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PEI Federation of Agriculture RESOLUTIONS 2010

I. **AMENDMENTS TO PEIFA CONSTITUTION – ADDITION OF ‘TERM OF OFFICE AND ELIGIBILITY’ FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Whereas under the Constitution there is no defined “Term of Office and Eligibility” for members on the Board of Directors and

Whereas election to the board of directors should clearly define eligibility and length of term in the constitution of the Federation of Agriculture

Therefore Be It Resolved that section ‘9. B’ - “Term of Office and Eligibility” with the following text be added to the PEIFA constitution:

9. Board of Directors

B. Term of Office and Eligibility

- i) Executive Committee members are elected to an executive post for a two-year term. Executive Committee members having served two full consecutive terms (4 years) at the same executive post shall not be eligible for re-election to a third consecutive term at that same executive post.
- ii) County representatives on the Board of Directors from each of the province’s three counties will be elected to the board for a two-year term. County representatives on the Board of Directors having served two consecutive terms (4 years) shall not be eligible for re-election until the expiry of two full years after the completion of his/her second term.
- iii) Representatives appointed from member organizations as board representatives from their respective commodity board or agricultural organization shall be appointed to a two-year term. Appointed representatives having served two consecutive terms (4 yrs) shall not be eligible for re-appointment from the member commodity board or agricultural organization until the expiry of two full years after the completion of his/her term.
- iv) If no member is elected in accordance with this constitution or if a member becomes unwilling or unable to act or if a vacancy to one or more of the elected positions occurs for any other reason, the Executive Committee may appoint a registered member of the Federation to fill the vacancy until the date of the next election.

Be it also resolved that the following text be added to section 9. A. iii)

9. Board of Directors

A. There shall be a Board of Directors consisting of:

- i. the Executive Committee elected at the Federation's annual meeting;
- ii. two farm business/individual farmer members from each of the province's three counties; and
- iii. one representative from each commodity board/agricultural member organization **appointed by the board of directors of that commodity board or agricultural organization.** All representatives from the commodity board/agricultural organizations shall be farm business/farmer/additional voting members of the Federation.

2. COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW AND UPDATES TO PEI FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE CONSTITUTION

Whereas the constitution of the PEIFA has not had a major review and revision since 2002 and

Whereas a priority of the Federation is to ensure appropriate and effective representation of farmers across the Island

Therefore Be It Resolved that the PEIFA create a committee to complete a comprehensive review of the Constitution and make recommendations for appropriate revisions to the board structure and possible amendments to the constitution.

3. COMPENSATION FOR FARMERS WHO HAVE LOST MONEY DUE TO MILLING WHEAT GRADING STANDARD ERRORS

Whereas some Island milling wheat farmers lost significant money due to an error made by Dover Mills on indicating the acceptable vomitoxin levels that it would require in order to purchase Milling wheat from the PEI Grain Elevators Corporation (GEC) and

Whereas the provincial Department of Agriculture indicated that it would review on a case by case basis these losses and compensate these losses accordingly and

Whereas these payments have not yet been made more than four months after these cases have been reviewed

Therefore Be It Resolved that the PEIFA lobby the PEI Department of Agriculture to accelerate the processing and payment of valid claims to farmers without further delay.

4. GREATER EMPHASIS ON AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION IN THE CLASSROOM

Whereas it is a priority of the Federation to increase agricultural awareness and knowledge of the importance of agriculture to society at large and

Whereas one of the most effective ways to ensure greater agricultural awareness is through increased agricultural education options for students in PEI's schools and

Whereas the PEI Agriculture Sector Council (PEIAGSC) has an agriculture education specialist working with the province to improve and update agriculture curriculum for Island students and

Whereas recommendation 6 from the report the Commission on the Future of Agriculture and Agrifood in PEI states that "The PEI Agriculture and Agri-food sector must develop a comprehensive strategy for... emphasizing the absolute necessity of attracting new entrants to farm business ownership and other agri-business." and

Whereas this process will require the support of the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Education, and the Department of Innovation and Advanced Learning and,

Whereas an increased level of agriculture education in the classroom would serve to improve the knowledge base of the general public and future elected leaders

Therefore Be It Resolved that the PEIFA work with the PEIAGSC to help with the promotion and development of current agriculture education curriculum, expansion of the Agriculture Certificate Program into additional high schools, and web based resource development for the Agriculture Certificate Program, and

Be It Further Resolved that the PEIFA lobby the PEI Departments of Agriculture, Education, and Innovation and Advanced Learning to implement the changes needed to ensure greater agriculture education options to Island students' at all appropriate levels.

