

FARM ASSESSMENT REVIEW CONSULTATIONS START IN SAANICH

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Sept. 9, 2008

Ministry of Small Business and Revenue

FARM ASSESSMENT REVIEW CONSULTATIONS START IN SAANICH

VICTORIA - The Farm Assessment Review Panel will kick off its provincewide consultation meetings for the Farm Assessment Review in Saanich on Sept. 16, 2008, announced Kevin Krueger, Minister of Small Business and Revenue and Minister responsible for BC Assessment.

"The consultation by the Farm Assessment Review Panel will provide a valuable and necessary public dialogue to assist government in delivering on its commitment to ensuring the farm property assessment process is fair, equitable, and straightforward and accommodates the regional diversity of our agricultural community," said Krueger. "I encourage all British Columbians to bring forward their thoughts to the panel when it meets in their community."

The Farm Assessment Review Panel will travel throughout the province between September and November 2008, to consult with and engage British Columbians in improving the farm property assessment process. The first consultation will be held in Central Saanich at the Saanich Fairgrounds on Stelly's Crossroad - doors open at 6:30 p.m.

"I am anticipating a high level of interest in these meetings and look forward to receiving fresh and innovative ways to enhance the farm property assessment process," said panel co-chair and Saanich Mayor Frank Leonard.

"This consultation will give the panel the opportunity to work in partnership with British Columbians to listen to their ideas for changes to our farm assessment policy," said panel co-chair and Okanagan-Westside MLA Rick Thorpe. "The review and other initiatives like our government's Agriculture Plan recognize the value and importance of the farming community to British Columbia."

In December 2007, the minister of small business and revenue announced a comprehensive review of British Columbia's farm status assessment policy to address property assessment issues of concern raised by farmers and their communities.

People interested in attending and participating in the public meetings can find specific dates, times, locations and venues of meetings at www.farmassessmentreview.ca. To guarantee a seat or if you would like to make a presentation, you are encouraged to register ahead via e-mail to farmassessmentreview@gov.bc.ca or by telephone at 1-866-956-7551.

Media contact:

Lisa Tees
Communications Manager
250 387-4169

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BACKGROUND

Sept. 9, 2008

Ministry of Small Business and Revenue

FARM ASSESSMENT REVIEW PANEL LOCATIONS

The Farm Assessment Review panel is travelling throughout B.C. between September and November to listen to ideas and suggestions for more simple and straightforward farm assessment regulations while at the same time ensuring the property assessment system is fair, equitable and transparent.

LOCATIONS and DATES

Saanich
Sept. 16, 2008

Quesnel
Sept. 19, 2008

Richmond
Sept. 30, 2008

Cranbrook
Oct. 6, 2008

Kamloops
Oct. 14, 2008

Penticton
Oct. 15, 2008

Prince George
Oct. 20, 2008

Dawson Creek
Oct. 22, 2008

Abbotsford
Oct. 27, 2008

Smithers
Nov. 5, 2008

Courtenay
Nov. 19, 2008

Pemberton
Nov. 21, 2008

For more information, please go to www.farmassessmentreview.ca

Registration: To participate in the scheduled public consultations or to send a submission, please e-mail farmassessmentreview@gov.bc.ca, phone (toll-free) 1-866-956-7551 or mail us at:

Farm Assessment Review
PO BOX 9432 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria BC V8W 9N6

As registration for presentations is on a first come, first served basis, please register early to guarantee attendance.

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