



March 15, 2002

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Chair and Members
BC Turkey Marketing Board
Unit 106 - 19329 Enterprise Way
Surrey BC V3S 6J8

Dear Chair and Members:

TURKEY INDUSTRY REGULATION AND GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The British Columbia Marketing Board ("the BCMB") has completed the supervisory review of regulation and governance of the turkey industry conducted pursuant to the statutory authority provided to the BCMB in the *Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act*.

In September 2001, the BCMB established a review panel ("the Panel") to conduct the Turkey Industry Regulation and Governance Review ("the Review"). The Terms of Reference of the Review set out directions to the BC Turkey Marketing Board ("the Turkey Board"). These directions have been fulfilled, as follows:

1. The members of the Turkey Board immediately completed conflict of interest disclosure forms, which were filed with the General Manager and advised the BCMB that the Board will comply with the BCMB Conflict of Interest guidelines. The Turkey Board will adopt the conflict of interest guidelines, as amended, with the General Orders.
2. The Turkey Board established a consultation process that encouraged growers, stakeholders and the Industry Advisory Committee to participate in the review of existing policies and the development of a revised draft General Order 2002 with Regulations. In this process, the existing policies regarding quota leasing, quota transfer, minimum and maximum farm size, registration of growers, new entrants and quota exchange were reviewed.

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3. The Turkey Board has reviewed and improved its administrative procedures to process transfers of quota and leases of allocation and barns.
4. Following a full consultation process, the Turkey Board circulated a revised General Order with Regulations to the BCMB, growers and industry on January 11, 2002. The Turkey Board presented its report on the results of the policy review to the BCMB during a public meeting held February 27, 2002.

The Panel heard seven presentations at the public meeting and received four written submissions. The BCMB has considered all of the presentations and submissions and input provided. On March 6, 2002, the Panel met with members and staff of the Turkey Board to discuss the draft Orders and to obtain clarification on some outstanding issues.

The Turkey Board has provided the following clarification:

- when considering applications to lease quota allocation, the decision of the Turkey Board will recognize that leasing is meant to be a temporary, or short term, arrangement;
- the Turkey Board will not set a specific number of grower vendors to be approved (i.e. 10) but will establish 150,000 kgs. of production to grower vendors in the coming year;
- the Turkey Board will also publicize quota available for transfer by posting notices to the web site;
- the Turkey Board will provide access to the General Orders on the web site and provide information to obtain the Act and Scheme – reducing the need to pay a fee to obtain these documents.

The Panel is satisfied that the Turkey Board established and conducted an inclusive, open consultation process and that the Turkey Board has addressed the issues raised in the *Westview Poultry Farms Ltd v. British Columbia Turkey Marketing Board* and *Skyacres Turkey Ranches v. British Columbia Turkey Marketing Board* appeals.

Some issues remain, but will be more appropriately addressed in other reviews. It is obvious that the BC turkey industry has been constrained by the process for allocation of quota among the provinces. The Federal Provincial Agreement for turkey is under review and the method of allocating quota to the provinces will be subject to this review. Other issues of a solely provincial interest, such as the structure of the Board, will be discussed in the upcoming Review of Regulated Marketing to be conducted by the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries.

We trust that growers and other industry stakeholders will continue to work with the Turkey Board to ensure effective implementation of the orders, regulations and policies, and will provide advice to the Turkey Board in the annual reviews.

In closing, the Turkey industry – the Board, growers, Turkey Industry Advisory Committee, and other interested parties – are to be congratulated on the principled and committed contributions to the Review

Yours truly,

(Original signed by)

Ross Husdon, P.Ag.
Chair

cc: The Hon John van Dongen,
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
Gord Macatee,
Deputy Minister of Agriculture Food and Fisheries

Turkey Growers and Industry Stakeholders