

FARMERS' ADVOCACY OFFICE
SERVICES TO RURAL LANDOWNERS

March 8, 2018

OPERATIONAL TIMELINE

- First contract – September 1, 2010
- Official Opening October 7, 2010
- Operated for 30 months – closed February 28, 2013
- Did not bid on the first January 2013 Request for Service
- Continued to serve FAO clients on a pro-bono basis from Aspen Grove office
- Responded to revised RFS June 13, 2013
- Contract awarded July, 2013 as five 1-year contracts.
- Office re-opened in present location August 1, 2013.
- Continuous operation since that time.
- **CONTRACT EXPIRES JULY 31, 2018.**

OUR SERVICES



March 8, 2018

LANDOWNER ISSUES

- Location of proposal – impact on home and land use
- Initial offer of compensation
- Rent review
- Failure to make lease payments
- Seismic
- No rent being paid for a surface lease initially on Crown Land, but land now privately owned
- Procedures can be overwhelming
- Contamination
- Trespass

INFORMATION

- Large Acreage Land Sales (on line)
- Surface Lease Rents (on line)
- Info-graphic showing how the system works (on line and in print)
- Landowners' Handbook
- Handouts from Oil and Gas Commission
- Handouts from National Energy Board
- Handouts of relevant sections of BC legislation or NEB legislation
- Where to go to find information
- Presentations to groups

ACCESS

- Meeting room for Landowners' use
- Computer terminal for Landowners' use
- Commissioner for Taking Oaths and Affidavits
- Assistance to Landowners completing forms and submissions for Surface Rights Board, Oil and Gas Commission, Oil and Gas Appeal Tribunal
- Explaining legal terminology
- Helping Landowners with the paperwork

SUPPORT

- Sit in on negotiations, participate as requested
- Site visits with landowners and agents
- Assistance with research – values, case law, other settlements and statutes
- Looking over contracts and legal documents
- Bringing together landowners and regulators
- Support during SRB conference calls, mediations and arbitrations

ADVICE

- Valuation Advice including impact on Landowners' property value
- Negotiation Strategies
- Miscellaneous – gravel and timber value
- Trespass
- Unpaid rent, unpaid taxes
- Advice to Landowners' counsel on request

INPUT FOR IMPROVEMENT

- Active participants in NEB Land Matters Group and Landowner Guidance Sub-committee
- Recommendations for Change to Petroleum and Natural Gas Act (publication of leases, ability to state a case)
- Landowners to be awarded advance costs by Surface Rights Board (Sec. 169 PNG Act)
- Allow access to orphan site fund BEFORE a company goes through federally regulated Bankruptcy.

OUR PROPOSAL

- Short term contract extension – two years, then RFP
- Expand service to landowners to include assistance with other land issues, such as wind towers, non-oil and gas hydro lines, road rights of way
- Consider PRRD solely funding the service, rather than jointly with the BC Government, for greater flexibility in serving landowners

DISCUSSION

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

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