

Competing Visions of the ALR in Metro Vancouver Food, Housing or Industry? (Tomorrow, Today or Yesterday...?)

Wendy Holm, P.Ag.
Speaking in defense of community

NAIOP Commercial Real Estate Development Association, Vancouver Chapter
Development Issues Symposium
A Forum on Topical Issues Confronting the Commercial Development Industry

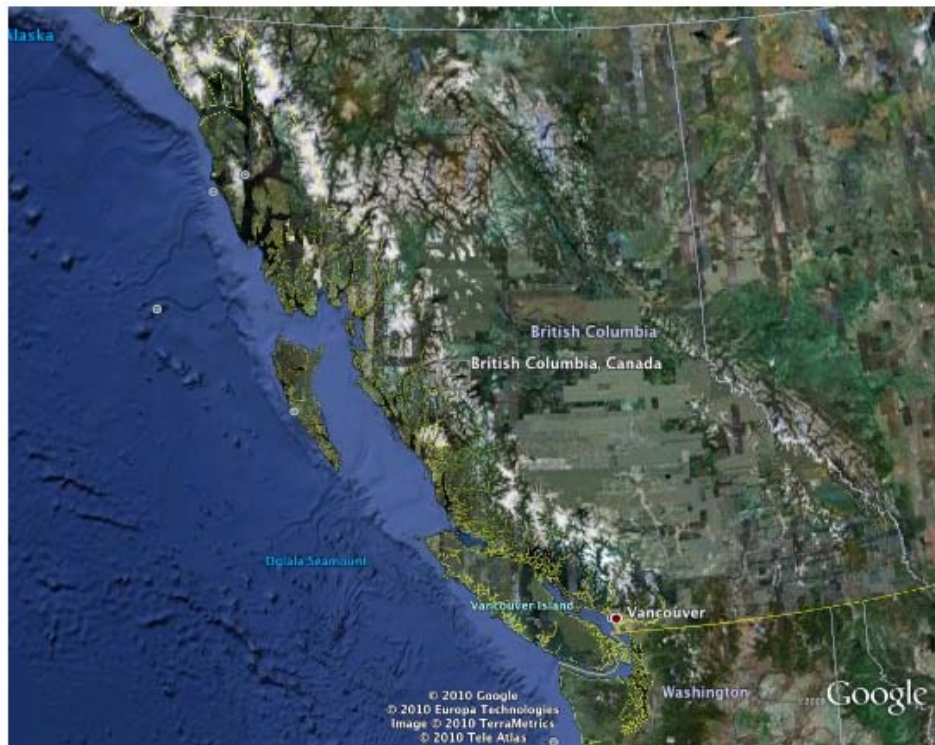
co-sponsors:
SFU Centre for Dialogue (Planning Cities as if Food Matters)
and
Real Estate Foundation of B.C.

ALR was not *[as Fraser Institute suggests, then proceeds to argue against]* created to “promote farming and local food production”

ALR was created to protect BC foodlands.

ALR is working well - needs strengthening

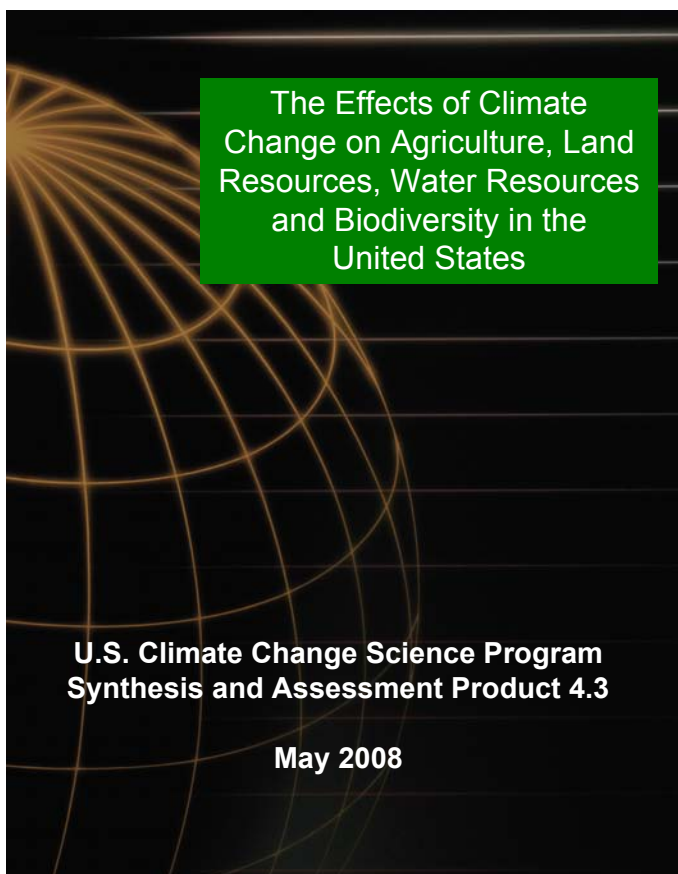
NOTE: Italics added post presentation. The next speaker, representing the Fraser Institute, cites local food production as the reason for creating the ALR, and then bases its arguments against the ALR against this incorrect assumption.



