



# BC's Agricultural Land Reserve

Chair Jennifer Dyson and CEO Kim Grout

April 2023

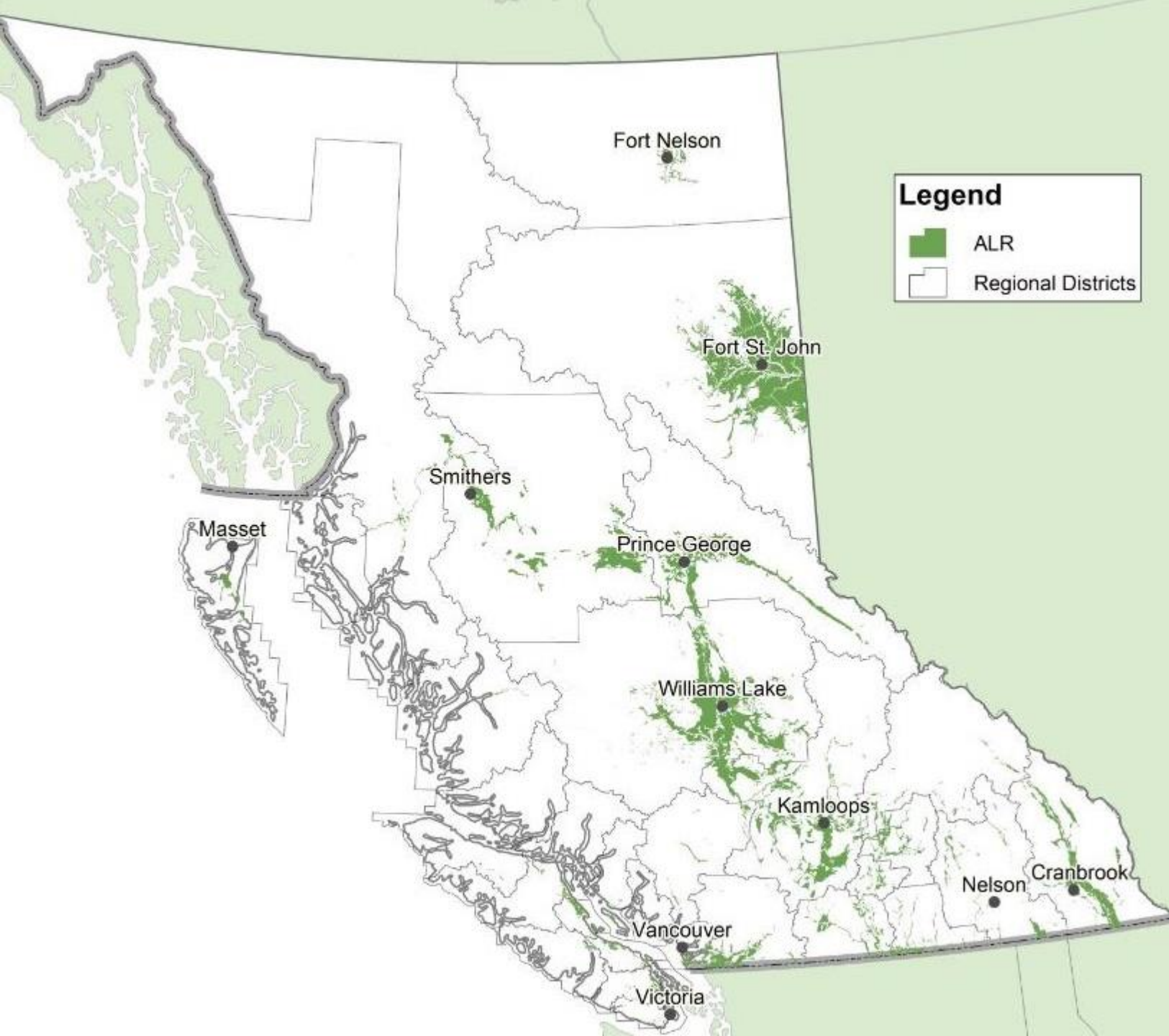
# What is the ALR?

A provincial land use zone designated under the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* where:

- agriculture is recognized as the priority use
- non-ag uses are regulated &
- farming is encouraged



