

## **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](mailto: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?

If there are rules in place, then if Farms or Agencies don't follow the rules they must enforce the rules and have ways to hold them accountable.

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

- 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?

I think they do result in sound decisions by the Commission.

3. How could the industry benefit from the Commission adding independent member(s)?  
They will hopefully bring an unbiased views and will hopefully bring other perspectives to assist in good decision making.

- a) What are the risks?

Additional cost. Must be independent and make their own informed decisions rather than just relying on others on the board.

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.

From Industry.

- a) What skills and expertise you think independent member(s) should have?

Relevant Industry or farming experience and knowledge. Be a critical thinker.

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?

It could become stale. People may get too comfortable.

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?

Agency Accountability should include annual review of their sales systems with proper auditing of the payment systems to their growers. Annual review of contracts with growers. Annual review of grower sales accounting and costing.

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

Yes.

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

Yes.

## ***Storage Crop Delivery Allocation - BCFIRB questions for industry***

### ***UNKNOWN, GREENHOUSE PRODUCTS ONLY***

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.