Flights grounded in Europe... airports close...



Londoners measure their food security in days...



The Effects of Climate
Change on Agriculture, Land
Resources, Water Resources
and Biodiversity in the
United States

U.S. Climate Change Science Program
Synthesis and Assessment Product 4.3

May 2008

Already effecting...

Increasing temperatures

Variable rainfall

Increasing crop failures

US military warns oil output may dip causing massive shortages by 2015

- Shortfall could reach 10m barrels a day, report says
- Cost of crude oil is predicted to top \$100 a barrel

[Terry Macalister](#)

guardian.co.uk, Sunday 11 April 2010 18.47 B S T

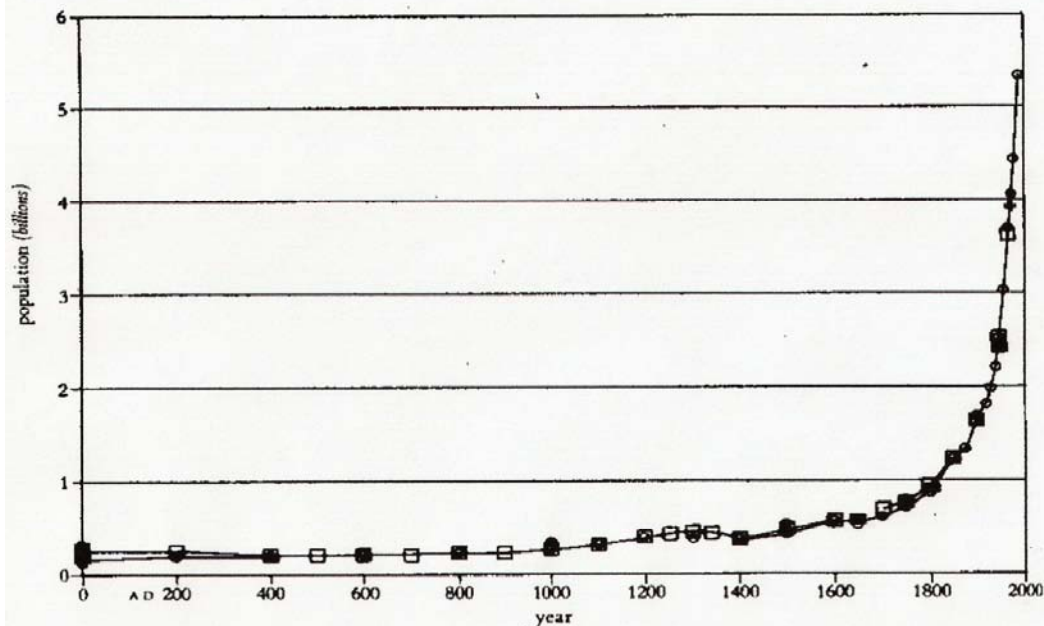


The Environmental Food Crisis *UN Environment Programme*

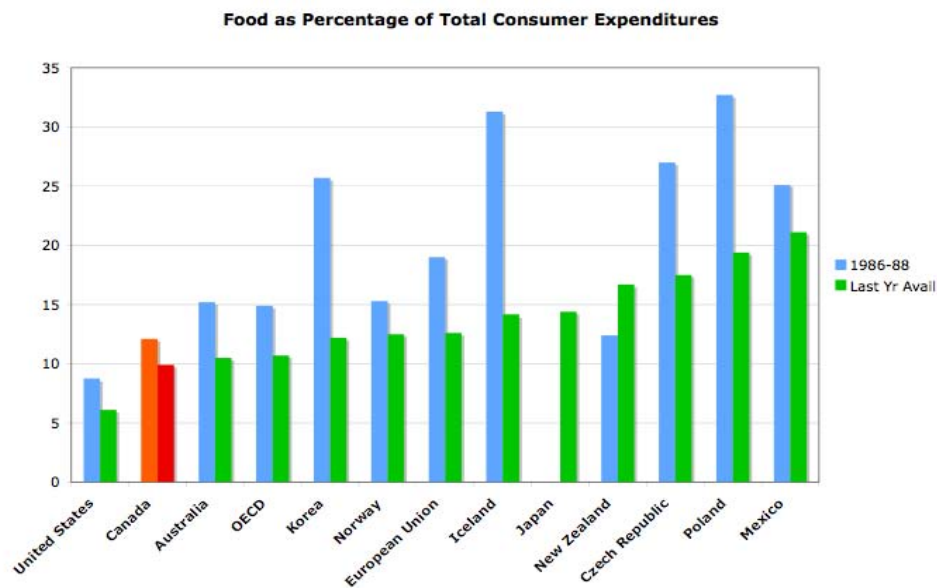
25% loss in food production due to
climate change, water scarcity,
invasive pests, land degradation



Estimated Human Population Over the Past two Millennia (Cohen 1995)



TODAY, Canadians enjoy amongst the lowest food costs in world



Canadians continue to enjoy the second lowest food costs (9.9% of total consumer expenditures) of all OECD member nations.

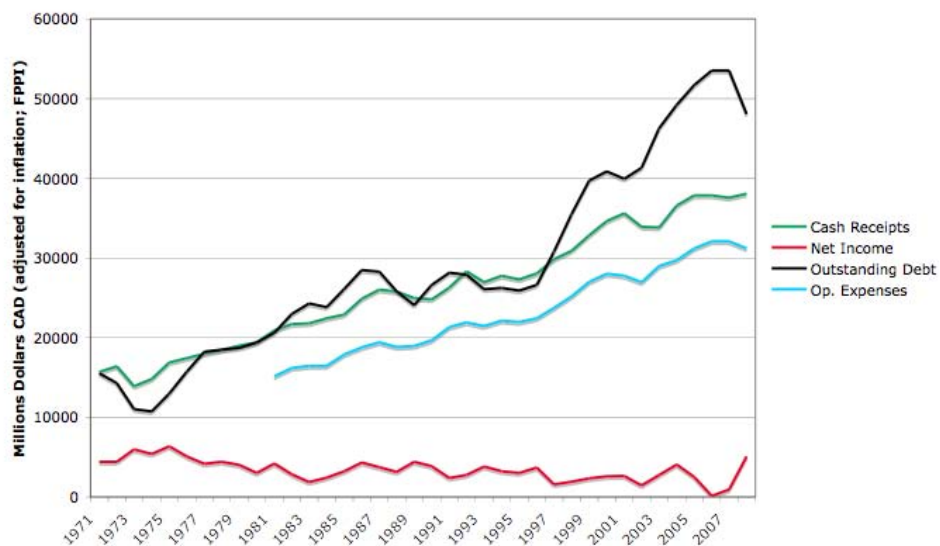


PRESSURE ON FARMLAND



JAWS OF THE CROCODILE...

