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How to Participate

You are invited to make a written submission using this Word document with BCFIRB's consultation questions.

Please send your submission to Wanda Gorsuch, Manager of Issues and Planning at Wanda.Gorsuch@gov.bc.ca by August 21, 2020.

Your submission will be posted on BCFIRB's web page to ensure a transparent, fair and accountable process.

You are responsible for informing BCFIRB if, in your view, the information you are providing is confidential. The panel will assess the information and reasons for confidentiality before determining if or how the information should be disclosed.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/organizational-structure/ministries-organizations/boards-commissions-tribunals/bc-farm-industry-review-board/regulated-marketing/supervisory-reviews/2019-2020-vegetable-supervisory-review>

Commission Structure and Governance – BCFIRB questions for industry

1. An effective regulated marketing system requires trust and agreement to abide by the Commission rules.

What does the Commission need to do to build that essential level of trust and to build a stronger common interest in supporting its policies and rules for the benefit of the industry as a whole?

Communication and openness helps to build trust

2. Does the use of panels and advisory committees result in sound decision making by the Commission? Please explain.

Yes, by having panels and advisory committees we can draw from different backgrounds and expertise that will create better dialogue and more possibilities for solutions and better practices that can be reviewed and choose from

- a) If no, what more does the Commission need to do to make sound decisions and manage perception of bias and conflict of interest challenges?
3. How could the industry benefit from the Commission adding independent member(s)?

Not sure how the independent member is defined. Is this a person outside of the structure? If so, then this can help by providing insight to address issues that are outside of the box, new information/technology that works well for other sectors/industries that may be of interest/value.

- a) What are the risks?
4. If BCFIRB recommends to the Minister of Agriculture that the Scheme be changed to include the addition of an independent member(s), should the member be appointed by government or industry? Please explain.

No preference at my end.

- a) What skills and expertise you think independent member(s) should have? I believe someone from the Foodservice Industry that is very well versed in how distribution works may be of assistance. From the last trade show a lot of the topics brought up as issues was to do with how to help farmers get their products

out more efficiently to end users(restaurants, etc.). Someone in the Food Processing Industry may also be of help to assist/advocate for local products being used rather than import.

5. Commission positions go uncontested during the annual elections and there is little turnover in membership.

What are the risks and benefits to the sector when there is a lack of board turnover?

Stagnation can be an issue for any institution. Being stuck/set in the traditional way of how things are looked at/done/decided on can lead to resistance to change and passing on opportunities that are critical for survival and growth.

If you see this as a problem, what are the possible solutions?

Agency Accountability - BCFIRB questions for industry

1. What do you think the primary purpose of an accountability framework should be? For example:
 - Report on agency performance against marketing plan?
 - Provide up to date price and sales data?
 - Provide up to date market data?
 - Indicate “health” of industry?

2. Should an agency accountability framework include reporting on compliance with the Commission’s General Orders?

3. Does an agency’s business structure influence outcomes for producers and the industry?

Storage Crop Delivery Allocation - BCFIRB questions for industry

1. Do the Delivery Allocation rules and how it is managed deliver on the purposes?
 - a) Does it deliver on some purposes better than others?

2. Is Delivery Allocation an effective tool for your business? How does it work well?
 - a) What elements could work better?

3. Do you think Delivery Allocation benefits one group over another in the vegetable industry? Please explain.

4. Do you think the Delivery Allocation rules and how it is managed offers room to grow for established growers? Please explain.

5. Does Delivery Allocation provide adequate opportunities for new entrants and renewal in the industry? Please explain.