

# British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board

## 2016/17 – 2018/19 Service Plan<sup>i</sup>

### Purpose of the Board:

The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board (the Board) is an independent administrative tribunal that operates at arm's-length from government. As the regulatory tribunal responsible for the general supervision of B.C. regulated marketing boards and commissions, the Board provides oversight, policy direction and decisions to ensure orderly marketing and to protect the public interest. In its adjudicative capacities, the Board provides a less formal system than the court for resolving disputes in a timely and cost effective way. The Board consists of a part-time board of up to ten members and nine full time equivalent staff positions and is accountable to government for its administrative operations.

The Board's statutorily mandated responsibilities are established in the *Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act*, the *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act*, the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act*, and the *Agricultural Produce Grading Act* and are supported by the *Administrative Tribunals Act*. They include:

- supervising B.C.'s regulated marketing boards and commissions;
- being a signatory to formal federal-provincial cooperation agreements in regulated marketing;
- hearing appeals of regulated marketing board and commission orders, decisions and determinations;
- hearing appeals of Minister of Agriculture decisions to refuse, suspend, revoke or not renew agricultural produce grading licenses;
- hearing appeals related to certain animal custody and cost decisions of the B.C. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals;
- hearing farm practices complaints from persons disturbed by odour, noise, dust or other disturbances arising from agriculture or certain aquaculture operations; and
- conducting farm practices studies.

The Board has adjudicative independence in its decision-making, and through its strategic plan and other documents, establishes goals, objectives, strategies and performance measures necessary to achieve its administrative role as a public sector agency, including cost-consciousness, accountability, appropriate compensation, service, respect and integrity as outlined in the Taxpayer Accountability Principles. The Board periodically reports to the Minister concerning its administrative mandate. Further information about the Board may be found at <http://www.firb.gov.bc.ca/>.

## Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Measures:

### Goal 1: A regulated marketing system with effective self-governance.

**Objective 1.1: The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board and marketing boards and commissions practice good governance in their external and internal operations.**

#### Strategies:

- Ensuring that marketing boards and commission activities and decisions are administratively fair, comply with legislation/regulations, and accord with sound marketing policy.
- Requiring boards to give consideration to the government policy framework and the public interest.
- Providing supervisory intervention when necessary.
- Working to achieve priorities within budget while continuing to place importance on board and staff development and training.
- While preserving its independence as a tribunal, continuing to work to ensure effective relations with the Ministry of Agriculture, regulatory agencies at all levels, and stakeholders.

**Performance Measure 1: BCFIRB and the boards and commissions it supervises exercise appropriate governance and fiscal procedures in exercising their mandates.**

Performance Measure	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Expectation	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
BCFIRB & boards/commissions exercise appropriate governance & fiscal procedures.	Met	Meet	All meet 2016/17 expectations	All meet 2017/18 expectations	All meet 2018/19 expectations

**Performance Measure 2: Boards and commissions demonstrate that their programs, policies and decisions reflect legislative intent, sound marketing policy and consider the public interest.**

Performance Measure	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Expectation	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
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Programs, policies and decisions reflect legislative intent, sound marketing policy and consider public	Met	Meet	All meet 2016/17 expectations	All meet 2017/18 expectations	All meet 2018/19 expectations
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**Performance Measure 3: The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board demonstrates fiscal responsibility by operating within budget.**

Performance Measure	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Expectation	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
BCFIRB expenditures are on budget.	5.4% over official budget	Expenditures are within budget	Expenditures are within budget	Expenditures are within budget	Expenditures are within budget

**Goal 2: A principles-based, outcomes-oriented approach to regulation.**

**Objective 2.1: The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board and marketing boards and commissions use a principles-based approach to regulating.**

**Strategies:**

- Working with boards and commissions to develop, adopt, and employ a principles-based approach to regulation.
- Requiring all British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board, marketing board and commission orders, decisions and determinations to be made available to the public, except where privacy legislation and policies apply.
- Promoting policies that reflect B.C. interests at both the federal and provincial levels.

**Performance Measure 4: The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board and the boards and commissions it supervises demonstrate the application of the Strategic, Accountable, Fair, Effective, Transparent and Inclusive (SAFETI) principles in their programs, policies and decisions.**

Performance Measure	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Expectation	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
BCFIRB & Boards and Commissions routinely apply SAFETI principles.	Met	Meet	All meet 2016/17 expectations	All meet 2017/18 expectations	All meet 2018/19 expectations

**Performance Measure 5: British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board orders, decisions, determinations, practices and procedures and other information are published. Marketing board and commission orders, decisions and determinations are published promptly after being made in order to preserve rights of appeal under the *Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act*.**

Performance Measure	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Expectation	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
Orders, decisions & determinations are published promptly.	Met	Meet	All meet 2016/17 expectations	All meet 2017/18 expectations	All meet 2018/19 expectations

**Performance Measure 6: The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board and the boards and commissions it supervises work to maintain and where possible grow the market for BC produced product.**

Performance Measure	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Expectation	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
No production or base allocation loss in supply-managed sectors.	Exceeded	No loss	No loss	No loss	No loss

### **Goal 3: Effective, fair and independent resolution of inquiries and disputes.**

**Objective 3.1: Ensure issues and disputes arising within the British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board’s jurisdiction are resolved in a fair and timely manner.**

**Strategies:**

- Using farm practices studies to help prevent and resolve farm practices disputes.
- Using supervisory processes to help prevent and resolve regulated marketing disputes.
- Using timely, fair and accessible processes to help resolve complaints (under the *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act*), and appeals (under the *Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act*, *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* and the *Agricultural Produce Grading Act*).

**Performance Measure 7: BCFIRB reports annually on time from filing to resolution, cost per case, and user experience for each of its appeals and complaints processes. Appeals and complaints to BCFIRB are routinely handled within usual time periods established in its Practice Directives.**

Performance Measure	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Expectation	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
Appeals and complaints are routinely handled within usual time periods established in its Practice Directives	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

**Performance Measure 8: Demonstrated increased use of Alternative Dispute Resolution by marketing boards and commissions and the British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board.**

Performance Measure	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Expectation	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Actual	2018/19 Actual
ADR is used whenever appropriate	Met	Meet	Whenever Appropriate	Whenever Appropriate	Whenever Appropriate

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<sup>i</sup> For the official published document see the **Ministry of Agriculture 2016/17 – 2018/19 SERVICE PLAN** at: <http://www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2016/sp/pdf/ministry/agri.pdf>