

Rules and Procedures for Election of Members to the British Columbia Chicken Marketing Board

1. Composition of the BC Chicken Marketing Board:

The British Columbia Chicken Marketing Board (BCCMB) consists of:

- The Chair appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council;
- Two members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council;
- Two members who are registered growers elected by registered growers.

2. Election Officer:

All election procedures will be implemented by the office of the external auditor appointed at the last annual general meeting of the BCCMB. The external auditor will oversee the election and certify the results.

The procedures include:

- Notice of election by mail to all registered growers along with timelines for;
 - commencement and close of nominations
 - list of voters
 - notice of candidates
 - notice of speeches
 - notice of advance polls
 - notice of final voting
- Receipt and validation of nomination forms
- Administration and collection of advance poll ballots in each region
- Administration and collection of final votes in each region
- Counting all ballots (advanced and final in each region)
- Announcing the final vote tally
- Destroying the ballots

3. Nominations:

Every person who is nominated as a candidate for election as a member of the Board:

- (a) must be a natural person who is a grower or who is authorized to represent a grower in accordance with section 3 (p) of the Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act Regulations and section 3.03(2) of the BC Chicken Marketing Scheme, 1961 and whose name and address are recorded on the Register of Growers, and

- (b) must have his or her nomination endorsed in writing by not less than 15 growers whose names are recorded on the Register of Growers before the deadline for close of nominations.

In order to hold office or continue to hold office as an elected member of the Board, the member must meet the requirements of paragraph (a) above at all times.

If there is only one nomination, the nominee will be elected by acclamation. If there is more than one nominee, then an election will be held.

4. Eligibility to Vote:

The BCCMB will maintain a list of growers who are eligible to vote in the election of Board members. For purposes of these Rules and Procedures, a "voting grower" means (i) a registered grower who is a natural person and whose name appears on the voters list, and (ii) a natural person who has been appointed by a registered grower that is a partnership or corporation in accordance with section 3(p) of the Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act Regulations (the "Regulations") and whose appointment has been received by the BCCMB by the deadline required for addition of the person's name to the voters list. In order to be added to the voters list, a person appointed under section 3(p) of the Regulations must be at least 19 years of age.

All growers who are recorded in the Register of Growers as of the last day of the month immediately preceding the month in which the election takes place and whose names remain in the Register of Growers at the time of the election shall be listed on the voters list as voting growers. A person whose name does not appear on the voters list is not eligible to vote.

The Board shall amend the Register of Growers from time to time by adding the names and addresses of the growers who are entitled to be registered and by deleting the names and addresses of the growers who are not entitled to be registered. Before the Board removes the name of a grower from the Register of Growers, the grower will be given 2 weeks notice in writing and within the 2 week period, the Board will hear any submission as to why the name of the growers should not be deleted from the Register of Growers.

Growers licensed by the Board but not listed on the Register of Growers do not qualify as voting growers.

The list of voters will be available for viewing during normal office hours of the BCCMB.

5. Elections:

In the year an election is held the election of the members of the Board shall take place in the month of March, or as soon afterwards as it may conveniently be held.

All voting will be conducted by secret ballot at designated meetings or advance polls.

For the purposes of conducting the election the Board will designate a Vancouver Island Region, a Lower Mainland Region and an Interior Region. Voting growers will have the opportunity to attend an advance poll in the region or to vote in-person at the regional meeting.

A voting grower may vote at any advance poll or at any regional meeting, provided his or her name has been added to the voters list in accordance with the timelines.

Ballots cast at the meetings or advance polls will be held by the external auditor until the final in-person voting occurs as outlined in the timeline.

6. Voting:

Upon a voting grower providing proof of identification to the external auditor, the auditor will confirm the person is a voting grower and the person will receive a written ballot.

Once all voting growers at a particular Advance Poll or Final Vote meeting have received their written ballots, verbal instructions will be given by the external auditor respecting completion of the ballots.

At each Advance Poll and Final Vote meeting, the completed ballots will be deposited in a collection receptacle as provided by the office of the external auditor. All completed ballots will remain in the custody and control of the external auditor until they are destroyed in accordance with these Rules and Procedures.

