

# Info-bio

THE ORGANIC FEDERATION OF CANADA NEWSLETTER

Our organic standard is the pillar of our industry!

*We protect our standard by working together  
to review and update its content!*



Our organic apples are delicious!

**Please contribute to the review  
of the Canadian Organic Standards!**

## The COMMENT REVIEW UPDATE

- The review of the Canadian Organic Standards is underway. During the 90-day public review of the updated draft of the standards, 706 comments were received. Each is being analyzed in a standardized, transparent manner. The Chair of the Working Group first proposes a resolution for each comment (all listed on Google docs and accessible by all Working Group members). Then, by teleconference, the Working Group discusses the proposed resolution and develops, through consensus, a response to the comment.
- The Chairs of the Working Groups are Karen Murchison and Jean Duval for Crop production (32.310 and 32.311 respectively), François Labelle for Livestock production (32.310 and 32.311), Rochelle Eisen for sections 1, 2, 3, 8 and 9 of 32.310, and Tables 6.3 to 8.3 in the Permitted Substances Lists. Janet Wallace is acting as the Working Group secretary. Nicole Boudreau is responsible for coordination of the review, translation and final preparation of the documents that will be submitted to the Technical Committee. Hugh Martin, the Chair of the Technical Committee, is actively involved in the comment analysis.

- Of the 706 comments received, 35% are editorial; 65% are technical, meaning that they relate to a technical or practical aspect of a clause. The Working Groups are only discussing comments that relate to the proposed changes to the standards.
- The resolutions to the comments will be presented to the voting members of the Technical Committee before the ballot. The committee members need to understand the justification for maintaining, altering or canceling a proposed modification to the 2015 standards.
- Given the large number of comments, the Technical Committee will need to meet twice by teleconference -- December 18, 2019 and in 2020. The second meeting will focus on the proposed modifications to the Livestock section (32.310 and 32.311).
- The exercise of resolving comments may lead to the complete reversal of some of the proposed modifications presented for public comment. A report will be presented on InfoBio after the first meeting of the Technical Committee.

## Please contribute to the OFC fundraising campaign!

Funding target: \$40,000



CHFA is pleased to provide funding to support the review the Canada Organic Standards. The Standards define the principles and accepted practices for organic products, and guides the daily work of Canadian certified operations. They are integral to maintaining a strong and vibrant organic sector in Canada and CHFA is committed to supporting the tools needed to ensure quality organic products are available for Canadian consumers.

**Helen Long, President of the Canadian Health Food Association**



**Dairy Farmers of Canada**



## **So, now that you've decided to support the review...**

### **Here are the benefits you will enjoy!**

- **With a minimum contribution of \$1,000, you will be invited to a presentation of the 2020 Organic Standard by Webinar as soon as the results of the ballot are available,**  
**OR**
- **You and your colleagues will be invited to participate in an educational quiz by teleconference on the 2020 Organic Standard.**



- **Your name and logo will be posted on the OFC website in the section dedicated to the revision of the COS and in InfoBio.**
- **You will have the satisfaction of supporting the collective review process that updates and improves the Canadian Organic Standards, which govern all organic production in Canada.**

**Contributions by cheque should be sent to the OFC office,  
12-4475 Grand Boulevard, Montreal, QC H4B 2X7.**

**If you wish to pay by bank transfer, please contact the OFC.**

**Thank you!**