



October 8, 2015

Mr. Rick Bergmann
Chair
Canadian Pork Council
900-220 Laurier Ave W
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5Z9

Dear Mr. Bergmann:

The following is in response to your organization's submission of July 30, 2015, regarding the creation of a Canadian Pork Promotion and Research Agency (PRA) under Part III of the *Farm Products Agencies Act*.

The Panel has reviewed your proposal and is preparing for the organization of FPCC public hearings in the coming months. At this stage, the Panel has identified a few points arising from your proposal on which some clarification and further information is requested. The Panel requests your response to the following questions:

1. With respect to the number of pork producers in each province and in Canada, there are some inconsistencies between the numbers provided by Canadian Pork Council (CPC) and provincial boards and those of Statistics Canada (SC). For example, CPC indicates there are 5898 producer members, yet SC indicates there are 7000 farms which produce hogs; Québec indicates it has 3376 hog producer members, while there are 1845 hog farms in Québec, recorded by SC. In order to ensure that the majority of hog producers (whether they are members of CPP or not) support the creation of the Agency, definitive numbers are required.
 - 1.1. Please provide data of the total number of hog producers nationally and by province, the number affiliated with CPC and how these numbers relate to the number of hog farms and the SC numbers.
 - 1.2. Please confirm whether all (or which) provincial boards held a vote, referendum or survey (as demonstrated in the July 21, 2015, British Columbia letter) to assess the degree of support at the provincial level and what were the results in terms of proportion in favour or against the creation of the PRA, if available.
 - 1.3. Please also indicate whether and how those hog producers who are not affiliated with CPC or its provincial boards, have been surveyed for their support of the proposed Agency.

2. With respect to importers, there is no information on the number and names of importers of pork and pork products, which is required to assess their level of support for the PRA as well as to assess the process for nomination of a Board member for the PRA from this group.
 - 2.1. Please provide the list of importers, in categories of large, medium and small-scale importers, if possible.
 - 2.2. Describe how and when CPC plans to reach out to these importers and assess their support/opposition to the creation of the PRA.
 - 2.3. Describe the process that will be used to select the importer representative on the PRA Board.
 - 2.4. Additionally, please indicate whether and if so, how CPC plans to assess the views of the retail sector and consumer representatives on the proposed PRA.
3. With regards to the import levy calculations, the methodology differs from that used by the U.S. pork checkoff (on imports to the U.S. from Canada).
 - 3.1. Please provide full details of all the steps and conversion factors used in your assessment of the levy revenue estimates. Also please compare this with the U.S. pork checkoff approach and comment on why you chose a different methodology.

CPC should be aware that these questions and your responses will become part of the public record and will be posted on the FPCC Website for public consideration. If there are any concerns over the confidentiality of any of the information requested, CPC should refer to the *National Farm Products Marketing Council General Rules of Procedures* (enclosed) and the sections pertaining to confidentiality.

We would appreciate it if you could provide your response to the Panel before October 23, 2015. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Nathalie Vanasse, Hearing Secretary at 1-855-611-1165 or by email at hearings-audiences@agr.gc.ca.

Yours sincerely,



Mike Pickard
Panel Chair

cc. Gary Stordy, Canadian Pork Council
Maryse Dubé, Member, Farm Products Council of Canada

Encl. National Farm Products Marketing Council General Rules of Procedures