

May 2013

The News about the Canadian Organic Standards

Comment Period Reminder

Does any use of a prohibited substance within 3000 meters of an apiary automatically disqualify the honey from achieving compliance with the Standard?

Can stevia be used as a sweetener in organic products? Is non-organic stevia admissible under the 5% non-organic ingredients rule?

Does the Standard require that processing aids in the production of non-organic ingredients be listed on Table 6.6 PSL?

A set of Questions & Answers from the Standards Interpretation Committee (SIC) are currently under public review. Please visit the [OFC website](#) to read the proposed answers to questions raised by organic stakeholders.

The proposed responses are subject to a 60 day comment period ending today **May 24th 2013**

All comments regarding these answers should be sent to OPR.RPB@inspection.gc.ca

COS Review - Working Groups back to work!

A MOU has been signed between the Standards Council of Canada and the Canadian General Standards Board for funding the review of the Canadian Organic Standards. The review workplan will be completed soon and the review will be officially launched.

Because of funding cycles the whole review will have to be completed inside a two-year time frame; so time is precious and the sector has to start organizing itself to accomplish the necessary review of the COS. The Working Groups responsible for analyzing requests for amendments made by the sector are now being re-activated in order to launch the discussions about requests for amendments.

Are you interested in continuing your participation on a COS Review Working Group, or are you interested in applying to join a WG?

If yes, please contact the OFC, at info@organicfederation.ca , 514-488-6192.

The basic Work Groups are:

- **32.310 Organic Standard:** Crop WG, Livestock WG, and Processing WG
- **32.311 Permitted Substances List:** PSL Crop WG, PSL Livestock WG, and PSL Processing WG

Organic related skills and expertise wanted:

- Organic farming or processing
- Materials/Chemical substances
- Veterinary medicine/nutrition and supplements
- Apiary
- Environmental
- Animal welfare

Participation in Working Groups is voluntary and not paid; the WG meetings are held by toll-free teleconference.

Time commitment: Up to one 2hour call every second week, depending on need.

The Chairs of the WGs will coordinate the work and agenda of the meetings and CGSB will provide secretarial assistance. Working Group Chairs selection will be finalized for each WG once funding is secured. Payment of honorarium for WG Chairs is currently depending on the approval of an OFC application for funding under an AAFC program. More info coming soon.

You don't have to be a member of the Technical Committee (CGSB Committee on Organic Agriculture) to participate to the WG meetings. The CGSB is responsible for re-establishing the Technical Committee and will do so once the review workplan will be finalized.

**Great news!
Manitoba proclaims Organic
Agricultural Products Act**

From Organic Bytes May 2013 Issue
(Manitoba Organic Alliance Newsletter)



On May 4, 2013, Manitoba proclaimed the Organic Agricultural Products Act (OAPA), making Manitoba the first province to pass a provincial organic law since the federal Organic Products Regulations (OPR) were passed in June 2009. Manitoba is now the third province with a provincial law that defines and controls the use of the word "organic" within the provincial context (both British Columbia and Quebec have laws that predate the OPR) and it is the first province to pass a law that "mirrors" the federal OPR. Manitoba has adopted the federal definition of "organic", references the same standards (CAN/CGSB-32.310 and CAN/CGSB-32.311) and will rely on the same system of federally-accredited Certification Bodies to ensure that organic operators comply with organic standards. As in the federal system, Manitoba's approach to enforcement will be complaint-based.

The OAPA and its regulations will come into force on July 1, 2013 and will apply to all food products grown, or processed and sold in Manitoba that make an organic claim. The OAPA mirrors the federal OPR and provides additional oversight over retailers that sell organic food. The new law will require all farmers and food processors that make organic food claims to be inspected annually by a federally accredited Certification Body. Certified operators in Manitoba will be able to use the federal organic logo on food products with organic content that is greater or equal to 95%. The law does not require businesses that sell organic food to be certified unless they perform additional processing in-store or in their distribution centres, but they must maintain the integrity of organic food products by developing and following standard operating procedures to segregate organic and conventional food products and maintain appropriate records to demonstrate that organic integrity is preserved throughout their chain of custody.

The OAPA and its regulations will close the provincial gap in the national network of laws governing use of the word "organic" in Manitoba and will provide assurance to Manitoba consumers that all food promoted as "organic" is subject to the same regulatory requirements no matter where it is produced.