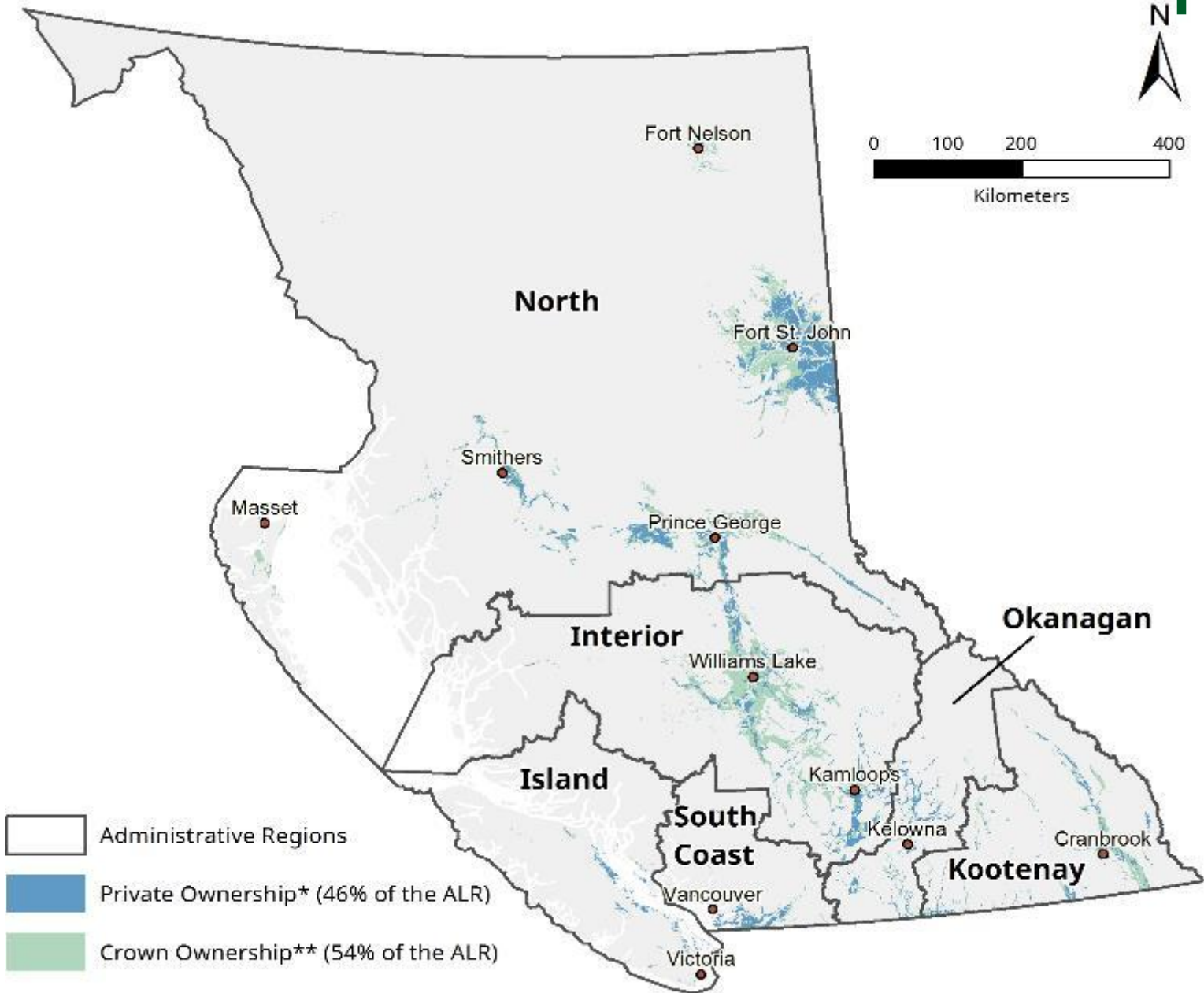




4.9%  
of the  
Province is  
ALR

BC's ALR

# ALR: Private vs Crown Ownership





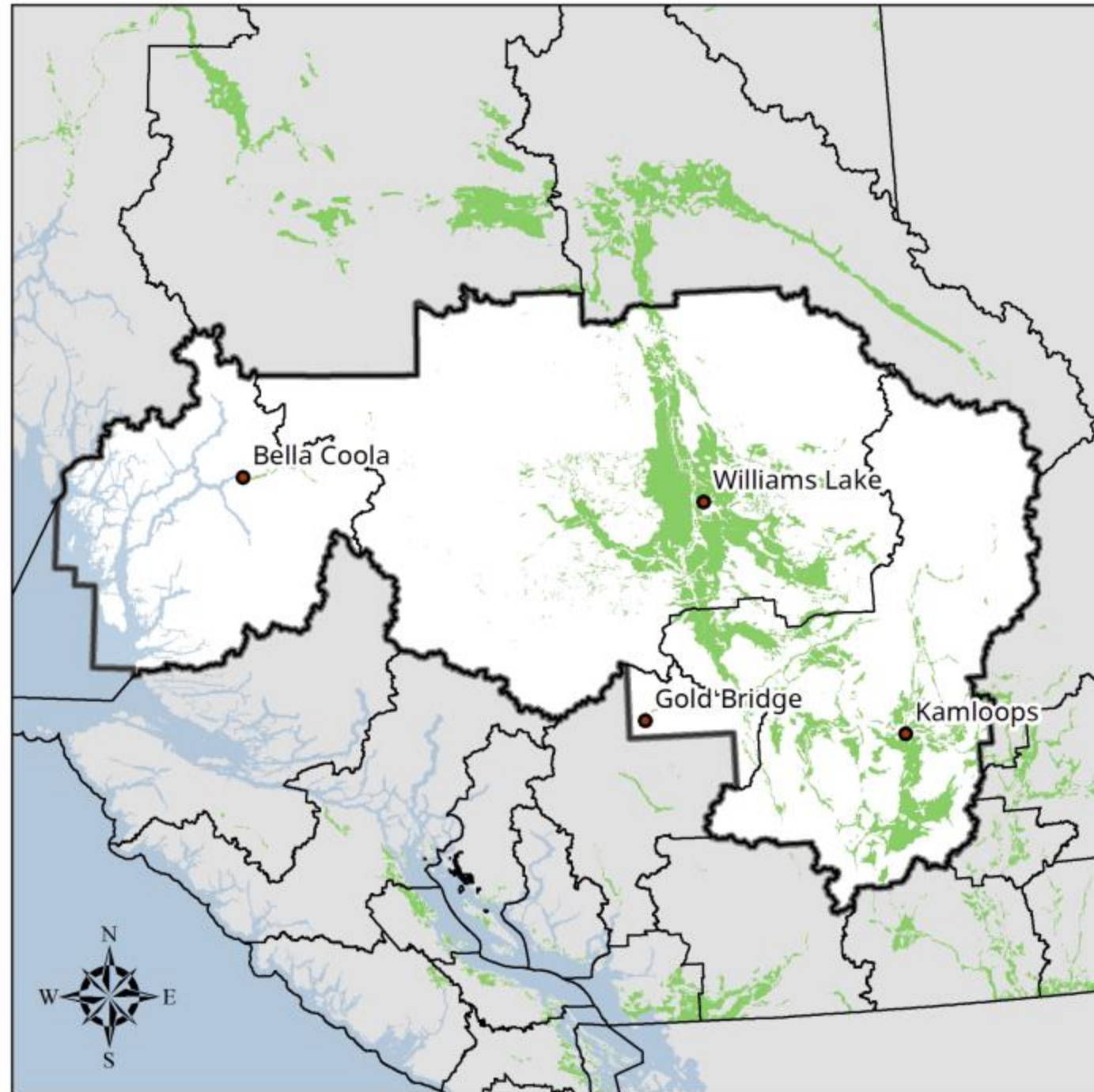
# Interior Administrative Region

Total ALR in Region =  
~1,528,999 Ha

9.4% of Region in the ALR

ALR in the Interior Region  
represents 33% of BC's total  
ALR

**ALC**



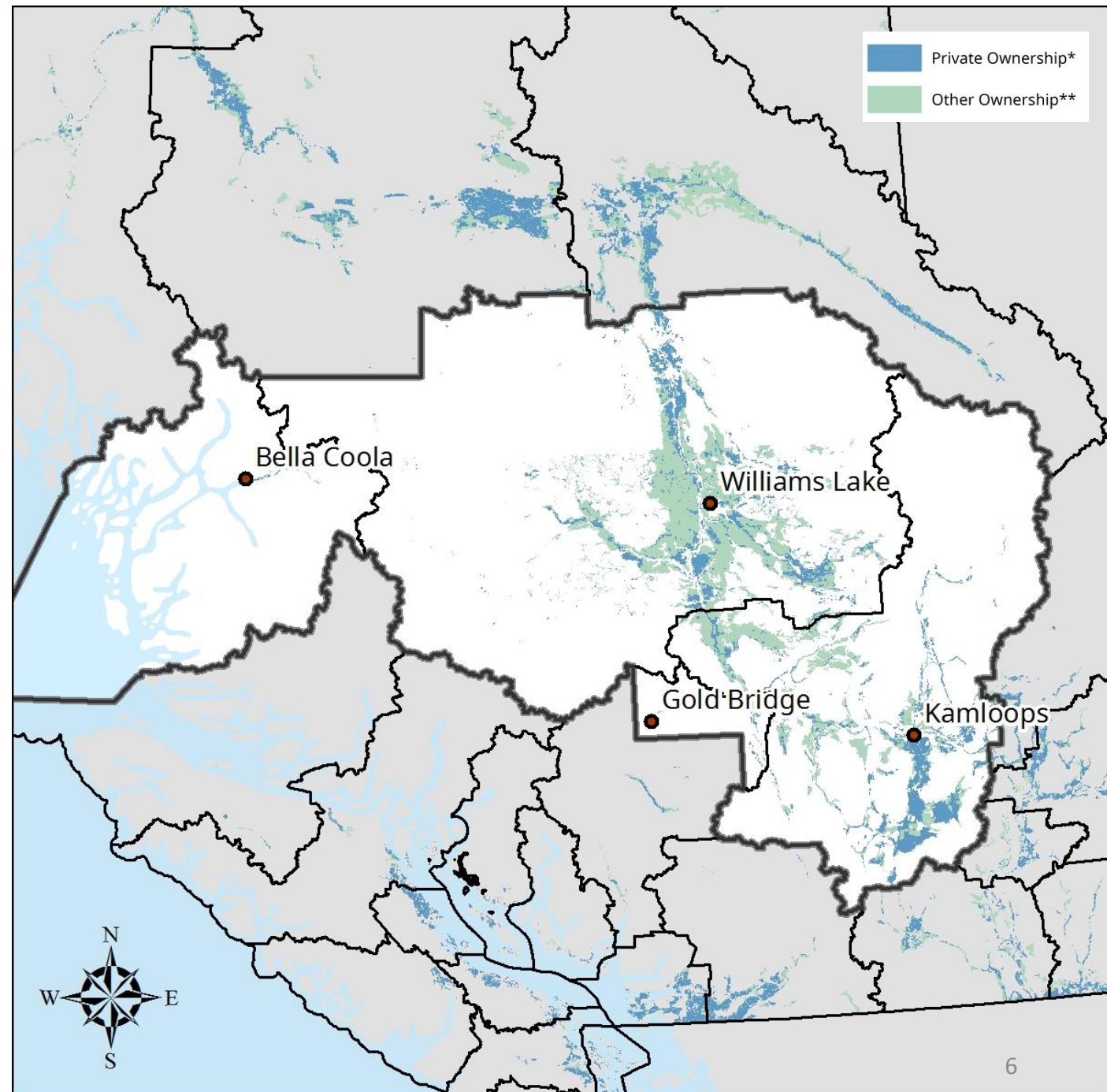
# Interior Administrative Region

Total ALR in Region =  
~1,528,999 Ha

**32% of ALR in Region is in  
Private Ownership**

**68% of ALR in Region is in  
Crown ownership**

**ALC**





An aerial photograph of a suburban landscape. On the left, a dense residential neighborhood with many houses and streets is visible. To the right of the houses are large, rectangular agricultural fields in various shades of green and yellow. A multi-lane road runs vertically through the center of the image, separating the residential area from the fields. In the upper right, there is a roundabout and some industrial or commercial buildings. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark green banner that contains the text.

