

Synergy Alberta Conference

October 31, 2012

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ALBERTA LAND INSTITUTE

Alberta Land Institute Background

- Donation made to University of Alberta in 2011 to establish a multi-disciplinary research institute to address land-use issues.
- Formal planning for Institute started in late 2011.
- Stakeholder consultation was conducted to seek input and confirm strategic focus was key.



Consultation Approach

- 40 interviews conducted in the spring and summer period of 2012.
- Interviewees included representatives from provincial government, municipalities, industry, related associations and regulatory bodies. A number of individual property owners were also interviewed.



What We Heard

1. Better understanding of current and future land management challenges in Alberta.
2. Better policy/program options.
3. Stronger relationships among key land-use stakeholders.



1. Better Understanding

- Better evaluation of the impact of current and future land-use decisions and related policies, including the development of land-use scenarios and their implications
- A stronger collaborative process required to measure, monitor and report on current and projected land-use trends.
- Better picture of what the province will look like in the next 50 years from a land-use perspective.



2. Better Policy/Program Options

- Policy/program options that are evidence-based, practical and understandable.
- Need to consider economic, environmental and social factors.
- What can be learned from other jurisdictions?



3. Stronger Relationships

- Establish a system for better land use management that involves a broad range of land-use stakeholders – academic institutes, government policy makers, land-users, Non-Governmental Organizations.
- Need for common understanding to clearly define key land-use issues and related terminology, which will enable consistent communication and messaging with stakeholders.
- Find alternative methods of conducting less confrontational public dialogue where critical conversations can happen.



ALI Strategic Plan 2012-2015

Vision

An internationally recognized research institute that provides evidence-based policy options to resolve land-use issues, support dialogue and identify new approaches to secure Alberta's prosperity through transformational land management.

Mission

Working with policy makers and land-users, develop, design, evaluate and support the implementation of innovative and informed land-use policy by leveraging the multi-disciplinary research capacity of the University of Alberta and other partners.



ALI Strategic Plan 2012-2015

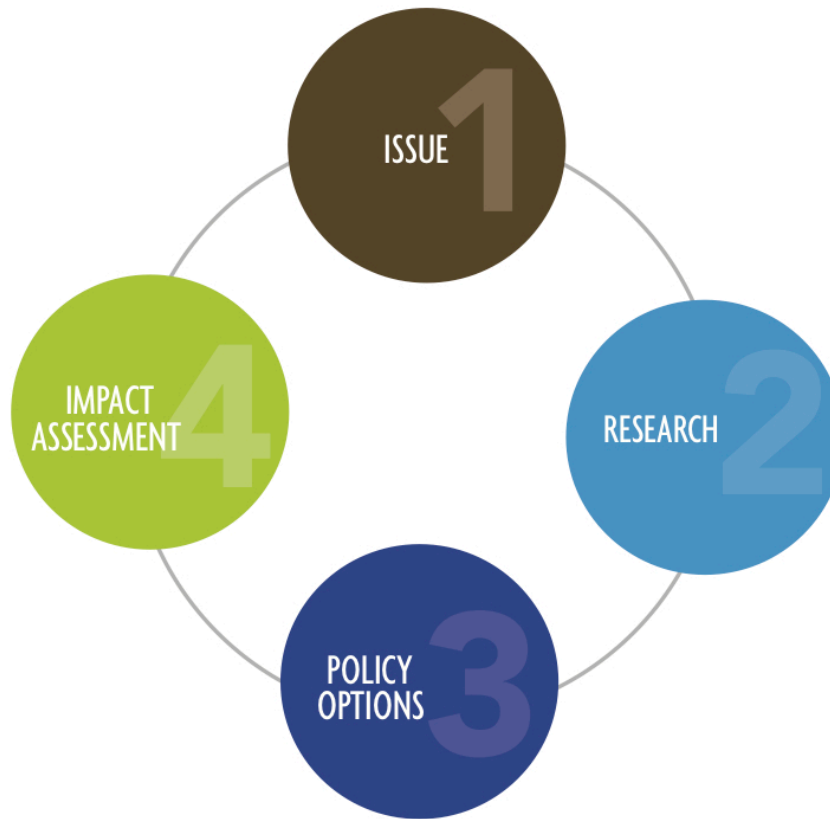
Key Objectives:

- Conducting Strategic Research in Key Land-Use Areas
- Supporting the Testing of Innovative Options
- Developing Policy and Program Options
- Knowledge Exchange and Fostering Relationships
- Building Capacity of Students



ALI Strategic Plan 2012-2015

Our Approach to Research and Policy Option Development



ALI Strategic Plan 2012-2015

Strategic Areas of Study

- **Agriculture:** Support economic and social viability while increasing environmental performance.
- **Municipal Development:** Support more efficient planning of commercial, industrial and residential infrastructure.
- **Governance and Regulation:** Identify potential enhancements to the governance and regulatory framework to increase land stewardship.

In time, ALI will focus on Energy, Recreation, Transportation and Utilities, and Forestry.



2012 Research Initiatives

- **Property Rights and Land Use Regulation** (1 year)
 - Description, comparative analysis
- **Wetland Restoration and Retention** (1 year for design)
 - Evaluating current and potential policy and program mechanisms
 - Making recommendations on the most cost effective strategies for Alberta
- **Fragmentation and Conversion of Agricultural Land** (3 years)
 - Historical analysis and projection of future trends
 - Evaluating impacts and policy mechanisms that could mitigate future loss
- **The Irrigation Sector over the next 25 years** (3 years)
 - Projecting the future economic potential of the irrigated sector and understanding environmental and social impacts
 - Evaluating management strategies and policy and program mechanisms for better overall management of the sector



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