



BC FARM INDUSTRY REVIEW BOARD

May 14, 2025

File: 44200-20

DELIVERED BY EMAIL

Honourable Lana Popham
Minister of Agriculture and Food

Dear Minister Popham:

RE: AVIAN INFLUENZA BIOSECURITY LETTERS TO BC'S FOUR POULTRY BOARDS AND THE BC MILK MARKETING BOARD

On April 17, 2025, you sent a letter of encouragement regarding strategic prevention efforts to reduce avian influenza (AI) to the BC Milk Marketing Board, BC Egg Marketing Board, BC Chicken Marketing Board, BC Broiler Hatching Egg Commission, and the BC Turkey Marketing Board.

I want to share with you the steps that the BC Farm Industry Review Board (BCFIRB) has taken as supervisor of the first instance regulators (commodity boards), under the *Natural Products Marketing Act* (NPMA), to ensure effective biosecurity measures continue to be a core accountability of commodity board planning, implementation, compliance and enforcement, and annual reporting.

In 2021, BCFIRB directed the commodity boards to include Administrative Monetary Penalties (AMPs) as part of their mandatory compliance and enforcement processes and tools to advance biosecurity measures.

In 2023, as part of our AMPs supervisory work, BCFIRB undertook a review of the commodity boards' biosecurity enforcement programs and tools, many of which were implemented by the commodity boards in direct response to the threat and impact of AI.

To support continued focus on effective biosecurity measures, BCFIRB directed the commodity boards to annually report to BCFIRB on biosecurity compliance and enforcement (processes and infractions) through BCFIRB's [Public Accountability and Reporting Program](#) (PARP)¹.

¹ BCFIRB's PARP report compiles information and data from B.C.'s eight commodity boards on sector performance targets, governance and quota management and movement into one resource. PARP is a transparent approach to demonstrating effective governance and sound leadership of the commodity boards. BCFIRB published the [2023 PARP Summary Report](#) in December 2024, the 2024 PARP Summary Report will be completed and sent to the Minister in December 2025.

Web:

Email: firb@gov.bc.ca

Website: www.gov.bc.ca/BCFarmIndustryReviewBoard

Phone:

Info: 250 356-8945

Fax: 250 356-5131

Mail:

PO Box 9129 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9B5

Office:

2975 Jutland Rd
Victoria, BC V8T 5J9

I was pleased to hear from BCFIRB staff about the Ministry's AI leadership work with the commodity boards, under Assistant Deputy Minister Paul Squires, through the BC Avian Influenza Prevention Partnership Table. On behalf of BCFIRB, I encourage you to have BCFIRB included in this important work, so that we can consider the policy interests, direction and expectations of the Ministry when BCFIRB provides supervisory direction or creates requirements, including reporting, on commodity boards to support orderly marketing and sound marketing policy across BC's supply managed sectors.

Thank you again, Minister Popham, for sharing these letters of expectation with BCFIRB. Ministry policy tools such as these letters recognize the important role of commodity boards for maintaining orderly marketing, and encourage strong effort and collaboration in addressing these multi-sector challenges to BC's food system.

Sincerely,



Gunta Vitins
Chair
BC Farm Industry Review Board

Cc: Michelle Koski, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food
Paul Squires, ADM, Climate Resilience, Competitiveness and Reconciliation Division
Willow Minaker, ADM, Agriculture Resource Division
Eric Kristianson, ADM, Science, Policy and Inspection Division
Martha Anslow, Executive Director, BCFIRB
Olivia Mattan, Director, BCFIRB
BCFIRB Website