



BY EMAIL

February 3, 2017

RE: Chairman Introduction

To BC Hatching Egg Producers & Stakeholders,

I believe that open and ongoing communication is important. In keeping with that, and although some of you have known me for many years, I thought it might be useful to start that here by providing a bit of my background as some others may be asking: “who is this guy”?

First of all, it is an honour to be appointed by Cabinet to chair the Commission that regulates an important part of BC agriculture. As stated in the position description, ensuring that the Commission has “effective governance” and leading the board in achieving “industry growth and development through the creation of strategies and results-oriented, effective and efficient decision-making” are important responsibilities of the chair. I have contacted each of the Commission members to say that I look forward to working with them in promoting “the Commission’s function (and) the hatching egg industry at large”. I have also made the same commitment to the presidents of the producer and hatchery associations and discussed the importance of all industry stakeholders.

I served on the staff of the BC Farm Industry Review Board from 1991 to 2016, the last 13 years as Executive Director and Registrar. As you know, BCFIRB is the Provincial agency which supervises the regulated marketing boards in BC; hears appeals from those boards; is a signatory to several federal-provincial agreements in the supply managed sectors (including the hatching egg FPA); hears complaints regarding farm practices; conducts farm practices studies; and, hears appeals from certain animal custody decisions of the BC SPCA. Focusing on only one board will be a bit of a change but that experience in regulatory, farm practices and animal welfare issues will help in my new role.

Before joining BCFIRB after finishing a degree in public administration, I was a federal civil servant working in the military communications and intelligence services. I was also a member of the Canadian Forces for 25 years (regular and reserve), retiring as a signals major after serving as commanding officer of a communications squadron and deputy commander of a communication group.

Before figuring out that my destiny was as a public servant, I held various positions in the private sector. Supervising security, firefighting and first aid services at a petro-chemical plant, managing restaurants, working as a technician in the oilfields and spending one (very long) summer in a hog slaughter plant.

I have served as vice chair of the National Association of Agri-food Supervisory Agencies and as a director of the BC Council of Administrative Tribunals. Not to mention as chair, executive member, manager, coach, grounds keeper and/or canteen cook in several sporting associations. (Thanks, kids.)

My wife Carel is a CPA and small business owner. We have two children – Sarah who places international students (which she also did in Ghana where she met and married Charles in quite a wedding!) and Dan, in the US studying to become a doctor of chiropractic. A second grandchild is imminent with the first, Roy Kwesi, bossing me around a couple of days a week in my other part-time position.

I look forward to meeting everyone and learning more about you and your industry.

Jim Collins
Chair