

April
2010

Commission Report

BC Vegetable Marketing Commission Monthly Newsletter

ELECTION RESULTS

2010 BCVMC ELECTION RESULTS

At the close of nominations on February 11, 2010 nominations were received for six Commission positions to be vacated effective March 31, 2010. In the case of four of these positions for which only one nomination was received, the positions were declared elected by acclamation. Two of the positions received two nominations and, as such, were subject to election. Subsequent to February 11th, one candidate withdrew (District 1 second Storage Crop Representative), leaving one nominee for the position.

As a result only one position of the six required an election (Districts 1&2 Greenhouse Pepper Representative).

Nominees and scrutineers were invited by the Independent Election Officer to attend the Commission office for the opening of the ballots on Wednesday, March 31.

The results of the 2010 election are as follows:

- For Districts 1&2 the Greenhouse Cucumber Representative, elected by acclamation, is John Newell, replacing outgoing Member Tom Reinhart;
- For Districts 1&2 the Greenhouse Pepper Representative, determined by election, is Armand Vander Meulen, replacing Linda Delli Santi;
- For Districts 1&2 the Greenhouse Tomato Representative, elected by acclamation, is Casey Houweling, replacing outgoing Member William Cheuk;
- For District 1 the second Storage Crop Representative, elected by acclamation, is Holley Swenson, replacing outgoing Member Pete Schouten;
- For District Districts 2&3 the Storage Crop Representative, re-elected by acclamation, is John Walsh;
- For District 3 the position representing Greenhouse Vegetables no nomination was received and the position remains vacant.

SURVEILLANCE AND INVESTIGATION COST RECOVERY POLICY

If after the holding of a hearing a licensee is determined to have undertaken marketing activity contrary to General Order provisions pertaining to orderly marketing, the incurred surveillance and investigation costs are assessed against the licensee.

Up to now the assessed costs were actual costs; however, during its March 25 regular meeting the VMC amended its cost recovery policy to include a 20% administrative overhead charge. The overhead charge is in consideration of administrative time.

INVESTIGATION COST RECOVERY

PROCESSOR
DECLARES
BANKRUPTCY

HIGHBRIGHT PRODUCE INC.

Recently, the Commission received notice that Highbright Produce Inc., formerly a licensed Processor, was petitioned into bankruptcy. This processor received strawberries for processing during the 2009 season from a handful of growers. Processor licenses expire March 1 of each year and for this processor it was not renewed.

The Commission is a creditor because Highbright Produce Inc. failed to remit to the VMC collected levy funds. The Commission has taken cost effective measures for the recovery of levy funds that total less than \$2,000.

A levy collected by Designated Agencies and processors (processing vegetables) is producer money. As such, levy funds are to be held "in trust," including being held in a bank account that is separate to the firm's current account. If this had occurred the current situation would have been avoided.

Strawberry growers are asked to take note that they are not able to deliver strawberries to a successor firm unless that firm is issued a processor license by the VMC. To learn whether or not that is the case growers may contact the Commission office.

2010 PROCESSING VEGETABLE CONTRACTS

All but the Strawberries for Processing contracts for 2010 have been negotiated and ratified by the Commission.

Processors have cole crop, bush bean and pea contracts and are in a position to offer them to growers.

As was the case last year there is no corn for processing contract. This is the case because the two processors operating in the province do not process this crop.

STRAWBERRIES FOR
PROCESSING
CONTRACT STILL
TO BE NEGOTIATED

LICENCE RENEWAL SCHEDULE STORAGE CROP LICENCES – DUE IN MAY

Displayed below are the annual licensing periods. Renewal administration starts typically 45 days in advance of the license expiration date.

DESIGNATED AGENCIES

March 2, 2010 – March 1, 2011

WHOLESALERS, PROCESSORS & COMMISSION SALEPERSONS

March 2, 2010 – March 1, 2011

PRODUCERS

Storage Crops:

May 15, 2010 – May 14, 2011

Processing Crops:

May 15, 2010 – May 14, 2011

Greenhouse Vegetable Crops:

Nov. 2, 2010 – Nov. 1, 2011

Producer-Shippers:

Nov. 2, 2010 – Nov. 1, 2011

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