

March
2006

Commission Report

BC Vegetable Marketing Commission Newsletter

Cheuk, Delli
Santi, Gourley
and Spetifore re-
elected

All processing
crops except
Strawberries
settled for 2006

BC Producer
elected Chair

Commission Election Results

2006 Commission elections have now been completed with all four incumbents returned for 2 year terms. Linda Delli Santi, who has also been the Commission's Vice Chair for the past six years, was re-elected to represent the Greenhouse Pepper Producers in Districts I and II; William Cheuk was re-elected to represent the Greenhouse Tomato Producers in Districts I and II; Doug

Gourley was re-elected as one of the two Storage Crop Representatives from District I, and Robert Spetifore was re-elected as the Storage Crop representative for Districts II and III.

At its next meeting (scheduled for April 12 2006) Commissioners will elect a Vice Chair and a Secretary.

Processing Crops

Annual negotiations have now been completed on the processing vegetable crops for 2006 with only the strawberry contract remaining to be settled. The latest round of negotiations included peas, beans and corn with a settlement on the bean contract being the most difficult to achieve. In most cases across all commodities negotiations resulted in contract prices at, or slightly lower than 2005 levels.

Day 1 of the bean negotiations resulted in an impasse with agreement to convene for a second meeting about 2 weeks later. Processors were also looking for a significant reduction in price while producers are facing increasing costs. An innovative solution was achieved by settling on a two year contract with a decline in 2006 prices followed by a full recapture plus a modest increase for 2007.

One processor indicated an intention to reduce its bean acreage and move that production to Ontario replacing its plant throughput in BC with blueberries.

Marcus Janzen Leads CHC

Our congratulations to Marcus Janzen, a BCVMC registered commercial producer, on his election to the position of Chair of the

Canadian Horticultural Council. Marcus is also the President of the BC Greenhouse Growers Association.

Commission Intends new Greenhouse Policy

New policy to be written and presented to Producers in April

The Commission has completed its analysis of the Greenhouse “Expression of Opinion” ballot and while the messages are mixed they appear to indicate that some changes should now be made. Accordingly, the Commission will now meet to determine what those changes should be, then draft a policy document setting out its intentions for changes to the General Orders. Producers will have the opportunity to discuss the changes before they are implemented.

Grower information meetings are tentatively planned for Kelowna, Nanaimo and Langley for the last week of April. Producers should expect to receive meeting notices shortly.

Storage Crop Advisory Committee

Storage crop policies being developed

The next meeting of the Storage Crop Advisory meeting is scheduled for April 13th. The meeting will look at the current policy of distributing delivery allocation after 100% of deliveries have been made (current policy is often called a “roll-over”) as some producers have now indicated they believe the former “ton for ton”

policy was more equitable. The meeting will also examine alternatives for implementing a “potato quota by type” policy; the District Boundary policy; the rules to establish the “quota” bank and to provide for the new entrants to the industry.

Amending Order # 4

2006 Levy Schedule revised

At its March 21st meeting the Commission passed Amending Order # 4 implementing revisions to Schedule IV -The Levy Schedule. The changes incorporate the BCVMC 2006 budget and came into effect on that date. An unofficial consolidated edition of the General Orders including Amending Order # 4 can be viewed on the Commission’s website at www.bcveg.com.

BCVMC 2006 AGM

Chair measures progress and sets out plans

The Commission’s Annual General Meeting was held on March 21 with just under 40 people in attendance.

in the regulatory structure in the greenhouse industry.

The Chair reviewed progress towards the goals and objectives established last year and described the process the Commission intends to follow going forward to implement changes

The General Manager reviewed the administration of the Commission and industry statistics on price movements and trends for the three regulated sectors. The meeting also reviewed the 2005 financial report.