



August 30, 2021

File: 0280-30

Ref: 195547

Mayor Bob Day
Town of Lake Cowichan
PO Box 860, 39 South Shore Road
Lake Cowichan, BC V0R 2G0
Email: bobkday@lakecowichan.ca

Dear Mayor Day:

Thank you for your letter dated August 3, 2021, concerning the transfer of the AB Greenwood School Property that is located within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) from Cowichan Valley School District No. 79 to the Town of Lake Cowichan.

I understand that the Town of Lake Cowichan submitted an application to the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) to have the property excluded from the ALR and that this application was refused by the ALC on October 25, 2019. The ALC is the independent administrative tribunal that is responsible for administering the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* including section 29 which allows the Province, local governments, First Nations governments and other prescribed bodies to apply to the ALC for the exclusion of land from the ALR. As an independent tribunal, the ALC renders decisions on applications independent of government influence or interference. As such, as Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, it would not be appropriate for me to intervene in this situation.

Please be advised that the derelict former school structure on the property can be demolished/removed without approval from the ALC.

Thank you again for your letter and I am sorry that I cannot provide more assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lana Popham". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Lana Popham
Minister