



BC VEGETABLE MARKETING COMMISSION

Issued: October 14, 2022

BCVMC BULLETIN: 2023-27 Election Policy
Second Invitation for Written Feedback
Submissions are DUE: Fri. October 28, 2022

In June of this year the BCVMC (Commission) invited written submissions from all industry stakeholders on topics discussed at the industry town hall session held in April, and on specific questions related to these topics. A report was also circulated that summarized the feedback received from participants who attended this townhall session. Topics on which stakeholders were invited to make submissions were: 2023-27 Election Policy, Food Safety and Compliance Enforcement, and Agency Accountability.

Regarding the 2023-27 Election Policy, the Commission has completed its review of the written submissions received in June and the policy as been amended. Industry stakeholders are now being invited to make written submissions on the amended policy. Written submissions on this revised 2023-27 Election Policy are due October 28, 2022.

The June bulletin stated that the next step was to have the greenhouse and storage crop advisories engaged in further discussion. Because the advisories have been restructured and appointments are in progress, the review process has been modified to provide industry stakeholders with an opportunity to make submissions on the revised election policy.

Information on the policy revisions and specific questions that were asked as part of the June submission process are provided below:

2023-27 Election Policy Revisions (Rev.1)

The revised 2023-27 election policy includes the following key changes listed by section:

Composition of the Commission

Terms of Office for 2022 & 2023 Transition Years

- Specifies that the new electoral model replaced the Processing Crop category with a Storage Crop position.

Vacancy

- Amended footnote on the definition of a quorum to be *“A majority of the filled member positions including the Chair.”*

Election Rules and Procedures

Eligibility to Serve as an Elected Member

- Added footnote to clarify '*... in good standing with applicable orders....*'
- Added paragraph 9; '*Individuals are not ineligible for election or office as an elected member by reason only that the individual is a member of a grower's association.*'

Voters List and Eligibility to Vote

- Amended paragraph 16 to the following: '*A list of eligible voters and contact information is available on request by a voting member or nominee. Upon approval by the Commission Chair, profiles of eligible individuals requesting nomination or voter support may also be distributed by the Commission office to voter lists.*'
- Amended paragraph 21 to extend notification on a Commercial Producer's ineligibility to vote from seven to fourteen days.

Voting Procedures

- Added paragraph 25; '*The final list of voters is provided by the Commission and reviewed by the IEO. If there are any anomalies, the IEO will contact the SEO for clarification and/or correction.*'
- Added paragraph 35 under the subtitle Spoiled Paper Ballots, to provide clarity of the circumstances in which a paper ballot will be considered spoiled.
- Expanded paragraphs 36 and 37 on the counting of ballots, notification of election outcome, and destruction of ballots.

Questions presented to industry in June of this year

1. What are the pros and cons of not having agency directors being eligible to sit on the Commission? Are there other ways that we can ensure the voice of this segment of the industry is heard to inform the work of the BCVMC?
2. Do you have concerns about both district and greenhouse crop specific representation sub-categories being removed? What are they?
3. Is it necessary and effective to place restrictions on elected commissioner positions to ensure representation across agencies and avoid concentration of commissioners that market through the same designated agency?



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4. Many industries have moved to online voting to support access and ease of participation. What are the pros and cons of voting on-line? Are you in favour of online voting?
5. Are there any other amendments to the 2023-07 draft election policy documents that should be considered? (See attached file: [2023-27 VMC Election Policy Draft.pdf](#))

In consideration of the feedback from the townhall session and written submissions received to date, the Commission continues to adopt the BCFIRB directive that producers who are agency directors may not serve as commissioners. The impact of this restriction will be monitored with industry through the greenhouse and storage crop advisories.

Submissions are to be emailed to bcvmc.chair@bcveg.com by **5PM Friday October 28, 2022**.

If you have any questions, please contact the Commission office at 604.542.9734 or reply to claudia@bcveg.com.

Attachment: **2023-27 BCVMC Election Policy Rev.1.pdf**