



October 10, 2014

File: 44200-60 VI VEG
REVIEW

DELIVERED BY EMAIL

David Taylor
Chair
BC Vegetable Marketing Commission
207 – 15252 – 32nd St
Surrey BC V3S 0R7

Dear Mr. Taylor:

BC FARM INDUSTRY REVIEW BOARD SUPERVISORY REVIEW – THE FUTURE OF REGULATED VEGETABLE PRODUCTION ON VANCOUVER ISLAND

At the September 11, 2014, BC Farm Industry Review Board (BCFIRB) meeting, and on behalf of the BC Vegetable Marketing Commission (the Commission), you requested that this board consider a supervisory review of Vancouver Island's regulated vegetable industry.

Continued failure to resolve ongoing issues with regulated vegetable production on Vancouver Island signals that strategic action is needed by the Commission, BCFIRB and producers. BCFIRB agrees that a supervisory review is required.

The objective of this review is to evaluate how Vancouver Island vegetable production should continue to be regulated.

Background

Over the last few years, BCFIRB has seen an increase in appeals of Commission decisions related to Vancouver Island agencies. BCFIRB also conducted a facilitated process and two [supervisory reviews](#), and invested many hours of staff and board time attempting to resolve long-standing disputes between producers and agencies on Vancouver Island—all in an effort to support the industry and the Commission to develop collaborative solutions. These efforts have not successfully resolved ongoing issues.

**British Columbia
Farm Industry Review Board**

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Given the significant challenges already facing BC's vegetable industry¹, it is not sound marketing policy to allow continued disputes to negatively impact operation of the regulated sector.

Review Process

The supervisory review will be led by the Commission. BCFIRB will provide guidance to the Commission in conducting a transparent, consultative process to evaluate whether or not vegetable production on Vancouver Island should continue to be regulated and, if continued, what that looks like. The review will follow a principles-based (SAFETI²) and outcomes-oriented approach. The overarching goal of the review will be to examine all options to achieve better outcomes for the future of the Vancouver Island vegetable industry and the public it serves.

At the conclusion of the review, BCFIRB will assess whether there are outstanding issues and how those issues should be dealt with (for example, is a BCFIRB decision required; are further processes needed; or is other action required).

Next Steps

We would like to schedule a first meeting to introduce the BCFIRB advisory team, review any information the Commission has collected to date, and get started on designing a process. BCFIRB has assigned Vice-Chair Andy Dolberg and staff analyst Katia Gauvin to support the Commission in its review.

We propose a meeting with the review team at the Commission office on October 17, 2014. Please contact Katia Gauvin to confirm your team's availability and, if required, to make alternate arrangements for another day either in Victoria or Surrey.

We look forward to working with you on this initiative over the coming months. If you have any questions, concerns, or wish to discuss this review at any time, please feel free to contact BCFIRB.

Yours truly,



John Les
Chair

cc: [BCFIRB web site](#)

¹ For example, retail consolidation, low priced imports, declining acreage, declining number of producers

² Strategic, Accountable, Fair, Effective, Transparent, Inclusive