

**Farm Products Council  
of Canada**

**Conseil des produits  
agricoles du Canada**

**SUBJECT**

**SUJET**

**BC Raspberry Industry  
Development Council**

**Raspberry Industry Development  
Council de la Colombie-Britannique**

**Pre-Hearing Conference**

**Conférence préliminaire**

**BEFORE / DEVANT :**

Tim O'Connor  
Philip Klassen

Panel Chairperson / Président du Panel  
Member / Membre

**ALSO PRESENT / AUSSI PRÉSENTE :**

Nathalie Vanasse

Secretary / Secrétaire

2013/03/15  
via teleconference/téléconférence

Transcription

In order to meet the requirements of the Official Languages Act, transcripts of proceedings before the Council will be bilingual as to their covers, the listing of the Council members and staff attending the public hearings, and the Table of Contents.

However, the aforementioned publication is the recorded verbatim transcript and, as such, is recorded and transcribed in either of the official languages, depending on the language spoken by the participant at the public hearing.

Transcription

Afin de rencontrer les exigences de la Loi sur les langues officielles, les procès verbaux pour le Conseil seront bilingues en ce qui a trait à la page couverture, la liste des membres et du personnel du Conseil participant à l'audience publique ainsi que la table des matières.

Toutefois, la publication susmentionnée est un compte rendu textuel des délibérations et, en tant que tel, est enregistrée et transcrite dans l'une ou l'autre des deux langues officielles, compte tenu de la langue utilisée par le participant à l'audience publique.

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1 Member, who is here with me today, is Phil  
2 Klassen, who is also a Council member from  
3 Saskatchewan.

4 I would like to introduce Duane  
5 Schippers, our legal counsel, and Nathalie  
6 Vanasse, Hearing Secretary, who should be able to  
7 answer your questions regarding rules and the  
8 process for the hearing.

9 Before we begin, please note that  
10 a transcript of this meeting will be produced and  
11 posted on FPCC's Web site.

12 As I mentioned, the Council  
13 appointed this Panel to conduct hearings into the  
14 merits of establishing a red raspberry research  
15 market development and promotion agency. As part  
16 of its duties, the Council must inquire into the  
17 merits of establishing an agency for any farm  
18 product where producer groups file such requests  
19 and then proceed to make recommendations to the  
20 Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food in  
21 accordance with the Farm Products Agencies Act.

22 In connection with such inquiries  
23 Section 8 of the Act directs Council to hold  
24 public hearings. While doing so, it also has the  
25 powers of the Commissioner appointed under Part 1

1 of the Inquiries Act.

2 During this inquiry, the merits  
3 of a proposed -- proposal developed by the  
4 British Columbia Raspberry Industry Development  
5 Council will be examined.

6 The proposal pertains to the  
7 establishment of a red raspberry research market  
8 development and promotion agency under Part 3 of  
9 the FPAA.

10 The notice was published in the  
11 Canada Gazette on January 19th, 2013 as required  
12 under Section 9 of the Act. The notice gave the  
13 purpose and scope of the hearing. Council's  
14 inquiry was also advertised in weekly newspapers  
15 and farm journals across Canada.

16 The Council called for  
17 submissions on the proposal for the red raspberry  
18 agency by February 21st, 2013.

19 We have received a total of seven  
20 submissions and four requests to appear. As a  
21 Panel, we want to encourage participation and to  
22 hope -- and hope to hear from all stakeholders  
23 from all sectors of the raspberry industry.

24 In terms of the outcome of this  
25 process, the Panel will prepare a report for

1 Council which will contain recommendations. In  
2 these, the Panel could support the proposal in  
3 whole or part, recommend that certain powers  
4 under Section 42 of the Act be included or  
5 excluded and, alternatively, Panel could  
6 recommend some of the changes that may be  
7 suggested during the hearing process.

8 This is perhaps the most  
9 important part of the process. Public hearings  
10 are conducted to get input from people from all  
11 sectors of the industry and to use this in  
12 preparing our recommendations.

13 Once the hearings are concluded,  
14 the Panel will make its recommendations to the  
15 Farm Products Council of Canada. Council will  
16 then prepare a report with recommendations to the  
17 Minister. It is then up to the Minister to  
18 decide whether or not to proceed with the  
19 proclamation of the agency.

20 I want to emphasize that the  
21 Panel does not make the decision in terms of  
22 whether or not there is to be an agency. Our  
23 mandate is to make recommendations to Council.

24 It is important to note that the  
25 Act stipulates that in making its recommendations

1 to the Minister, Council will not recommend the  
2 establishment of an agency unless it is satisfied  
3 that a majority of producers and importers are in  
4 favour of such an action.

5 In the proposal submitted by the  
6 Raspberry Industry Council of Canada, as well as  
7 some of the submissions received, information was  
8 provided on producer and import support.  
9 However, the Panel feels that extending the time  
10 allotted for submissions by parties would provide  
11 for more stakeholder participation and ensure  
12 that Panel's report and recommendations are  
13 thorough and compelling.

14 The Panel also hopes that, by  
15 eliciting further participation by stakeholders,  
16 more fruitful and fulsome discussions and  
17 exchanges can take place during the hearing  
18 themselves. As such, a new deadline for  
19 submissions will be posted on the Council's Web  
20 site shortly.

21 Following this additional period,  
22 and once Panel is ready to move on to hearings, a  
23 new pre-hearing conference will be scheduled.

24 So to return to the pre-hearing  
25 conference agenda, the purpose of this meeting is



1 to explain the next steps in the Panel's inquiry  
2 and to answer questions you may have.

3 I would like to remind you that  
4 public examination file that contains all of the  
5 submissions and letters of opinion received is  
6 also available on our Web site for public view,  
7 and it will be at the hearing sessions. Another  
8 set is kept at Council office.

9 Evidence tabled during the  
10 additional period for submissions and during  
11 subsequent hearings will be added to the public  
12 file as we go.

13 Ladies and gentlemen, this  
14 concludes my remarks, and I will now open the  
15 floor to questions.

16 Thank you.

17 OPERATOR: Participants on the  
18 phone, please press "\*1" at this time if you have  
19 a question. If you're using a speakerphone,  
20 please pick up the handset before pressing "\*1".  
21 Please press "\*1" at this time if you have a  
22 question. There will be a brief pause allowing  
23 you to register.

24 Once again, please press "\*1" for  
25 any questions or comments.

1                   And we have no questions  
2 registered at this time, sir.

3                   THE CHAIRPERSON: This actually  
4 concludes our agenda, and now I have a few  
5 closing remarks.

6                   First of all, I appreciate your  
7 presence here today, and I would like to thank  
8 you on behalf of the Panel, the participants on  
9 this pre-hearing teleconference, and especially  
10 the staff that have worked so diligently during  
11 this process.

12                   The Panel is looking forward to  
13 hearing the views of additional stakeholders and  
14 going ahead with the next steps.

15                   We will keep you updated  
16 throughout the process. Once the extended  
17 submission period has ended, another pre-hearing  
18 conference will be scheduled as soon as possible.

19                   Thank you very much for your  
20 participation. This concludes our pre-hearing  
21 conference.

22                   OPERATOR: Thank you. The  
23 conference call has now ended. Please disconnect  
24 your lines at this time. Thank you for your  
25 participation.

1 --- Adjourned at 1:43 p.m. / Se termine à 13 h 43

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Reporters / Sténographes

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William Curley

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Jacqueline Clark

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