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April 26, 2016

Jim Collins
Executive Director
British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board
PO Box 9129 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9B5

Dear Jim:

Thank you for your March 15, 2016 letter on Next Steps for Poultry Disease Insurance. The matter has been raised with our respective boards and commission and discussed at the Mandatory Insurance Steering Committee.

The boards, commission and industry are well aware of the threat of a future discovery of Notifiable Avian Influenza and the timing of "flu season". We are also aware of our duties and responsibilities as first instance regulators to apply due diligence to decision making and fully apply SAFETI principles in order to meet the BCFIRB expectations outlined in the March 15, 2016 letter and prior correspondence on this subject.

We have provided notice to producers and industry that we have commenced a Mandatory Notifiable Avian Influenza Insurance Review through our websites in February. To date, we have received one letter from a producer with respect to mandatory insurance. We expect that as we go through the process we will seek and receive additional input from producers, industry and other stakeholders. The input is important and will be considered in the decision making process.

We have agreed to apply best efforts to shorten the timeframe for the Review however we have an ambitious work plan. The information generated will not only be made available to producers, industry and other stakeholders as part of the process of applying the SAFETI principles, but a reasonable amount of time must also be provided for review and comment. We expect to post updates and reports as we receive them in order to expedite the process. At the end of the process, the boards and commission decisions will need to be posted for a minimum of 30 days, after which time we must address any issues or concerns raised prior to finalizing our submission to BCFIRB.

Yours truly,

Michel Benoit
General Manager
BC Turkey Marketing Board

cc: Stephanie Nelson, Executive Director, BC Broiler Hatching Egg Commission
Bill Vanderspek, Executive Director, BC Chicken Marketing Board
Dwight Yochim, Executive Director, BC Egg Marketing Board
James Mack, Assistant Deputy Minister, Agriculture Science and Policy, BC Ministry of Agriculture
Steven Heppell, President, BC Poultry Association
Harvey Sasaki, Agri-Saki Consulting Inc.