# **WORKING TOGETHER ALC & LOCAL GOVERNMENT**



# Collaborative Governance – LG/FN



The ALC and local governments/first nation governments have concurrent jurisdiction – landowners must comply with both (in general, most restrictive rule applies):

*S. 46(3) of the ALCA “...nothing in this Act affects or impairs the validity of local government bylaw or first nation government law relating to the use of agricultural land in the ALR.”*

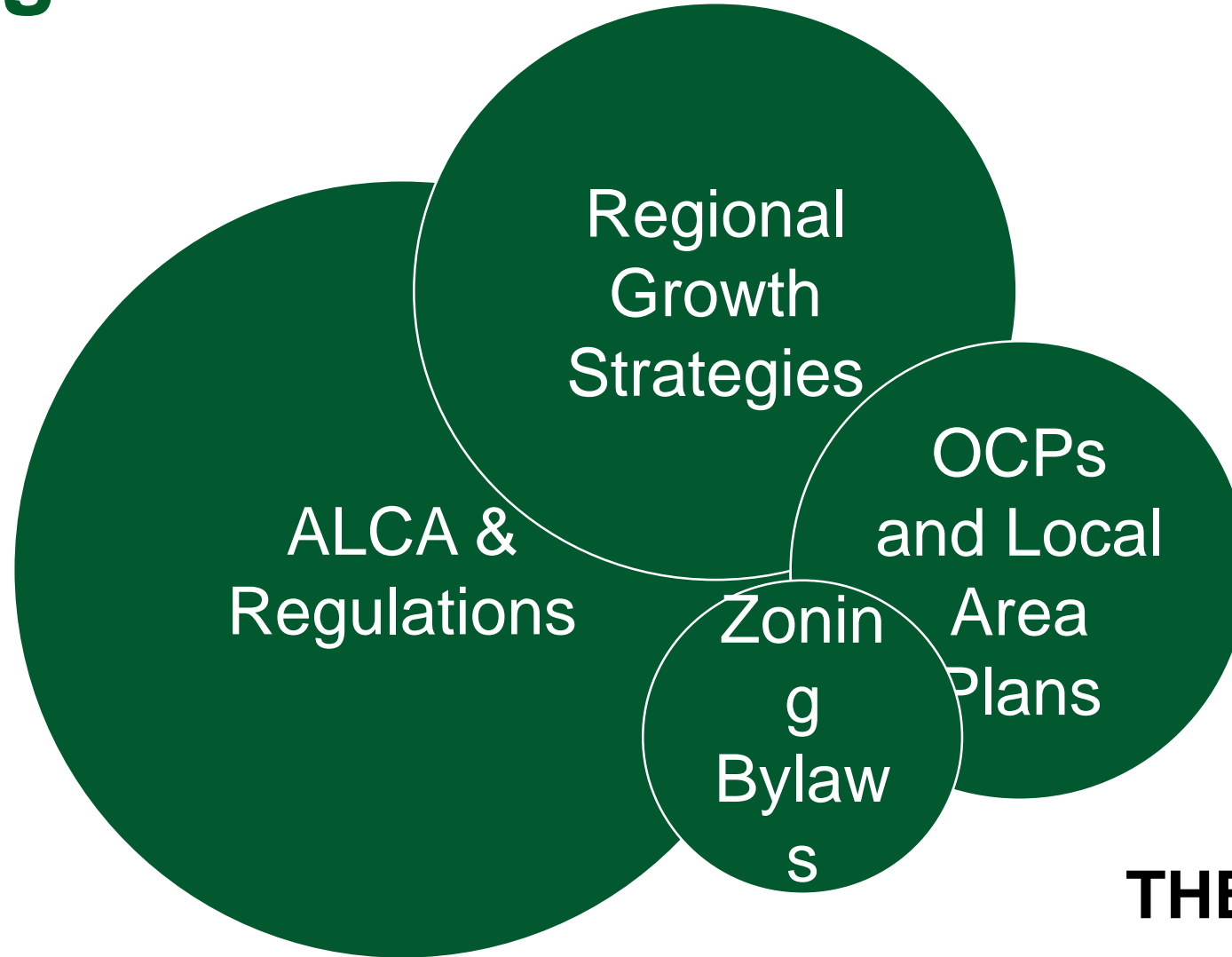
**PROVIDED** local government bylaws and first nation government laws are consistent with ALCA s. 46(4)



