



Strategic Policy Crown Land Allocation Principles

NAME OF LAND POLICY: Crown Land Allocation Principles

APPLICATION: Applies to all decisions related to the use of Crown land under the authority of the *Land Act* or *Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing Act*

ISSUANCE: Director, Strategic Land Policy and Legislation Branch

IMPLEMENTATION: Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

REFERENCES: *Land Act* (Ch. 245, R.S.B.C, 1996)
Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing Act (Ch. 307, R.S.B.C, 1996)

RELATIONSHIP TO PREVIOUS LAND POLICY: Replaces previous Crown land use principles

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Date: _____

APPROVED AMENDMENTS:		
Effective Date	Briefing Note /Approval	Summary of Changes:
June 2, 2008	158077	New principles replace previous versions of Crown land use principles

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AMENDMENT:

FILE: 12000-00

Table of Contents

1.	PURPOSE	1
2.	PRINCIPLES	1
3.	CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE DECISION-MAKER	1
3.1	Crown land values are managed for the benefit of the public.....	1
3.2	Economic, environmental and social needs and opportunities are identified and supported.	1
3.3	The interests of First Nations' communities are recognized.	2
3.4	Decisions are timely, well-considered, and transparent.	2
3.5	Public accountability is maintained during the allocation of Crown land....	2

1. PURPOSE

The Crown Land Allocation Principles provide guidance to public officials who are involved in making decisions related to the allocation of Crown land. This guidance is incremental to obligations under law, recognizes the statutory authority of other levels of government and guides the development of strategic and operational policy. These principles also guide decisions in the absence of existing policy direction.

2. PRINCIPLES

1. Crown land values are managed for the benefit of the public.
2. Economic, environmental and social needs and opportunities are identified and supported.
3. The interests of First Nations' communities are recognized.
4. Decisions are timely, well-considered and transparent.
5. Public accountability is maintained during the allocation of Crown land.

3. CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE DECISION-MAKER

3.1 Crown land values are managed for the benefit of the public.

Decisions should consider social, economic and environmental outcomes that may ensue as a result of an allocation of Crown land. Benefits may be short or long term, direct or indirect.

Government goals provide guidance in determining public benefit.

The public includes British Columbian residents, businesses, organizations, local governments and First Nations.

In valuing Crown land and resources, consideration will be given to their degree of scarcity and the associated economic, social and environmental benefits.

Crown land values include the land, resources associated with the land, and related non-market goods and services.

Foreseeable future needs and opportunities should be considered in addition to present opportunities and needs when evaluating the beneficial use of Crown land and resources.

3.2 Economic, environmental and social needs and opportunities are identified and supported.

Lands will be allocated to achieve government's strategic direction and priorities, as may be expressed through goals, strategic plans, Ministry Service Plans, sector strategies, business plans and other decisions of government.

Crown land allocation should promote investment and open trade, and provide improved access to markets. Innovation should be encouraged, especially where entrepreneurship and investment opportunities can be leveraged.

Crown land allocation should support healthy communities after identifying and considering community values and interests.

Crown land allocation should maintain or create a high quality natural environment.

3.3 The interests of First Nations' communities are recognized.

In addition to the fulfillment of any legal obligations, Crown land allocation should consider the need to achieve greater reconciliation with First Nations in British Columbia.

3.4 Decisions are timely, well-considered, and transparent.

Decisions are timely when staff are diligent in following due process, within the limits of the resources available, and the priorities indicated by business plans.

Timeliness may be enhanced through plans or processes which identify opportunities on Crown land in an orderly and rational manner.

Decisions are well considered when they are based on information sufficient to evaluate and demonstrate the application of these principles.

This could include, but is not limited to:

- the best information available about the land and its resources;
- the costs and benefits of a proposed use;
- appropriate consultation;
- evaluation of risk; and,
- provincial and other land use plans.

Decisions are transparent when the decision-making process and the reasons for decision are clear to the applicant and the public.

3.5 Public accountability is maintained during the allocation of Crown land.

Accountability is expressed through:

- ensuring that the public receives value for the use of Crown land;
- ensuring compliance with tenure conditions;
- monitoring the results and effectiveness of allocation decisions;
- reporting on the benefits generated; and,
- continual business improvement.

The costs to government associated with the allocation of Crown land should be properly and clearly accounted for. Allocation should be responsive to market supply and demand, as well as to the environmental and social benefits derived.

Governance structures, processes and performance targets should be systematically reviewed to ensure currency and effectiveness.