

# Protecting Farmland in Cariboo Regional District

**Cariboo Regional District Committee of Whole**  
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Ecosystem Science and Management  
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# How good are government policies that aim to protect farmland in Canada?



Source: <https://duckduckgo.com/?q=100+mile+house+bc&t=ffab&ia=web&iaxm=maps>

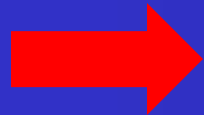
Horse Lake, BC

# Strength of provincial legislative frameworks for farmland protection

Province	Overall Strength
Québec	Strong
British Columbia (1)	Somewhat Strong
Ontario – Greenbelt	Somewhat Strong
Ontario – Prov. Policy Statement	Moderate
Nova Scotia	Somewhat Weak
British Columbia (2) Oil and Gas Comm.	Somewhat Weak
Manitoba	Somewhat Weak
Saskatchewan	Somewhat Weak
Prince Edward Island	Weak
Newfoundland	Weak
New Brunswick	Weak
Alberta	Weak

Source: [updated version] Connell, David J., W. Caldwell, C. Bryant, G. Cameron, T. Johnston, and M. Margulis (2016). Farmland: A Prerequisite for Farmers, Food -- and Agri-food Policy. Prince George, BC: University of Northern British Columbia. On-line: [http://www.aglup.org/uploads/1/1/6/6/116674177/aglup\\_policy\\_brief\\_603.pdf](http://www.aglup.org/uploads/1/1/6/6/116674177/aglup_policy_brief_603.pdf)  
 French: [http://www.aglup.org/uploads/1/1/6/6/116674177/aglup\\_policy\\_brief\\_603-french.pdf](http://www.aglup.org/uploads/1/1/6/6/116674177/aglup_policy_brief_603-french.pdf)

# BC Regional Districts (preliminary results)



	Overall strength
Metro Vancouver RD, BC	Strong
Squamish-Lillooet RD Area C	Strong
RD North Okanagan	Strong
Thompson-Nicola RD	Strong
Cariboo RD, BC	Somewhat Strong
RD Central Kootenay	Somewhat Strong
RD Bulkley-Nechako, BC	Somewhat Strong
RD Okanagan-Similkameen	Somewhat Strong
RD Central Okanagan	Moderate
Capital RD, BC	Moderate
Peace River RD, BC	Moderate
RD Kootenay Boundary	Somewhat Weak
RD Fraser-Fort George, BC	Somewhat Weak
Fraser Valley RD, BC	Somewhat Weak
Columbia Shuswap RD	Somewhat Weak
Kitimat-Stikine RD, BC	Somewhat Weak

# BC Lower Mainland

## British Columbia Zone 1

Somewhat Strong

### Metro Vancouver RD, BC

Strong

Delta, BC

Very Strong

Surrey, BC

Strong

Richmond, BC

Strong

Pitt Meadows, BC

Strong

Township of Langley, BC

Moderate

Coquitlam, BC

Moderate

Maple Ridge, BC

Somewhat Weak

Port Coquitlam, BC

Somewhat Weak

### Fraser Valley RD, BC

Somewhat Weak

Chilliwack, BC

Somewhat Strong

District of Kent, BC

Somewhat Strong

Abbotsford, BC

Moderate

FVRD Area G

Moderate

	<b>POLICY</b>	<b>LEGISLATION</b>	<b>GOVERNANCE</b>
<b>PROVINCIAL</b>	<p>[MAL] Strengthening Farming [ALC] ALR and Community Planning Guidelines [Smith] “Planning for Agriculture”</p>	<p><b>Agricultural Land Commission Act</b> <b>Local Government Act</b> <b>Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act</b> <b>Forest and Range Practices Act</b> <b>Range Act</b> <b>Land Title Act</b> <b>Agricultural Land Reserve Use, Subdivision, and Procedure Regulation</b></p>	<p><b>Agricultural Land Commission [ALC Act]</b> <b>Administrative Tribunals Act</b> <b>Governance Policy for the Agricultural Land Commission</b></p>
	<p><i>LGA Part 13 s.428(2)(e) Purpose of regional growth strategy</i> Maintaining the integrity of a secure and productive resource base, including the agricultural land reserve</p>		
<b>REGIONAL</b>	<p><b>CRD Agricultural Policy (2014)</b> CCBAC Agriculture Sector Strategy (2007) <b>Williams Lake SRMP (2005)</b></p>	<p><i>Quesnel Fringe Area OCP (2014)</i> <i>Quesnel Fringe Area Zoning 3504 (2000)</i> <i>Williams Lake Fringe Area OCP 4782 (2013)</i> <i>Williams Lake Fringe and 150 Mile House Area Zoning 3502 (1999)</i> <i>South Cariboo Area OCP 5171 (2018)</i> <i>South Cariboo Area Zoning (3501)</i> <i>150 Mile House Area OCP (2012)</i> <i>Green Lake and Area OCP (2012)</i> <i>Interlakes Area OCP (2004)</i> <i>Lac La Hache Area OCP (2018)</i> <i>Central Cariboo Area Rural Land Use 3503 (1999)</i></p>	<p>ALC Interior Panel Advisory Planning Commission</p>
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<b>MUNICIPAL</b>		<p><i>Quesnel OCP 1879 (2019)</i> <i>Quesnel Zoning 1880 (2019)</i> <i>Williams Lake OCP 2140 (2011)</i> <i>Williams Lake Zoning 1825 (2002)</i> <i>100 Mile House OCP 1288 (2016)</i> <i>100 Mile House Zoning 1290 (2016)</i></p>	<p>Advisory Planning Commissions</p>