# Legislative Framework



# Collaborative Governance & Land Use Planning in the ALR



**THE REALITY**

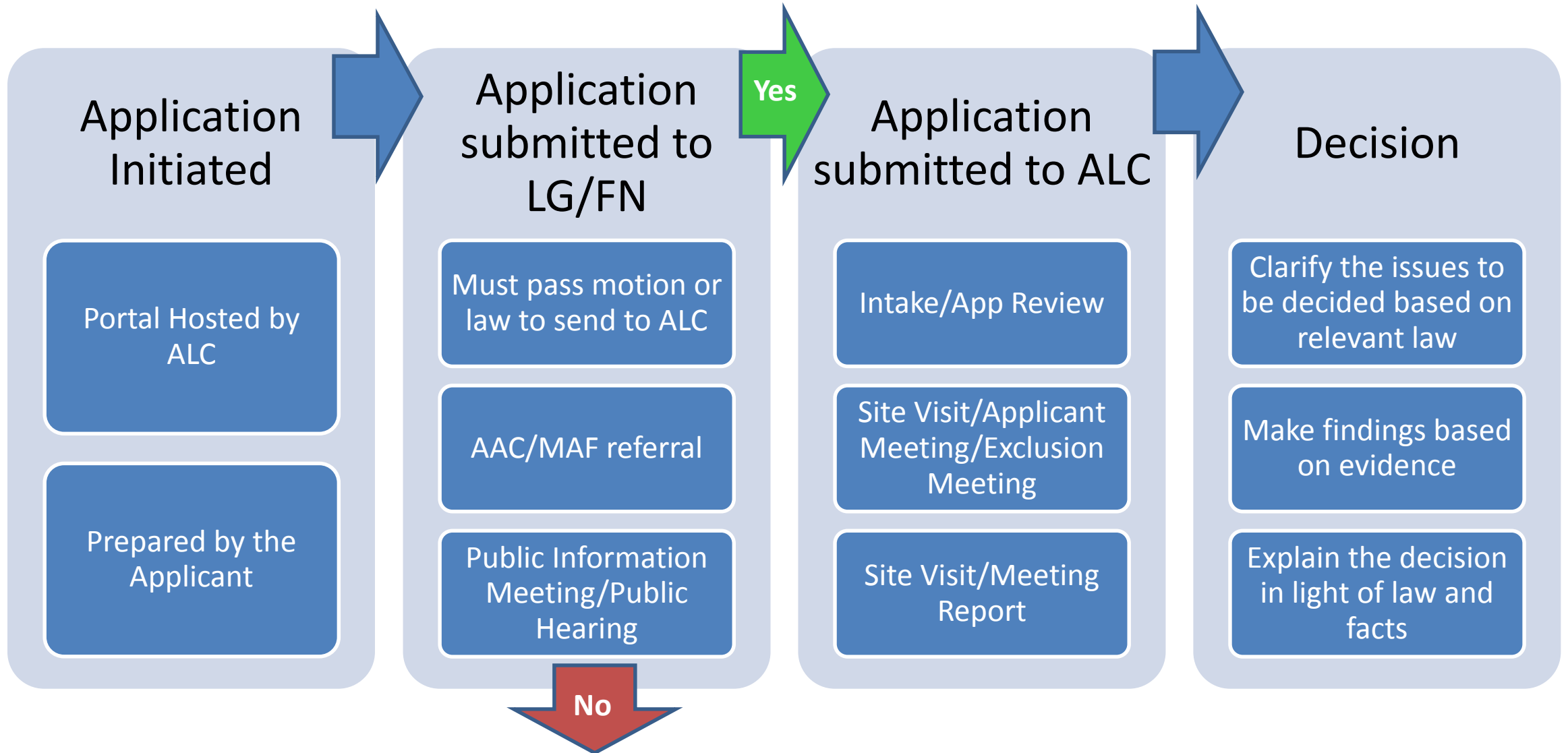


# Local Government Role is Essential

- Partners in agricultural land preservation and planning for agriculture
- Regulate land uses and issue permits for lands in the ALR consistent with the ALC
- First step in application process
- Act and Regulations

