



BC Farm Industry Review Board

May 17, 2023

File: 44200-35\MPL

DELIVERED BY EMAIL

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Dear Sirs and Mesdames:

MPL BRITISH COLUMBIA DISTRIBUTORS INC. (MPL BC) AGENCY PRIOR APPROVAL PROCESS –WITNESSES

On May 9, 2023, BC Farm Industry Review Board (BCFIRB) requested witness lists from hearing participants with full participation rights: the BC Vegetable Marketing Commission (Commission), MPL BC and Greenhouse Grown Foods Inc./Windset Farms (Canada) Ltd (GGFI and Windset).

BCFIRB received the following witness lists by the May 12, 2023 deadline:

Commission: Does not intend on calling witnesses but indicated it would produce Debbie Etsell, former Commission Chair for cross-examination if required.

MPL BC: Paul Mastronardi, Director, President and CEO, MPL BC and reserving right to call Kevin Safrance, Executive Vice Chairman, MPL BC.

GGFI and Windset: Steven Newell, Chief Executive Officer and President of both entities and reserving right to call John Newell, Chief Operating Officer of both entities.

BCFIRB confirms that these witnesses will or can attend the hearing, including former Commission Chair Ms. Etsell for cross-examination on May 24, 2023. Accordingly, MPL BC should be prepared to call its witnesses on day 1 of the hearing (May 23, 2023). BCFIRB will circulate a revised order of presentation shortly.

Summons

Under the *Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act* s. 7.1(3) BCFIRB may make an order requiring a person to attend as required, take an oath or affirmation, and to answer questions.

After carefully reviewing all of the written submissions and witness lists, BCFIRB has determined it is necessary to call Andre Solymosi, the Commission's General Manager. A summons will follow this letter.

The purpose of Mr. Solymosi's attendance is to answer questions related to how the greenhouse industry is regulated in the province including:

- Greenhouse industry structure, operations and markets at the time of the Commission's decision in January of 2022, and at the present time;
- Commission General Orders and processes (e.g., agency application process, grower transfers, production allocation);
- Commission collection and analysis of agency and market data in general and specific to the spreadsheets disclosed in this supervisory review.

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The Commission may choose to lead Mr. Solymosi's evidence on the above areas, with cross-examination by MPL BC and GGFI and Windset. BCFIRB would follow with any remaining questions. In the event the Commission chooses not to lead Mr. Solymosi's evidence, BCFIRB will question Mr. Solymosi and then allow cross-examination by MPL BC and GGFI and Windset.

Regards,



Pawan Joshi
Panel Chair

cc: Derek Sturko, Chair, BC Vegetable Marketing Commission
Agency Applicants and Storage crop Agency Managers
Greenhouse Agency Managers
Storage crop/Greenhouse Managers
Storage crop Producers
Greenhouse Producers
Processing Producers
Wholesalers
Processors
BCFIRB web site