

Election Voting Rule Review Survey Summary

The BC Farm Industry Review Board (BCFIRB) requires the BC Egg Marketing Board (BCEMB) to conduct a review of its Election Rules and procedures prior to December 31, 2019. A survey was conducted as part of the consultation process with stakeholders.

Survey Methodology

The BCEMB sent an on-line survey to 203 industry stakeholders including producers, graders, processor, and allied trades. The survey was posted on BC Egg's public website. The survey was conducted over a 30 day period – from April 18 to May 17, 2019.

Survey Response Rate

Of the 203 industry stakeholders who were sent the on-line survey, only 44 individuals completed all survey questions, representing a 22% response rate overall. Producers (38) represented 86% of respondents, of which 79% (30) were located in the Lower Mainland and 21% (8) were located in the Regions (7 in the Interior, 1 on Vancouver Island).

The response rate for producers was less than expected since only 27% out of BC's 143 registered producers completed the survey. On a regional basis, the survey was completed by only 29% of total producers in the Lower Mainland (33 out of 114 producers), 35% of total producers in the Interior (7 out of 20 producers) and 11% of total producers on Vancouver Island (1 out of 9 producers).

Analysis of Key Survey Questions

Regional Representation:

Survey Question: "As part of BC Egg's 2019 rule review, staff analyzed the election rules for the other commodity boards and commissions in BC. The BC Vegetable Marketing Commission is the only other group that requires regional board positions. The remaining six boards and commissions maintain directors at large. **Do you believe BC Egg should continue requiring regional board positions?"**

50% of Total Respondents said YES; 50% said NO.

45% of Total Producer Respondents said YES; 55% said NO

37% of Producer Respondents located in the Lower Mainland said YES; 63% said NO.

75% of Producer Respondents located in the other Regions said YES; 25% said NO.

The table on the following page presents the statistics and the analysis.

RESPONSES TO REGIONAL REPRESENTATION QUESTION

	Total Respondents	Yes	% of Category	No	% of Category
Lower Mainland	30	11	37%	19	63%
Interior	7	5	71%	2	29%
Vancouver Island	1	1	100%	0	0%
Other (allied trades, public)	6	5	83%	1	17%
Total	44	22	50%	22	50%

Number of Endorsements:

Survey Question: “Currently BC Egg requires **five** endorsements for a person to be nominated. Upon analysis of the other boards and commissions, it was determined that they require between two to five endorsements, with the majority requiring five endorsements. **Do you think the number of endorsements required by BC Egg to be nominated is: Just Right or Too Many?**”

89% of Respondents said 5 endorsements is “Just Right”; 11% said “Too Many”

Board Composition:

Survey Question: “The board composition at the BC Chicken Marketing Board, BC Milk Marketing Board, and the BC Cranberry Marketing Commission all require one to two non-producer/grower-appointed members, in addition to the appointed chair. **Do you believe a non-producer director, in addition to the appointed chair, should be elected to the Board?**”

79% of Respondents said NO; 21% said YES (n = 43; 1 respondent did not answer this question)

Special Election (By-Election):

Survey Question: “If a director vacancy occurs during a term due to health or personal reasons, our current rules state that it can be filled by Board appointment with BC FIRB's approval, or by BC FIRB appointment for the remainder of the term. It has been recommended by BC FIRB that we also consider adding a by-election option to our rules. At this time, only BC Broiler Hatching Egg includes all three options (Board appointment with BC FIRB's approval, by BC FIRB appointment, or through a by-election). **Do you agree with adding a by-election option to our rules?**”

68% of Respondents said YES; 32% said NO

Conclusion

This report provides a summary and analysis of the key survey questions. The survey results and analysis provide preliminary information and guidance but should be considered with care due to the relatively low response rates – 22% overall, with only 27% of the 143 registered BC producers responding to the survey. In comparison, the response rates for the quota allocation survey conducted in April 2019 was 53% overall, with 63% of all registered producers responding to the survey – over double the response rates for the Election Rules Review!

Further consultations with industry committees and stakeholders, and extensive board deliberations were critical in the preparation of a sound proposal for the 2019 Election Rules and Procedures.

To review all of the survey responses and comments received from respondents, [please click here](#).