

Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

Overview of Ministry's Information Resource Management Plan

The Ministry of Agriculture and Lands' 2007/08 – 2008/2009 Information Resource Management Plan outlines how information management (IM) and information technology (IT) activities continue to enable the ministry to carry out its mandate: The mandate of the ministry is to enhance the economic development and environmental sustainability of the agriculture and food sectors and Crown land, while delivering safe, high quality products for the enjoyment and well-being of British Columbians.

Alignment of IM/IT Direction and Strategies

The Ministry's IM/IT direction is focused on supporting process improvement, major enhancements to core business applications, decision support and e-service delivery in support of key ministry initiatives. This will be delivered through a Ministry wide Information Management Plan. This initiative will be driven by the development of Divisional Business Plans which will identify business requirements and information needs. These plans will identify appropriate tools and processes for MAL to provide information to industry, academia and the public (ie extension).

Another priority is the development of a three-year information systems plan to support the Ministry's strategic direction.

The ministry is currently working on a variety of projects focused on streamlining and integrating business processes making information and data more available to clients, citizens and businesses. These projects have been categorized into the following areas; Information Access & Delivery (Extension); Licensing & Permitting; Financial Management; Land & Resource Tracking; Monitoring, Compliance and Enforcement.

Key IM/IT Initiatives

In 2007/08 the Ministry will continue with two major business integration and streamlining process projects for tenure allocations and fish aquaculture as well as major enhancements for existing systems and the creation of new systems. Key initiatives include:

- **Development of an Information Management Plan:** will document the mandate, business and information requirements of the Ministry. When completed, systems, processes, tools and procedures will be identified to support the implementation of the plan and assist in the development of a Strategic Systems Plan.
- **Development of a Strategic Systems Plan:** will provide a consistent and coordinated approach to the development and delivery of information to clients, government and other government ministries.
- **Statistics and Economics Reporting:** will standardize statistics storage and retrieval information; reduce staff time to produce reports; will allow field staff access to statistical information to perform their job requirements more effectively.

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- **Ministry of Agriculture and Lands Report Server:** This project will transition and integrate the xLWBC financial report server into the Ministry infrastructure.
- **Earthwon AMS Project: CFLS – Future Phase:** will replace an unsupported database and streamline business processes; will support legislation, regulations and policy; to collect, secure and collate credible information for government, industry and the public.
- Fisheries Aquaculture Authorizations Management
- **CAIS Repository:** This will provide a secure environment for the transfer of financial information between the province of BC and the Federal Government.
- **CIRRAS – Phase 2:** a policy and claims management system to sell insurance services to the farming community, includes policy generation, contract preparation, and claims tracking, policy premiums calculations, accounts receivable and history, workflow, payment information and reports.
- **Application Systems Tracking:** Will replace an existing system that manages land parcels and their associated applications.
- **Crown Contaminated Sites Database:** manages and tracks Crown contaminated sites to allow prioritization, updating and analysis from a province-wide perspective; continue to track government liabilities and will provide approved land resource information into other land management systems (ILRR)
- **Field Inventory System:** A plot inventory and maintenance system this would be a spatial database of plots of land insured. This database would allow on-line renewal as well as providing a tie point for traditional databases.
- **Concerns & Complaints Tracking System:** This system classifies and tracks complaints regarding agricultural activity (now including aquaculture activity) from the public regarding farm practices and their resolutions. Changes to be made to web applications with a java front end to improve support.
- **Earthwon AMS Project – I-Track – Future Phase:** will replace an unsupported database and streamline business processes; will support legislation, regulations and policy; to collect, secure and collate credible information for government, industry and the public.
- **Veterinary Laboratory System Enhancements (VADDS):** to include linkages to internal laboratory processes; expanded data management capabilities and to improve accessibility
- **Fish Health Surveillance Database:** A system to capture and report on fish pathology and test synopsis as a result of inspections at fish rearing locations. Pertains to both water-based and land based finfish, shellfish and marine plant operations on private and crown land.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Lands is working closely with the Ministry of Environment to implement a common technology (using commercial off the shelf software package Earthwon/Posse) in support of business improvement for license and permit systems. Emphasis

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will be placed on common user interfaces, data, workflows and infrastructure between the two ministries in support of business integration and client service.

Working with ILMB, MAL will improve decision making relating to land and resource information by increasing agriculture mapping content in ILMB warehouse repositories and increasing use of ILMB analytical access tools.