5. LAND HOLDING LIMITS REVIEW

Whereas the province has recently announced a change to the *Lands Protection Act* which will exempt all environmentally sensitive lands from the current land holding limits and

Whereas this change satisfies one part of Federation policy on Land holding Limits and

Whereas another component of Federation policy on land limits is the need for a comprehensive review of this legislation to determine how the current limits of 1000 acres for individual farms and 3000 acres for corporate farms is impacting agricultural production on PEI and

Whereas PEI is the only region in Canada to limit the amount of land which can be controlled by any one individual or corporation and

Whereas these land limits include land which is owned, leased or rented and

Whereas the calculation of the land holding limit is deemed to be in the possession of both the 'lessor' and the 'lessee'

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Federation of Agriculture implement a committee to review the legislation and determine what specific changes, if any, to the *Land Protection Act* would be most beneficial to PEI; and, report the results at the 2011 AGM of the PEIFA.

6. ESTABLISHMENT OF FARM ENERGY CENTRE

Whereas the PEIFA has completed a comprehensive review of on-farm Alternative Energy options and

Whereas the cost of energy on PEI is the highest in the country placing PEI farmers at a competitive disadvantage and

Whereas the provincial government has set targets to reach 15% of the Island's energy needs from renewable sources by 2015

Therefore Be It Resolved that the PEIFA seek funding to establish a "Farm Energy Centre" to work with farmers to source funding and to help with the implementation of the appropriate on-farm alternative energy development which will offset their energy cost and ensure return on their investment while reducing their carbon footprint

Be it further resolved that the PEI Federation of Agriculture lobby the PEI Government to implement the appropriate policy to ensure that Island farmers can benefit from these alternative energy investments.

7. ENCOURAGE YOUNG/NEW FARMER MENTORSHIP ON MEMBER ORGANIZATION BOARDS

Whereas the PEI Federation of Agriculture has modified its constitution to include a representative of the PEI Young Farmers Association on the Executive Committee to develop young farmer board experience and encourage young farmer participation and

Whereas the decisions made by all farm commodity boards and farm organizations will ultimately have the greatest impact on today's young farmers and

Whereas mentoring by experienced board members of young farmers on these boards would provide valuable experience and knowledge to young farmers

Therefore Be It Resolved that the PEIFA relate the positive experience of having added a young farmer representative to its board and executive committee and encourage its member organizations to incorporate specific board positions on their respective boards for young farmers.

Be It Further Resolved that these board positions would have limited initial responsibility with the intent to increase the activity of the young farmer over time allowing for experience, knowledge and confidence to grow over time.

8. IMPROVEMENTS TO AGRICULTURE INVEST

Whereas administration procedures for AgrilInvest were changed in 2008 requiring participants to submit their eligible contribution in advance in order to qualify for a matching contribution from the Federal Government and

Whereas some participants are not able to participate due to severe economic hardship and

Whereas other participants that do participate lose the use of necessary operating resources for an extended period of time

Therefore be it resolved that the PEIFA and CFA lobby the Federal Government to reinstate the option for participants to deem their eligible contribution to AgrilInvest as previously allowed in 2007.

9. ADVANCE PAYMENTS TO LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS UNDER SEVERE ECONOMIC HARDSHIP (SEH) TO BE FORGIVEN

Whereas: The hog and beef sector in Canada are in serious crisis due to low market returns and high input costs and

Whereas: a greater number of Hog and Beef producers have received Cash advances under the condition of Severe Economic Hardship (SEH) offered by AAFC and

Whereas: many hog and beef producers remain in an extremely difficult financial position due to the livestock market downturn and many producers have little or no ability to make repayment

Therefore be it resolved the PEIFA and the CFA lobby the federal government to further extend repayment of advances under SEH beyond September 30 2010

10. EXTENSION OF ADVANCE PAYMENT PROGRAM REPAYMENT OPTIONS FOR MILLING WHEAT

Whereas the milling wheat sector has been severely affected in recent years by disease pressure and

Whereas Production Insurance is becoming less effective in mitigating these losses and

Whereas cost of production for milling wheat has increased significantly and

Whereas the market price for milling wheat is dropping making it increasingly difficult to meet advance payment requirements

Therefore be it resolved that the PEIFA and the CFA lobby the federal government to extend repayment options under the Advance Payment Program without penalty for that portion of the milling wheat crop that did not make grade.

11. BUFFER ZONES TO BE COMPENSATED UNDER THE ALUS PROGRAM

Whereas fifteen meter buffer zones are legislated around all water courses, wetlands and perimeter coastline on PEI and

Whereas these buffer zones have been legislated out of production at the cost of Island farmers without any compensation and

Whereas the Provincial Government and the Federation of Agriculture are strong proponents of environmental sustainability and the Alternative Land Use Program (ALUS) and

Whereas a fifteen meter buffer zone blanket approach to water course protection may not provide adequate protection in all cases where wider buffer zones in high risk areas would be more effective while smaller buffer zones in low risk areas might be more than sufficient

Therefore be it resolved the PEIFA Lobby the provincial government to remove the 15 meter buffer zone around all water courses and that the perimeter coastline regulation be removed and that regulation return to a 10 meter buffer zone around only inland watercourses.

