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SEP 27 2010

Ron Kilmury
Chair
British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board
PO Box 9129 Stn Prov Gov't
Victoria BC V8W 9B5

Dear Mr. Kilmury:

The purpose of this letter is to convey my expectations of the Chair of the British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board (BCFIRB) regarding roles and responsibilities in supporting good governance in the British Columbia regulated marketing sector. BCFIRB will work cooperatively with all parties on issues, according to legislative, regulatory and federal-provincial agreements, where mutual consideration may be required to ensure a strong and vibrant regulated marketing sector in British Columbia.

This letter supports carrying out the purposes of the *Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act*, the *Farm Practices and Protection (Right to Farm) Act*, and the *Agricultural Produce Grading Act* and Regulations. It also supports carrying out the eight commodity board and commission regulations established under the *Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act*, and the public policy framework established in the provincial Regulated Marketing Economic Policy.

This letter is intended to facilitate a clear understanding of expectations and does not create any legal or binding obligation on the parties or fetter their discretion in decision-making.

The BCFIRB Chair will lead the adoption of best practices by BCFIRB and the boards and commissions to demonstrably achieve performance objectives regarding the following:

1. Governance Standards

All board members share a common responsibility for the decisions and operations of the Board.

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a. Codes of Conduct

BCFIRB will lead by example, ensuring that the code of conduct for board members is current and includes expectations of members, including the Chair, in:

- development of board policies;
- taking positions and making decisions;
- determining when actions of board members may result in undue influence, bias or conflict of interest; and
- determining the extent that the responsibility of membership limits personal activities.

The Code will also establish a timely and fair process for determining if a contravention of the Code has taken place, a range of sanctions that can be considered and general guidelines for imposing and publicizing those sanctions.

b. Board Chair and Member Development and Standards

Performance and training for all board members should be at a level consistent with provincial expectations for members of administrative agencies, as established through the Dispute Resolution Office (DRO) of the Ministry of Attorney General and the Board Resourcing and Development Office of the Ministry of Finance.

c. Decision-Making

BCFIRB shall lead by example with respect to ensuring that all interests of the value-chain from producer to consumer are represented and considered. BCFIRB shall also ensure that public interest is adhered to in its decision-making process. Decision-making shall be made in as open and transparent process as possible.

2. Conflict Management and Alternate Dispute Resolution

A strong working relationship with all stakeholders is necessary to manage instances of disagreement between boards or commissions, industry members or among industry interests. BCFIRB will work to identify and resolve conflict as early as possible and develop demonstrable capacity to resolve disputes at the commodity board/commission and industry level.

3. Reporting

BCFIRB should re-establish the preparation and presentation of an annual report that demonstrates its accomplishments and accountabilities as established by the relevant legislation governing its activities. The report should also include measures that indicate governance performance expectations have been met.

I look forward to working with you and supporting good governance in the British Columbia regulated marketing sector.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Thomson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Steve Thomson
Minister