**75% of the  
ALR is under  
local  
government  
jurisdiction**

# Application Process

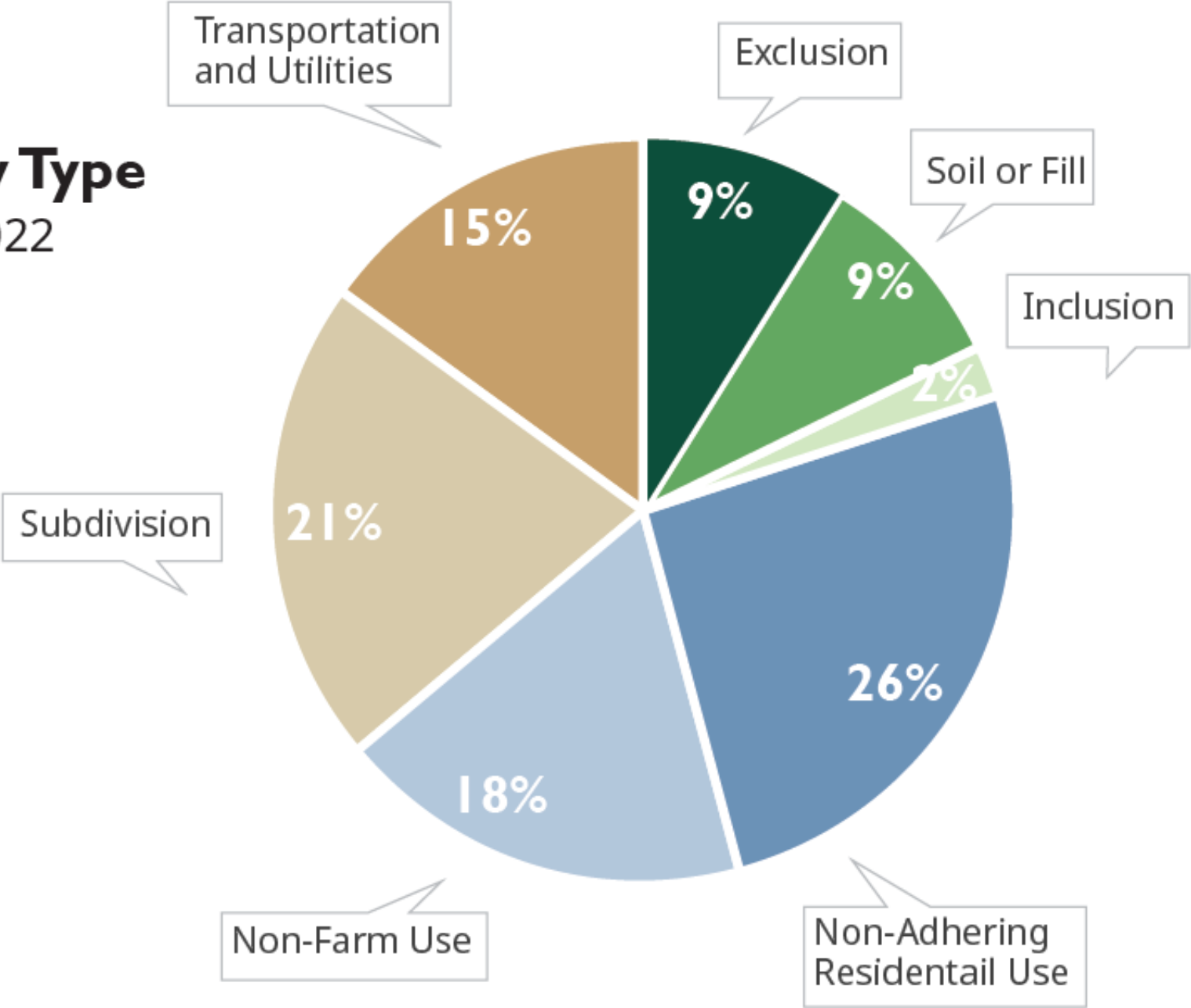




# Percent of Decisions by Type

April 1, 2021, to March 31, 2022

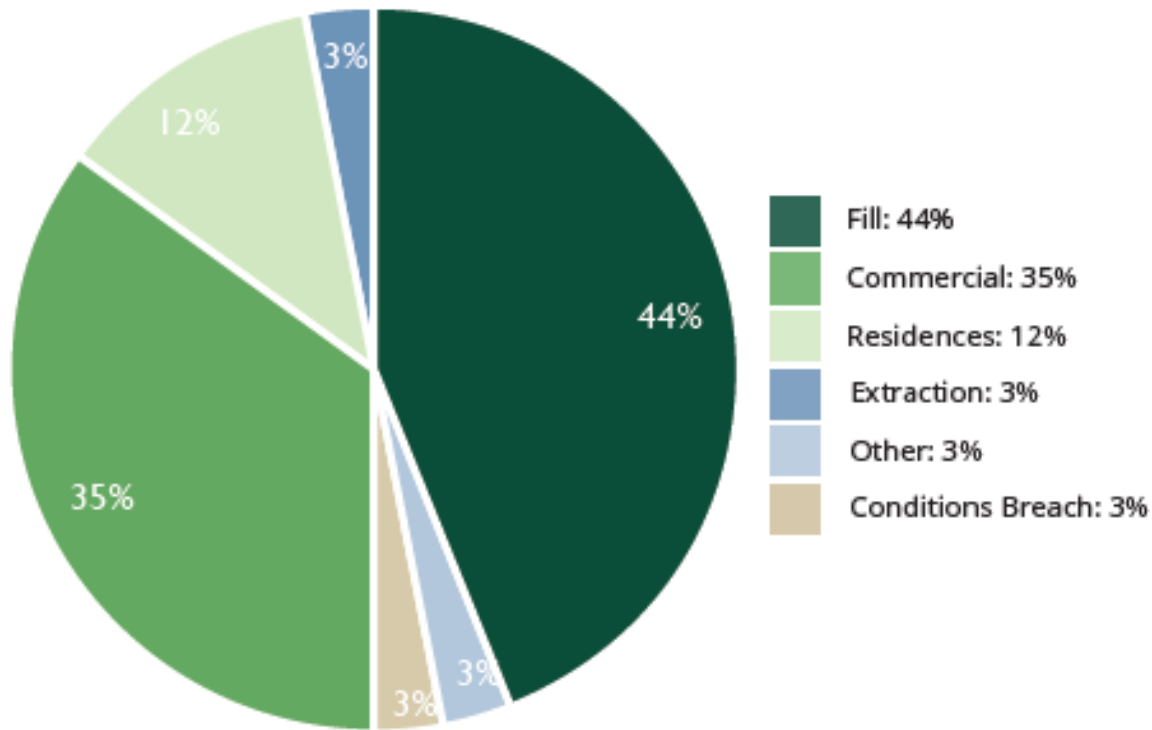
Total Decisions = 315



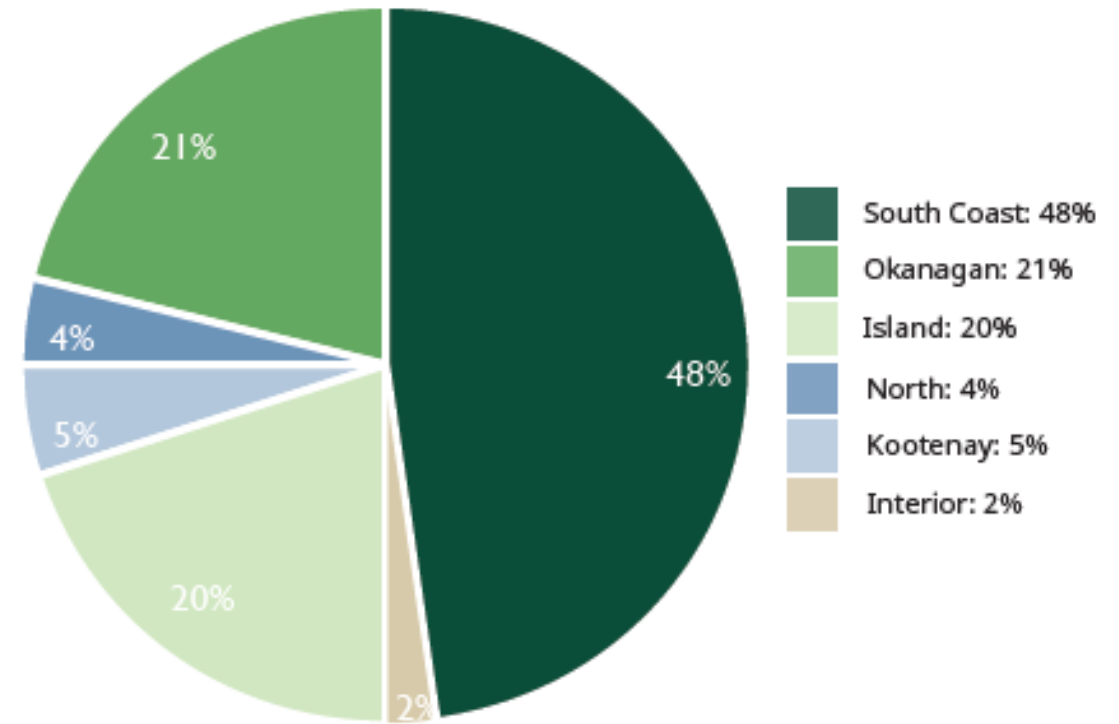
# Compliance & Enforcement Program



**C&E Files by Type**



**C&E Files by Region**



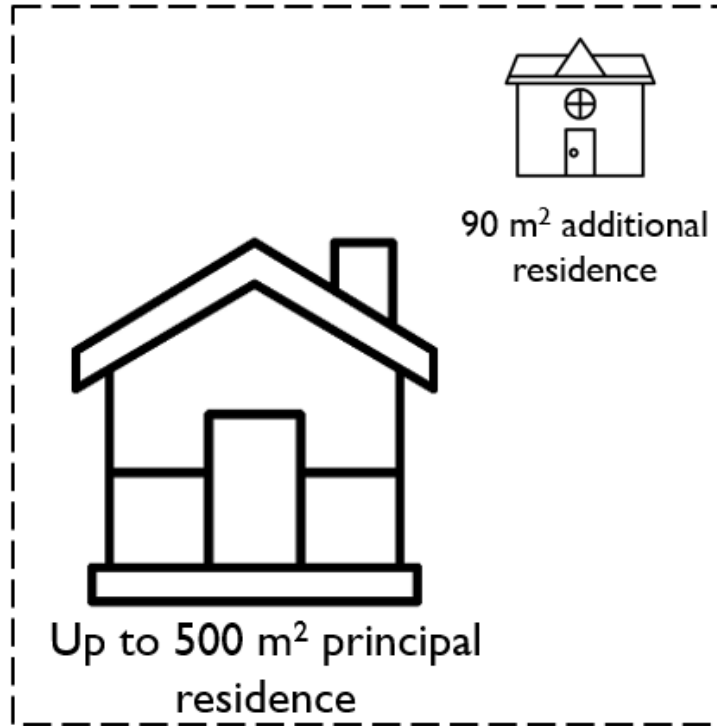
Total 2021-2022 Active Files = 859



# CHANGES

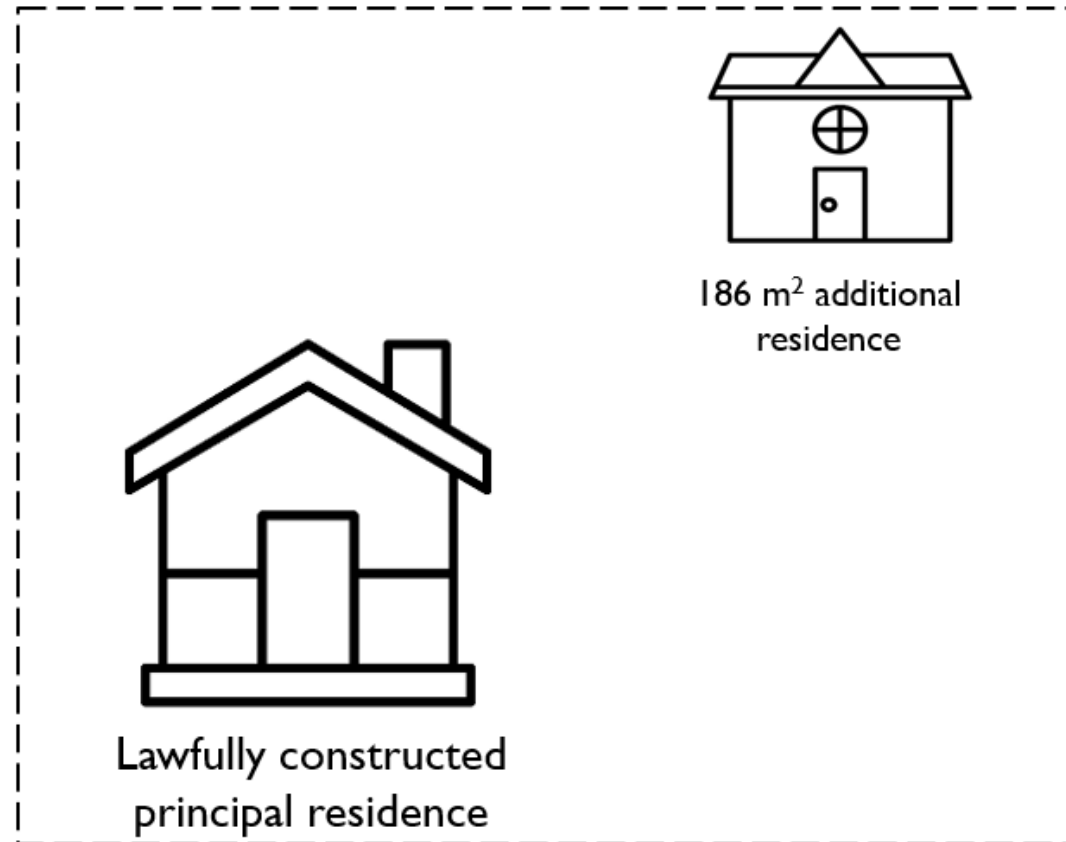


# Residential Flexibility



**≤ 40 ha**

OR



**> 40 ha**



# Residential Flexibility Intent



- Small secondary / accessory residential unit.
- For farmers and non-farmers.
- May be used for many purposes – e.g., rental (long or short term), family, farm help, etc.
