

May 6, 2008

Province introduces legislation to ease restrictions on land negotiations

Edmonton... Bill 9, the *Land Agents Licensing Amendment Act*, introduces a revision that will make it easier for landowners to hire anyone to represent them in land use negotiations with energy companies.

Currently, only licensed land agents or lawyers are permitted to charge a fee if providing advice on land negotiations. Under the proposed change, this requirement will be lifted to allow any person to represent land owners and charge a fee for those services.

“This government is committed to giving Albertans freedom of choice,” said Hector Goudreau, Minister of Employment and Immigration. “Landowners will be free to hire the representative they want, regardless of their qualifications. This amendment to the Act, if approved, will add more responsibility on the shoulders of landowners - a responsibility to do their homework and hire the most appropriate person, licensed or not.”

Len Mitzel, MLA for Cypress-Medicine Hat introduced the bill in the Alberta Legislature on May 6.

“My southern Alberta constituents have told me the *Land Agents Licensing Act*, in its present form, is too restrictive. They want less red tape and they want choice - that’s what this amendment is about,” said Mitzel.

There are more than 1500 licensed land agents in Alberta. They will still be required to hold a license when negotiating on behalf of industry. Licensed land agents receive training and practical experience before they become fully licensed and must follow stringent standards of conduct when dealing with landowners.

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2008 Bill 9

First Session, 27th Legislature, 57 Elizabeth II

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

BILL 9

**LAND AGENTS LICENSING
AMENDMENT ACT, 2008**

MR. MITZEL

First Reading

Second Reading

Committee of the Whole

Third Reading

Royal Assent

Bill 9
Mr. Mitzel

BILL 9

2008

LAND AGENTS LICENSING AMENDMENT ACT, 2008

(Assented to , 2008)

HER MAJESTY, by and with the advice and consent of the
Legislative Assémbly of Alberta, enacts as follows:

Amends RSA 2000 cL-2

1 The *Land Agents Licensing Act* is amended by this Act.

2 Section 1(c) is repealed and the following is substituted:

- (c) "land agent" means a person who negotiates for or acquires an interest in land
 - (i) on behalf of the person's employer,
 - (ii) as an agent on behalf of another person, or
 - (iii) on the person's own behalf;

Explanatory Notes

1 Amends chapter L-2 of the Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000.

2 Section 1(c) presently reads:

1 In this Act,

(c) *"land agent" means*

(i) *a person who*

(A) *on behalf of the person's employer,*

(B) *as an agent on behalf of another person, or*

(C) *on the person's own behalf,*

negotiates for or acquires an interest in land, or

(ii) *a person who for a fee, which includes accepting compensation for travel and other incidental expenses, gives or offers advice to an owner or the owner's agent with respect to a negotiation for or acquisition of an interest in land;*