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DELIVERED BY EMAIL

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BC Turkey Marketing Board

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COMMODITY BOARDS AND PARTISAN ACTIVITIES

As the provincial election draws closer, the BC Farm Industry Review Board (BCFIRB) often gets questions from marketing boards and commissions regarding their own activities during provincial elections, including partisan activities and political donations.

As these areas concern the financial and ethical accountability of commodity boards, BCFIRB has determined that this is an appropriate subject for supervisory guidance.

BCFIRB asked that I communicate the following:

With respect to political donations, the only valid purpose for which producer levies may be used under the *Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act* is “to carry out the purposes of the scheme”. While BCFIRB

has interpreted this power generously¹, using commodity board funds to make partisan political donations is not, in BCFIRB's view, a valid or appropriate use of this authority.

If commodity board members wish to make political donations, or engage in other politically partisan activities, they must do so in their personal capacities, and must of course do so in a fashion that does not undermine any reasonable perception of a member's role as a responsible and objective industry regulator, or undermine the reputation of the commodity board.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Best regards,



Kirsten Pedersen
Executive Director

Cc: BCFIRB website

¹ 2013 Dec 18. BCFIRB. [Rainbow Poultry Ltd. v. British Columbia Chicken Marketing Board](#).