

November  
2010

# Commission Report

BC Vegetable Marketing Commission Monthly Newsletter

**PROPOSED  
INCREASES TO  
ANNUAL LICENSE FEES**

## **PROPOSED INCREASES TO ANNUAL LICENSE FEES**

The BC Vegetable Marketing Commission licenses stakeholders involved in the regulated vegetable sector. The Commission requires Producers, Producer-Shippers, Wholesalers, Processors and Designated Agencies involved in the production, transportation, packing, storage and marketing of regulated products be issued a license. Part IV of the General Order pertains to licensing. The expiry date of licenses varies and annual license fees are set out in the General Order (see Schedule III).

During its October 21, 2010 regular meeting the Commission determined that except for Designated Agencies and Producer-Shippers annual license fees are to increase over a 3-year period. Before amending the General Order, which is planned to occur in February, the Commission invites Producers, Wholesalers and Processors to comment about the below displayed proposed license fee increases.

### **PROPOSED ANNUAL LICENSE FEES AND IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE (Dollars, not including HST)**

License	Current License Fee	Effective Date	Effective Date	Effective Date
Storage & Processing Crop Producer	\$50.00	May 15, 2011 \$100.00	May 15, 2012 \$175.00	May 15, 2013 \$250.00
Greenhouse Vegetable Producer	\$50.00	Nov. 2, 2011 \$100.00	Nov. 2, 2012 \$175.00	Nov. 2, 2013 \$250.00
Wholesaler	\$100.00	March 2, 2011 \$500.00	March 2, 2012 \$750.00	March 2, 2013 \$1,000.00
Processor	\$100.00	March 2, 2011 \$500.00	March 2, 2012 \$750.00	March 2, 2013 \$1,000.00

The Commission invites licensees and sector stakeholders to provide comments about the proposed changes. For doing so, please send written comments to the attention of the General Manager. The Commission asks that written responses arrive at the Commission office by January 14, 2011. Responses may be directed to the Commission office via the regular post, as an email or as an attachment to an email [tom@bcveg.com].

To view the General Order visit the Commission web site [www.bcveg.com]. Navigate to the "Orders – General and Amended" button and then click on "General Order".

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## **BC VEGETABLE MARKETING COMMISSION**

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Thursday, March 17, 2011**

**(Location to be determined)**

*BC Vegetable  
Marketing Commission*

## FARM DEBT MEDIATION SERVICE

In light of the severe crop and financial losses that occurred this year vegetable farmers facing financial challenges may avail themselves of the Farm Debt Mediation Service. The service is free and confidentiality is maintained.

There are two processes; namely a Section 5(1)(a) application where a “Stay of Proceedings” is put into place and a Section 5(1)(b) application where one does not apply. Usually farmers who have received a “Notice of Intent to Realize on Security” make use of the Section 5(1) (a) application. A “Stay of Proceedings serves to put creditor debt recovery actions into abeyance for the time the application is under administration.

Applicant farmers obtain a financial review conducted by a qualified farm financial expert and a business viability plan is prepared. The plan serves as the basis for the mediation involving the farmer and creditors. The purpose of the mediation is to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome. Mediation sessions are lead by a professional mediator.

The Edmonton office services both British Columbia and Alberta.

### To learn more about the Farm Debt Mediation Service contact:

Lorne S. Yeo, Senior Program Office	Telephone: 780-495-4764
Farm Debt Mediation Service	Toll Free Telephone: 1-866-452-5556
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	Facsimile: 780-495-3971
9700 Jasper Avenue - Room 1032	Web Site: <a href="http://www4.agr.gc.ca/AAFC-AAC">www4.agr.gc.ca/AAFC-AAC</a>
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4C3	

## COMMISSION STRUCTURE

The **BC Vegetable Scheme**, which is a regulation pursuant to the Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act, establishes the BC Vegetable Marketing Commission. Commission members may number up to eight with an independent chair appointed by the provincial government.

During last year’s AGM the matter of altering the structure of the Commission was addressed. The contemplated changes have regard to regional member positions remaining unfilled; reducing the number of members; and having a limited number of non-producers serve as members. Participation by non-producers would address public interest matters regarding the Commission’s mandate and operations.

Any change to the Commission structure requires amending the **BC Vegetable Scheme**. Different to amending the General Order, which the Commission has authority to do and does so from time to time, a change to the **BC Vegetable Scheme** can only occur by way of an Order in Council approved by provincial Cabinet.

The Commission invites licensees and sector stakeholders to provide comments about the above described potential changes to the Commission’s structure. For doing so, please send written comments to the Commission office to the attention of the General Manager. The Commission asks that written responses arrive at the Commission office by December 22, 2010. Responses may be directed to the Commission office via the regular post, as an email or as an attachment to an email [tom@bcveg.com].

To view the Commission’s Election Policy visit the Commission web site [www.bcveg.com]. Navigate to the “Policies and Decisions” button and then click on “Commission Election Policy”.

To view the **BC Vegetable Scheme** visit the Commission web site and navigate to the “Scheme” button.

## POTENTIAL CHANGES TO COMMISSION STRUCTURE

### For Potato Industry news go to:

United Potato Growers of Canada  
Website:  
[unitedpotatocanada.com](http://unitedpotatocanada.com)

OR . . .

United Potato Growers of America  
Website:  
[unitedpotatousa.com](http://unitedpotatousa.com)