



Agricultural Land Reserve Applications

What is the Agricultural Land Commission?

The Provincial Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) is an independent administrative tribunal dedicated to preserving agricultural land and encouraging farming in British Columbia by administering the *Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) Act* and regulations.

What is the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR)?

The ALR can be thought of as a Provincial land use zone in which agriculture is recognized as the priority use. Farming is encouraged and non agricultural uses are regulated. If your property is in the ALR, it means that it is subject to the Agricultural Land Commission Act and Regulations.

The ALR 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.

Is my property in the ALR?

The ALC has created an online mapping tool on their website that can help you determine if your property is in the ALR:

www.alc.gov.bc.ca/alc/content/alr-maps/maps-and-gis

The RDBN Planning Department can also assist you with this information if you provide the Parcel Identifier (PID), civic address or the legal description of your property.

What Role Does the Regional District Play?

The Regional District provides online maps showing ALR boundaries. RDBN staff can provide assistance

reviewing ALC and RDBN requirements including policies and regulations that may affect RDBN residents; however, residents are encouraged to discuss ALR regulations directly with ALC staff.

Applications in the ALR

There are several types of applications, listed below, that can be submitted to the ALC. Once an application is made the RDBN is involved in the application review process, and the RDBN Board makes a recommendation to the ALC regarding the application.

- Non-Adhering Residential Use
- Non-Farm Use
- Subdivision
- Inclusion
- Exclusion

For more information on any of these application processes, please contact an ALC Land Use Planner at 604-660-7000 or by e-mail at ALC.North@gov.bc.ca or contact the RDBN Planning Department.



RDBN Planning Department

37 3rd Ave, PO Box 820
Burns Lake, BC V0J 1E0
Email inquiries@rdbn.bc.ca
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Call us at: 250-692-3195
Toll free 1-800-320-3339
Fax 250-692-1220

The Application Process

See below for a detailed step-by-step description of the process for Non-Adhering Residential Use, Non-Farm Use and Subdivision ALR applications.

Speak with Staff

1 Prior to submitting an application, applicants are encouraged to speak with an ALC Land Use Planner and RDBN Planning Department staff about the proposed development. Staff can provide information on the application requirements and the review process. This will help ensure that a complete application is submitted and prevent unnecessary delays.

Submit a Complete Application On-line

2 A complete application with the required supporting documents must be submitted online to the ALC Application Portal to start the application process.

www.alc.gov.bc.ca/alc/content/home

The Regional District's portion of the application fee (see fee table on page 3) is payable to the RDBN and can be submitted by mail or at the RDBN Office.

Request for Comments

3 Once a complete application and fee has been received, staff will prepare a referral report and send it to the Regional Agrologist with the Ministry of Agriculture and the local Advisory Planning Commission (APC).

The APC is made up of appointed area residents and will evaluate the application. The applicant has the opportunity to present their application to the Area Director and the APC at their meeting. The APC will make a recommendation to the Regional District Board.

4 Staff report

Staff review all of the information related to an application, including the comments received from the Ministry of Agriculture and the APC. Staff then prepares a report for the Regional District Board. The RDBN report will include a summary of the proposed development, an analysis of the potential impacts, and a recommendation.

5 Board Consideration

The staff report is presented to the RDBN Board for consideration. The Regional District Board may decide one of the following:

- forward the application to the ALC with a recommendation that the application be supported.
- forward the application to the ALC with a recommendation that the application not be supported.
- not authorize the application to proceed to the ALC (only if a parcel is designated and / or zoned for Agriculture use).

6 Application sent to ALC

If the Board has resolved to forward the application to the ALC with a recommendation, staff will send the Board Report, Board Recommendation and other relevant information to the ALC via the Application Portal.

The applicant is responsible for paying the ALC of application fee directly to the ALC when forwarded by the RDBN.

If the RDBN Board decides not to forward the application to the ALC, the application will be considered closed.



7 ALC Review Process

Once the ALC receives the local government recommendation via the Application Portal and the application fee, the ALC will start their review process.

The ALC Commissioners are tasked with making a decision review the information provided in the application, they typically meet as a group to discuss the application. As a result of the discussion the Commissioners may request further information from the applicant or local government; request a site visit on the application property; request a meeting with the applicant; and or; direct staff to draft a decision. Once a decision is drafted, it is reviewed by all ALC Commissioners who considered the application.

When the ALC Commissioners are satisfied that the draft decision accurately reflects their consideration, they will authorize the decision to be released to the applicant and copied to the local government.

Throughout the application process, applicants will be notified in the Online Application Portal as the application moves through the process.

Fee Table

Application Type	Pay to RDBN (when application is made)	Pay to ALC (when forwarded by RDBN)	Total Fees
Non-Adhering Residential Use	\$450	\$450	\$900
Soil Use to Place Fill and/or Remove Soil	\$750	\$750	\$1,500
Non-Farm Use	\$750	\$750	\$1,500
Subdivision	\$750	\$750	\$1,500

Other Applications

Inclusion Applications: There is no application fee for applications to include land into the ALR. The majority of inclusion applications are submitted as a condition of an agricultural Crown grant. The RDBN Board has a policy to support inclusion applications that are a condition of a Crown grant.

