



January 23 2013

File: 1680-04 VMC

DELIVERED BY EMAIL

Tom Demma
General Manager
British Columbia Vegetable Marketing Commission
207 – 15252 32 Av
Surrey BC V3S 0R7

Dear Mr. Demma:

**BRITISH COLUMBIA VEGETABLE MARKETING COMMISSION ELECTION
POLICY AMENDMENT APPROVAL**

The BC Vegetable Marketing Commission (Vegetable Commission) seeks approval from the BC Farm Industry Review Board (BCFIRB) under section 3(6) of the *British Columbia Vegetable Scheme (Scheme)* to amend its September 11, 2009 Election Policy following its regularly scheduled full review. The requested amendments together with additional amendments suggested by BCFIRB staff were incorporated in the revised Election Policy passed by the Vegetable Commission on January 21, 2013 and subsequently submitted to BCFIRB for approval.

I have been appointed by the Chair of the BCFIRB as a one person panel to consider and, if appropriate, approve the revised Election Policy.

On January 11, 2013, BCFIRB staff and I discussed outstanding issues with you related to the amendments.

I am now prepared to approve the attached Election Policy for the 2013 elections only, for the reasons outlined below.

As discussed, BCFIRB has reservations about removing the greenhouse District III representation and replacing it with an at large position. This diminishes the vote of District III greenhouse producers, and does not address the lack of District III representation for specific greenhouse crops (tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers). It was suggested that the Vegetable Commission might consider transitioning greenhouse representation from Districts to crop type for future elections.

The Vegetable Commission explained that the proposed changes reflect consultation with its producers and its recent difficulties in filling the Greenhouse District III position. I accept this explanation for the 2013 election cycle.

Following the 2013 election, the Vegetable Commission is directed to review BCFIRB's representation concerns and submit its conclusions to BCFIRB prior to September 1, 2013, along with any recommended amendments to the Election Policy.

BCFIRB notes the Vegetable Commission recently requested government amend the *Scheme* to include two appointed, non-producer positions. If the *Scheme* amendment is approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, further Election Policy amendments will be required, including BCFIRB approval. This may or may not coincide with the above direction.

I hereby approve the attached January 23, 2013 British Columbia Vegetable Marketing Commission Election Policy.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'S. Wiltshire', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Suzanne Wiltshire
Member

Attachment: British Columbia Vegetable Marketing Commission Election Policy,