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August 7, 2014

File No.: 0420-20

via e-mail: [AGR.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:AGR.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

The Honourable Norm Letnick, MLA  
Minister of Agriculture  
PO Box 9850, Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Letnick:

**Re: Agricultural Land Commission Regulation Amendments Process**

On behalf of Islands Trust Council, I am writing to convey our serious concerns about the consultation process for amendments to the *BC Agricultural Land Commission Act: Agricultural Land Reserve Use, Subdivision, and Procedure Regulation*.

We are very disappointed that the public consultation process is just four weeks during the summer months (July 22 to August 22), when most farmers are completely consumed by their work and unable to contribute to the discussion. The short time frame makes it difficult for our communities, planning staff, Agricultural Advisory Committees, and elected officials to assess the proposed changes. This timing significantly limits our ability to join the conversation at the regional meeting for our area on August 12, 2014, and our ability to respond in writing by the August 22, 2014 deadline. In the Islands Trust Area there are 20 official community plans, 19 land use bylaws, four zoning bylaws, three Agricultural Advisory Committees and two Farm Plans, all which could be affected by the changes your ministry proposes. We need time to work with the Ministry and the farming community on the changes to farm uses and regulations you propose.

The Agricultural Land Reserve is an important asset in the Islands Trust Area. It helps sustain the character of our islands and the health of communities by supporting food security and protecting farming opportunities for current and future farming families. Extending the deadline to the fall and providing additional consultation sessions for local governments and farmers would result in more robust and supportable regulations that would benefit our communities and sustain the Agricultural Land Reserve.

Sincerely,

Sheila Malcolmson  
Chair, Islands Trust Council  
[smalcolmson@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:smalcolmson@islandstrust.bc.ca)

cc: Islands Trust Area MLAs:  
Gary Holman, Saanich North and the Islands  
Don McRae, Comox Valley  
Doug Routley, Nanaimo – North Cowichan  
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