

September  
2006

# Commission Report

BC Vegetable Marketing Commission Newsletter

New policies  
now in place –  
review  
continuing

More flexibility  
for Producers

## Storage Crop Changes

Delivery Allocation by potato type (in District I), a return to the “ton for ton” policy and the elimination of the 10% holdback on Delivery Allocation transfers are all included in the Sept 18<sup>th</sup> 2006 changes to the Storage Crop General Orders. The Commission made the changes after receiving recommendations from the sector Advisory Group.

Delivery Allocation by potato type will be effective for the 2007 2008 crop year and will distribute fresh potato Delivery Allocations into “Russets” and “All

Others”. The change reflects market requirements and is designed to bring equity among growers. “Ton for ton” is the name of the policy that provides for the distribution of new Delivery Allocations after 100% of the aggregate of all current period DA is reached. The new policy distributes additional market opportunities equally to all licensed producers (subject to the new “Family Unit” definition.)

The sector is continuing to develop recommendations on policies regarding District boundaries and new entrants.

## Greenhouse General Orders

Amendments to the General Orders instituting a new regulatory framework for the Greenhouse vegetable industry have been completed and came into effect on September 14 2006. The changes were supervised and approved by the FIRB.

In addition to marketing through a designated agency, producers now have the option of applying to be a “Producer-Shipper” which authorizes a producer to market his own production directly to retailers or consumers. The amended General Order provides new flexibility for a producer to change “types” within a crop category without Commission approval; the elimination of time deadlines for new Production Allocation applications or crop category change requests; and simplified procedures for a Producer to transfer between agencies.

When advising Producers of the changes, the Commission said “The Commission’s role is to assist the industry to coordinate its production and marketing in a manner that provides the opportunity for Producers to realize the best possible returns from the market. The Commission believes the amendments now in effect will assist Producers and marketers to better respond to customer requirements in a changing marketplace”.

The amendments also include a change to the renewal date for annual Greenhouse vegetable producer’s licenses. (Please refer to the note on page 2 of this Newsletter)

The Amended Order (Amending Order # 6) and the unofficial consolidated General Orders are available on the Commission’s website by clicking on “Orders” on the Commission website ([www.bcveg.com](http://www.bcveg.com)).

Policy must be enacted before 2007 elections

Vice Chair Linda Delli Santi to Chair BCVMC until next spring

GH License renewals required by Nov 2 2006

Good balance to market requirements for cole crops

Commission reviews relationships with industry associations

## **Commission Election Policy**

Commissioners are considering the renewal of the BCVMC election policy. The current policy expired with the completion of the 2006 elections and must be renewed prior to beginning the 2007 elections. FIRB requires that each Board and Commission institute and follow an

approved elections policy describing how nominations are made, the terms of office, the representation for each of the regulated sectors, and the composition of the register of eligible voters. An independent Elections Officer oversees the entire election process.

## **Chair Takes Leave of Absence**

The Commission's Chair, George Leroux, will be taking a leave of absence from mid-November until early March. With FIRB's approval, Linda Delli Santi has been appointed interim Chair for the duration of his absence.

## **Greenhouse Licensing Renewal Period**

The annual licensing due date has been changed from Jan 15<sup>th</sup> to November 1<sup>st</sup>. The change was made to better reflect the time of the year when greenhouse producers are planning the next season.

The change means current Greenhouse Vegetable Producer

licenses will expire on November 1 2006 with new licenses required for the period beginning November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Notices of the requirement to renew licenses will be mailed prior to the renewal date. The cost of license renewals will be reduced in consideration of the shortened period.

## **Processing Crop Report**

The 2006 harvest of peas, beans and corn is completed and is reported to have proceeded "as planned". Quality of broccoli, cauliflower and Brussels sprouts should be good with harvest to commence shortly. This year for the first time, it is expected that most Brussels sprouts in BC will be harvested mechanically. After a relatively warm dry summer, the supply of cole crops should be in good balance with market requirements.

## **Industry Associations**

Industry associations can and do provide valued services to producers. There are components of association services such as research that normally are outside the work of Boards and Commissions. The Vegetable

Commission along with other Boards and Commissions is addressing how it can best support some of the work done by the Associations while preserving the rights provided to Canadians by other statutes.