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# Four principles of public policy

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1. Maximise stability
2. Integrate public priorities across jurisdictions
3. Minimise uncertainty

Only after one takes care of the first three...

4. Accommodate flexibility

Published journal article:

Connell, David J., and Lou-Anne Daoust-Filiatrault (2017). Better Than Good: Three Dimensions of Plan Quality. *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, 1-8.

[open access]

# Four principles at local level

## Maximise stability

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- Policies and statements specific to protecting the agricultural land base
  - Clear, direct language
  - Type of document
  - Location in document
  - Multiple references

# Four principles at local level

## Integrate across jurisdictions

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- References to other areas of jurisdiction
  - Vertical and horizontal
- Level of detail
- Frequency of references

# Four principles at local level

## Minimise uncertainty

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- Urban growth boundaries
  - How permanent? How changed?
- Other factors:
  - Open-ended statements
  - Internal consistency
  - Covenants
  - Study areas

# Four principles at local level

## Accommodate flexibility

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- Accommodating specific non-farm development to meet local interests
  - Governance mechanisms
    - Agricultural advisory committees
  - Agricultural impact assessments (AIAs)
  - Recognising ‘right to farm’ legislation
  - Adopting development permit areas
  - Incorporating edge planning (e.g. buffers)

# BC Regional Districts (preliminary results)

	Overall strength
Metro Vancouver RD, BC	Strong
Squamish-Lillooet RD Area C	Strong
RD North Okanagan	Strong
Thompson-Nicola RD	Strong
Cariboo RD, BC	Somewhat Strong
RD Central Kootenay	Somewhat Strong
RD Bulkley-Nechako, BC	Somewhat Strong
RD Okanagan-Similkameen	Somewhat Strong
RD Central Okanagan	Moderate
Capital RD, BC	Moderate
Peace River RD, BC	Moderate
RD Kootenay Boundary	Somewhat Weak
RD Fraser-Fort George, BC	Somewhat Weak
Fraser Valley RD, BC	Somewhat Weak
Columbia Shuswap RD	Somewhat Weak
Kitimat-Stikine RD, BC	Somewhat Weak



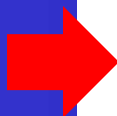


# BC Regional Districts (preliminary results)

	Overall strength	Maximise stability	Integrate across jurisd.	Minimise uncertainty	Accomm. flexibility
Metro Vancouver RD, BC	Strong	5	4	5	3
Squamish-Lillooet RD Area C	Strong	4	4	3	4
RD North Okanagan	Strong	4	4	4	3
Thompson-Nicola RD	Strong	4	4	4	4
Cariboo RD, BC	Somewhat Strong	4	4	3	3
RD Central Kootenay	Somewhat Strong	4	4	2	3
RD Bulkley-Nechako, BC	Somewhat Strong	4	4	3	2
RD Okanagan-Similkameen	Somewhat Strong	4	3	4	3
RD Central Okanagan	Moderate	3	3	3	3
Capital RD, BC	Moderate	3	2	4	2
Peace River RD, BC	Moderate	4	3	2	4
RD Kootenay Boundary	Somewhat Weak	3	3	2	2
RD Fraser-Fort George, BC	Somewhat Weak	2	2	3	4
Fraser Valley RD, BC	Somewhat Weak	3	2	2	2
Columbia Shuswap RD	Somewhat Weak	3	2	2	2
Kitimat-Stikine RD, BC	Somewhat Weak	3	1	2	2

