



Date: 27/02/2025

To: Chair and Directors, Cariboo Regional District Board

And To: Murray Daly, Chief Administrative Officer

From: Gerald Pinchbeck, Manager of Communications

Date of Meeting: Cariboo Regional District Board_Feb28_2025

File: 0360-20/2025/NCLGA

Short Summary:

AIS – NCLGA Resolution – ALR Boundary Review

Voting:

Corporate Vote - Unweighted

Memorandum:

At its January 24, 2025 meeting, the Board directed staff to prepare a resolution on this topic. The draft resolution reflects the Board's desire to ensure that ALR boundaries are accurate, up to date, and consider the actual versus perceived agricultural value of lands. UBCM has prior policy positions on this matter:

- [2008-B43 \(Smithers\)](#) – "...review with consultation from local government of the Agricultural Land Reserve boundaries to ensure they accurately capture agricultural land..."
- [2010-B38 \(Columbia Shuswap RD\)](#) – "...carry out a current comprehensive ALR fine tuning review in those portions of the province which have not had the benefit of a recent review."
- [2011-B102 \(Cariboo RD\)](#) – "...develop and implement an Agricultural Land Value Index, which will assign a specific agricultural land value... that reflects the actual farming capability of the land rather than just a general ALR designation."

A resolution requesting a comprehensive review of ALR boundaries with local government consultation is likely to be supported, as it is consistent with and builds upon existing policy while reflecting legislative reform and UBCM's ongoing advocacy.

Attachments:

ALR Boundary Review – NCLGA Resolution Backgrounder

Financial Implications:

None.

Policy Implications:

None.

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

- Infrastructure and Asset Management:** To establish a systematic, predictable approach to managing the regional district's assets and infrastructure that builds on current asset management data and condition assessments.
- Enhanced Communications and Engagement:** To build trust and credibility of the regional district by enhancing our communications and engagement with citizens, stakeholders, and volunteers.
- Effective and Responsive Land Use Planning and Development:** To ensure our land use planning and development is responsive to future growth and housing needs, anticipates risks and hazards associated with climate change and provides efficient and consistent processes for landowners and developers.
- Relationships with First Nations:** To foster a healthy and inclusive region by building and strengthening our relationships with First Nations and embracing the principles of reconciliation.

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CAO Comments:

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Options:

1. Endorse the recommendation;
2. Propose an alternate resolution;
3. Other action.

Recommendation:

That the following resolution be approved for submission to the 2025 NCLGA Convention:

Agricultural Land Reserve Boundary Review

WHEREAS ALR boundaries were established in the early 1970's, and no province-wide reviews have been conducted since that time in spite of technological progression and data maturity about the suitability of those boundaries;

AND WHEREAS it is well known, particularly in rural areas of the province, that large areas of the ALR are unviable for agriculture, and conversely, some areas of high agricultural value were left out in the initial rush to delineate protected agricultural areas in BC, negatively impacting British Columbians' confidence in the value and importance of the ALR:

THEREFORE be it resolved that NCLGA and UBCM encourage the Province to mandate, appropriately staff, and fund both the ALC and Regional Districts to conduct a comprehensive, collaborative, data-driven, expeditious, province-wide review of the ALR boundaries to ensure

the highest quality agricultural lands are protected for the next 50 years, and that appropriate lands unsuitable for agriculture be identified in collaboration with Regional Districts and member municipalities to allow for 20 years of growth, in alignment with provincial housing and land use mandates for local governments.