

# Agricultural Municipality Initiative



Mayor Doug Holmes, District of Summerland



## Summerland, 2025:

- \$12.5m collected in property taxes (total)
  - \$660,000 from ALR lands (all classes)
    - » **\$64,437 from Class 9** (0.52% total)
- \$2.02m to service ALR properties (excluding water)
  - increase from \$1.9m in 2024, \$1.6m in 2023

For every \$1 collected from ALR, costs \$3 to service

- ratio increasing as infrastructure costs increase

## Resort Municipality Initiative (RMI)

- \$13m/yr to 14 resort towns
- helps pay for infrastructure and amenities for tourism (capital and operations)
- tourism puts strain on infrastructure beyond what local tax base can support

## Agricultural Municipality Initiative (AMI)

- proposed

- 12 small municipalities with 2,000+ ha land in ALR
- need help to pay for infrastructure in rural areas
- farming puts strain on infrastructure beyond what our tax bases can support



# Potential AMI muni's

<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Pop. (2021)</b>	<b>Hectares total</b>	<b>Hectares in ALR</b>	<b>% of ha. in ALR</b>
Central Saanich	17,989	4,508	2,980	66%
Coldstream	11,171	7,654	3,920	45%
100 Mile House	1,928	5,425	4,320	80%
Houston	3,052	7,071	3,640	51%
Kent	6,300	18,402	6,460	35%
Lake Country	15,817	12,330	4,770	39%
North Cowichan	31,990	19,244	6,250	33%
Pitt Meadows	21,892	8,008	6,920	86%
Salmon Arm	19,432	16,584	6,370	38%
Spallumcheen	5,307	26,357	14,370	55%
Summerland	12,042	6,713	2,010	31%
Vanderhoof	4,346	5,763	3,330	58%

# Provincial response



- Three mayors met with Min. Popham (April 27)
- Supportive but no money
- Commitment to raise with Minister of Finance, meet group at UBCM

We need to keep working at it from our end!



## Next steps for us

- Shift from being Summerland's initiative to Group's
- Collate tax-vs-cost analysis from 12 municipalities
- Hire consultant to draft policy/funding formula
- Continue to advocate
  - Support received from BC Ag Council & BC Fruit Growers Assoc.
- UBCM meeting with Minister Popham
- Joint submission to Select Standing Committee on Finance budget consultation (2027)

Goal: to have program in place before next Prov election



## Request(s) to you

- Conduct analysis of taxation received from ALR lands vs operational and capital maintenance costs
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- Participate in UBCM meeting with Minister Popham
  - Advocate locally (MLA, farming community, others)
  - Contribute to policy draft
  - Participate in joint submission to Select Standing Committee on Finance budget consultation (2027)



Thank you!

Your formal support will strengthen our collective advocacy and help demonstrate to the Province the need to recognize the role of small municipalities in providing the infrastructure required to ensure the sustainability of agriculture.