Exclusion Applications: By September 30, 2020 exclusion applications can only be submitted by a Local Government. Please contact the Agricultural Land Commission or the RDBN for further information regarding this type of application.

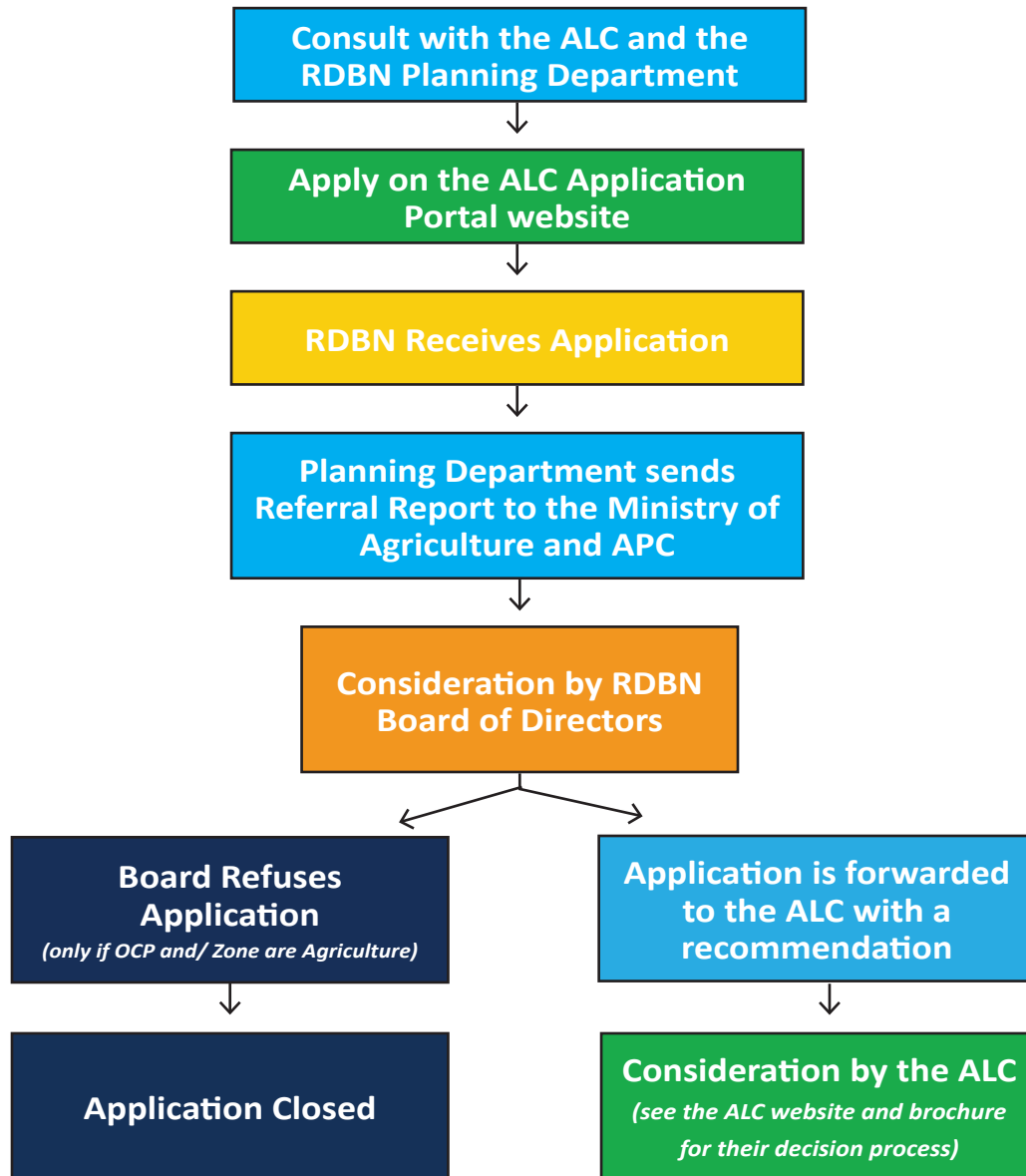
Boundary Adjustments in the ALR: If the Landowner is planning to do a boundary adjustment between two or more properties, a Provincial Approving Officer may approve a plan without the approval of the ALC following a number of conditions. For more information about this option, please contact your local Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure office.

Timeline

The time required to process an ALR application varies depending on the scale of the proposed development and the number of issues that need to be addressed. Generally, expect the entire process to take a minimum of four months and up to one year.

See the following page for an overview of the RDBN part of the application process, and the attached ALC brochure “Quick Guide For Applicants” to learn more about the application process and requirements for the ALC Application Portal.

The Approval Process



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