



BC Farm Industry Review Board

December 1, 2022

File: 44200-00\GOV

DELIVERED BY EMAIL

Debbie Etsell
Chair
BC Vegetable Marketing Commission

Dear Ms. Etsell:

RE: COMMISSION MEMBER CONFLICT OF INTEREST

I write further to the British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board's (BCFIRB) letter of November 8, 2022 and the British Columbia Vegetable Marketing Commission's (Commission) November 29, 2022 letter to Commission member, Armand Vander Meulan, which was copied to BCFIRB.

My letter of November 8 set out BCFIRB's significant conflict of interest concerns regarding Mr. Vander Meulan acting as Chair of the BC Greenhouse Growers' Association, lobbying for a separate regulatory body for greenhouse producers, while being an elected Commissioner with fiduciary responsibilities to fulfil the statutory mandate of the Commission under the *Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act*. BCFIRB sought clarification from the Commission about what it knew about Mr. Vander Meulan's activities, and the steps it was taking to manage this serious governance issue.

BCFIRB is satisfied, in light of the November 29 letter, that the Commission has taken appropriate steps to address Mr. Vander Meulan's conduct and to manage any actual or perceived conflict of interest arising out of his activities as Chair of the Association. As a result, it is not necessary for BCFIRB to engage its supervisory jurisdiction any further, and provide any directions or orders to the Commission in relation to Mr. Vander Meulan.

Web:

Email: firb@gov.bc.ca

Website: www.gov.bc.ca/BCFarmIndustryReviewBoard

Phone:

Info: 250 356-8945

Fax: 250 356-5131

Mail:

PO Box 9129 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9B5


Office:

2975 Jutland Rd
Victoria, BC V8T 5J9

For clarification, the Commission's decision in relation to Mr. Vander Meulan concerns an internal governance matter which is not subject to appeal to BCFIRB.

If you have any questions, please contact me directly.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Donkers". The signature is stylized with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Peter Donkers,
Chair

cc: Andre Solymosi, General Manager
BC Vegetable Marketing Commission

Kirsten Pedersen, Executive Director
BC Farm Industry Review Board

Wanda Gorsuch, Manager
Issues and Planning
BC Farm Industry Review Board

BCFIRB website