



CANADIAN SUPPLY CHAIN FOOD SAFETY COALITION

COALITION CANADIENNE DE LA FILIÈRE ALIMENTAIRE POUR LA SALUBRITÉ DES ALIMENTS

**Minutes – 2015 Annual General Meeting – Draft
12 May 2015**

Location: CFA Boardroom, 21 Florence Street, Ottawa & by electronically by teleconference & GoToMeeting

Attendees:

Members representatives in Person & Electronically (21 representing 20 members): Jackie Crichton (DPAC), Co-Chair, Susan Abel (FCPC), Co-Chair, Heather Gale (CanAgPlus), Treasurer, Viki Sikur (CHEP), Caroline Wilson (CFC), Robert de Valk (FFPAC & CARI), Malenka Georgiou (TFC), Ron Wasik (SSPFA), Drew Black (CFA), Linda Atkinson (CFA), Suzanne Saborin (CMC), Paul Hetherington (BAC), Russel Hurst (Crop Life), Erica Charlton (CPEPC), Nicole Sillet (DFC), Catherine Scovil (CPC), Jason McLinton (RCC), Gordon Harrison (CNMA), Maxim Legault-Maynard (Canola Council), Latitia Scarr (CPMA), Peter Brackenridge (NCFA),

Albert Chambers (Executive Director – Secretary, CSCFSC)

Guest: Lyzette Johnston, Director, Domestic Food Safety Systems Division, CFIA

1. Call to Order: Jackie Crichton, Co-Chair called the meeting to Order at 13:05 p.m. and welcomed attendees.

2. Roll Call: Member representatives introduced themselves.

3. Approval of the Agenda: Moved by Ron Wasik, seconded by Heather Gale, that the agenda be approved as presented. Carried.

4. CFIA Presentation on Safe Food for Canadians Act Regulations and Consultations: The chair introduced Ms. Johnston who proceeded to make a presentation and provide an update on the status of the regulatory initiatives and consultations. She noted at the outset that the publication of a second draft of the proposed regulations outside the Canada Gazette process had been requested in November 2014 by the Coalition and that this proposal had been welcomed by senior management at CFIA and by officials working on the file. The support of the Minister of Health for this approach was noted. Ms. Johnston indicated that the consultations were twofold: first to obtain further information on the impact of the draft regulations on micro and small food businesses and to test some options for reducing the burden on these businesses and second, to obtain further reaction from all stakeholders on this first full draft of the regulations. She noted that these two consultations were each on their own track: responses to the small business options were welcome up to 30 June 2015 and comments on the draft were welcome until the end of August. The latter consultations could include technical briefings for stakeholders. After reviewing CFIA's approach and the consultations, she provided comments on the regulations. In conclusion, she noted that the Canada Gazette process would not likely start until January 2016 with Part I followed by Part II probably in June 2016. *[Note: the CFIA presentation was circulated to members on 13 May 2015].*

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Following the presentation, Ms. Johnston took questions. Members queried the following:

- the value of having a preamble to the regulations that sets out their intent in clear language – the subsequent discussion touched on the drafting challenges, the potential for including this in the guidance documents and the option, preferred of including it in the RIAS published in the Canada Gazette Part I;
- the role of incorporation by reference (IbR) and the precedent being considered with the grades from the Beef Grading Agency and the accompanying memorandum of understanding (MOU) – there was discussion of circulating either the draft MOU or its framework clauses prior to the Canada Gazette process being initiated as others might want to follow the same approach;
- the impact of preventive control plan requirements on primary producers – it was clarified that with the exception of fresh produce producers there was no expectation at this time that other primary producers would be included in the requirements for written PCPs;
- the proposed minimum requirement of \$30,000 sales vis-à-vis farm businesses that might both sell raw product (e.g. grains, cattle) and food products – it was clarified that the intent was to cover only the food product sales;
- concern about the impact of subsection 16(3) on exporters exporting product that meets a foreign country's standards – this query was taken under advisement;
- the timing of the multiple initiatives on packaging and labelling changes – it was clarified that the intent was simply to proceed with the carry-over of the existing requirements and to wait for the other consultations to be concluded as planned (it was noted that if the process of going to Canada Gazette Part I was delayed beyond early 2016, then possibly there could be some revisions to the draft regulations);

The Chair thanked Ms. Johnston and indicated that the Coalition would be responding to both the micro/small business questions and options and providing comments on the proposed draft regulations with respect to food safety.