Canada and Quebec Governments Inaugurate the Platform for Innovation in Organic Agriculture

A huge, open-air laboratory with a range of exclusive, state-of-the-art equipment and services

Organic Agriculture Innovation Platform, located in Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville, on May 3rd, was officially opened. That is the largest certified organic research station in Canada, with over 90 ha of land dedicated to organic. Funded by the Province of Quebec and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, this new center will lead to innovation and improved competitiveness for organic production in Quebec and beyond. To know more, click on [AAFC announcement](#) or on the [CBC report](#) (in French).

Organic publicity on TV in Italy

Bringing an audience less attentive to these issues

Supermarket Chain NaturaSi has launched a campaign on national television. The ad can be seen [here](#) in Italian, but the pictures speak for themselves.

"In the past, we have done campaigns in newspapers for the opening of retail outlets, or using the web", says the marketing director Edoardo Freddi, "but without a real communication budget." **The choice to go on TV** with a total investment at a list price valued at

€6 million, it is aimed to bring the message "help agriculture" to an audience less attentive to these issues. "This mission lives on the web too through our websites www.ecor.it and www.naturasi.it", Mr. Freddi continues, "at Facebook and by the collaboration with some bloggers."

That will be great to see such a campaign in Canada.

May 25 – March Against Monsanto planned for over 30 countries

Canadians will actively participate to the March Against Monsanto. Click on specific links to join your local group!

Official website: <http://www.march-against-monsanto.com/>

Alberta	Calgary	http://on.fb.me/XIRXJK
Alberta	Drayton Valley	http://is.gd/OIYzfy

Alberta	Edmonton	http://on.fb.me/15InJsV
Alberta	Lethbridge	http://on.fb.me/12pB2uE
Alberta	Medicine Hat	http://on.fb.me/YNIBx9
Alberta	Red Deer	http://on.fb.me/ZTNdi6
British Columbia	Abbotsford	http://on.fb.me/14Hp2bh
British Columbia	Castelgar	http://on.fb.me/YnT284
British Columbia	Creston	http://on.fb.me/149bgf0
British Columbia	Dawson Creek	http://on.fb.me/18lWh10
British Columbia	Kelowna	http://on.fb.me/160oqyl
British Columbia	Nanaimo	http://on.fb.me/18QoaRR
British Columbia	Penticton	http://on.fb.me/117kunn
British Columbia	Prince George	http://on.fb.me/XjmM5B
British Columbia	Terrace	http://on.fb.me/14l01QB
British Columbia	Vancouver	http://on.fb.me/YWq7dW
British Columbia	Vernon	http://on.fb.me/10592tm
British Columbia	Victoria	http://on.fb.me/YdHBRr
Manitoba	Winnipeg	http://on.fb.me/YYBwY0
New Brunswick	Moncton	http://on.fb.me/ZY5n3s
Newfoundland	St. John's	http://on.fb.me/15WjScJ
Newfoundland	Labradour	http://on.fb.me/15WjScJ
Nova Scotia	Halifax	http://on.fb.me/YvVw5l
Ontario	Barrie	http://on.fb.me/10DZfwf
Ontario	Brantford	http://on.fb.me/15Rg0tO
Ontario	Guelph	http://on.fb.me/186dzkF
Ontario	Hamilton	http://on.fb.me/ZTK95A
Ontario	Kingston	http://on.fb.me/17mILtz
Ontario	London	http://on.fb.me/16pqZtC
Ontario	Newmarket	http://on.fb.me/YzDm1L
Ontario	Welland	http://on.fb.me/15kUWec
Ontario	Oshawa – May 2	http://on.fb.me/ZjQCEX
Ontario	Ottawa	http://on.fb.me/XvHqSb
Ontario	Sudbury	http://on.fb.me/YxwLBF
Ontario	Thunder Bay	http://on.fb.me/13hd7Oa
Ontario	Toronto	http://on.fb.me/10naV5s
Ontario	Waterloo	http://on.fb.me/XW9oqC
Ontario	Windsor	http://on.fb.me/10uybwz
Québec	Montréal	http://on.fb.me/127E9X8

Québec	Quebec City	http://on.fb.me/12I9a3S
Saskatchewan	Regina	http://on.fb.me/14C0Xn0
Saskatchewan	Saskatoon	http://on.fb.me/18QnyvJ

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