

Memo

To: BC Chicken Industry

Date: April 15, 2026

Re: HPAI C&D Payments — Restricted Industry Emergency Fund and
Consultation on Future Policy

Board Decision on C&D Payments

At its recent April 1, 2026, meeting, the Board approved payout from the Restricted Industry Emergency Fund to compensate broiler Infected Premises (IPs) impacted during the recent 2025 outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). A total of \$93,191.75 will be distributed to the 4 broiler IPs eligible under the existing policy.

Eligible growers will be contacted directly by BCCMB staff. Payments will be issued by EFT or cheque. Growers **do not** need to contact the Board to initiate payment.

Background

Following the 2022-2023 HPAI outbreak, the former C&D funding agreement between the BC Broiler Hatching Egg Commission (BCBHEC), the BC Turkey Marketing Board (BCTMB), and the BCCMB paid out its remaining balance and was terminated. BCBHEC and BCTMB have since elected not to compensate their producers for C&D costs.

In response, the BCCMB established the Restricted Industry Emergency Fund — a \$1,000,000 reserve held at the Board's discretion for use in an industry emergency.

Following the 2023-2024 outbreak, in March 2024, the Board paid out approximately \$360,033.25 from this fund to broiler IPs. The amount was calculated at \$0.25 per bird placed for the production cycle in which the farm became an IP.

The current C&D payment policy, as reflected in the Board's March 2024 Memo to the industry, compensates only those farms that are deemed an IP on their broiler site. This means:

- A grower whose broiler flock is ordered destroyed by CFIA is eligible for payment at \$0.25 per bird placed in the affected cycle.
- A grower who has broilers on site but becomes an IP because of another commodity on the farm (ie. ducks, layers, turkeys, etc) is **not eligible** for broiler C&D funding from this fund, even if broilers were depopulated as a consequence.

The Board's rationale for this position is one of fairness to the wider broiler industry; the Board does not believe it is equitable for all broiler growers, through their levies, to carry the C&D risk associated with multi-commodity operations. Growers who choose to farm multiple commodities

on a single site accept the biosecurity and regulatory exposure that comes with that decision, and the C&D risk attached to non-broiler commodities is more appropriately borne by those commodities, their insurance arrangements, or the individual farm.

This policy was applied to the current payout.

Implications of the Updated OML Policy

As communicated in a Memo re: Overmarketing Levy Update and General Orders Amendment (March 9, 2026), the Board will no longer collect an OML every Period. OMLs will now only be collected in the event of a National OML from the CFC assessed for BC. Historically in BC, OMLs have been a key source of revenue flowing into the Restricted Industry Emergency Fund.

And so, plainly, the Board will no longer be in a position to replenish the Restricted Industry Emergency Fund for C&D purposes in perpetuity. The fund, as currently structured, will be drawn down over time and cannot be topped up under the updated OML policy.

Going Forward – Options and Consultations

The Board has also explored captive and commercial insurance alternatives, including CEIRA and offerings through HUB. To date, these options have proven cost prohibitive and have not been accepted or pursued. This remains an area the Board continues to monitor.

The Board is opening a formal consultation with industry on how BC chicken growers should approach C&D compensation going forward. The Board wants to hear directly from growers before decisions are made. **The options currently under consideration include:**

- Discontinue any form of Board-funded C&D payment, aligning BCCMB with the approach now taken by BCBHEC and BCTMB. Growers would be responsible for their own C&D costs in the event of an IP.
- Encourage and support growers in pursuing self-insurance or other private risk-management tools at the individual farm level, recognizing that captive insurance options such as CEIRA have, to date, been cost prohibitive.
- Increase grower levies, or add a dedicated C&D line item into the Cost of Production (COP), to fund a future C&D payment program on a cost-recovery basis over time.
- A combination of the above, or an alternative approach proposed by industry.

How to Provide Feedback:

The Board invites all growers and industry stakeholders to share their views — your input will directly inform decisions on the longterm future of C&D compensation for the broiler industry. Please submit feedback to the Board office by May 8, 2026, via email to info@bcchicken.ca using the subject “*Feedback C&D Consultation*”.