5. Approval of Minutes of 2014 Annual Meeting: Several corrections to the text (spelling of persons last names) were noted. Moved by Robert de Valk and seconded by Heather Gale, that the minutes with corrections be approved. Carried.

6. Annual Report on 2014: Susan Abel, Co-Chair, presented the report on the Coalition's activities in 2014. There were no questions or discussion. Moved by Latitia Scarr, seconded by Suzanne Sabourin that the annual report be received. Carried. *[Note: the 2014 annual report was circulated to members on 13 May 2015.]*

7. Financial Report: Heather Gale presented the report on the Coalition's finances in 2014. She reviewed the balance sheet and the income statement. Of note were the expectations that the Coalition was eligible for \$15,499.00 in rebates on HST payments for previous years and that recovery of these was planned in the current year and that the Coalition had made a direct industry contribution to the food safety auditor project. Moved by Robert de Valk, seconded by Linda Atkinson, that the financial report for 2014 be received. Carried. *[Note: the 2014 financial statements were circulated to members prior to the annual meeting.]*

8. Propose Budget 2015: Heather Gale presented the proposed budget for 2015. She noted that the recovery of the HST rebates, if accomplished as planned would result in the Coalition having a surplus at year end of approximately \$13,800.00 which would represent a reserve of about 45

percent of the regular yearly expenses, close to the recommended level for non-government organizations. There was discussion. Members queried the relationship to the food safety auditor project and Agriculture and Agri-food Canada and whether or not the proposed budget was based on current membership fees. Moved by Jackie Crichton, seconded by Gordon Harrison, that the proposed budget be referred to the board of directors for final approval. Carried. *[Note: the proposed budget was circulated to members prior to the meeting.]*

9. Coalition Priorities for 2015-2016: Albert Chambers presented the priorities for the next 12 months. These included:

- Member Relations
- Safe Food For Canadians Act Regulations
- Food Safety Auditor Project
- Safe Food Canada – The Learning Partnership
- Critical Infrastructure – Modelling the Food Supply Chain Interdependencies
- Government Relations – Pre/Post Election Focus
- Re-invigorating Coalition/FPT relationship
- Issue Management

The presentation reviewed both the status of ongoing activities and the expected developments in 2015/16. Special note was made of developments in and plans for the food safety auditor competences and qualifications project. Changes were suggested to the activities under the Safe Food for Canadians Act Regulations, given the new information provided by Ms. Johnston during the CFIA presentation. There was discussion. Members provided guidance on the ranking of priorities, for example, a higher ranking to member relations, regulatory reform and issue management, recognizing the importance of completing the auditor project, etc.. On the dual track consultations on food safety regulatory reform, there was considerable discussion and the members clearly indicated that their preference was for a submission, perhaps at the end of July on the proposed draft regulations rather than at the end of June. A member proposed that the Coalition consider reviewing the regulatory reform initiative and considering preparing to provide the government, post-election, with a list of “unfinished business” that could be undertaken in the next Parliament. It was suggested that this list should include the revision of section 4(1)(a) of the Food and Drug Act to bring it into alignment with the outcome-based approach of the Safe Food for Canadians Act and with legislation and regulations in the United States.

Moved by Robert de Valk, seconded by Suzanne Sabourin, that the proposed priorities for 2015-2016 be referred to the board of directors for consideration and implementation. Carried. *[Note: the presentation on the priorities, with revisions to take into account the new information from CFIA about timing of the Canada Gazette process and a July date for submitting comments on the draft regulations, was circulated to members on 13 May 2015.]*

10. Election of Board of Directors: Jackie Crichton presented the report of the nominating committee. She noted that all the sitting directors had indicated a willingness to serve for another year and that there had been no new nominations received by the committee. Therefore the nominating committee was putting forward the names of: Susan Abel(FRPC), Jackie Crichton (DPAC), Robert de Valk (FPPAC/CARI), Heather Gale (CanAgPlus), Gary Sands (CFIG), Frank Schreurs (NSFI/GFTC), Ron Wasik (SSFPA).

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The Secretary assumed the chair. Moved by Gordon Harrison, seconded by Suzanne Sabourin that the number of directors on the board be set at seven (7) for 2015-2016. Carried. Moved by Suzanne Sabourin, seconded by Gordon Harrison, that the nominated slate be elected as the board of directors for 2015-2016. Carried.

11. Adjournment: Jackie Crichton resumed the chair, thanked the participants for attending and adjourned the meeting, there being no other business.

Prepared by Albert Chambers, Executive Director and Secretary
13 May 2015.