



March 11, 2019

File: 44200-00/COI CMB

**DELIVERED BY E-MAIL**

Harvey Sasaki, Chair  
BC Chicken Marketing Board

Dear Mr. Sasaki:

Re: Potential Conflict of Interest

Thank you for meeting with me to discuss the potential for a conflict of interest to arise out of your recent appointment as chair of the British Columbia Chicken Marketing Board and your longstanding role as a consultant undertaking a review of Mandatory Notifiable Avian Influenza Insurance. As I understand it, although your contract is with the Turkey Board, you report to a committee with representatives of the four poultry boards and this work has been ongoing for several years now. Although I am unsure of whether the contract was part of your disclosure statement filed as a result of your appointment, you confirmed that you have discussed this matter with the Minister of Agriculture.

As we discussed, BCFIRB has concerns that there exists a potential for conflicts of interest to arise due to the dual nature of your roles. Possible areas of conflict could include the fact that you are now either directly or indirectly on both sides of the consulting contract. I do however understand that most of the work under the contract has been concluded and it is not your intention to take on further work in the supply managed poultry sector during the term of your appointment to the Chicken Board. Further, there could also be a perceived overlap between your role as a consultant making policy recommendations to the various poultry boards and your role as Chicken Board chair receiving and considering those policy recommendations. In addition to the foregoing, there may be other areas of potential conflict that I am not aware of.

It would seem to me that these types of issues could be managed through the use of a recusal so that clear lines are drawn now between decisions you could properly participate in as chair and those that you should not. A recusal does not have to be a complicated document; it just needs to identify the circumstances which create the potential for conflict and the manner in which you intend to deal with that conflict.

---

**British Columbia  
Farm Industry Review Board**

**Mailing Address:**  
PO Box 9129 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9B5  
Telephone: 250 356-8945  
Facsimile: 250 356-5131

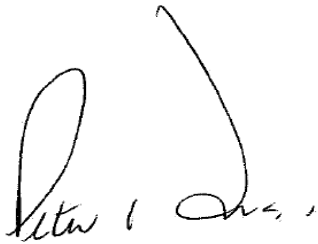
**Location:**  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 780 Blanshard Street  
Victoria BC V8W 2H1  
Email: [firb@gov.bc.ca](mailto:firb@gov.bc.ca)  
Website: [www.gov.bc.ca/BCFarmIndustryReviewBoard](http://www.gov.bc.ca/BCFarmIndustryReviewBoard)

In your case, the circumstances which create the potential conflict are your appointment as chair of the Chicken Board and your role as a contractor through Agri-Saki Consulting to provide policy advice to the four supply managed poultry boards (which work is not yet completed). The recusal needs to identify which decisions you are not going to participate in and could include any and all Chicken Board discussion and decision-making pertaining to any matters concerning the contract between Agri-Saki Consulting and the Turkey Board and any policy recommendations made by you in your role as a consultant. You may want to indicate that you will also recuse yourself in respect of any other related matters before the Chicken Board arising out of your role as consultant as necessary on a case by case basis.

These types of documents are not usually made public. However, the Chicken Board minutes should reflect those decisions from which you decide to recuse yourself. What is or is not a conflict of interest involves a nuanced area of the law. If you have any questions or concerns, I would urge you to seek timely and independent legal advice to ensure a clear understanding of the circumstances which may warrant a recusal and those that do not.

Finally, in support of BCFIRB's supervisory role, I would appreciate it if you could notify BCFIRB of any recusal you feel is warranted in the circumstances.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Donkers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "D".

Peter Donkers  
Chair

cc: Kirsten Pedersen  
Executive Director  
BC Farm Industry Review Board

Bill Vanderspek  
General Manager  
BC Chicken Marketing Board