



THE ORGANIC FEDERATION OF CANADA NEWSLETTER

July 2008

## Headlines

- **A fourth ballot to revise Canadian Standards.**
- **Standards Officer position to fill for the fourth ballot.**
- **The Canadian General Standards Board will harmonize its work with that of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and will publish the standards on December 14, 2008.**
- **A Transition Committee, established by the OFC, will recommend measures to ensure smooth implementation of the Organic Products Regulations.**
- **Amendments to the Organic Product Regulations submitted to the organic sector.**
- **The OFC Development Program: projects financed by the OFC.**

### **A fourth ballot will take place to finalize the revision of the Canadian Standards**

A fourth ballot will take place in November 2008 under the governance of the Canadian General Standards Board to complete the revision of Organic Standards of Canada. The Agricultural Standards Committee, composed of various work groups assigned to different aspects of the standards, will continue its work and aim particularly to update the Permitted Substances List. Work group meetings via emails or conference calls will ultimately lead to a videoconference in November to address the remaining contentious issues in order to reach a consensus within the group.

The 4<sup>th</sup> ballot will be managed by the Canadian Organic Growers which was responsible for the management of the first three ballots.

### **Looking for a Standards Officer**

OFC and COG thank the persons who have sent their application for the temporary Standardization Officer position recently posted. Every application received is being carefully considered and the potential candidates will be contacted.



*Agriculture and Agri-food Canada (AAFC) is pleased to participate in this project. AAFC is committed to working with industry partners to increase public awareness of the importance of the agriculture and agri-food industry to Canada. Opinions expressed in this document are those of the OFC and not necessarily those of AAFC.*

---

**Organic Federation of Canada**

[www.organicfederation.ca](http://www.organicfederation.ca) - [info@organicfederation.ca](mailto:info@organicfederation.ca)

514 488-6192

## Publication of the revised standards

A working draft of the revised Organic Standards, resulting from the first three ballots, will be made available this summer to the members of the CGSB Committee on Organic Agriculture in order for the organic sector to be prepared for the implementation of the *Organic Products Regulations* which will take place in December 2008. This version must obtain the support of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and of the Department of Justice, and then, will be ratified by the Standards Council of Canada (SCC). Once ratified, the revised 2006 standards will be used as the reference by the *Organic Products Regulations*. The CGSB is committed to accelerate the process in order to allow synchronization of the publication of the standards together with the implementation of the regulations (December 14, 2008).

As for the modifications that will be implemented following the fourth ballot, they will represent the amendments to the revised 2006 standards.

**However, Canada Organic Office is categorical: since the certification will be mandatory as soon as December 2008, for the products referred as « organic » and transported from one province to another or between Canada and its trading partners, it is imperative that the producers or processors, who are not yet certified, must undertake the steps to obtain certification immediately in order to comply with Regulations taking effect on December 14, 2008. All certification processes are presently conducted in compliance with the 2006 standards currently published. It is advised not to wait for the publication of the revised standards to obtain certification.**

## A Transition Committee to ensure successful implementation

The OFC established a Transition Committee composed of representatives from all sectors so that certifiers, producers, processors and merchants can adapt progressively to the implementation of the regulations and comply effectively with the revised standards. New regulations will result in important changes for the organic products market. A time frame will have to be defined within which the organic products that are no longer compliant with the new regulations are withdrawn from the market, and for consumers and retailers to familiarize themselves with the new market rules. The evaluation of the similarities with organic standards of countries trading with Canada will also have an important impact on the transition measures. Canada Organic Office will consult the sector to establish such similarities and define the organic import-export rules.

## Amendments to the Organic Products Regulations soon to be submitted to the organic sector

The Canada Organic Office plans to submit very shortly the amended Organic Products Regulations. In fact, the Regulations will include the rules regarding organic product labeling. These rules, which were already part of the organic standards, are of primary importance. They set forth for the consumer the meaning of a certified organic product that is compliant with the standards. The Regulations will complete many chapters of the Standards. It is very possible that the Canada Organic logo will be modified to conform with general public labeling policies of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. This modified logo will be presented during the pre-publication of the amended Regulations that should take place in the beginning of October 2008. To follow ...

**The Provincial, Territorial and Commercial  
Organic  
Development Program of the  
Organic Federation of Canada**



The OFC set up a development program to help the Canadian organic sector to get organized and promote its interests in the development of the production, processing and trading of organic products: the Provincial, Territorial and Commercial Organic Development Program. OFC [members](#) submitted projects adapted to their particular context and growing needs. Projects submitted and financed by the OFC are the following:



THE ORGANIC FEDERATION OF CANADA NEWSLETTER

Provincial, territorial or commercial organisation	Project	Allocated funds
Certified Organic Associations of British Columbia (COABC)	Membership development, information relative to certification, renewal of the board of directors operations.	\$24,000
Going Organic Network of Alberta	Promotion of organic agriculture, development of communication channels and meetings	\$34,000
Saskatchewan Organic Directorate (SOD)	Recruitment of producers and processors within the SOD, elaboration of a provincial development strategy	\$44,000
Organic Food Council of Manitoba (OFCM)	Elaboration of a communication strategy, meetings and consultations concerning the needs of the stakeholders	\$12,800
Organic Council of Ontario (OCO)	Regional sector meetings and outreach activities for increasing OCO membership	\$15,600
Table filière biologique du Québec	Development of a Web site	\$24,255
New-Brunswick Organic Committee/ACORN	Development of the New-Brunswick Organic Committee – a chapter of the ACORN; broadcast information relating to the regulations and activities of the organic sector in New-Brunswick	\$19,200
Newfoundland-Labrador Organic Committee/ACORN	Development of the Newfoundland-Labrador Organic Committee – a chapter of the ACORN; broadcast information relating to the Canadian regulations and activities of the organic sector in Newfoundland-Labrador	\$9,735
Prince-Edward Island Certified Organic Producers Co-operative	Inform producers, know their needs, inform them about the Canadian regulations	\$10,500
Organic Council of Nova Scotia	Development of the Organic Council of Nova Scotia-networking – promotion and broadcasting information relating to the organic sector	\$27,000
Growers of Organic Food in the Yukon	Membership development, information relating to the Canadian regulations	\$5,400
Organic Trade Association/Canada	Communications to Canadian organic business stakeholders via internet, meetings on regulations and standards, and participation at conferences across the country	\$12,875

**In the next Info-Bio newsletter:**

- The most recent developments relative to standards and organic regulations
- Canadian Organic e-newsletters

If you have questions or comments, we want to hear them!

Contact OFC at : [info@organicfederation.ca](mailto:info@organicfederation.ca)