

Regulated Marketing Economic Policy

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

July 26, 2004

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Public Interest Statement

1. The regulated marketing system operates in the interests of all British Columbians. Boards and Commissions operating under the authority of the *Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act* are responsive to the needs of British Columbia producers, as well as to processors, consumers and other participants in the British Columbia food system.

National Systems

2. The Government of British Columbia supports the participation of British Columbia producers in national supply management systems when the provisions of the national agreements are consistent with the growth and prosperity of the agri-food industry.

The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board and the Government of British Columbia proactively support supply managed boards in national and regional negotiations, in order to secure agreements which will provide:

- ongoing opportunities for industry growth and new opportunities in primary and further processing; and
- sufficient allocations for the development of specialty markets, such as organic and other products differentiated at the farm level.

Maintaining and Gaining Markets, and Serving British Columbia Demand

3. The British Columbia regulated marketing system supports the development of new markets identified at the production, marketing, and processing level to facilitate industry growth and competitiveness.

The regulated system encourages regulated industries to serve the British Columbia demand for their product and to capture markets outside of British Columbia where these markets can add strength and stability to a regulated industry.

To the extent that British Columbia regulated industries serve the British Columbia demand for commodities, the regulated marketing system

ensures that British Columbia industries serve the developing British Columbia demand for organic food and other products differentiated at the farm level.

Boards and Commissions ensure policies and practices pertaining to pricing, levying, marketing, and production requirements provide the producer with the ability to pursue new markets and to capture market premiums for products differentiated at the farm level.

Boards and Commissions accommodate financially viable, competent sales agencies and processors who wish to pursue new markets for existing products, as well as markets for new value-added processed products and for products differentiated at the farm level.

***Entry of
New Producers***

4. The British Columbia regulated marketing system facilitates the entry of new producers to sustain and renew regulated industries in new and existing markets.

The Value Chain

5. The British Columbia regulated marketing system facilitates cooperation among producers, marketing agencies, input industries, processors, and retailers, with a view to achieving efficiencies throughout the entire system, and enhancing value in the marketplace.

Safety and Quality

6. The British Columbia regulated marketing system builds consumer preference for British Columbia product by encouraging the production of high quality, safe food.

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Recognition of Standards

7. Boards and Commissions recognize, and encourage producers to participate in, the voluntary standards programs sanctioned by the Province (under the *Agri-Food Choice and Quality Act*) and national standards sanctioned by the Federal Government (for example, those established under the Canadian General Standards Board) as standards for identifying and labelling specialty products.

Regional Industries

8. The British Columbia regulated marketing system contributes to economic activity and stability in all regions of British Columbia.

Boards and Commissions ensure their policies and decisions do not inhibit the economic viability of regional industries. Boards and Commissions consider the need for appropriate mechanisms to sustain regional industries.

Boards and Commissions strive to accommodate producers and processors who pursue innovative or specialized market opportunities that are available in a region because of the region's location or natural characteristics.