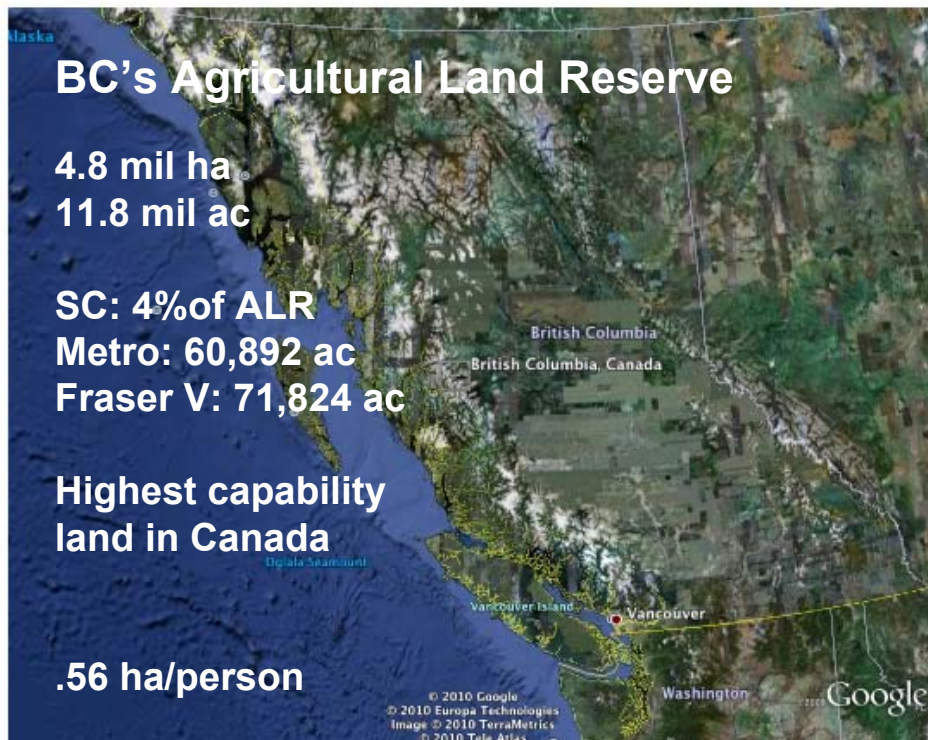
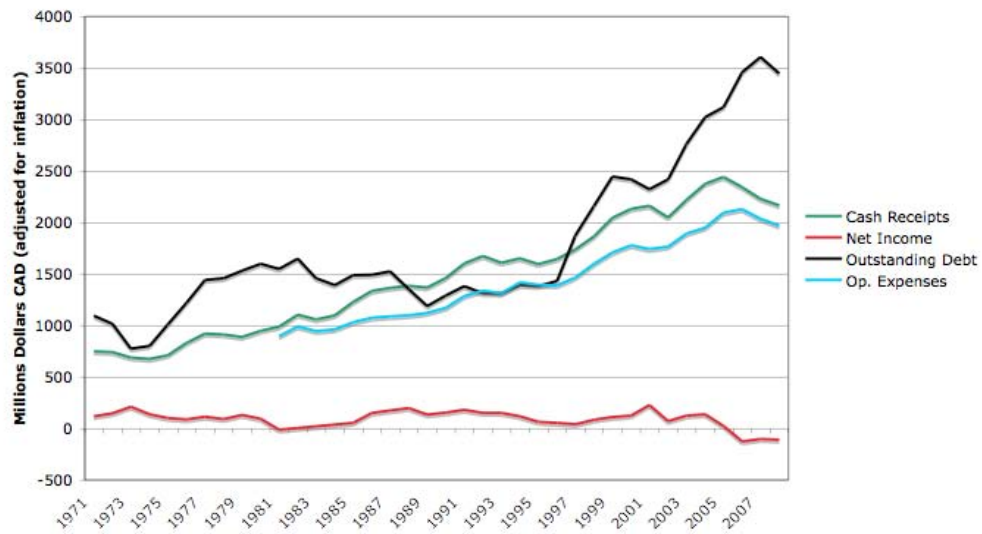
FARM RECEIPTS, EXPENSES, NET INCOME AND DEBT, CANADA, 1971 - 2008
(millions of dollars, adjusted for inflation by Farm Product Price Index)



