

February  
2009

# Commission Report

BC Vegetable Marketing Commission Monthly Newsletter

## Snowcrest Packers Announcement

On Thursday, February 26 Omstead Foods Limited, operating in Abbotsford as Snowcrest Packers, and Bonduelle North America, a world scale frozen and canned vegetable processor and marketer, jointly announced the two parties have signed a letter of intent regarding Bonduelle's purchase of Omstead's Canadian vegetable business unit. Bonduelle operates 7 vegetable processing plants in Eastern Canada.

When completed, the acquisition will result in Omstead Foods Ltd. retaining its fruit business unit and the cessation of contracting vegetable acreage in BC and Ontario.

A Snowcrest Packer representative informed the Commission that the cessation of contracting vegetable acreage in BC is effective for the 2009 crop year; consequently, processing vegetable Producers throughout the Fraser Valley will be affected. The vegetable crops that Snowcrest contracted for in recent years include peas, bush beans, corn, broccoli and Brussels sprouts. For the past few years Snowcrest has not contracted for cauliflower.

The Commission was informed that Snowcrest plans to receive strawberries for processing in 2009 and a representative is to participate in up-coming 2009 contract negotiations.

## COMMISSION ELECTION

The 2009 election process is complete with the elected and re-elected incumbent Commissioners taking office April 1.

On the close of nominations, which was February 16, the Commission was in receipt of one nomination for each of the 5 below listed positions. On February 24 the Commission appointed Independent Election Officer (IEO) reviewed the received nomination forms and without exception confirmed them to be in good order.

As there was only one nomination for each position the IEO informed the Commission that a vote was not necessary for any of the positions and the nominees are declared elected by acclamation.

Commissioners serve for a two-year term. As noted below, the term for the District II & III Storage Crop position is for a term of one year rather than two years. This is the case because during the 2008 election a nomination for filling the position was not received and for doing so the Commission determined it would seek nominations as part of the 2009 election.

<u>Representation Category</u>	<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Term Expiry Date</u>
District I & II Greenhouse Cucumber Producer	Tom Reinhart	March 31, 2011
District I Storage Crop Producer	Peter Guichon	March 31, 2011
District III Greenhouse Vegetable Producer	John Slater	March 31, 2011
District I Processing Vegetable Crop Producer	Hugh Reynolds	March 31, 2011
District II and III Storage Crop Producer	John Walsh	March 31, 2010

## Commission Election - 2009

BC Vegetable  
Marketing Commission  
#207, 15252 - 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave.  
Surrey, BC V3S 0R7  
Ph: 604-542-9734  
Fax: 604-542-9735  
www.bveveg.com

BC Vegetable  
Marketing Commission

### Settlement of the 2009 Cole Crop Contracts

Over 2 days of negotiations occurring in Abbotsford on February 10 and 11 settlements were reached for the three cole crop contracts.

Different to 2008, and while taking into consideration current market conditions, including competing world suppliers re-entering the market place, the aggregate BC processor volume requirement for Brussels sprouts in 2009 is expected to be less than last year. Subject to growing conditions and unfolding market changes it is expected that BC processors will be interested in receiving from producers Brussels sprouts of the highest quality.

2009 market conditions regarding BC processor cauliflower supply requirements

have improved compared to 2008. A shift in buyer preference for origin of supply favouring Canada and other North American producing jurisdictions is likely to result in the 2009 BC aggregate supply requirement to be above earlier years when the trend was year-over-year decreases.

The general demand trend for Broccoli results in steady volume requirements for 2009 compared to other periods; however, meeting processor quality requirements and size specifications are considerations before producers.

Overall, 2009 prices for each of the three crops advanced slightly compared to 2008.

## ON-FARM FOOD SAFETY FUNDING FOR GREENHOUSE VEGETABLE PRODUCERS & PACKERS

The Canadian Horticultural Council ("CHC") has received official approval from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada ("AAFC") regarding its application for On-Farm Implementation Funding ("OFI") for greenhouse vegetable producers/packers. The OFI program is designed to assist greenhouse vegetable producers/packers, to implement food safety systems on your farm.

### Funding Available

A total not to exceed \$750 is available per producer to receive technical support (cost shared 70/30) and/or purchase specialized food safety equipment (cost shared 50/50). The approved list of equipment eligible for funding was circulated in a letter dated January 26, 2009.

### Who May Participate

You may be entitled to participate in this program if you have:

- Earned at least \$2,500 in farm cash receipts during the most current taxation year
- Filed Form T2042, Statement of Farm Activities

### What is Needed to Access Funding?

- A completed Producer Declaration form is to be returned to the Commission office by **March 15, 2009** along with proof of payment for eligible items purchased and/or technical support received. Invoices need to be dated between December 19, 2008 and March 15, 2009. Please note that an extension of time for OFI funding is not expected; therefore, it is important to submit your claim by the deadline.

Please feel free to contact Dianne at the Commission office if you have any questions or require further information. The phone number is 604-542-9734, ext. 22 (Toll free at 1-800-663-1461).

### On-Farm Food Safety Funding Available For Greenhouse Vegetable Producers and Packers

*Change of Venue*

## BC Vegetable Marketing Commission NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Date:** Thursday, March 26, 2009  
**Time:** 7:00 PM  
**Place:** Ramada Inn Langley  
 19225 – Highway 10, Langley, BC  
 "Fraser Room"