



February 5, 2018

File: 44200-60 POULTRY INS

DELIVERED BY E-MAIL

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Dear Colleagues:

**MANDATORY NOTIFIABLE AVIAN INFLUENZA INSURANCE REVIEW –
COMPLETION OF PHASES**

The BC Farm Industry Review Board (BCFIRB) is in receipt of the Mandatory Insurance Review Committee's (MIRC) Phase 1,2,3,4 and 5 reports as of November 2017. These reports explore the BC poultry industry options for effectively and strategically managing the financial consequences of notifiable avian influenza in BC.

BCFIRB would like to recognize the amount of work and investment that obviously went into researching, consulting, preparing and making decisions on these extensive reports by all the poultry boards and stakeholders. In relation, BCFIRB acknowledges that it can be challenging for boards to find ways to work together on seeking joint solutions as industry operations, needs and challenges can be variable. The review, lead by MIRC demonstrates the ability of diverse industries to successfully come together over matters that have potential serious negative implications for BC agriculture.

The proactive effort and investment to date is a reflection of the importance of the issue at hand to all the poultry industries and provincial agriculture. And, in turn, the importance of a continued coordinated approach.

**British Columbia
Farm Industry Review Board**

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As you know, BCFIRB's August 14, 2014 Order¹ remains in effect until such time as BCFIRB issues further direction following review of any future proposal and rationale by the poultry boards pursuant to the changes to the *Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act*.

BCFIRB understands that your boards plan to make a joint submission to BCFIRB on how to best manage the financial consequences of notifiable avian influenza on producers this spring. As such, I've attached a summary of BCFIRB's basic expectations originally communicated on March 15, 2016 ("Poultry Disease Insurance – Next Steps") for your reference.

BCFIRB fully supports the poultry boards and the MIRC initiative in effectively and strategically addressing the outstanding question of managing the financial impact of notifiable avian influenza on BC poultry producers.

Yours truly,



Kirsten Pedersen,
Executive Director

Attachment

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

Allan Cross, MIRC Chair

Harvey Sasaki

BCFIRB website

¹ [*Supervisory Decision – Sound Marketing Policy and Board Authority – Mandatory Poultry Disease Insurance*](#). "For all the reasons outlined in this letter, and in the exercise of BCFIRB's supervisory authority under the *NPMA*, the boards are directed not to exercise their regulatory authority under their schemes at this time for the purpose of supporting the proposed captive insurance company. Should one or more of the board propose proceeding with a more limited regulatory solution, that solution is to be submitted to BCFIRB, with rationale, for prior supervisory approval."