



**Canada Agricultural Review Tribunal (CART)
External Stakeholders' Advisory Committee (AC)
Meeting Held on April 17, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. ET via Zoom**

MINUTES

Attendance:

Emily Crocco, Chairperson of CART

Pierre Lampron, Chair of the Advisory Committee and Second-Vice-Chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture

Claudia Larocque, Business Administration Officer, CART

Erica Charlton, Technical Director, Canadian Poultry and Egg Processing Council

Frédéric Lapointe, Registrar, CART

Geneviève Parent, Member of CART

Jorge Correa, Vice-President of Market Access and Technical Affairs, Canadian Meat Council

Maria El-Hachem, Senior Counsel, CART

Melanie Nobre, Manager of National Enforcement and Investigations Office at CFIA

Sherri-Lynn Foran, Director of Enforcement Appeals and Litigation Division at CBSA

Regrets:

Moya McAlister, Communications Manager, National Self-Represented Litigants Project

1 Welcome and Gratitude

Ms. Crocco thanked participants for helping with the Advisory Committee (AC); she indicated that their time and effort are appreciated.

Ms. Crocco said that she envisions making multiple changes to the current CART policies and this is why the Committee was created and why the members' participation on the AC will be critical.

2 Roundtable Introductions

Members introduced themselves.

3 Vision for Advisory Committee

Ms. Crocco said that her vision is to have the AC discuss the changes to CART's procedures that it is contemplating, and to discuss changes that CART hasn't yet contemplated but should. The focus will be to ensure that CART's process is fair, timely, and accessible to all Canadians.

Information about the AC's mandate will be published on CART's website.

For transparency reasons, CART intends to publish the identity of the people who are members of the AC. When asked, no AC members raised any concerns about the intention.

The AC will not speak about the merits of any case, given that two of its members are adjudicators who need to remain impartial about matters that are, or may come, before CART.

Action → CART will share draft changes to its policies and guidelines with AC members in the coming months.

4 Discussion of Draft Terms of Reference

There were no suggested changes to the AC's draft Terms of Reference.

Ms. Crocco added that when documents are circulated for comment within the AC, members should feel free to be as detailed or general with their feedback as they like. She also said that the feedback could be sent directly to CART via email or shared at a subsequent AC meeting.

5 Election of Chair of Advisory Committee

Ms. Crocco said that CART is seeking someone to be the Chair of the AC. Pursuant to the Terms of Reference, the Chair will help the AC develop its focus. The Chair will also liaise with CART for the organization and management of the AC's meetings.

Ms. Parent nominated Mr. Lampron because he represents the producers, entrepreneurs, and farmers that appear before CART. Mr. Lampron agreed to the nomination. Mr. Lampron was unanimously elected the Chair of the AC.

6 Virtual-First Oral Hearings Policy

Ms. Crocco shared that CART recently changed its policies to make it a “virtual-first” tribunal. This means that its oral hearings will be held virtually unless there are exceptional reasons to hold an oral hearing in person. Ms. Crocco sought the AC’s thoughts on this change.

Ms. Charlton indicated that reliable internet connections are less of an issue for farmers across the country. She said that in very few remote locations there may still be some issues, but nothing major.

Mr. Lampron said that sometimes virtual meetings can be difficult where interpreters are used.

Ms. Foran and Ms. Nobre indicated that their agencies fully support virtual-first hearings. However, Ms. Foran shared that the CBSA employees cannot access Zoom using the CBSA network, and therefore would prefer Teams in general.

7 Next Meeting Dates

Ms. Crocco indicated that for the next 2 years, the AC will meet 3 times a year: in September, January and late April or early May. She said that meeting regularly will permit the AC to consult on draft changes to policies.

The meetings will typically be one hour in duration.

If members are unable to attend a meeting, they are welcome to send a delegate.

Members may also be asked for *ad hoc* feedback on items in between the scheduled meetings.

8 Additional Member

Ms. Crocco indicated that she is looking for one more member of the AC who would bring a perspective of a young, racialized farmer. Members were asked to advise Ms. Crocco if they have ideas of anyone who might fit this description who would be interested in joining the AC.

In the next week, invitations will be sent out to AC members for the next three meeting dates.