

STATEMENT ON STAKEHOLDER ROUND TABLES

January 13, 2021

As we all know, the objective of this Review process is to build a long-term, sustainable pricing strategy to support a BC chicken industry that is **vibrant and resilient** in the face of increasing marketplace changes affecting the Canadian supply-managed sector. After almost three decades of regulatory, appeal-based approaches to resolving price differences, it is time to try something different.

This is why, at the outset of this process, the Round Tables were created. Their purpose is to encourage multi-stakeholder dialogues intended to build a common understanding of the challenges and issues facing each member of the value chain so they can begin to work together more effectively and cooperatively as partners in a thriving industry.

Purposely designed as a distinctly different process from appeals - where at the outset parties come to the table to argue the merits of their positions - the Stakeholder Round Tables are not the place to “debate” the merits of each party’s submissions. They are, instead, intended to increase understanding and perspective for all members of BC’s chicken and hatching egg industry and, in particular, to provide some insight/appreciation as to why there are differences in the views of farmers and the industry partners who support them in the marketing chain.

All stakeholders - producers, hatcheries, growers, processors and the Associations that represent them – are invited to participate.

An example of the important benefits of cross-sectoral discussion is the “net exporter vs. net importer” issue that arose from the Round Table on Pricing Policy. In their feedback submissions to BCCMB, BCCGA’s position was that BC is a net exporter of chicken. PPPABC stated that BC is a net importer of chicken. The point was not to argue the numbers but rather to learn more about the respective approaches/methodologies underpinning each to understand why they differ. And, in the process, to provide stakeholders and regulators with a more accurate understanding of the BC chicken sector. To accomplish this, two Working Round Tables were set up to allow the stakeholders to “dig into the numbers” and compare approaches. In the end, the difference was methodology-based. After some further discussion, both stakeholders agreed: BC is a net importer of chicken.

This discussion was important because it facilitated discovery amongst all parties and deepened their understanding of the underpinnings of the information itself. It also served to support the information submitted to the Boards that they will take into consideration when making their decisions.

Building a common understanding amongst stakeholders is only a first step. For the regulators (BCCMB and BCBHEC, into which this process feeds information to support decision-making) more than an understanding is needed. As the first instance regulators, the BCCMB and BCBHEC will also require and seek evidence-based information from stakeholders to inform their decisions, which will be put forward as recommendations to BCFIRB. This specific, evidence-based information may be collected through specifically identified Round Tables and/or other submission channels where board processes (in which information is limited in distribution and protected by processes) can ensure confidentiality if necessary.

A final Round Table will be held to try to piece all parts of the puzzle together, and there is more information to be shared before then. And of course, following the Round Tables, all stakeholders will have the opportunity to make final submissions to BCCMB/BCBHEC.

Thank you all for your participation. More Tables to come!

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