

Schedule 15
(Part 55)
(Section 55.4)

Board Decision or Determination

Form B

attach applicable Forms A, if available

Voting by Electronic Ballot only

1. Date(s) of this decision: September 24, 2019 & July 14, 2020

2. Members of Board present for decision:

H. Sasaki, DA Janzen, A. Johnston, R. Nickel and G. Hahn

3. What sources of information did the Board consider in coming to its decision?

Form A - Application for Decision or Determination

Board Staff's Briefing Note

Applicant's oral submissions

Board's Orders (give reference numbers, if applicable):

Other (explain):

- October 2, 2019 letter to BCCGA re: review of BCCMB election rules and Procedures.
- Notes from Quarterly meeting BCCMB/BCCGA October 16/19 at Canuck Place
- Draft BCCMB Election Rules
- BCFIRB letter of July 2, 2020

4. What is the Board's decision?

The Board, after consultation with the BCCGA, has made the decision to go paperless for the entire election process starting with the 2021 election, with all communication and voting by electronic means exclusively.

5. Why did the Board come to this decision?

Growers have been given notice of this Board initiative for the past several years to eliminate paper and move fully towards digital communications.

Beginning in 2018 the Board office ceased any communications via Canada Post to growers. All growers were required to provide the BCCMB office with an email address in order to receive correspondence from the Board.

In 2019, the Board ceased to accept/send faxes. Growers were required to scan prescribed forms and email them to the office or as an alternative to scanning, use smartphones to take a photo of the document and send them to the office via email.

This is the next step towards completion of the process of total digital communication. During the last BCCMB election cycle, there was a threat of a postal strike, which could have impacted the election. This move to paperless is ecologically sound, and economically sound as it saves time, resources and money.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION BASED ON OUTCOME BASED PRINCIPLES

Strategic & Effective:

Identifying key opportunities and systemic challenges, and plan for actions to effectively manage risks and take advantage of future opportunities.

Ensuring clearly defined outcomes with appropriate processes and measures.

The Board has been moving towards paperless communication and has served notice to the industry. This move will save money in postage, paper, and human resources and shorten the time for the election process. An election requires approximately 6 mailings of 10 or more pages, pre-paid postage and 6 to 8 envelopes to up to 325 growers. The time and cost to prepare and regulate the mail outs is substantial.

The move will lessen the risk of negative impact by possible action by Canada Post with respect to delivery of election materials.

Accountable

Maintaining legitimacy and integrity through understanding and discharging responsibilities and reporting performance.

The Board is accountable for the election process to all growers and designated voters. Growers have been provided with sufficient notice to prepare for the change. With the exception of a very small group, growers have provided the Board with an email address.

During the previous elections the growers were permitted the choice of digital versus Canada Post for voting. The split was 75% electronic 25% Canada Post.

Growers own and operate multi-million dollar businesses, and should have the resources to attain the goal of digital communication, acquire the necessary equipment, and/or expertise to avail themselves of the opportunity.

Fair

Ensuring procedural fairness in processes and decision making.

The grower sector has been given ample notice that the move to the paperless initiative was underway. The move has been staged, first the creation of the grower dashboard, the move to

digital monthly Board Reports and Annual Reports, then elimination of faxes, and the commencement of digital forms of payment. Today, there is only one grower the Board cannot communicate with electronically.

Transparent & Inclusive

Ensuring that processes, practices, procedures and report on how the mandate is exercised are open, accessible and fully informed.

Ensuring that appropriate interests, including the public interest, are considered.

The Board has been open in its decision making process, through its strategic plan and reporting on its progress in Board reports, annual reports and at monthly regional grower meetings. While some growers have resisted the change, most have moved to digital communication. Those not prepared to provide digital, have made other arrangements, such as in-person visits to the BCCMB offices to pick-up and drop-off prescribed forms, payments etc.

The Board has been in discussion with the BCCGA, their opinions have been sought and included in the final framework.