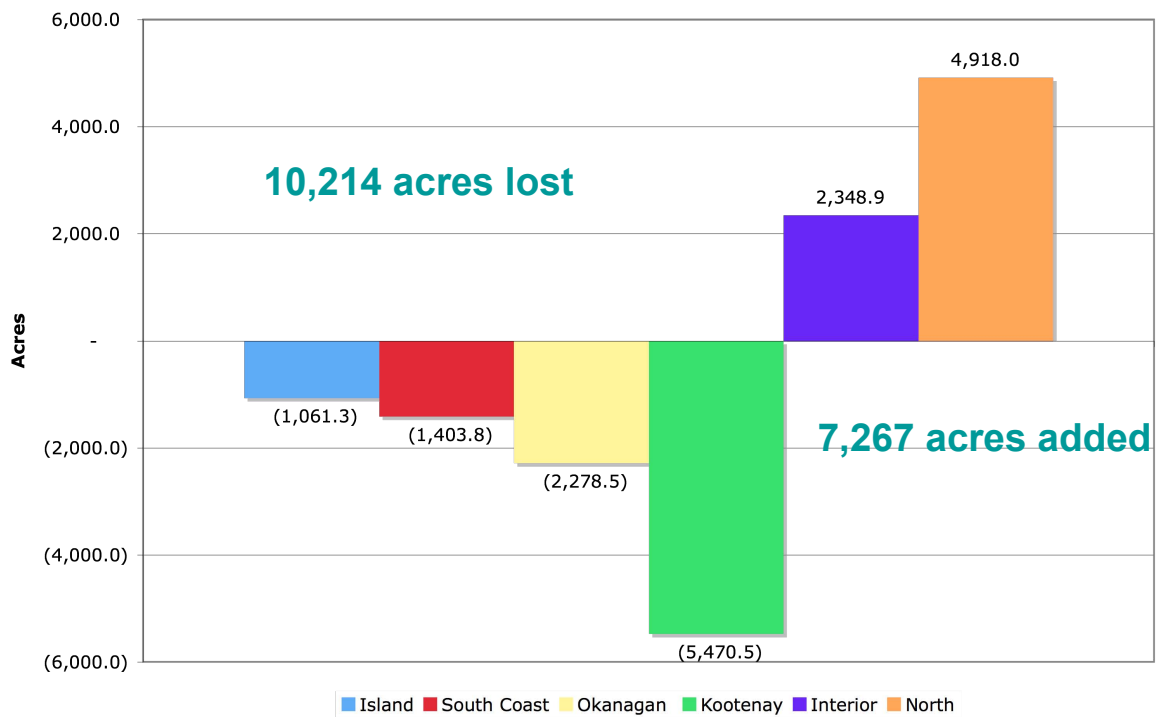
Source: Statistics Canada.
Table 002-0009: Income of farm operators from farming operations, annual;
Table 002-0008: Farm debt outstanding, annual;
Table 002-0022: Farm product price index (FPPI) annual

THE COASTAL CROCODILE...

BRITISH COLUMBIA
FARM RECEIPTS, EXPENSES, NET INCOME AND DEBT, 1971 - 2008
 (millions of dollars, adjusted for inflation by FPPI)



Net Acres Gained or Lost to ALR, by Region British Columbia 2003-2007







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How can we make the ALR work better?

- Stop private applications for ALR removal**
- Improve awareness of good planning tools**
e.g. Local Government Policy Options to Protect Agricultural Land and Improve the Viability of Farming in Metro Vancouver. April 6, 2010
- Create leasing opportunities on fallow land**
- Policies to Amalgamate parcel size**
- Support infrastructure, especially cooperative**
- Support urban, peri-urban, rural food production**

How can we make the ALR work better?

- Support market linkages and urban markets**
- Build houses on uplands not farmlands**
 - “Agricultural Urbanism” NOT model for ALR**
(Gilmore Estates, Terra Nova, Garden City Lands, Southlands...)
- Reduce speculation of foodlands by developers**
- Un-muzzle professionals to speak for public interest**
- Government support + commitment to food**

“Food security is as important to this country’s future well-being – and the world’s - as energy security.

We need to produce more food. We need to do it sustainably. And we need to make sure that what we eat safeguards our health...”

**UK Environment Secretary Hilary Benn
Food 2030 Strategy, Oxford Farming Conference
January 6, 2010**



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