# Critical questions for local governments

	Overall strength
Metro Vancouver RD, BC	Strong
Squamish-Lillooet RD Area C	Strong
RD North Okanagan	Strong
Thompson-Nicola RD	Strong
Cariboo RD, BC	Somewhat Strong



- **What commitment do you want to make to protect agricultural land?**
- **How strongly do you want to express this commitment?**

RD Fraser-Fort George, BC	Somewhat Weak
Fraser Valley RD, BC	Somewhat Weak
Columbia Shuswap RD	Somewhat Weak
Kitimat-Stikine RD, BC	Somewhat Weak

Maximise stability	Integrate across jurisd.	Minimise uncertainty	Accomm. flexibility
5	4	5	3
4	4	3	4
4	4	4	3
4	4	4	4
4	4	3	3
4	4	2	3
4	4	3	2
4	3	4	3
3	3	3	3
3	2	4	2
4	3	2	4
3	3	2	2
2	2	3	4
3	2	2	2
3	2	2	2
3	1	2	2

# Critical questions for local governments

	Overall strength
Metro Vancouver RD, BC	Strong
Squamish-Lillooet RD Area C	Strong
RD North Okanagan	Strong
Thompson-Nicola RD	Strong
Cariboo RD, BC	Somewhat Strong

- Do you want to express support for the provincial legislation (ALR, ALC)?
- How strongly do you want to express this support?

RD Fraser-Fort George, BC	Somewhat Weak
Fraser Valley RD, BC	Somewhat Weak
Columbia Shuswap RD	Somewhat Weak
Kitimat-Stikine RD, BC	Somewhat Weak

Maximise stability	Integrate across jurisd.	Minimise uncertainty	Accomm. flexibility
5	4	5	3
4	4	3	4
4	4	4	3
4	4	4	4
4	4	3	3
4	4	2	3
4	4	3	2
4	3	4	3
3	3	3	3
3	2	4	2
4	3	2	4
3	3	2	2
2	2	3	4
3	2	2	2
3	2	2	2
3	1	2	2

# Critical questions for local governments

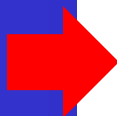
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Maximise stability	Integrate across jurisd.	Minimise uncertainty	Accomm. flexibility
5	4	5	3
4	4	3	4
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4	4	3	3
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4	4	3	2
4	3	4	3
3	3	3	3
3	2	4	2
4	3	2	4
3	3	2	2
2	2	3	4
3	2	2	2
3	2	2	2
3	1	2	2

- Do you want to commit to restricting urban/non-farm development?
- How strongly do you want to express this commitment?
- To what extent do you want to leave options for urban development open?

# Critical questions for local governments

	Overall strength	Maximise stability	Integrate across jurisd.	Minimise uncertainty	Accomm. flexibility
Metro Vancouver RD, BC	Strong	5	4	5	3
Squamish-Lillooet RD Area C	Strong	4	4	3	4
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Cariboo RD, BC	Somewhat Strong	4	4	3	3
		4	4	2	3
		4	4	3	2
		4	3	4	3
		3	3	3	3
		3	2	4	2
		4	3	2	4
		3	3	2	2
		2	2	3	4
		3	2	2	2
		3	2	2	2
		3	1	2	2



- Are there any specific non-farm development opportunities that you know you want to consider in the future?
- What factors must be considered to approve these opportunities?
- How will you mitigate negative impacts on farmland?

# Contact information

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250-960-5835

Website:

**[www.AgLUP.org](http://www.AgLUP.org)**

# Strength of legislative frameworks: BC lower mainland

SITE	Overall strength	Integrate across jurisd.			
		Maximise stability	Minimise uncertainty	Accomm. flexibility	
British Columbia Zone 1	Somewhat Strong	5	3	4	4
Metro Vancouver RD, BC	Strong	5	4	5	3
Delta, BC	Very Strong	5	5	4	4
Surrey, BC	Strong	5	4	4	5
Richmond, BC	Strong	5	4	4	4
Pitt Meadows, BC	Strong	4	4	4	3
Township of Langley, BC	Moderate	3	4	2	3
Coquitlam, BC	Moderate	3	3	3	2
Maple Ridge, BC	Somewhat Weak	3	3	2	3
Port Coquitlam, BC	Somewhat Weak	2	2	2	2
Fraser Valley RD, BC	Somewhat Weak	3	2	2	2
Chilliwack, BC	Somewhat Strong	5	4	2	3
District of Kent, BC	Somewhat Strong	5	4	3	3
Abbotsford, BC	Moderate	4	2	3	5
FVRD Area G	Moderate	3	3	3	3