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COUNTRY LIFE IN BC

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BC agriculture minister Lana Popham walks with Ocean Spray chair Peter Dhillon (right) and other cranberry growers during a tour in Richmond in October. Talking to growers one-on-one helps her stay fresh as Popham considers new initiatives to grow BC agriculture. Read some of her thoughts about the year ahead on page 7. BCMA PHOTO

Victoria tweaks ALR rules

Opposition questions changes

by **PETER MITHAM**

VICTORIA – A first round of amendments to BC's Agricultural Land Commission Act became law in December, to the joy of farmland advocates and concerns among many that it signalled a prelude to further regulation of agricultural activities in the province.

Tabled in November as Bill 52, the legislation eliminates two zones for the ALR and tightens restrictions on fill activities.

It also entrenches

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Ranch must allow anglers

by **TOM WALKER**

VANCOUVER – BC Supreme Court has ruled in favour of the Nicola Valley Fish and Game Club in its long-running battle with the Douglas Lake Cattle Co. over access to two lakes surrounded by private ranchland.

The decision has set off alarm bells at the BC Cattlemen's Association, which says it should send a chill through private landowners.

"There are certainly things

in this ruling that raise concerns for me, not as someone from the industry, but as a property owner," says Kevin Boon, general manager of the BC Cattlemen's Association. "The rationale behind it should make anybody who owns private land extremely nervous about what their rights really are."

The anglers took issue with a gate Douglas Lake began locking in or about 1990 across what is known as Stoney Lake Road. The road crosses Douglas Lake's

property and provides access to Stoney and Minnie lakes.

Douglas Lake claimed that a number of factors, including a bypass road constructed in the 1970s, meant Stoney Lake Road was no longer a public road but a private one.

The ranch also claimed that Crown grant records did not show access to Minnie Lake and that in order to access Stoney Lake, the public would have to trespass on private land.

See **PUBLIC** on next page ↗

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