



December 18, 2018

File: 44200-20 WELF

DELIVERED BY EMAIL

Gunta Vitins, Chair
BC Egg Marketing Board

Dear Ms. Vitins:

REGULATED MARKETING AND ANIMAL WELFARE – FOLLOW UP ON BC EGG MARKETING BOARD REPORT

Thank you for your report on August 9, 2018 in response to the BC Farm Industry Review Board's (BCFIRB) July 27, 2018 request¹ for further information.

BCFIRB reviewed the BC Egg Marketing Board (Egg Board) report and determined that a board to board meeting is not required on this matter.

BCFIRB is satisfied with the actions the Egg Board took to immediately manage the animal welfare issues brought to light in a 2018 video, and the steps it has taken to address the gaps that led to the situation at the time. These follow-up steps included developing timely notification and follow-up processes in relation to Egg Farmers of Canada Corrective Actions issued as part of on-farm audits, and working on a policy/procedure that would guide more direct Egg Board engagement with layer housing.

It is very concerning that despite several regularly scheduled on-farm visits a year that serious animal welfare issues were apparently not identified until release of the 2018 video. BCFIRB is aware of the Egg Board's new "Whistle Blower Policy" and also expects the Egg Board will also be taking steps to assist its staff in being able to proactively identify evident animal welfare issues during farm visits.

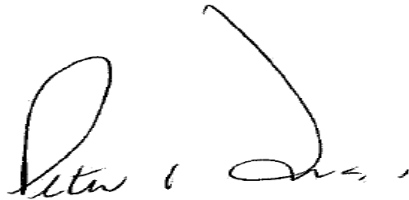
The incident was a good reminder that provincial commodity boards remain responsible for orderly marketing in the first instance. While it is effective and strategic for commodity boards to adopt national agency animal care programs (e.g. Egg Farmers of Canada Animal Care Program) and/or the National Farm Animal Care Council Codes of Practice as part of their Consolidated Orders, commodity boards are accountable for ensuring these programs meet animal care needs in light of

¹ 2018 July 27. BCFIRB. Regulated Marketing and Animal Welfare — BCFIRB Position and Expectations Update.

maintaining orderly marketing. This can include proactively identifying and acting on program related animal care practice, compliance and enforcement, and/or information gaps. BCFIRB encourages commodity boards to continue sharing information, best practices and ideas on animal welfare matters on an ongoing basis.

If your board has any questions, please feel free to contact BCFIRB.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Donkers', with a large, sweeping flourish extending upwards and to the right.

Peter Donkers,
Chair

cc: Wes Shoemaker, Deputy Minister
Ministry of Agriculture

James Mack, Assistant Deputy Minister
Agriculture Science and Policy
Ministry of Agriculture

Robin Smith, Chair
BC Chicken Marketing Board

Jim Collins, Chair
BC Broiler Hatching Egg Commission

Ben Janzen, Chair
BC Milk Marketing Board

Kevin Klippenstein, Chair
BC Turkey Marketing Board

Bert Van Dalfsen, Chair
BC Hog Marketing Commission

BCFIRB Website