expected to plan in accordance with the provincial policy of preserving agricultural land.

The Agricultural Land Commission Act sets the legislative framework for the establishment and administration of the agricultural land preservation program.

(info from [http://www.alc.gov.bc.ca/alr/alr\\_main.htm](http://www.alc.gov.bc.ca/alr/alr_main.htm))

## When Do I Need to apply to the ALC?

An application to the Agricultural Land Commission is needed if a property owner wishes to:

- include land in the ALR
- exclude land from the ALR
- subdivide land in the ALR
- use land in the ALR for non-farm purposes

(info from [http://www.alc.gov.bc.ca/FAQ/FAQ\\_ALR.htm](http://www.alc.gov.bc.ca/FAQ/FAQ_ALR.htm))

## Procedure for applying to the Agricultural Land Commission

1. Property Owner discusses details of the application with Planning staff.
2. A Provincial Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) application form and application fee, which can both be found on the Provincial website at [http://www.alc.gov.bc.ca/alr/application\\_fee\\_schedule.htm](http://www.alc.gov.bc.ca/alr/application_fee_schedule.htm) (includes Regional District's fee as well as the ALC's fee) is submitted to the Regional District office.
3. Planning staff will review the application and prepare a Development Services Information Report.

4. The application (including a copy of the Development Services Information Report) is forwarded to the applicable Advisory Planning Commission (APC) and the Electoral Area Advisory Committee (EAAC) for their input.
5. A letter (including a copy of the Development Services Information Report) is sent to the applicant advising when the application will be considered by the Board of Directors and that should the applicant wish to appear as a delegation to speak to their application they may appear at the Electoral Area Advisory Committee.
6. The Board of Directors will make a decision regarding the application:
  - If the application is AUTHORIZED for submission to the ALC by the Board of Directors, a letter is sent to the applicant advising of the decision and the application is forwarded to the ALC for their review
  - The applicant will be notified directly from the ALC with their decision
  - If the application is NOT AUTHORIZED for submission to the ALC by the Board of Directors, a letter is sent to the applicant advising of the decision to reject the application
  - The applicant is refunded the ALC's portion of the application fee

## Information, application forms and questions

Provincial Agricultural Land Commission application forms are available on the Provincial website at <http://www.alc.gov.bc.ca/alr/Forms.htm>. Planning staff are available to answer questions, and to provide clarification on the Provincial Agricultural Land Commission process as it applies to a specific property or application.

## Provincial Agricultural Land Commission

# Timing

The Provincial Agricultural Land Commission application process normally takes three to six months to complete. The time frame, however, depends upon the complexity of the application, the current workload of both staff and the Directors, the timing of the Board of Directors meetings and the Provincial Agricultural Land Commission, the relation of the proposal to broader planning issues which may require resolution, and the need for additional information from the applicant during the process.

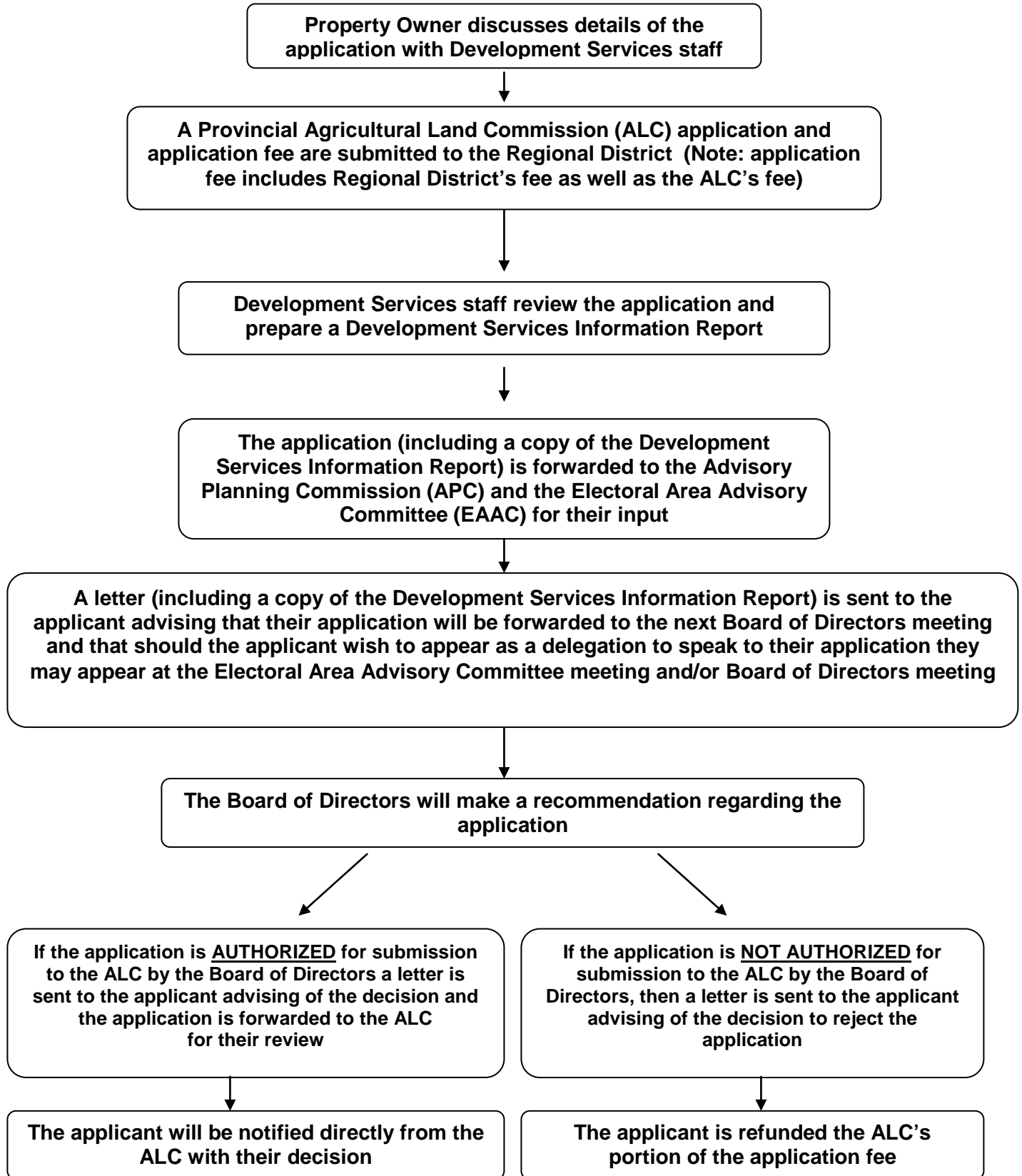
## For More

# Information

Please direct any further inquiries to:

Regional District of North Okanagan  
**Planning Department**  
9848 Aberdeen Road  
Coldstream, BC V1B 2K9  
Phone: (250) 550-3700  
Fax: (250) 550-3701  
[planning@rdno.ca](mailto:planning@rdno.ca)

# **PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURAL LAND COMMISSION PROCESS**



**NOTE: If the application is approved by the ALC the applicant is still required to comply with local government regulations**