



# MEMBER RELEASE

August 30, 2010

**TO:** Mayor and Council; Chair and Board  
**FROM:** President Harry Nyce  
**RE:** **UBCM Response to Review of Agricultural Land Commission**

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A review is now underway to determine if the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) is capable of meeting its mandate as outlined in section 6 of the *Agriculture Land Commission Act* and to explore opportunities to more effectively administer the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR).

On August 13, 2010 the ALC invited UBCM to meet with the review committee. We delivered our presentation last week, and it is now available in the “What’s New” section of our website ([www.ubcm.ca](http://www.ubcm.ca)).

The ALC has also invited 60 other stakeholders to participate in a series of meetings that will be held Nanaimo, Castlegar, Kelowna, Kamloops, Fort St. John and Prince George over the next 30 days. We understand that while some local governments have been invited to attend these meetings, many have not received notice about the review and its process. Given the findings of the committee may broadly impact our membership, UBCM has encouraged the ALC to increase communications regarding the review process.

Our delegation made several points to summarize UBCM’s policies regarding the ALR:

- Resolutions endorsed by the membership in 2008, 2009 support targeted reviews with local government input;
- There is broad overall support for retaining the ALR and ensuring that it captures agricultural land;
- The need to balance any changes to the ALR with the commitments of local governments under the Climate Action Charter; and
- There is a lack of resources currently to support the ALR.

The ALC advised us during our presentation that while a comprehensive review is underway, there is no support for weakening the reserve. The ALC will also attend Convention in Whistler and will be available for meetings. I encourage local governments that wish to present their views to the ALC to contact them and arrange a meeting in advance. UBCM will continue to monitor the review process and will provide further updates when appropriate.

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