

May
2005

Commission Report

BC Vegetable Marketing Commission Monthly Newsletter

Guichon, Slater
and Savage re-
elected- Reinhart
elected

First phase
completed – next
phase to CITT

Commission to
identify goals
and priorities

Results of Spring 2005 Commission Elections

The second round of Commission elections under the new electoral structure resulted in the re-election of Peter Guichon, John Slater and John Savage and the election of Tom Reinhart to the Commission.

Peter Guichon continues to represent storage crop producers in District I; John Savage, processing crop producers in District I, and John Slater, greenhouse crop producers in District III.

Tom Reinhart was elected to represent greenhouse cucumber producers in Districts I and II.

Ivar Rage, the former greenhouse representative for District I & II, did not seek re-election.

At its April 21, 2005 meeting the Commission completed its slate of executive officers with Linda Delli Santi re-elected as Vice Chair and Tom Reinhart elected as Secretary.

Potato Anti Dumping Update

The Anti-Dumping Order on US potato imports into BC has now completed the second stage. The Canadian Border Services Agency issued its written Decision on April 29 2005 and affirmed that “the expiry of the Order is likely to result in the continuation or resumption of dumping of the goods into British Columbia”.

This positive outcome means the case now proceeds to the Canadian International Trade Tribunal (CITT) for a determination of material injury.

The Commission is now required to file its case argument on June 7th, 2005. The formal hearing before the CITT will be held July 11-14 in Vancouver and a decision will be rendered by September 12, 2005.

Commission Strategic Planning

What is the Commission’s purpose and what changes are required as the industry moves beyond 2005? The Commission Members will be conducting a Strategic Planning session on June 7th & 8th to discuss the many issues facing the industry.

In advance of the Strategic Planning session, the Commission Chair and the General Manager are interviewing the eight designated agencies for their views and input.

No new greenhouse agencies in 2005

On-Farm Food Safety advisors to visit growers in 2005

Court of Appeal and FIRB appeal

CHC endorses three BCVMC resolutions

Decision on Greenhouse Agency Application

A Commission Panel held a public hearing on the Country Fresh Produce application for designation as a marketing agency. The Commission Panel denied the applicants request for designation in 2005 and they were directed to enter into discussions with Greenhouse Grown Foods Inc. to see if GGFI could accommodate their needs. The Panel has given the parties until June 15th to determine if an accommodation can be reached. Based on the outcome of these discussions the Panel will make a decision on whether a fourth greenhouse agency should be designated in District I for 2006.

Food Safety Program 2005

The Commission will again offer producers an on-farm food safety education and awareness program in 2005. Food safety advisors will help each producer identify areas where food safety risks may exist and propose methods and procedures to minimize those risks. Sheri Nielson and Dave Ormrod have again been contracted for 2005 to conduct the program. Please give them your full co-operation and take advantage of the expertise and advice you will receive.

Last year most potato producers received a copy of the national Food Safety Plan for potato producers. This year, more time will be spent with each producer helping them move towards full implementation. The Commission, participating agencies, processors, and producer associations will jointly fund the program for 2005.

Legal Proceedings and Appeals

The appeal filed by BC Vegetable Greenhouse I, L.P. challenging the Commission's authority to impose levies to fund the costs of anti dumping cases is now scheduled to be heard in the Court of Appeal in September 2005. On another matter, Calais Farms Ltd has appealed the Commission's decision directing its product to an agency. Calais has also applied for a Stay Order to the FIRB. A decision on the Stay application is scheduled for this week. Attempts at mediation were tabled when one of the parties withdrew following the filing of the appeal.

Canadian Horticultural Council Resolutions

Three Commission sponsored resolutions were supported by the delegates at the recent CHC AGM. Resolutions included the establishment of a Canadian Greenhouse Vegetable Committee, adequate resources for CFIA to ensure that repacking facilities meet regulatory and labelling requirements, and a request that the federal government impose a temporary surtax on fresh whole yellow onions imported from the USA.