- Local governments able to further regulate / restrict based on community need.
- ALC Residential Flexibility FAQ and Info Bulletin

# Temporary Farm Labour Accommodation

Streamlined approval process for Temporary Farm Labour Accommodation consistent with the Minister's Bylaw standards provided:



- Parcel has Farm Class
- At least 4 ha
- Accommodation is moveable
- Siting
- Financial security & registration of a covenant to ensure removal



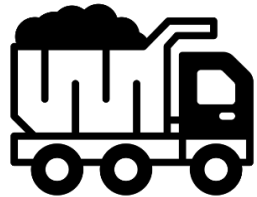
# Soil and Fill Regulation

**"fill" means any material brought onto agricultural land other than materials exempted by regulation**



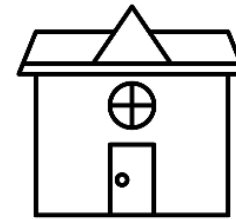
# Soil and Fill for Residential Uses

## PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE

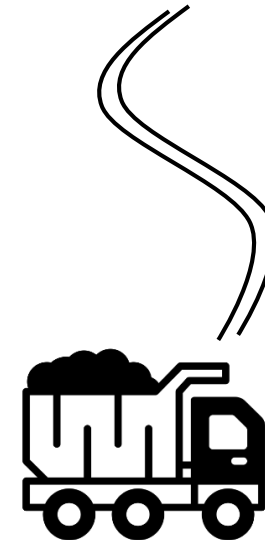
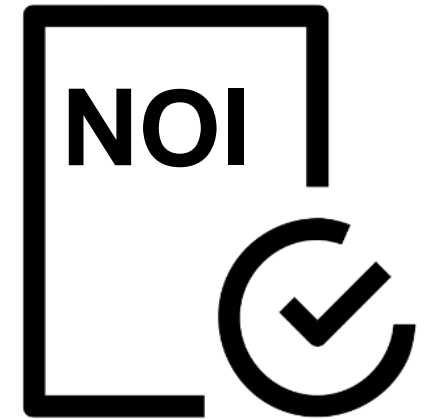


**1,000 m<sup>2</sup>** ✓  
permitted fill for  
the Principal only

## ACCESSORY RESIDENCE



=



**NO AREA**  
permitted for fill



# Vertical Farming Regulation – Effective August 31, 2022

**New Definition - “controlled environment structure”** for the intensive crop production using a rotating tray system, or structures that minimizes the use of land, controls the use of light, air, water or nutrients or relies in whole or in part on automation but not including a greenhouse, mushroom barn or cannabis production facility

## **New Division - Farm Uses That May Be Prohibited by Local Government**

### **Controlled environment structures**

3.1 The use of agricultural land to construct, maintain or operate a controlled environment structure is designated as a farm use.

# THANK YOU!