Be It Further Resolved that these variable width buffer zones be adequately compensated and at rates that are at least equal to current payment levels, through the ALUS program.

12. PROTECTION OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF FARMERS UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT

Whereas a resident of Prince Edward Island is a Canadian citizen and

Whereas Canadian citizens have inalienable rights under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and

Whereas Environment Officers are entering Island farm properties without prior consent to investigate possible or perceived threats to the environment under the PEI *Environmental Protection Act* and

Whereas during one of these investigations ,farmers may not be fully aware of the rights and protection afforded to them under the Canadian Constitution and

Whereas these rights are possibly being infringed during these investigations

Therefore be it resolved that the Federation of Agriculture seek legal interpretation by a constitutional lawyer on a farmer's rights during and prior to one of these investigations by Environment Officers under the PEI *Environmental Protection Act*

13. ENVIRONMENT ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS (from the floor)

Whereas environment enforcement officers are intimidating Island farmers

Therefore be it resolved that PEIFA lobby the PEI government to have environmental officers NOT wear bullet proof vests and side-arms when entering a farm property unless the enforcement officer feels that protection is required and the RCMP should be contacted and included in the situation.

TABLED TO executive committee of the PEIFA for decision

14. PESTICIDE LICENSE REQUIREMENTS (from the floor)

Be it resolved that the PEIFA lobby the provincial government to change the current requirements to renew all pesticide licenses every 5 years and that once a pesticide license is obtained for the first time that it be valid forever

15. CONTINUATION OF POLICY

Whereas Document I lists all resolutions from the previous Annual General Meeting of the PEI Federation of Agriculture (2009) and

Whereas Document I also outlines all action taken to date toward resolution of the identified issues and shows where further action is required,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the PEI Federation of Agriculture continue its efforts to bring the issues which require further attention and activity as outlined in Document I, to the attention of those bodies or interests concerned to ensure the issues are addressed.

Document 1. *New London Community Centre, New London PEI January 30, 2009*

Resolution	Action	Status
Resolution # 1: Continuation of Policy		ongoing
Resolution #2: PEI Federation of Agriculture Unity Model	-Greater sharing of resources with member organizations - achievement of several collaborative goals with member organizations New targets and goals set for coming year	ongoing
Resolution #3: Support for Commission on the Future of Agriculture on Prince Edward Island	- PEIFA indicated its support with a joint letter to Premier Ghiz signed by all member organization presidents - PEIFA publicly indicated support for Commission and for swift implementation	complete
Resolution #4: Regional Cooperation	- establishment of the Atlantic Federations of Agriculture (AFA) - Regular joint meetings held between AFA and Atl Ministers of Agriculture Continued lobby for regional Atlantic approach to challenges in agric. In Atl Canada	ongoing
Resolution #5: Alternative Energy	- continued lobby for implementation of Alternative Energy Policy that benefits implementation for Island Farmers	ongoing

Resolution	Action	Status
Resolution # 6: Environment	- report Issued to Dept of Environment detailing many concerns of farming community and including recommendations for change - meeting to discuss report with Environment Minister requested	ongoing
Resolution #7: Crop Insurance Review	-Both PEI Potato Board and PEI Grains and Proteins council have initiated collaborative discussions for revisions and changes to CI – progress has been made in potato sector work continues...	ongoing
Resolution #8: Enhanced Benefits Package for PEIFA Members – Buying Group	- funding to complete comprehensive review of options was acquired through ADAPT. report has been completed and work on implementation is underway.	ongoing
Resolution #9: Farm Registration Enforcement	-discussions with government continue Discussion with federation member organizations continues and support is present from them to enforce farm registration	ongoing
Resolution #10: Access to a Provincial Nominee Type Program for Agriculture	- request for greater consideration for agriculture under the PNP program has been made	ongoing
Resolution #11: Government Loan Access	In discussions with representatives from ACOA to improve eligibility for loan access to include maintenance of jobs as well as creation of new jobs - ACOA indicates this is already policy...	ongoing
Resolution #12: Revenue Canada Claw Backs	Forwarded to CFA Approved at CFA AGM 09	complete

Resolution	Action	Status
Resolution # 13: Relief for Crop Losses in 2008 Cropping Year	Collaborative effort between PEIFA – PEI Potato Board, PEI Hort Association and NFU resulted in achieving up to \$12 Million disaster funds for Potatoes and other Hort crops in 2009	Complete
Resolution #14: Municipal Boundaries	-PEIFA completed submission to the Commission on Land and Local Governance prior to release of report -PEIFA will continue to press for Agricultural requirements on future public consultations resulting from Commission report.	ongoing
Resolution #15: Electricity Rate Increases	- lobby dept of Environment, Energy and Forestry on disadvantage to PEI agriculture sector because of highest electric rates in country	ongoing