At the conclusion of the last Final Vote meeting, the external auditor will count all ballots (advance and in-person voting from all three regions). During the counting of ballots by the external auditor, a nominee may appoint a scrutineer to observe the proceedings.

In the case of a tie, all ballots will be recounted. If the recount confirms a tie result, the BCCMB chair will cast the deciding vote. The external auditor will announce the results of the final voting at the Lower Mainland grower meeting, which will be the last Final Vote meeting.

The first newsletter mailed to all growers by the BCCMB after the election will also announce the outcome.

7. Terms of Office and Re-election of Board Members:

The term of office of an elected member is three years.

A member of the Board may stand for re-election. A person may hold office as a member of the Board for 2 consecutive terms. Upon completing 2 consecutive terms as a Board member, a person may not again hold office as a member of the Board until at least one year after his second consecutive term of office has ended.

A person elected to the BCCMB continues to hold office until:

- He or she
 - is convicted of any offence under the Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act;
 - resigns in writing;
 - ceases to be a grower or authorized to represent a grower in accordance section 3 (p) of the Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act Regulations and with section 3.03(2) of the BC Chicken Marketing Scheme, 1961 and ceases to have his or her name and address recorded on the Register of Growers; or
 - is absent from the province for three consecutive months, or fails to attend to his or her duties for three consecutive months, or as a consequence of a formal remedy prescribed by the BCCMB Code of Conduct whereby the position is declared vacant by the remaining Board members; or
- A successor is elected or appointed in accordance with these Rules and Procedures.

A vacancy that occurs on the Board other than by expiration of the term of office of an elected member, either by the death of a member or in the circumstances noted above, may be filled for the unexpired portion of the term at the discretion of the remaining members of the Board. The Board may defer filling the vacancy until the next election of members of the Board. If the Board fills a vacancy, the appointment requires approval of the Farm Industry Review Board.

The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board will fill any vacancies in the membership of the Board where the members do not constitute a quorum.

8. Election Timeline:

Terms are staggered so that one grower member is elected in one year; the other grower member is elected in the following year.

The Board, in consultation with the BCCGA, will set a date in March, or as soon afterwards as may be convenient, for conduct of a regular election.

The office of the external auditor will establish an election timetable based on the election date set by the Board. The following is an example of a timeline.

Election Timeline Example

1st elected term (of Mr. Ted DeVries) expires March 31, 2006
2nd elected term (of Mr. Dave Martens) expires March 31, 2007

1)	Nov 1/05	Mail out Notice of Nominations
2)	Nov 15/05	Commencement of Nominations
3)	Nov 30/05	Close of Nominations
4)	Dec 1/05	Mail out Notice of Candidates
5)	Jan 11/06	Speeches – Lower Mainland BCCGA Grower Meeting
6)	Jan. 17/06	Speeches – Interior Grower Meeting
7)	Jan 18/06	Speeches – Vancouver Island Meeting
8)	Jan 11/06	Deadline to be added to voters list for Advance Polls
9)	Jan 25/06	Advance Poll – Lower Mainland
10)	Feb 1/06	Advance Poll – Interior
11)	Feb 8/06	Advance Poll – Vancouver Island
12)	Feb 7/06	Deadline to be added to voters list for Final Votes
13)	Feb 21/06	Final Vote – Interior
14)	Feb 22/06	Final Vote – Vancouver Island
15)	Mar 8/06	Final Vote – Lower Mainland
	March 8/06	Election Date – counting of ballots and outcome announced.

9. Review Process:

These Rules and Procedures for Election of Members to the BC Chicken Marketing Board shall be reviewed every three years with the next review to occur in 2008. The review process will include consultation with the BC Chicken Growers Association. The BCCMB will also review the procedures upon receipt of a written request from the BCCGA.

Any changes to the Rules and Procedures for Election of Members to the BC Chicken Marketing Board must be approved by FIRB prior to implementation.

10. Effective Date:

These Rules and Procedures for Election of Members to the BC Chicken Marketing Board shall come into force upon approval by FIRB and shall replace all previous rules and procedures for the election of Board members. **FIRB approved the election rules for use by the Chicken Board as of September 22, 2005.**

The rules shall be posted on the BCCMB website.

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